



Marine
Management
Organisation

North west marine plan areas

February 2017 (iteration 1)

About the North west plan area

[Marine planning](#) makes sure the right activities take place in the right place and in the right way within the marine environment, placing sustainable development at the centre of all decisions.

The north west marine plan area includes the inshore and offshore areas. It covers approximately 1,280 kilometres of coastline, stretching from the Scottish border to the River Severn border with Wales.

The north west marine plan area includes the marine area from mean high water spring tides out to the seaward limit of the Exclusive Economic Zone, approximately 7,100 square kilometres of sea. It borders Scotland, Wales and the Isle of Man.

The north west plan area is important for energy production both through discrete gas reserves and renewable energy. It is also home to Heysham 1 and 2 nuclear sites. The north west marine plan area hosts seven special protection areas, including one of two SPAs which are entirely marine, seven special areas of conservation and nine UNESCO world heritage sites.

Local, specialist and industry knowledge is critical to developing relevant and robust marine plans. To ensure stakeholders have the opportunity to influence the marine plans, and that the marine planning process is transparent we have published a Statement of Public Participation (SPP). The SPP includes a [timetable of engagement](#). This document represents the first outputs of the planning process.



Marine Information System (MIS)



The [Marine Information System](#) is a website that provides quick and simple access to marine plan policies and supporting data and information from the [marine planning evidence base](#) and [interactive map](#).

Throughout this document there are links to the north west section of [MIS](#). The links provide access to specific data and proposed marine plan policies for the north west marine plan area.

MIS can be accessed on multiple devices including mobile, tablet and desktop.



Vision



“Clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas”



The above vision for the UK marine area is set out in the [Marine Policy Statement](#).

A vision for the north west marine plan area will be looked at in the next phase of planning.



Objectives

The [Marine Policy Statement](#) sets high level marine objectives for the UK which reflect the principles of sustainable development. The objectives are:

- **Achieving a sustainable marine economy**
- **Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society**
- **Living within environmental limits**
- **Promoting good governance**
- **Using sound science responsibly**

These objectives will be delivered in the north west marine plan area through a variety of means, but principally by addressing the issues through marine plan policies.

Our experience and discussion with stakeholders have shown that these objectives will appropriately address the issues of each marine plan area.



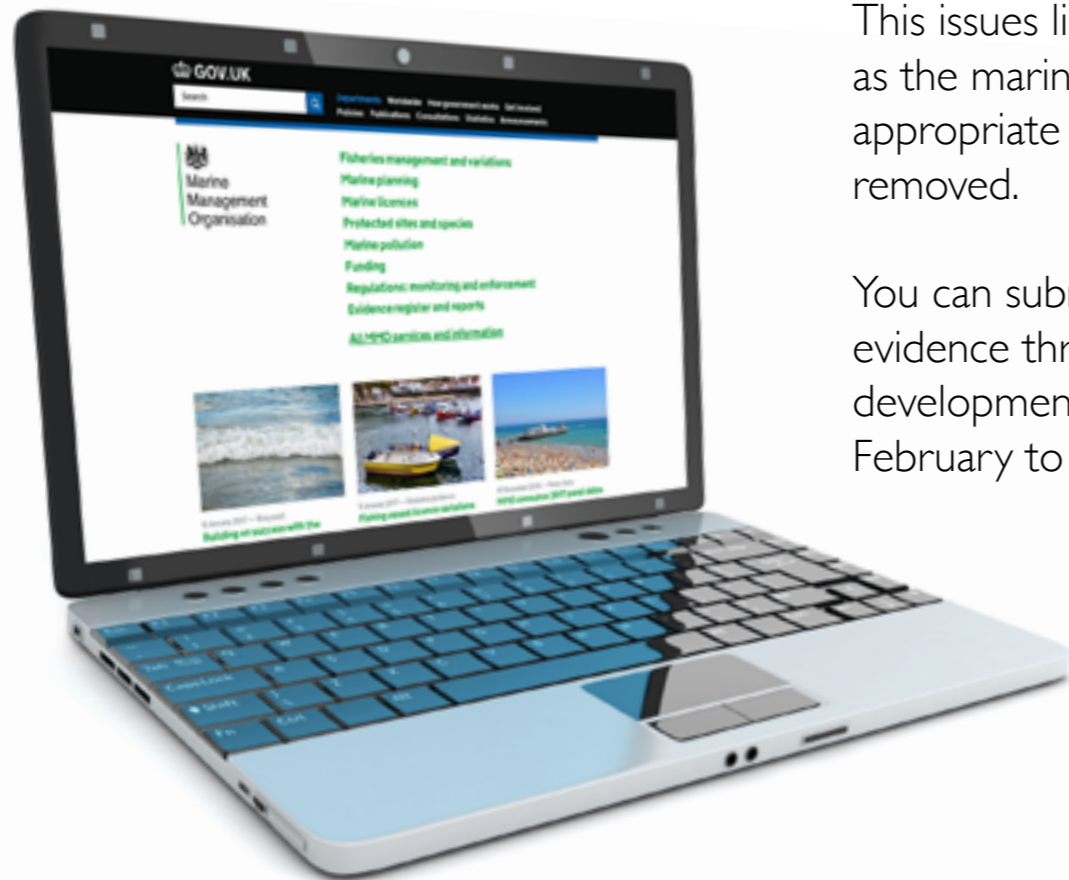
Plan area issues

An issue is an opportunity or challenge to the marine plan area, that is likely to drive change, or be affected by change over the 20 years the marine plans cover. Issues must also be something that can be addressed, at least in part, by marine planning. A call for issues with supporting evidence, including workshops, was held in 2016 and provided the opportunity for people to discuss potential issues for the north west marine plan areas.

