

## Maritime Spatial Planning Country Information

### United Kingdom

# Contact

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## Disclaimer

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## Verification Date

This document has been verified by the responsible MSP authorities (or representatives) of the United Kingdom on 20.12.2017. It was updated in October 2018.

## Funding attribution

The EU MSP Platform is financed by the EU Commission under the EMFF. The EU MSP Platform is a result of the action MSP Assistance Mechanism implemented by EASME on behalf of DG MARE.

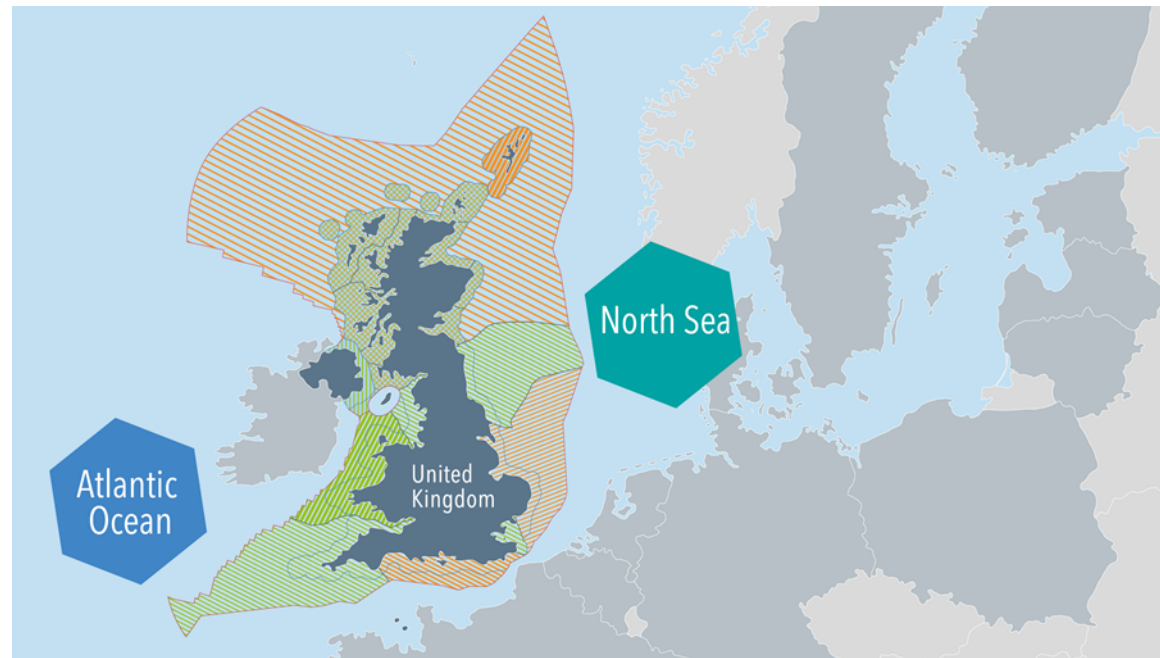
## European MSP Platform Consortium Contractors



with Thetis, University of Liverpool, and NIMRD,

# Background Information

## Basic facts on Marine Waters



— Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) — Territorial Sea (TS) Existing Plans Planning areas — Regional Boundaries

Under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009; the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010; and the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, marine planning is being introduced for the “UK marine area”, which includes the territorial seas and offshore area adjacent to the UK, which includes the area of sea designated as the UK Exclusive Economic Zone and the UK sector of the continental shelf. It includes any area submerged by seawater at mean high water spring tide, as well as the tidal extent (at mean high water spring tide) of rivers, estuaries and creeks.<sup>i</sup>

## Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) authorities and legislation

### General

The marine plan authorities responsible for developing marine plans are the Secretary of State for the English inshore and offshore regions, Scottish Ministers for the Scottish inshore and offshore regions, Welsh Ministers for the Welsh inshore and offshore regions and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland for the Northern Ireland inshore and offshore regions. Marine plans developed within the devolved administrations (Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) are in accordance with the current devolution settlements; with policy relating to reserved matters approved by the Secretary of State.<sup>ii</sup>

