



Marine  
Management  
Organisation

## Sustainability Appraisal Explanatory Note

### Draft North East Inshore and Offshore Marine Plans

**Please note:**

On 23 June 2016, the EU referendum took place and the people of the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union. Until exit negotiations are concluded, the UK remains a full member of the European Union and all the rights and obligations of EU membership remain in force. During this period the Government will continue to negotiate, implement and apply EU legislation. The outcome of these negotiations will determine what arrangements apply in relation to EU legislation in future once the UK has left the EU.

References in the draft sustainability appraisal to European legislation, insofar as it is currently or will become part of UK law after the UK leaves the EU, may require some changes in relation to our obligations under EU legislation. Any such changes will be addressed at the most appropriate point during plan drafting or revision, as required.



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# 1. The Sustainability Appraisal

The draft North East Marine Plans have been subject to an integrated Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA), carried out by ClearLead Consulting Ltd, in association with WSP UK Ltd and MarineSpace Ltd. on behalf of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO).

The SA considers the economic, social and environmental impacts of the draft North East Marine Plans (the three dimensions of sustainable development). The purpose of undertaking an SA is to identify the likely significant effects on economic, social and environmental receptors. Once identified the MMO can take steps within the marine plans to avoid and/or mitigate the negative effects as well as identify opportunities to maximise a plan's contribution to sustainability.

The requirement for SA in the marine planning process is outlined in the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, which stipulates that all marine plans are subject to SA, and that it is undertaken in line with the procedures prescribed by European Parliament Directive 2001/42/EC (on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment).

The requirement to undertake an SA reflects the fact that, although marine plans will be developed to reflect the principles of sustainable development, it is important that there is an independent check. The SA has ensured that sustainability issues are considered in a clear and transparent manner. In particular, the SA process ensures a structured and systematic consideration of sustainability issues through its focus on testing and comparing the merits of different plan and policy alternatives. The SA sits alongside the development of marine plans from the beginning to end, providing recommendations on sustainability throughout development.

It is important that, like the draft North East Marine Plans, the SA is read and considered as a whole. Individual policies should not be assessed in isolation based on the results of the SA.

The draft North East Marine Plans SA Report is split into a number of parts:

- Part 1: Introduction and Methodology
- Part 2: Scoping Information
- Part 3: Results of the Assessment

A separate Non-Technical Summary is also available, and the reports are also further supported by two appendices:

- Appendix A: SA Database for the draft North East Marine Plans
- Appendix B: Assessment of the of the draft North East Marine Plans Preferred Policies

The Draft North East Marine Plans SA Report accompanies, and will be consulted on alongside, the draft North East Marine Plans in Quarter 1 2020.



## 2. Next Steps

Following the consultation period stakeholder commentary and recommendations suggested in the SA will be considered, and revisions will be made to the draft North East Marine Plans.

The final SA reports will be prepared alongside the marine plan amendment process. Any revisions to the North East Marine Plans will be reviewed and the SA amended accordingly. Comments received on the SA during the consultation period will also be reviewed and amendments made as appropriate.

Finally, any residual significant effects will be identified and a monitoring framework for these effects will be proposed.

The final North East Marine Plans and SA Report will be submitted to the Secretary of State in late 2020 with the intention for the Government to adopt the North East Marine Plans in early 2021.



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