



Challenges and opportunities can be common to multiple plan areas, the result of a range of possible drivers:

- international or national legislation (the International Maritime Organization regulates shipping)
- activities undertaken nationally including defence or oil and gas
- widespread or large scale global challenges (climate change, human population density)
- high mobility features (marine mammals)

In these cases it may be appropriate to have common policy responses to these issues across all plan areas.

While opportunities and challenges may be relevant to multiple plan areas or even all, there may also be plan area specific differences for why such issues exist and therefore area specific responses required.



## Opportunities

- O1: encourage co-existence and facilitate best practice among sectors (renewables development and fishing activities, aggregate extraction and archaeology finds) [1]
- O2: support the diversification of coastal communities, which have experienced a decline in traditional employment opportunities, through new and emerging activities and maximizing the existing skills and knowledge
- O3: support new opportunities for physical access to the marine area for recreational activities, tourism and health and wellbeing benefits [1]
- O4: to encourage the consideration of climate change impacts on activities throughout their lifetime to ensure adaptation measures are included [2]

## Challenges

- C1: invasive species, such as the Pacific oyster, threaten some biodiversity and/or economic activities (aquaculture of native oyster) [3]
- C2: climate change and coastal erosion causes damage to heritage assets and this may negatively impact on tourism, recreation and the cultural value of the area [2]
- C3: future development opportunities for tidal energy projects may be restricted because of competition for space with conflicting sectors and potential for sterilisation of sites [4]
- C4: Marine plans must not undermine defence and energy activities because they are priorities for the government and are driven by national legislation [5]



## Evidence sources

- [1] MMO marine planning staff knowledge
- [2] MMO Evidence project MMO1077
- [3] GB non-native species secretariat website
- [4] UK Renewable Energy Roadmap
- [5] Marine Policy Statement

MMO staff knowledge is informed by a wealth of evidence such as legislation, guidance, reports, scientific papers as well as sector and topic expertise.