We have assessed the information provided through the call and have published an updated [issues list](#). Issues are organised into two categories - issues common to several or all plan areas or issues specific to the north west areas.

This issues list is not final. New issues will be added as the marine plan develops, and issues that are not appropriate for addressing through marine plans may be removed.

You can submit any further issues or supporting evidence through the opportunity to feedback on the development of the north west marine plan (Friday 3 February to Friday 31 March).



Common issues addressed by plan policies

Marine plan policies direct what to consider and where, when undertaking a proposal in the marine area. They are the main means to address issues and deliver plan objectives. Policies guide proposals and decisions on what activities can take place, where, when or how, within the north west marine plan area.

Common issues

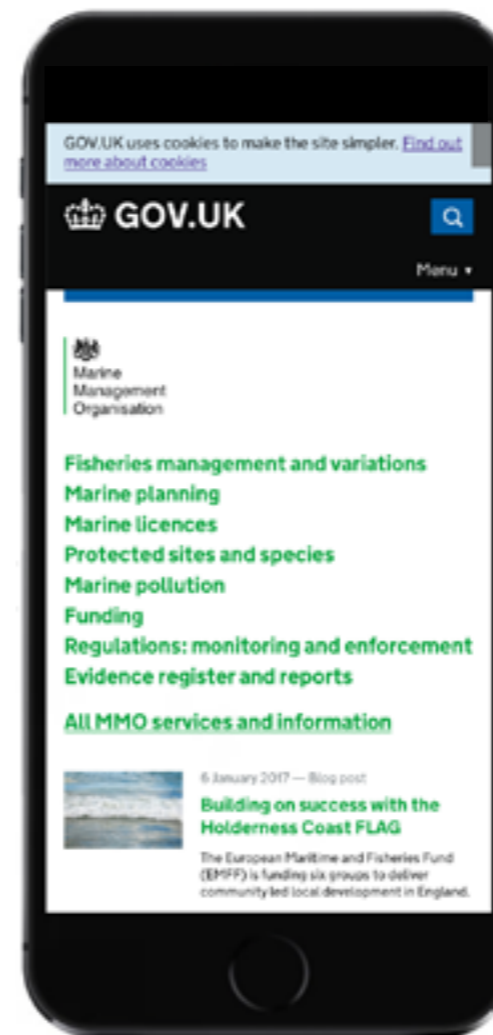
Many [issues](#) identified in the north west are 'common' across some or all other plan areas, including those covered by the adopted East Marine Plans and the draft South Marine Plan.

We have started developing some policies for the north west on MIS, based on 'common issues'.

Draft policies

On the next page you can see which policies from the East and South Marine Plans we think are relevant for the north west marine plan area. By clicking on a sector image, you will be taken through to the suggested north west common policy on MIS.

The policies presented are draft, and more policies will be developed to address other issues as we move through the marine planning process.





Economic



Aggregates

Select an image to view developing policies for that sector



Environment



Climate Change



Social and Cultural



Energy



Governance



Defence



Cables



Dredging and Disposal



Fishing



Ports and Shipping



Tourism and Recreation



Next part of the journey

Engagement workshops iteration 1

February to March 2017

Analysis of issues

Spring and Summer 2017

Visioning and options development

Autumn 2017

Drafting of iteration 2

Winter 2017/18

Engagement on iteration 2

Early 2018

[Sustainability Appraisal](#)

Ongoing

Habitats Regulation Assessment

Ongoing

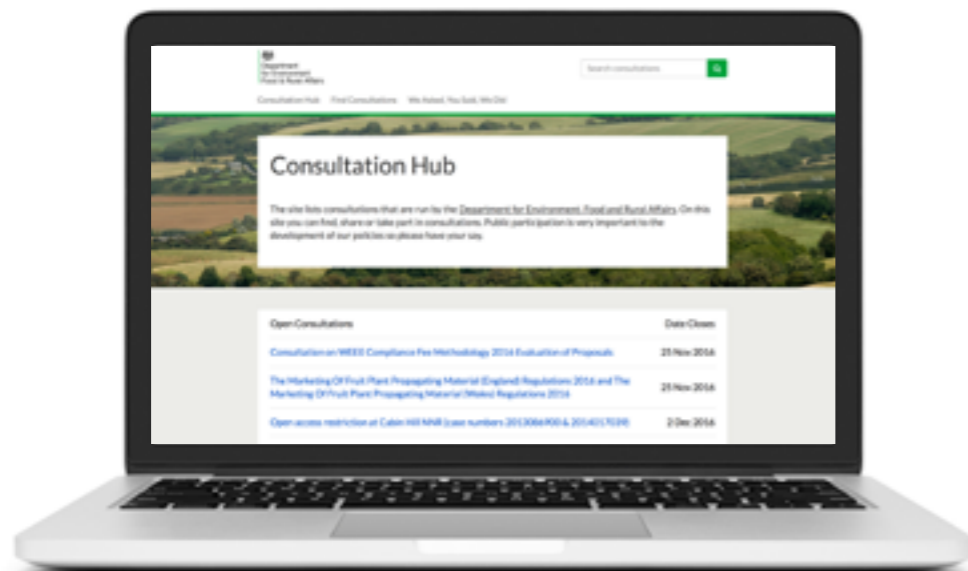
Your local marine planner is [Sam Wright](#) who will be in touch with you throughout the coming year. Further details on the planning process can be found in the statement of public participation.



Stakeholder engagement

The MMO are seeking your views on issues and common policies developed in iteration 1 and presented in this document and on MIS.

From [3 February to 31 March 2017](#) we would like to hear your feedback on our work to date. Your responses will be used to inform iteration 2.



Get in touch



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