



Marine Management Organisation

**North West
Inshore and Offshore
Marine Plan Areas**

**Statement of Public
Participation:**

**First revision November
2019**



Introduction

Marine planning guides what happens in the marine area, making sure the right activities are carried out in the right place. It enables sustainable economic growth whilst protecting the environment and heritage, recognising the needs of all.

Marine plans form a part of the government's long-term vision for the environment. Marine plans provide long-term policy signals and legal clarity to underpin confidence for marine investment decisions. They provide transparent and streamlined decision-making, reducing the regulatory burdens on industry and providing certainty for developers, while safeguarding the environment. For marine developments, marine plans will reduce the time from concept to consent, helping to operationalise investments sooner so they can make an earlier contribution to the economy.

This is the first revision to the Statement of Public Participation which was published in July 2016. This revised document provides details of changes made to the timeline and further details of completed engagement for the North West Inshore and Offshore Marine Plan Areas.

For more information about the marine planning process [visit our webpages](#).

A statement of public participation

It is important that all those with an interest can have their say in the north west's marine planning process and contribute to shaping its seas and coast.

The North West Statement of Public Participation describes how and when we will engage with stakeholders and what we will do with the outcomes of any views and opinions. It ensures transparency around how and when we will consult throughout the development of the North West Marine Plan.

The Statement of Public Participation (SPP) is required under the [Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009](#)¹. Its publication formally commences the beginning of the preparation of marine plans.

The [Marine and Coastal Access Act](#) (S51(1)) requires each marine plan area to have a marine plan, including the north west inshore and offshore areas. As the areas share features and activities, many reliant on both areas, a single SPP has been produced. For the purpose of this document the two plans will be collectively referred to as the 'North West Marine Plan'. It is acknowledged that they remain two separate plans as required in the Marine and Coastal Access Act – the North West Inshore Marine Plan and the North West Offshore Marine Plan.

The Joint Ministerial Marine Planning Statement between the UK and Scottish administrations confirms that each will prepare marine plans in the way that is most appropriate for its marine planning regions, and that they will collaborate to enable joined-up marine planning across borders.

¹ The SPP relates to retained functions for the purposes of Section 60 of the Act

The Sustainability Appraisal,

The Sustainability Appraisal is an iterative process that considers the economic, social and environmental impacts of an emerging marine plan. The Sustainability Appraisal is a statutory requirement and this work is subject to full consultation throughout the marine planning process (detailed in Table 1).

Habitat Regulations Assessment

The Habitat Regulations Assessment assesses the implication of a proposed marine plan on all European designated sites in view of the sites' conservation objectives. The HRA is prepared with and subject to scrutiny from the statutory nature conservation bodies in parallel to the marine planning process.

Matters to be included in the North West Marine Plan

The North West Marine Plan objectives will be based on the economic, social and environmental high level marine objectives as set out in the [Marine Policy Statement](#). Marine Plan objectives will be cross-cutting rather than topic or sector specific. Economic, social and environmental objectives must be considered equally alongside one another and applied in an integrated way.

Policies contained in the North West Marine Plan will support the delivery of the marine plan objectives to achieve the vision and address the issues identified in the north west marine plan areas. Where a marine plan objective cannot be achieved through existing legislation, new policies will be drafted. Policies will cover a wide range of topics including activities and uses, economic, social and environmental considerations, and cross-cutting issues such as integration of decision-making on land and at sea. Some policies will apply across the whole of the inshore and offshore marine plan areas and some may apply to specific areas. Plan policies and relevant supporting information will be expressed spatially where possible. The marine plan must be read as a whole, taking all plan policies together rather than each policy in isolation.

Find out more about the [statement of public participation](#) here.

Principles of engagement

We will:

- involve people early on in the marine planning process and in developing policy within the framework provided by the Marine Policy Statement
- engage with interested people and organisations at the appropriate time using effective engagement methods and allowing sufficient time for meaningful consultation
- be adaptable, recognising that different consultation methods work for different people and that a “one size fits all” approach will not work
- respect the diversity of people and their lifestyles and give people a fair chance to have their voice heard regardless of gender, age, race, abilities, sexual orientation, circumstances or where they live
- be clear in the purpose and timing of any engagement, and how you may contribute
- let people know how their views have been taken into account within agreed timescales

- make documents publicly available on [our website](#)
- communicate clearly with people using plain English and avoiding jargon and acronyms as much as possible

