



Within the plan areas there are four county councils, six unitary authorities and 13 district or borough councils. There are also four local enterprise partnerships, two national parks and eight areas of outstanding natural beauty. Fisheries are managed within the six nautical mile limit by three inshore fisheries and conservation authorities. International boundaries exist with France, Ireland and with the devolved Welsh administration. In relation to Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic, the areas sit within the Greater North Sea (II) and Celtic Sea (III) regions. All these organisations and governance structures have implications for marine plan production and use.

A number of non-statutory groups link into local communities and hard to reach sectors. These include coastal and estuary partnerships and forums (Severn Estuary Partnership) and maritime liaison groups (Cornwall Marine Liaison Group).

Opportunities

- O1. consistency of marine planning across south west and Wales (especially Severn estuary), enabling better environmental, economic, and social outcomes [1]
- O2. identification of locations to improve water quality through better coordination on habitat and sediment management to benefit tourism and aquaculture [2] [3]
- O3. increase of aquaculture production and marine energy development by promoting co-location, optimising use of space. Industries and government should identify opportunities, and review regulatory processes [2]
- O4. multiple benefits (including improved health and economic development) can be met through managing public outdoor spaces, including access to the coast [2]
- O5. identify future need for disposal sites and appropriate management responses [4] by working with ports and others (MMO Marine Licensing) to learn from characterisation studies



Challenges

- C1. to maximise benefits and enable future innovation, growth and diversification in the Severn estuary it will require a focus on both marine energy development and ongoing access to ports (Bristol) [5,6]
- C2. identifying landward resource needed to support conservation of intertidal habitat, particularly coastal lagoons [2]
- C3. fisheries management should explore the particular sensitivity of deep sea habitats to fishing [2]
- C4. ensure governance measures are in place to represent south west interests in the development of the Ireland to France interconnector [7]



Evidence sources

- [1] Wales and England cross border marine planning workshop report (15 March 2016)
- [2] Sustainability appraisal report cards
- [3] South West Water upstream thinking project
- [4] MMO marine planning staff knowledge

- [5] Local Enterprise Partnerships – West of England, Heart of the South West, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
- [6] Avonmouth Severnside Enterprise Area promotional leaflet
- [7] EirGrid Group