



Marine  
Management  
Organisation

**Draft North East, North West, South East  
and South West marine plans consultation  
webinars: National webinar**

**30 January 2020**



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE

Bronze





# Marine Management Organisation

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## 1. Our National webinar

The MMO delivered five webinars to support the current statutory consultation on the [Draft North East](#), [Draft North West](#), [Draft South East](#) and [Draft South West](#) Marine Plans. This is a [recording of the first webinar held on 30 January 2020](#) which was aimed at national organisations as it covered all four draft marine plans.

A [recording of the webinar](#) is now available for viewing.

## 2. Question & Answer

The following responses are provided for the Q&A session that was held within the webinar and for those questions that were not able to be answered due to time constraints.

### **Q. How much scope is there to influence/change the wording of draft policies at this statutory consultation stage?**

A. There is still scope to change policy text. So, if you wish to suggest alternative text please do so in your consultation response. Citizen Space has free text boxes that allow details of new wording and supporting evidence to be provided. However, it should be noted that the current wording has been chosen for specific reasons for example:

Each policy has been developed with stakeholders through multiple rounds of engagement and received comments on its wording;

Each policy has been checked and, where necessary, amended to ensure compatibility with other policies in the plan as well as bordering English marine plan policies and/or bordering nation's plan policies;

The Sustainability Appraisals that support each draft marine plan have recommended changes to policy text to avoid and/or mitigate any negative effects on economic, social and environmental receptors as well as to maximise each draft marine plan's contribution to sustainability;

The Habitats Regulations Assessment has also made recommendations to avoid and/or mitigate any adverse effects on the integrity of European sites;  
Each policy has been checked, and where necessary amended, against all relevant government department policy priorities to ensure the marine plan policies are compatible.

In summary, please do suggest changes to wording, but it will be essential that you provide supporting information and evidence. The suggestions would then go through the above checks before any change could be included in the plan.

### **Q. Obviously your focus is "offshore" but how much will the policies / plans affect "inland waters" such as estuaries and harbours?**

A. Marine plan areas in English waters are made up of offshore and inshore areas. Inshore marine plan areas extend from mean high water springs out to 12 nautical miles offshore. The Draft North East, Draft North West, Draft South East and Draft South West Marine Plans' remit, therefore, covers as far inland as the water is tidal including rivers and estuaries. For Northumberland in the Draft North East Inshore Marine Plan this means up to Newcastle-upon-Tyne, for the River Mersey in the Draft North West Inshore Marine Plan this means as far as Warrington, for the River Thames in the Draft South East Inshore Marine Plan this means up to Teddington and for the Severn Estuary in the Draft South West Inshore Marine Plan this means beyond Gloucester.

### **Q. Why is there no reference to nuclear in any of the draft marine plans or the vision?**

A. Decisions in relation to nuclear power generation are made in accordance with National Policy Statement EN-1 and EN-6. Nuclear power stations are considered as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) with planning decisions made by the Planning Inspectorate and must have regard to marine plans. As such there is no specific policy regarding nuclear energy in all of the draft marine plans. Nuclear power generation is discussed in the four draft technical annexes in the supporting information for our "renewables" policies. Here you are signposted to the Government's [Clean Growth Strategy](#) which deals with nuclear power comprehensively through the above National Policy Statements.

### **Q. What about the inter-tidal zone?**

A. The marine planning system has been designed to support and work alongside the land-use marine planning system in accordance with the aspirations of the [Marine Policy Statement](#). The Draft North East, Draft North West, and Draft South West Marine Plans are comprised of Draft Inshore Marine Plans and Draft Offshore Marine Plans. The Draft South East Inshore Marine Plan has no offshore plan area. As such, the Draft Inshore Marine Plans incorporate the intertidal zone because they stretch from 12 nautical miles offshore to mean high water springs. In intertidal areas there is an overlap with land-use planning jurisdiction which extends to mean low water springs. The geographic overlap between the marine plan and land-use plan boundaries helps relevant organisations to work effectively together and ensure that appropriate integration of the two planning systems is achieved.