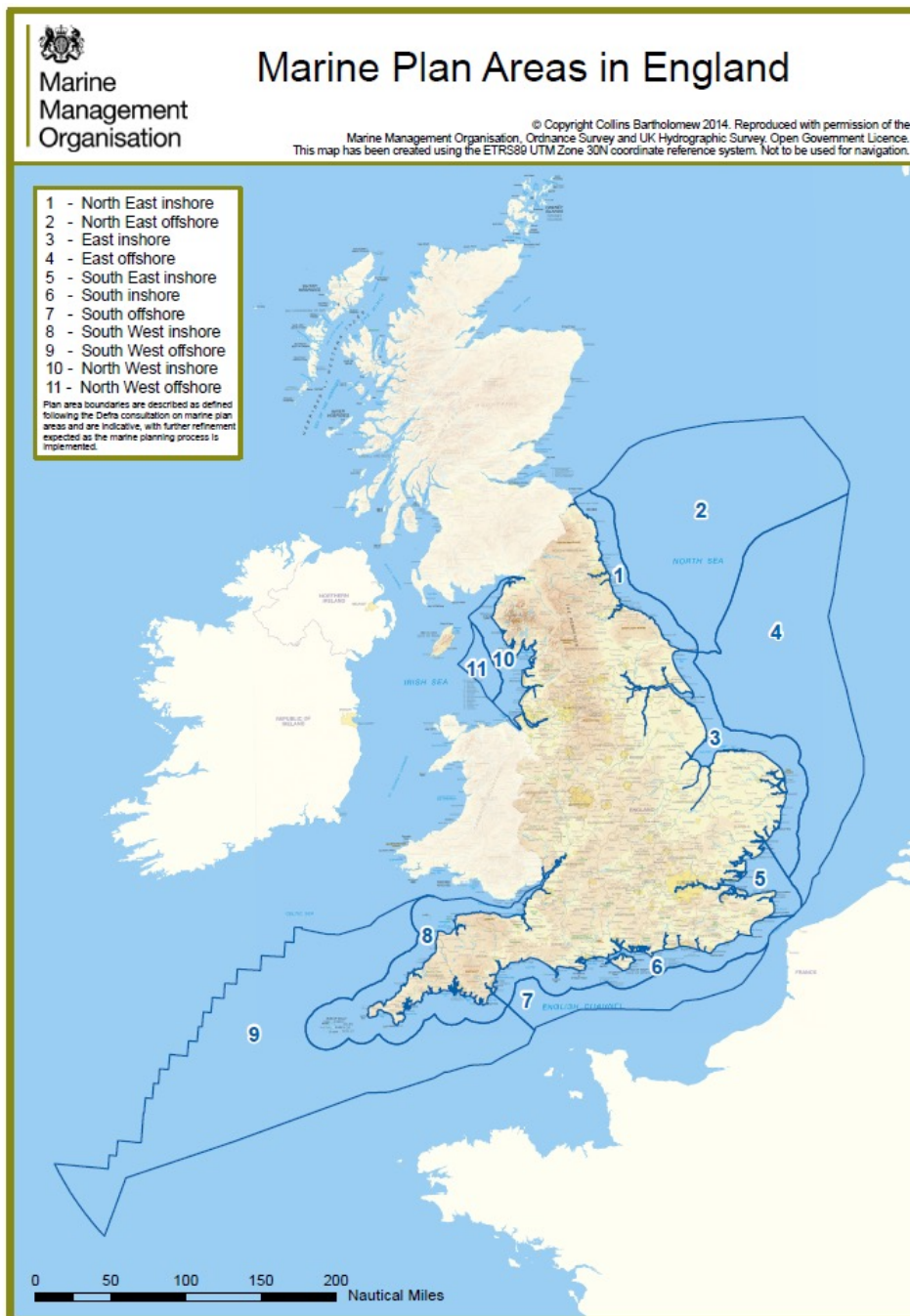
The UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS) provides the overarching policy framework for developing marine plans. The MPS is a joint UK administrations document, the aim of which is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in the UK marine area. The MPS states 22 goals (high level marine objectives) and provides strategic environmental, social and economic considerations and policy objectives for key activities/sectors. Marine plans apply the MPS through detailed policy and spatial guidance for each marine plan area.

## England

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is responsible for preparing marine plans in England<sup>iii</sup>.

11 marine plan areas have been defined, respecting national borders, inshore and offshore regions, mean high water and the tidal influence of rivers. Boundaries within England were established through consultation, based on oceanographic and biogeographic factors as well as practical considerations.