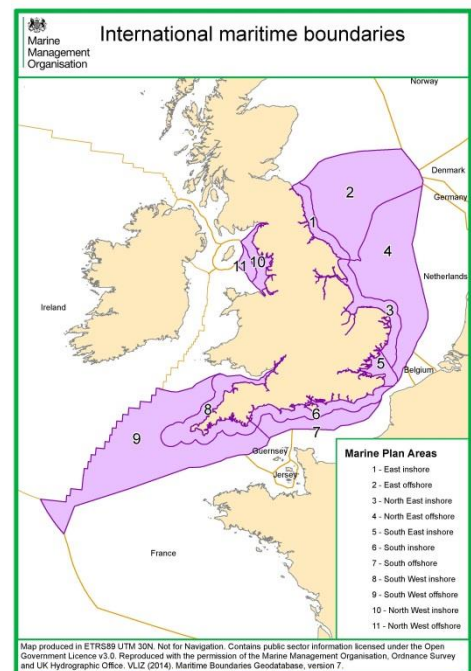
1. North west marine plan areas

The north west marine area includes two plan areas, the north west inshore and the north west offshore marine plan areas.

The north west inshore marine plan area covers an area of approximately 1,280 kilometres of coastline stretching from the Solway Firth border with Scotland to the River Dee border with Wales, taking in some 4,900 square kilometres of sea. The inland extent to the inshore plan area includes the waters of every estuary, river or channel, so far as the tide flows at mean high water spring tide. The inshore area extends out to the 12 nautical mile boundary with the north west offshore marine plan area.

The area overlaps with 19 local authorities areas (including four unitary authorities), two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Lake District National Park. Scotland, Wales and their marine areas border the north west inshore marine plan area.

The north west offshore marine plan area includes the marine area from 12 nautical miles extending out to the seaward limit of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), a total of approximately 2,200 square kilometres of sea. Scotland, Wales, and the Isle of Man border the north west offshore marine plan area.



A more detailed map is available from the [Explore Marine Plans](#)

What we will do

We will identify key stakeholders and ensure that they and other interested parties have the opportunity to input into the North West Marine Plan development.

We will keep stakeholders informed of its progress and provide feedback on the views and representations made through our engagement and consultations.

We will consider all stakeholder responses and where appropriate integrate them into the development of the North West Marine Plan taking into account factors such as legal constraints and the need to operate within national government policies.

A summary of consultation responses will be published, including acknowledgment of where responses have shaped the plan, and where our ability to implement recommended changes has been restricted by the need to balance wide ranging views or overriding factors and/or constraints. We must also publish a summary of the differences between the Draft North West Marine Plan (which is subject to public consultation) and the final adopted North West Marine Plan, including a statement of the reasons for any changes².

Read the [list of stakeholders here](#)

How we will do it

Engagement will include both statutory consultation and other informal methods making sure that stakeholder's specialist, local knowledge and experience informs all stages of [plan development](#). It will also help to maintain transparency throughout the marine planning process.

We will use a mix of communication channels and activities to support and encourage stakeholder participation. All engagement will be inclusive and adhere to our principles of engagement, which are based on how we believe we should work and how you have told us you would like us to work.

Read the [communication channels here](#).

When we will do it

The Marine and Coastal Access Act requires that before preparing a marine plan a Statement of Public Participation must be prepared and published. The Statement of Public Participation must include a timetable for preparation and publication of the consultation draft North West Marine Plan. Engagement on the draft Statement of Public Participation took place in April 2016.

Engagement activity will be ongoing throughout the development of the North West Marine Plan. At key phases of the marine planning process. At the end of each iteration of the marine planning process, the outputs of that iteration will be shared.

² [Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009](#)

The Marine and Coastal Access Act sets out the requirement to publish a draft North West Marine Plan for public consultation. Consultation on the draft North West Marine Plan is expected to start by summer 2019 and will last for up to 12 weeks.

Following public consultation we will review and consider all stakeholder feedback and responses, and amend the draft North West Marine Plan where appropriate. This document will then be submitted to government departments for consideration, before being submitted to the Secretary of State for approval to be adopted and published by March 2021.

If substantial unresolved issues remain after the consultation process, the Secretary of State will consider whether an independent investigation is required. If so, the Secretary of State will appoint an independent person, likely to be the Planning Inspectorate, to investigate the unresolved issues. It would aim to complete its report within six months.

Table 1: Indicative timing of stages and activities in the marine planning process and stakeholder engagement. As plan-making is an iterative process the timing of particular stages/activity may be subject to amendment.

