



The north west marine plan areas have varied economic activity, with a focus on offshore wind energy as well as Sellafield and Moorside nuclear plants. Additionally there is defence activity (including ship construction) around Barrow-in-Furness, commercial activity surrounding the Port of Liverpool and an active fishing community based primarily in northern Cumbria with additional activity in Lancashire. The tourist resort of Blackpool attracts more than 13 million visitors a year and the tourism industry is one of the region's biggest employers.

The area includes five local enterprise partnerships and is home to some of the most deprived coastal communities in the UK, particularly areas surrounding Blackpool and Morecambe Bay. Other communities are overly dependent on individual companies or industry.



### Opportunities

- O1. enable the expansion of ports, facilities and manufacturing in areas such as Barrow in Furness and Fleetwood to support the development of industries such as renewables, logistics and chemicals [2, 3]
- O2. encourage the development of marine related skills at academic institutions (Blackpool College) and research in line with local priority sectors, such as renewable and nuclear energy [3]
- O3. development of seafront space across the Cumbrian and Lancashire coasts to support diversification and regeneration [3]
- O4. support development of 'Britain's Energy Coast' to contribute towards energy security and diversification of employment opportunities [3]
- O5. caverns south west of Barrow in Furness could have potential for carbon capture and storage

### Challenges

- C1. lack of space inshore and offshore requires conflicts to be carefully managed and co-existence considered, for example shoreside development of ports, particularly at the Port of Liverpool
- C2. proposed tidal range projects at the Fylde in Lancashire or across the Solway could have co-existence issues with existing environmental leisure or fisheries activity [2]
- C3. balancing economic gains from coastal industrial development (cable landfall sites for Moorside, coke mining off St. Bee's Head) against those of recreation and tourism from access to an undeveloped coastline [1]
- C4. transit routes extended for vessels due to offshore wind farm developments, such as Walney, resulting in increased fuel costs [1]
- C5. continued dredging is required to provide access to ports, such as Liverpool, for larger container vessels, requiring identification of options for disposing of dredged material [2]



### Evidence sources

[1] MMO coastal offices expertise on locally relevant issues  
[2] SA report cards

[3] MMO1119 Economic baseline for marine plans (in press)