The North-East, South, South-West and North-West regions will have inshore and offshore plans. The South-East (including the Thames Estuary) will have one inshore plan. Marine plans take a long-term (20 years) view of activities and will be reviewed every 3 years. The MMO is responsible for delivery of planning, in addition to licensing of marine activities, fisheries management and enforcement functions.

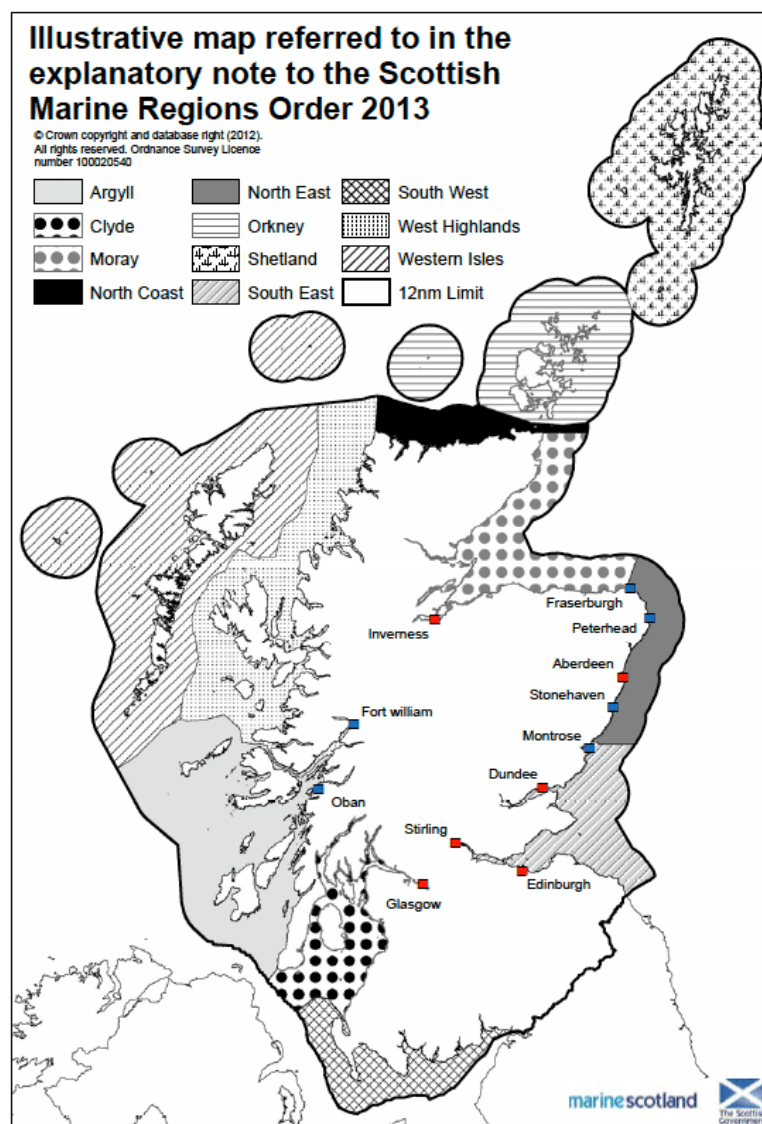


MARINE PLAN AREAS IN ENGLAND © Copyright Collins Bartholomew 2014. Reproduced with permission of the Marine Management Organisation, Ordnance Survey and UK Hydrographic Survey. Open Government Licence. This map has been created using the ETRS89 UTM Zone 30N coordinate reference system

## Scotland

Marine Scotland is the overarching authority responsible for preparing marine plans in Scotland<sup>iv</sup>, along with licensing and enforcement of marine activities and uses. The Marine Scotland Act (2010) established a regime comprising the National Marine Plan, Regional Marine Plans and Sectoral Marine Plans. Scotland's National Marine Plan was published by Marine Scotland in 2015<sup>v</sup> which provides national policy context for planning within Scotland, including what should be considered when creating local, regional marine plans.

Scottish territorial waters have been divided into 11 Scottish Marine Regions for which regional marine planning is being developed. Planning for these 11 regions are to be developed by Marine Planning Partnerships and the first areas being planned are the Clyde and Shetland<sup>vi</sup>.

