



# Marine Management Organisation



## **Marine planning newsletter Issue 2 Summer 2015**





## Marine Information System re-launch 1 July 2015

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has launched the redesigned Marine Information System (MIS). MIS now benefits from an improved website design and increased functionality, with more information being added to the tool over the coming months. MIS is a tool for marine licensing applicants and decision-makers, supporting marine plan implementation. It displays policies for all adopted marine plans in an accessible online format and provides examples of how to consider these policies.

The MMO would like to thank users who provided feedback on the original MIS tool, and where appropriate we have incorporated this feedback in the revised site.

The new MIS includes the following features:

- a gateway to access marine plans as they are developed across England's marine area
- policy considerations for marine plans that will inform plan users during application and decision-making processes
- multi-layer Geographical Information System based mapping information, allowing a locally focussed search of activities and resources (including display of marine licensing data)
- refreshed website layout allowing the display of all marine plans and their policies (once adopted)
- a policy check tool which enables users to search for marine plan policies within a user defined geographical area
- accessibility via mobile devices and tablets

Please access the new website at: <http://mis.marinemanagement.org.uk>

We would encourage you to access MIS to help you apply marine plans in your decision making, whether that be submitting applications or when undertaking statutory duties as a public body in line with the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 Section 58.

As part of our continuous improvement of MIS we would like to hear your views and suggestions.

For further information or if you would like to comment on the new MIS please contact:  
[planning@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:planning@marinemanagement.org.uk)



# South Inshore and Offshore Marine Plans



Since the last newsletter, we have been busy working on developing the first working draft of the South Marine Plans. This first working draft has now been shared with government departments and several others ahead of the formal sign-off process for public consultation towards the end of the year. Public consultation on the draft plans is still expected to take place around spring 2016. We will keep you up-to-date on progress.

## South Marine Plans Implementation



The planning team's south Implementation Officers Pete and Clare have commenced a series of implementation sessions with local councils in the south plan areas. This engagement is to enhance local councils' understanding of how they may consider an adopted marine plan within their decision-making. The sessions are being run from May to July 2015, with 28 different local authorities covering the below topics:

- Implications of section 58 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009
- The MMO's approach to marine plan implementation - Relevant implications of the duty to co-operate when producing local plans/core strategies
- Policy analysis to identify how local authorities may consider marine plan policies in decision making.

The MMO will be undertaking further implementation engagement with other decision-makers later in the planning process. For further information on implementation in the South please get in touch:

Pete Cosgrove (Portsmouth) [Peter.Cosgrove@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:Peter.Cosgrove@marinemanagement.org.uk) Mobile 07785243 951 or

Clare Kavanagh (Poole) [Clare.Kavanagh@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:Clare.Kavanagh@marinemanagement.org.uk) Mobile 07770784 294

## East Implementation

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Following our last newsletter the MMO have been continuing their implementation programme in the East Plan areas. The East Implementation Officers have been working with local councils to assist in the integration between land and marine plan development. For further information on implementation in the East plan areas please contact one of the East Implementation Officers:

Stacey Clarke (Lowestoft) [Stacey.Clarke@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:Stacey.Clarke@marinemanagement.org.uk)

Rachel Wood (Grimsby) [Rachel.Wood@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:Rachel.Wood@marinemanagement.org.uk)

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## South Inshore and Offshore Marine Plans



The South marine plans' Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is undertaken as a requirement of the Habitats Regulations. The process will assess the effects the marine plans may have on the Natura 2000 network, which includes Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protected Areas (SPAs), Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) and Candidate SACs (cSACs).

In the last newsletter we outlined the HRA process and that we were about to undertake the screening and assessment process which will result in the screening report and the appropriate assessment information report. We have appointed ABPmer to carry out the screening stage of the South HRA and it is due for completion by the end of the summer 2015.