## **Q. What alternatives are there to submitting comments, other than the consultation portal, i.e. a separate written response?**

A. Citizen Space, the Government's online consultation tool, has been designed specifically to receive comments on the draft North East, North West, South East and South West Marine Plans. As such it is by far the most effective way for you to have your say.

If you have an accessibility issue and are unable to make use of Citizen Space please get in touch to discuss your requirements via: [planning@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:planning@marinemanagement.org.uk)

## **Q. Does the consultation also include Explore Marine Plans and the data within it?**

A. No. The public consultation for the Draft North East, Draft North West, Draft South East and Draft South West Marine Plans does not contain any questions about Explore Marine Plans. However, any feedback on Explore Marine Plans and the data within it (including to submit new, marine planning relevant data sources) can be sent to the MMO Marine Planning team at any time via: [planning@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:planning@marinemanagement.org.uk)

## **Q. What provision is made for seascape and landscape impacts, particularly for onshore protected landscapes?**

A. The Draft North East, Draft North West, Draft South East and Draft South West Marine Plans all contain a Seascape and Landscape section and policy. We welcome any comments you have on these policies and you will be able to read them and their supporting information when responding to the consultation.

## **Q. What does “non-departmental public body” mean?**

A. A non-departmental public body (NDPB) is a “body which has a role in the processes of national government, but is not a government department or part of one, and which accordingly operates to a greater or lesser extent at arm's length from ministers”.

NDPBs have different roles, including those that advise ministers and others which carry out executive or regulatory functions, and they work within a strategic framework set by ministers.

While not a part of it, the Marine Management Organisation is sponsored by The Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs.

### **Q. Will the Marine Plans change or bring any improvements to the Coastal Concordat?**

A. No the Marine Plans will not change the Coastal Concordat. The Draft North East, Draft North West, Draft South East and Draft South West Marine Plans refer to the coastal concordat where appropriate.

The Coastal Concordat for England dated 11 November 2013 was an agreement between the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Department for Communities and Local Government (now the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)), the Department for Transport, the Marine Management Organisation, the Environment Agency, Natural England and the Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group. A Steering Group, comprising members of the above, has reviewed the effectiveness of the concordat and agreed a revised agreement to clarify the principles of the concordat and encourage local authorities with a coastal interest in England to adopt the concordat in accordance with the HM Government 25 Year Environment Plan. The Coastal Concordat sets out the principles according to which the regulatory and advisory bodies propose to work with local planning authorities to enable sustainable growth in the coastal zone.

The Coastal Concordat was revised on 17 December 2019, at which point new applications to use the concordat should be processed in accordance with the revised version. Further information about and how to sign-up to the Coastal Concordat can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-coastal-concordat-for-england>

### **Q. How will the review process work in practice? eg. if a policy or plan decision based on the policy is shown to have a detrimental impact on the marine environment?**

A. The marine planning process does not stop when the plans are adopted. Implementation and monitoring are vital parts of the planning process that continue after adoption. The final adopted North East, North West, South East, and South West Marine Plans are 20-year plans, it is important that they are regularly assessed. It is a statutory requirement within the Marine & Coastal Access Act (2009) that all adopted Marine Plans will be monitored looking at:

- the effects of policies in the marine plans; and
- the effectiveness of those policies in securing plan objectives.

Details of the monitoring approach for the Draft North East, Draft North West, Draft South East, Draft South West Marine Plans can be found in Section 4 of the Draft

Marine Plan documents and Chapter 6 of the Draft Marine Plan Technical Annex documents.

Every three years following adoption a Report must be laid before Parliament that details the monitoring outcomes. The Report informs a recommendation about whether to leave, amend, or replace the Marine Plan.

If a decision to amend or replace the Marine Plan is made by the Secretary of State for the Environment, following the recommendation, then the process to review the Marine Plan will follow the marine planning cycle as appropriate.