



# Marine Management Organisation

## North West Inshore and Offshore Marine Plan Areas

### Statement of Public Participation:

July 2016



## Introduction

Marine planning guides what happens in the marine area, making sure the right activities are carried out in the right place. It enables sustainable economic growth whilst protecting the environment and heritage, recognising the needs of all.

Marine plans form a part of the government's long-term vision for the environment. Marine plans provide long-term policy signals and legal clarity to underpin confidence for marine investment decisions. They provide transparent and streamlined decision-making, reducing the regulatory burdens on industry and providing certainty for developers, while safeguarding the environment. For marine developments, marine plans will reduce the time from concept to consent, helping to operationalise investments sooner so they can make an earlier contribution to the economy.

For more information about the marine planning process [visit our webpages](#).

### **A statement of public participation**

It is important that all those with an interest can have their say in the north west's marine planning process and contribute to shaping its seas and coast.

The North West Statement of Public Participation describes how and when we will engage with stakeholders and what we will do with the outcomes of any views and opinions. It ensures transparency around how and when we will consult throughout the development of the North West Marine Plan.

The Statement of Public Participation (SPP) is required under the [Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009](#)<sup>1</sup>. Its publication formally commences the beginning of the preparation of marine plans.

The [Marine and Coastal Access Act](#) (S51(1)) requires each marine plan area to have a marine plan, including the north west inshore and offshore areas. As the areas share features and activities, many reliant on both areas, a single SPP has been produced. For the purpose of this document the two plans will be collectively referred to as the 'North West Marine Plan'. It is acknowledged that they remain two separate plans as required in the Marine and Coastal Access Act – the North West Inshore Marine Plan and the North West Offshore Marine Plan.

The Joint Ministerial Marine Planning Statement between the UK and Scottish administrations confirms that each will prepare marine plans in the way that is most appropriate for its marine planning regions, and that they will collaborate to enable joined-up marine planning across borders.

Find out more about the [statement of public participation](#) here.

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<sup>1</sup> The SPP relates to retained functions for the purposes of Section 60 of the Act

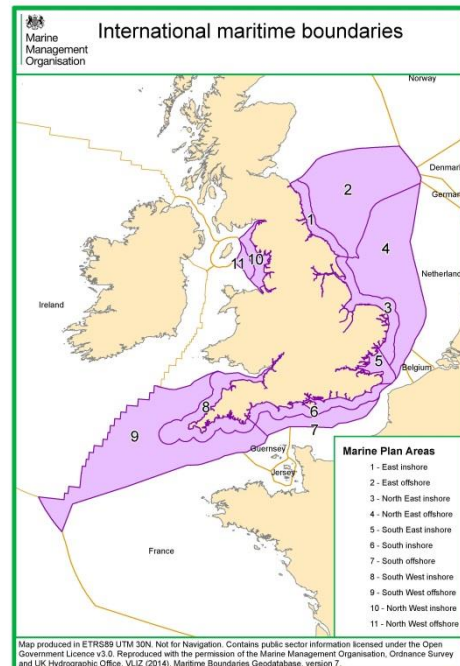
# 1. North west marine plan areas

The north west marine area includes two plan areas, the north west inshore and the north west offshore marine plan areas.

The north west inshore marine plan area covers an area of approximately 1,280 kilometres of coastline stretching from the Solway Firth border with Scotland to the River Dee border with Wales, taking in some 4,900 square kilometres of sea. The inland extent to the inshore plan area includes the waters of every estuary, river or channel, so far as the tide flows at mean high water spring tide. The inshore area extends out to the 12 nautical mile boundary with the north west offshore marine plan area.

The area overlaps with 19 local authorities areas (including four unitary authorities), two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Lake District National Park. Scotland, Wales and their marine areas border the north west inshore marine plan area.

The north west offshore marine plan area includes the marine area from 12 nautical miles extending out to the seaward limit of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), a total of approximately 2,200 square kilometres of sea. Scotland, Wales, and the Isle of Man border the north west offshore marine plan area.



A more detailed map is available from the [Marine Information System](#)

## What we will do

We will identify key stakeholders and ensure that they and other interested parties have the opportunity to input into the North West Marine Plan development.

We will keep stakeholders informed of its progress and provide feedback on the views and representations made through our consultations.

We will consider all stakeholder responses and where appropriate integrate them into the development of the North West Marine Plan taking into account factors such as legal constraints and the need to operate within national government policies.

A summary of consultation responses will be published, including acknowledgment of where responses have shaped the plan, and where our ability to implement recommended changes has been restricted by the need to balance wide ranging views or overriding factors and/or constraints. We must also publish a summary of the differences between the Draft North West Marine Plan (which is subject to public consultation) and the final adopted North West Marine Plan, including a statement of the reasons for any changes<sup>2</sup>.

Read the [list of stakeholders here](#).

## How we will do it

Engagement will include both formal and informal consultation making sure that stakeholder's specialist and local knowledge and experience informs all stages of [plan development](#). It will also help to maintain transparency throughout the marine planning process.

We will use a mix of communication channels and activities to support and encourage stakeholder participation. All engagement will be inclusive and adhere to our principles of engagement, which are based on how we believe we should work and how you have told us you would like us to work.

Read the [communication channels here](#).

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<sup>2</sup> [Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009](#)

## Principles of engagement

We will:

- involve people early on in the marine planning process and in developing policy within the framework provided by the Marine Policy Statement
- engage with interested people and organisations at the appropriate time using effective engagement methods and allowing sufficient time for meaningful consultation
- be adaptable, recognising that different consultation methods work for different people and that a “one size fits all” approach will not work
- respect the diversity of people and their lifestyles and give people a fair chance to have their voice heard regardless of gender, age, race, abilities, sexual orientation, circumstances or where they live
- be clear in the purpose and timing of any engagement, and how you may contribute
- let people know how their views have been taken into account within agreed timescales
- make documents publicly available on [our website](#)
- communicate clearly with people using plain English and avoiding jargon and acronyms as much as possible

## When we will do it

The Marine and Coastal Access Act requires that before preparing a marine plan a Statement of Public Participation must be prepared and published. The Statement of Public Participation must include a timetable for preparation and publication of the consultation draft North West Marine Plan. Engagement on the draft Statement of Public Participation took place in April 2016.

Engagement activity will be ongoing throughout the development of the North West Marine Plan. This will include informal consultation and engagement at key phases of the marine planning process. At the end of each iteration of the marine planning process, the outputs of that iteration will be shared.

The Marine and Coastal Access Act sets out the requirement to publish a draft North West Marine Plan for public consultation. Consultation on the draft North West Marine Plan is expected to take place in summer 2019 and will last for up to 12 weeks.

Following public consultation we will review and consider all stakeholder feedback and responses, and amend the draft North West Marine Plan where appropriate. This document will then be submitted to government departments for consideration, before being submitted to the Secretary of State for approval to be adopted and published by March 2021.

Read the [proposed timetable of engagement here](#).

## Get involved

Keep up to date with development of the North West Marine Plan and:

Sign up to our newsletter: email [planning@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:planning@marinemanagement.org.uk) including your name and organisation

Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Linked In](#) or [Facebook](#) or [read our blog](#)

Take part in our consultations: email [planning@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:planning@marinemanagement.org.uk)

Contact your local marine officer at our Preston office on 0208 225 7095

Write to us at:

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