



Marine
Management
Organisation

Draft North East, North West, South East and South West Marine Plans Consultation 2020 Webinars: South West 6/2/2020



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

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1. Our Draft South West Marine Plan

Thank you for participating in our webinar on 6 February 2020 on the current statutory consultation on the Draft South West Marine Plan.

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

Thank you for your support for marine planning. We look forward to receiving your representations on one or more of the draft marine plans.

Questions and answer session (including number of likes)

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.

1. What if there are policies (or objectives) that are not relevant to my interests? I don't want to comment on them all, but do we have to? Can we have N/A option? (11)

The draft South West Marine Plan is a cross-cutting plan and should be considered as a whole in decision-making and when reviewing the material. However, we recognise that individuals may feel unable to provide comments on certain policies/objectives. Rather than having a n/a option, a blank response on CitizenSpace indicates that no comments have been made (essentially n/a) and the rest of the response can be submitted.

2. How can Neighbourhood Development Plans for coastal areas be integrated with the MMO plans? (9)

The marine planning system has been designed to support and work alongside the land-use planning system in accordance with the aspirations of the [UK Marine Policy Statement](#). The geographic overlap between the marine plan and land-use plan boundaries (between the mean high water mark and the mean low water mark) help organisations to work effectively together and ensure that appropriate harmonisation of plans is achieved.

One tool that may be utilised to improve integration is a Statement of Common Ground, which should include all strategic cross-boundary matters of relevance, including matters within the remit of marine planning. Guidance from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), which includes information about marine plans can be found [here](#).

3. What role will LAs have in influencing the local marine plan or will it be essentially imposed on them? (8)

Local authorities (LAs) are one of the stakeholders in the marine planning process and have been involved in the development of the draft South West Marine Plan from commencement in 2016. There have been several rounds of engagement with stakeholders across the south west marine plan areas since 2016. In addition there

are two coastal marine planners based in the south west inshore marine plan area who are available for implementation training and other bilateral meetings.

The current statutory consultation is another opportunity for LAs to influence the final South West Plan by making a formal representation on the Draft.

The MMO, as the delegated marine planning authority for England, has a duty to assess material at a sub-national level that should be considered in the preparation of all marine plans. The MMO has sought to build sound relationships with the relevant public authorities, including LAs. In addition the MMO has completed a sub-national policy analysis of the relevant statutory and non-statutory plans in each marine plan area. The analysis formed part of the evidence base in the development of the Draft South West Marine Plan, which has been used to assist policy authors. The analysis was also used to help coastal marine planners plan engagement with LAs in relation to integrated marine and terrestrial planning.

Prior to the publication of the Consultation Draft South West, North East, North West and South East Marine Plans authorisation and enforcement decisions for these marine areas must have been made in accordance with the [UK Marine Policy Statement](#) (published 2011). For NSIPs, and for matters covered under S58 (3) of the Act, decisions must have had regard to the [UK Marine Policy Statement](#).

The Draft South West Marine Plan has been developed using the policy framework in the [UK Marine Policy Statement](#). The Draft South West Marine Plan informs and guides regulation, management, use and protection of the marine plan areas. The principal means through which the marine plans are applied will be through the decisions made by public authorities.

4. Will the MMO also produce 'minerals plan' in the same way that County Councils' do? (9)

No, marine aggregate extraction policies are included in the Draft South West Marine Plan. Aggregate Exploration and Option Agreements are issued by The Crown Estate following acceptance of a marine aggregates tender bid for a defined area. The draft policies in the Draft South West Marine Plan have been developed in collaboration with The Crown Estate.

5. Can we have copies of slides? (8)

Yes. The webinar has now been published and a pdf of the slides has been circulated to attendees.

6. How does the plan connect to other authorities, e.g. IFCA (7)

Marine plans inform and guide the regulation, management, use, and protection of the marine plan areas. The principal means through which the marine plans are applied will be through the decisions made by public authorities.

All public authorities (including the MMO) are legally required to make all authorisation and enforcement decisions which are likely to affect the marine areas in accordance with marine plans, unless any relevant considerations indicate otherwise (Section 58(1))

Marine and Coastal Access Act 2008). The public authority must also provide reasons where a relevant decision is not taken in accordance with the marine plans (Section 58(2) Marine and Coastal Access Act 2008). A public authority must have regard to marine plans (and the [UK Marine Policy Statement](#)) in taking any other decision (that is not authorisation or enforcement) which relates to the exercise of any function capable of affecting the UK marine area (Section 58(3) Marine and Coastal Access Act 2008).

Examples of authorisation and enforcement decisions made under Section 58(1) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act (2008) include:

- Marine Licensing decisions (MMO)
- Determining planning permissions (LPAs)
- Fisheries byelaws (IFCAs)
- Permitting of flood and coastal defence works (Environment Agency)

7. How will you balance interests in time i.e. reserving potential for future activity (6)

One of the functions of marine planning is to ensure compatibility and co-existence of activities. There are several policies that identify spatially areas of known or potential future activities. These policies seek to ensure that the future activity is not precluded from the area.

