

# Working with the cruise sector to protect our seas

Climate change and the loss of biodiversity due to human activity continues to threaten the sustainability of the world's seas and oceans. England's seas and coasts are home to 175 Marine Protected Areas, designated to protect and improve the habitats and species essential for healthy, functioning marine ecosystem.

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) as the marine regulator has responsibility for managing, protecting and developing England's seas, coasts and communities for the benefit of generations to come.

Dropping anchor at sea can cause major disturbance on the seabed potentially destroying important marine features such as seagrass, home to seahorses, shellfish and mammals.

It's especially harmful in England's designated Marine Protected Areas. While there is as yet no regulation preventing ships from anchoring in Marine Protected Areas, we are asking cruise operators to help protect our seas by finding an alternative anchoring or mooring location.

We know that the cruise sector prides itself on its environmental stewardship and people who take cruises expect a very high standard so the MMO would like to work with the sector to identify Marine Protected Areas and help to provide alternative anchor locations if needed.



Cruise ships are a welcome sight around our coast

## What We Are Doing To Help

In collaboration with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Cruise Lines International Association, UK Chamber of Shipping, and Natural England we are exploring a number of options to protect Marine Protected Areas from the potential harm that can be done by sizeable vessels anchoring over sensitive features of our marine environment.

These efforts are beginning now to help improve understanding of the environmental risks of anchoring in Marine Protected Areas as well as looking to achieve clearer markers for Marine Protected Areas on common navigational systems. Our goal is to ensure that large vessels are equipped to find alternative places to anchor rather than potentially cause damage to sensitive features of the seabed.

The MMO is also working with the UK Hydrographic Office to provide information and locational chart data about Marine Protected Areas and we will make this information available.

## Contact us

In the meantime, we can share Marine Protected Areas data now to aid navigation.

Please get in touch with our conservation team directly on:

[conservation@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:conservation@marinemanagement.org.uk)

Or call: 0300 123 1032



Marine  
Management  
Organisation

# Our MMO Story

## Our Vision

A prosperous future for our seas, coasts and communities

## Our Mission

As England's marine manager, we protect and develop our seas, coasts and communities for the benefit of generations to come

## Our Values

Together we are Accountable, Innovative, Engaging and Inclusive.

## Our Guiding Principles

**Ambitious:** We aspire to be the best we can, working with others to achieve shared objectives

**Professional:** We are a customer focussed regulator, delivering outcomes using best available science; evidence and technologies

**Balanced:** We weigh the evidence, making independent decisions that protect our marine environment and support economic and social prosperity



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## Our Services

1. Enabling sustainable marine development



4. Administering marine support funds



2. Delivering sustainable fishing opportunities



5. Providing regulatory support and assurance



3. Protecting marine habitats and wildlife



6. Supporting global marine protection



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