

**Department for  
Environment, Food and  
Rural Affairs**

**Six-year report on progress with  
marine plans in England  
(For the period 2009-2015)**

Presented to Parliament pursuant to Section 61  
of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

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# **Six-year report on progress with marine plans in England (for period 2009-2015)**

## **Introduction**

This document sets-out the first six-year report on progress with marine plans in England. It fulfils a reporting requirement set out in Section 61(1)(c) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, (the Act).

## **Marine plans prepared and adopted since 12 November 2009**

### **East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plans**

The East Inshore and East Offshore marine plans were published on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2014. Their preparation and approval complied with the statutory requirements set out in Schedule 6 of the Act.

No other marine plans for England have at this time been prepared and adopted.

### **Intentions for amendment**

There is currently no intention to amend the East Inshore and East Offshore marine plans. Consideration will be given to the need for any amendment as a consequence of ongoing monitoring of the plan's implementation and effectiveness. A formal review of marine plans, at least three years after coming into force, is a requirement of Section 61 of the Act and a report of the East Inshore and Offshore marine plans will be laid before Parliament by 1st April 2017.

### **Intentions for the preparation and adoption of any further marine plans**

#### **South Inshore and South Offshore Marine Plans**

The South Inshore and South Offshore marine plans are in the process of being prepared by the Marine Management Organisation and the current intention is that the draft plans will go out to public consultation early 2016; with adoption planned for the end of 2016.

#### **Remaining marine plans for England**

Marine plans for the remainder of the England marine region will be in place by April 2021, to ensure compliance with the EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive. The approach to be taken in preparing and completing these plans is under consideration and will be informed by the outcome of the 2015 comprehensive spending review.

Stakeholders, regulators, potential applicants and interested parties have been and will continue to be engaged in the process as remaining marine plans are developed and will have an opportunity to influence how their marine environment is managed.

## **Background**

UK marine area is faced with increasing multiple and complex demands, some of which are complementary whilst others conflict. Using our marine resources in an effective and sustainable way could provide significant economic benefits for the UK economy and for coastal communities.

Marine planning encompasses all economic, social and environmental uses of the UK marine area including terrestrial activity that impacts on the marine area and EU/International marine-based interconnections with the UK. The objective of marine planning is to enable the increasing and often competing demands for the marine area to be prioritised and managed in an integrated way in order to realise the benefits of sustainable development.

Marine Plans are an important mechanism to support economic growth in a way that benefits society whilst respecting the needs of local communities and protecting the marine environment. Marine plans provide a transparent framework for consistent, evidence based decision-making. They also help to reduce the net regulatory on, and cost burden to potential investors and marine users by providing more certainty about where proposed activities could best take place; by enabling more efficient and streamlined decision-making.

## **Legislative framework**

Under the **EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive** (2014) all Member States are required to have marine plans in place for their marine areas by April 2021.

The **Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009** divided the UK marine area into inshore and offshore marine planning regions for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. In England, the inshore and offshore marine planning regions are sub-divided into marine plan areas, as detailed in the map on the following page.

The Act sets out the requirements for the preparation, implementation and monitoring of marine plans.

Section 61 of the Act requires each marine plan authority, which for England's inshore and offshore areas is the Secretary of State, to prepare and publish a report setting out progress on the relevant marine plans, including detail of:

- any marine plans the authority has prepared and adopted,
- the authority's intentions for their amendment, and
- its intentions for the preparation and adoption of any further marine plans.



# Marine Plan Areas in England

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- 1 - North East inshore
- 2 - North East offshore
- 3 - East inshore
- 4 - East offshore
- 5 - South East inshore
- 6 - South inshore
- 7 - South offshore
- 8 - South West inshore
- 9 - South West offshore
- 10 - North West inshore
- 11 - North West offshore

Plan area boundaries are described as defined following the Delta consultation on marine plan areas and are indicative, with further refinement expected as the marine planning process is implemented.