Whose responsibility is to ensure sustainable fishing after Brexit? (5)

The overall responsibility sits with the UK Government.

Are individuals able to submit a response or is the consultation too technical? (5)

The MMO welcomes responses from all individuals. There is no need to respond to every question, therefore if there is a policy area that you are unfamiliar with you can leave a blank response. If there is a policy area that you are interested in, and would like to discuss it further to inform your response, please send the planning team an e-mail at planning@marinemanagement.org.uk and we will do our best to support you.

LPAs often lack experience to consult on marine planning issues. Therefore will Defra provide financial support to employ marine specific planners & ecologists? (5)

This is an MMO led consultation webinar and as such we cannot respond on behalf of Defra.

Are there any proposals to reduce plastic from getting into the sea - 50% comes from fishing? (5)

Yes, there are two policies (SW-ML-1 and SW-ML-2) regarding marine litter, which includes plastic.

How have economic issues been calculated? Do they include natural capital or some other way of measuring the economic cost of not being pro-environmental? (4)

The call for issues with supporting evidence was held in 2016 at the beginning of the marine planning process. A marine planning issue is either a challenge or an opportunity within the marine plan area that is likely to drive change, or be affected by change over the 20 years the marine plan covers.

Evidence underpins the development of policies within the draft South West Marine Plan. Evidence used for marine plan preparation includes spatial data (presented on the [Explore Marine Plans](#) digital service), third party research reports/guidance documents, specifically commissioned research and national/sub-national policy analysis. The Marine Management Organisation maintains an [evidence projects register](#) which includes evidence reports that have been commissioned to support the work of the organisation, including marine planning.

Natural capital techniques have not been used to date, however, the draft South West Marine Plan is aligned with environmental legislation and policy, including the 25 Year Environment Plan.

How does someone make a complaint to the MMO about a breach of licence agreement? (3)

Any complaint can be sent to info@marinemanagement.org.uk which will ensure that it is directed into the appropriate formal system. We strive to provide a response within 20 working days.

More information about the MMO complaints procedure can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/marine-management-organisation/about/complaints-procedure>

When will there be future opportunities to contribute emerging evidence to the plan? (3)

Evidence can be submitted to marine planning at any stage. To discuss your evidence and how it could be used in marine planning please contact us at planning@marinemanagement.org.uk

You may also be interested in viewing the Marine Management Organisation's [evidence requirements](#) (note that these cover all functions and not just marine planning).

Will the Marine Plan accommodate, or link to, Nature Recovery Networks? (3)

Marine plans do not currently reference the Nature Recovery Network. The Nature Recovery Network is still in development and is expected to provide a framework for planning and delivering nature recovery on land through partnership and collaboration. This framework will support the aims of a forthcoming UK Nature Strategy (expected in 2021) for land and freshwater. Nature recovery in the marine environment is guided by the UK Marine Strategy. Given the challenges of restoring

the marine environment, nature recovery in the marine area currently tends to focus on the removal of pressures. The outcomes set out in the UK Marine Strategy are for the achievement of Good Environmental Status (GES) and marine plans align with the targets and programme of measures set out through the UK Marine Strategy. As is the case with many terrestrial and marine initiatives, there is of course overlap within the coastal margin. Marine planning will continue to review the developing UK Nature Strategy, the Nature Recovery Network, and requirements set out in the forthcoming Environment Act to identify future opportunities for integration.

How do I provide feedback on Explore Marine Plans? (3)

The consultation is on the draft plans and associated documents and does not include [Explore Marine Plans](#). However, as [Explore Marine Plans](#) is a new service we welcome any general feedback you have to planning@marinemanagement.org.uk. This includes any data sources appropriate for marine planning that you are aware of and would like to suggest be included.

Will the plan identify areas for wind turbines, temporary storage for redundant shipping and other installations? (3)

The Draft South West Marine Plan contains several different types of policies and should be considered as a whole in decision-making. Some policies are spatial, others are not. See Table 3 (page 53) in the Draft South West Marine Plan document for more information.

There are policies that show a preference for certain activities in certain locations, either precluding other activities or requiring them to be compatible. These are for a variety of activities (for example defence, aggregate extraction, ports and shipping, dredge and disposal, and renewable energy).

There are also policies that support existing use. Whilst these do not preclude other activities they require proposals to work through a number of steps to reduce impacts on existing activities by managing conflicts between activities and enabling co-existence.

There are some policies that safeguard areas for future development of certain sectors. These may support your sector or require the proposer of another activity to work through several steps to prevent the future activity from taking place in a particular location within a safeguarded area.

There are also policies that:
are relevant to all proposals and apply across the whole of the inshore and offshore plan areas.
directly support certain sectors, support diversification, skills enhancement or employment across all activities.
support preferred methods and approaches.

Can I respond to the consultation through another method than the online tool? (2)

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. The risk with submitting comments in another format is that they may not link to the consultation questions that we are asking and therefore there is a danger that we might misinterpret your comments.

If you really feel it necessary to respond in another format or are having accessibility issues then please get in touch to discuss your requirements planning@marinemanagement.org.uk.