### **Meeting with the Welsh government**

Mel Nicholls and Hannah Marriott met with the Welsh Government in Cardiff to share best practice in plan-making for marine plans and to discuss compatibility between Welsh and English marine plans. It was a very productive and wide ranging day and gave both administrations an insight into the challenges and opportunities for marine planning in English and Welsh waters.

### **Celtic Seas Partnership workshop**

Cara Morris attended the Celtic Seas workshop in Paris on the 11th and 12th May. The Partnership is an International project which aims to draw people together from across the Celtic Seas (Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales and France) to set up collaborative and innovative approaches to managing the marine environment. The workshop focused on the delivery of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive in the Celtic Seas area. It was a very engaging two days with many representatives from the various countries with different perspectives getting involved.



## Out and about diary



### Meeting with NGOs in the South

On the 29th May Ellie Moir and Rachel Brown travelled to Exeter to attend a meeting to discuss the findings of a recent report commissioned by the Joint Links Partnership. The report provided recommendations about how current and future marine plans in the UK can help deliver the aims of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. The meeting was hosted at the RSPB offices in Exeter and followed by a boat trip to explore the Jurassic Coast in the South Marine Plans area.

### Dorset Coast Forum 20th Anniversary

Mel Nicholls joined the Dorset Coast Forum at its event in Portland on 18th June to celebrate the Forum's 20 years of partnership working for the places and people of the Dorset coast and marine area. The message from keynote speaker and author David Boyle that the human dimension was essential to successful organisations (of which the Forum is considered a prime example), and their effective working and delivery of outputs was picked-up by successive speakers. Mel then spoke about the many ways that the Forum had influenced planning and policy. Tribute was paid to the Forum for its contribution to marine planning through C-SCOPE and the influence it had on the MMO's thinking in its early days in regard to the planning process, evidence and stakeholder engagement.

### The Crown Estate Marine Aggregates Business Leadership Programme

On the 1 July 2015 Nathanael presented at the Crown Estate Marine Aggregates Business Leadership Programme. The presentation gave an overview of marine planning and how marine aggregates are considered in this process. The programme was attended by senior business leaders from across the marine aggregate industry.

### Landscape Institute conference

In May, David Hutchinson attended the conference 'Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment in Practice' hosted by the Landscape Institute in Bath. The MMO provided a presentation on developing seascape assessments for marine planning in England.

## Evidence projects round up

### **Sub-national policy review (MMO 1109/MMO1110)**

A review of all relevant statutory and non-statutory plans for marine relevance which will help inform our evidence base for marine planning in future plan areas. It will also assist us in looking across the marine and land interface and facilitating the integration between marine and land-use planning. Due for completion soon and will be available in due course.

### **Underwater noise project (MMO1097)**

A project mapping background noise in the sea to manage noise levels for certain activities. This project is complete and will be available soon.

### **Essential fish habitats (MMO1096)**

project modelling the location of fish nursery spawning and feeding grounds. It aims to explore methodologies for improvement of data and methods to predict habitat occurrence. This project is complete and will be available soon.]

### **Evidence Supporting the Use of Environmental Remediation to Improve Water Quality in the South Marine Plan Areas (MMO1105)**

This desk-based study was commissioned to investigate the potential use of environmental remediation to improve water quality in the South Marine Plan Areas. The report is currently undergoing our internal Quality Assurance process and should be published in the autumn. -

### **Review of Marine Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and Development of Baselines' (MMO1087)**

The draft final report 'Review of Marine Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and Development of Baselines' (MMO1087) is complete. This report provides a critical review of the East Implementation and Monitoring Plan, assessing its suitability as a framework for implementation and monitoring plans in the remaining plan areas. Recommendations made as part of the review have influenced the development of the first draft of the South marine plans.

### **Seascape (MMO1091/ MMO1092)**

The first phase of a draft seascape assessment for the North East, North West and South East marine plan areas was completed in March 2015. A second phase of this assessment, including field studies and stakeholder engagement, is being considered.

### **Evidence register**

You also can review the full [evidence register](#) or the list of [evidence reports](#) on our website.

