



Marine Management Organisation

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



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Our Draft North East Marine Plan

Thank you for participating in our webinar on 11 February 2020 on the current statutory consultation on the draft North East Marine Plans.

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

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. Is it true that our onshore planning responsibilities have a new boundary of the MHWM, instead of the MLWM?

As discussed in the webinar, it is not clear which organisation is being referred to here.

2. Will marine plans include the governments consideration of extending permitted development rights within ports as part of its proposed 'freeports' initiative?

There was (at the time of the webinar) a consultation to inform the government's Freeports policy. The marine plans deliver cross-governmental policy priorities and the MMO works across Government Departments to ensure relevant policy priorities are delivered. We will continue to consider the role marine plans play in the government's emerging freeports policy as it develops.

3. Is there any way of finding out if comments made at earlier consultation stages have been taken into account in the draft plan?

Throughout the development of the draft North East (and draft North West, draft South East, and draft South West) Marine Plan(s) we have received more than 10,000 comments from stakeholders. All comments have been analysed and considered in the development of the draft Marine Plans. The MMO must consider comments made across all sector and interest groups, balancing out the wide range of needs. The MMO must also consider and take into account the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal and the Habitats Regulations Assessment in developing marine plans.

Following feedback from stakeholders we published a You Said, We Did report following the last period of engagement (Iteration 3). The engagement at Iteration 3 focused on detailed policy wording, and the MMO recognised the need to provide more detailed feedback about how comments were going to be addressed in the draft North East (and draft North West, draft South East, and draft South West) Marine Plan(s).

4. Will the plan relate policies to specific spatial areas (i.e. will the plan be supported by mapping to show the spatial extent of policies and where they apply)?

Marine Planning ensures that the right activities happen in the right place, at the right time and in the right way. Therefore, the Draft North East 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 in the Draft North East 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, to enable co-existence and manage conflicts between activities.

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 affecting the future activity from taking place in a particular location.

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.

5. Could you please share an example of an activity where the Marine Plan/Marine Policy Statement would not apply?

Examples include a temporary marker that will be removed within 24 hours, a pontoon that is 30 m² or less, or removal of litter by diving.

6. Can I respond to the consultation via e-mail or in writing?

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.

7. Has a licence application ever been turned down because it is not in accordance with a marine plan?

Not to date, although this is because the adopted marine plans are enabling mechanisms. The marine plan policies and the data that underpins them provide increased certainty to those making licence applications about what activities can occur where, in what way and/or at what time. A licence application that does not meet the requirements of a marine plan would not automatically be turned down, rather the applicant would be asked to provide additional information and/or be given the opportunity to revise their project.

Has the recent expansion of the Teesmouth SPA affected the marine plan? (Edited)

It has been considered in two ways, although there has been no direct affect. The expansion was considered as part of the Draft North East Marine Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment. The spatial extent of the SPA will change the spatial expression of the marine protected area (MPA) policies in the draft North East Marine Plan. The MPA policies in the draft Marine Plan are written to complement existing legislation, they do not replace existing legislation.

Is there a way to download/see all of the questions at once?

No there is no way to download the questions. The same questions are asked for each policy and for the vision and objectives. CitizenSpace allows you to navigate across all areas of the consultation before writing a response so you are able to see them all before entering a response.