Planning stage / activity and stakeholder engagement	What we will be engaging about	Estimated timing
Iteration 1		
North west launch events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> introduction to marine planning communicate informal engagement opportunity to provide input to Draft Statement of Public Participation 	April 2016
Consultation Draft Statement of Public Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> engagement with stakeholders to seek input to the draft SPP provide details of who we engage with, when we engage and how we engage during the marine planning process the Consultation Draft SPP will be available online with hard copies available on request 	April –May 2016
Sustainability Appraisal Scoping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Stage A – Consultation with designated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) consultation bodies and other relevant stakeholders on the scope of the SA 	June 2016
Gathering issues and evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> stakeholders to input on plan areas' evidence base stakeholders to input into plan areas' issues identification 	July 2016
Engagement on Iteration 1 outputs	Engagement with stakeholders to Seek views on Iteration 1 outputs:	February – March 2017

Planning stage / activity and stakeholder engagement	What we will be engaging about	Estimated timing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • issues • common policies • user stories 	
Iteration 2		
Mid-point engagement	Targeted engagement with technical policy experts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • issues - cause and effect 	August 2017
Engagement on Iteration 2 outputs	Engagement with stakeholders to seek views: on Iteration 2 output <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vision • options 	February – March 2018
Sustainability Appraisal	Individual assessment of options reports for NE, NW, SE and SW marine plans	published in 2018
Iteration 3		
Mid-point engagement	Targeted engagement with technical policy experts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • marine plan policy development 	July – August 2018
Engagement on Iteration 3 outputs	Engagement with stakeholders to seek views on Iteration 3 output: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • marine plan policy templates • marine plan implementation 	January – February 2019
Mid-point engagement	Government Department engagement ahead of public consultation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • marine plan policy templates 	June – July 2019
North West Consultation Draft Plan		
Public consultation on draft plan and associated documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • invitation to stakeholders and general public to make representations as to the proposals included in the Consultation Draft North West Marine Plan and associated documents including the Sustainability Appraisal • representations on the consultation documents must be made in writing (online, by email or letter) within the stipulated 10 to 12 week period 	Spring 2020
Review plan proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • engagement with stakeholders to clarify responses to the public consultation (where necessary) • recording main changes to the Consultation Draft North West Marine Plan 	Summer 2020

Planning stage / activity and stakeholder engagement	What we will be engaging about	Estimated timing
Independent investigation (if required)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> engagement to be determined, but will be set out in appropriate documents separate from the SPP a guidance note setting out the process for an independent investigation has been produced by the Planning Inspectorate and Defra and is available from the Planning Inspectorate website 	Autumn 2020
Adoption and publication of the marine plans (and supporting documents) ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> stakeholders will be alerted to the adoption and publication of the marine plans (and supporting documents) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical Annex Sustainability Appraisal Habitat Regulations Assessment 	December 2020 – January 2021
Sustainability Appraisal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> final SA and SA Statement 	December 2020 – January 2021
Monitoring plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> although the legislation focusses the SPP on marine plan development and adoption⁴ this stage is included here for completeness will be set out in documents separate to the SPP including the relevant Implementation and Monitoring Plan or associated documents 	Ongoing process after adoption

Making representations on the draft outputs of the marine planning process

At the end of each iteration of marine plan development we will make outputs available to review on our website and invite stakeholders to comment⁵. When we are consulting or seeking representations on marine plan iterations, we will clearly set out how long you have to make your views known and how best to do so. Comments at each of these iterations must be made through the web-based tool, in writing via email or letter.

Public consultation on the Draft Marine Plan will take place for up to 12 weeks using a web-based consultation and will be publicised by email, gov.uk, social media and publication materials distributed to local authorities for general public information. When we are consulting or seeking representations on public consultation, we will clearly set out how long you have to make your views known and how best to do so.

³ The Secretary of State decides to adopt the Marine Plans and they are developed in collaboration with the marine planning programme board.

⁴ [Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009](#) (S6, 4 to 6)

⁵ There may be no draft text available during the very early stages of the planning process as the focus will be on collection and collation of information and evidence.

To ensure all engagement and consultations are inclusive, any materials and supporting documents will be available in other formats on request.

Any representations made on the Consultation Draft North West Marine Plan may be included as part of the independent investigation and used as evidence. More information on the process of the [independent investigation](#) is available on the [Planning Inspectorate website](#).

Get involved

Keep up to date with development of the North West Marine Plan and:

Sign up to our newsletter: email planning@marinemanagement.org.uk including your name and organisation

Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Linked In](#) or [Facebook](#) or [read our blog](#)

Take part in our consultations: email planning@marinemanagement.org.uk

Contact your local marine planner at our Preston office on 0208 0262 098

Write to us at:

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