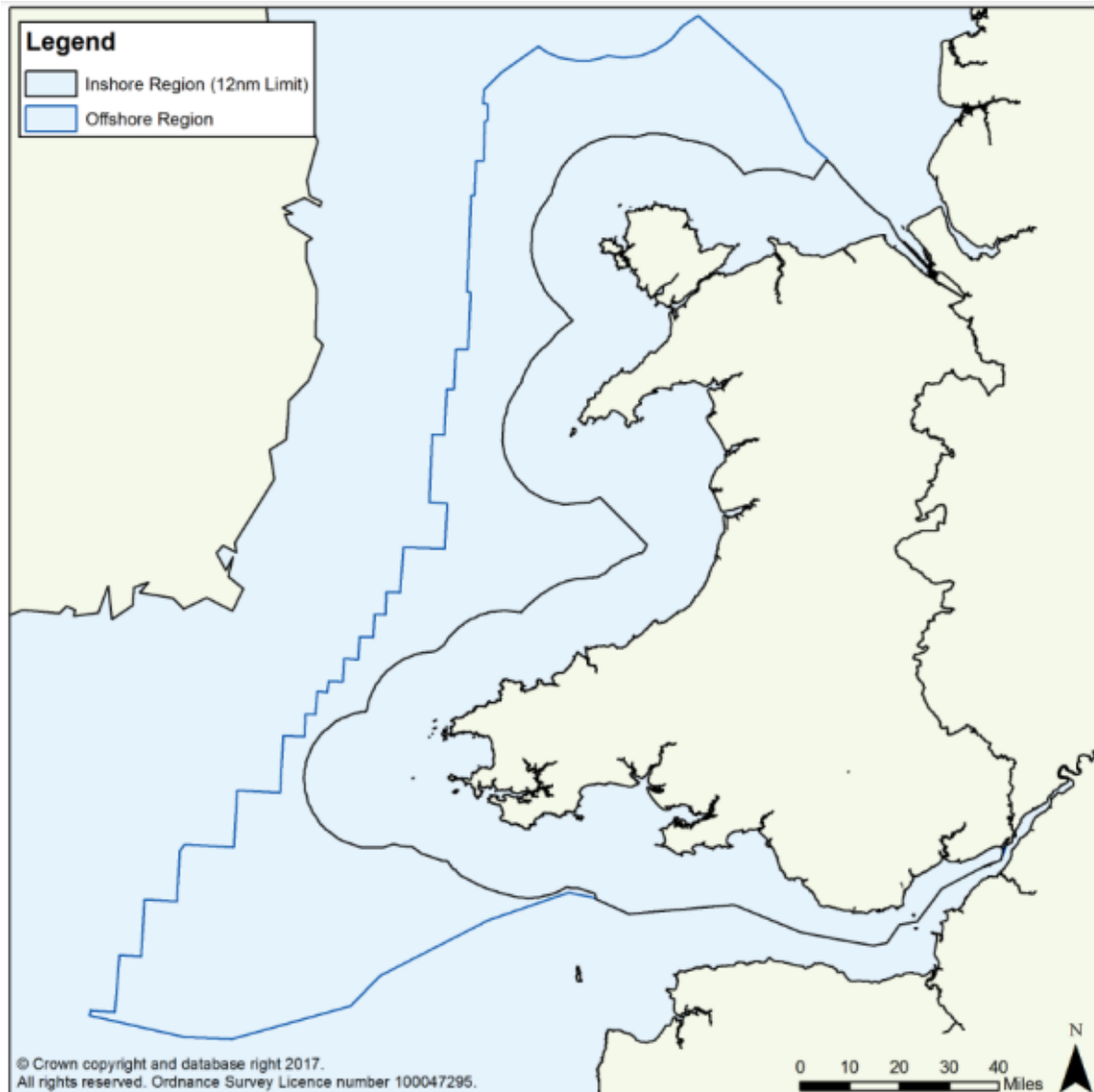


BOUNDARIES FOR SCOTTISH MARINE REGIONS. © Crown copyright and database right (2012). All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100020540

## Wales

The Welsh Government is responsible for preparing marine plans in Wales<sup>vii</sup>. Welsh Ministers are responsible for most of the relevant policy areas in inshore waters.

A single Welsh National Marine Plan will cover the inshore and offshore regions of Wales. The plan is currently being prepared for final consultation before adoption planned for 2018.

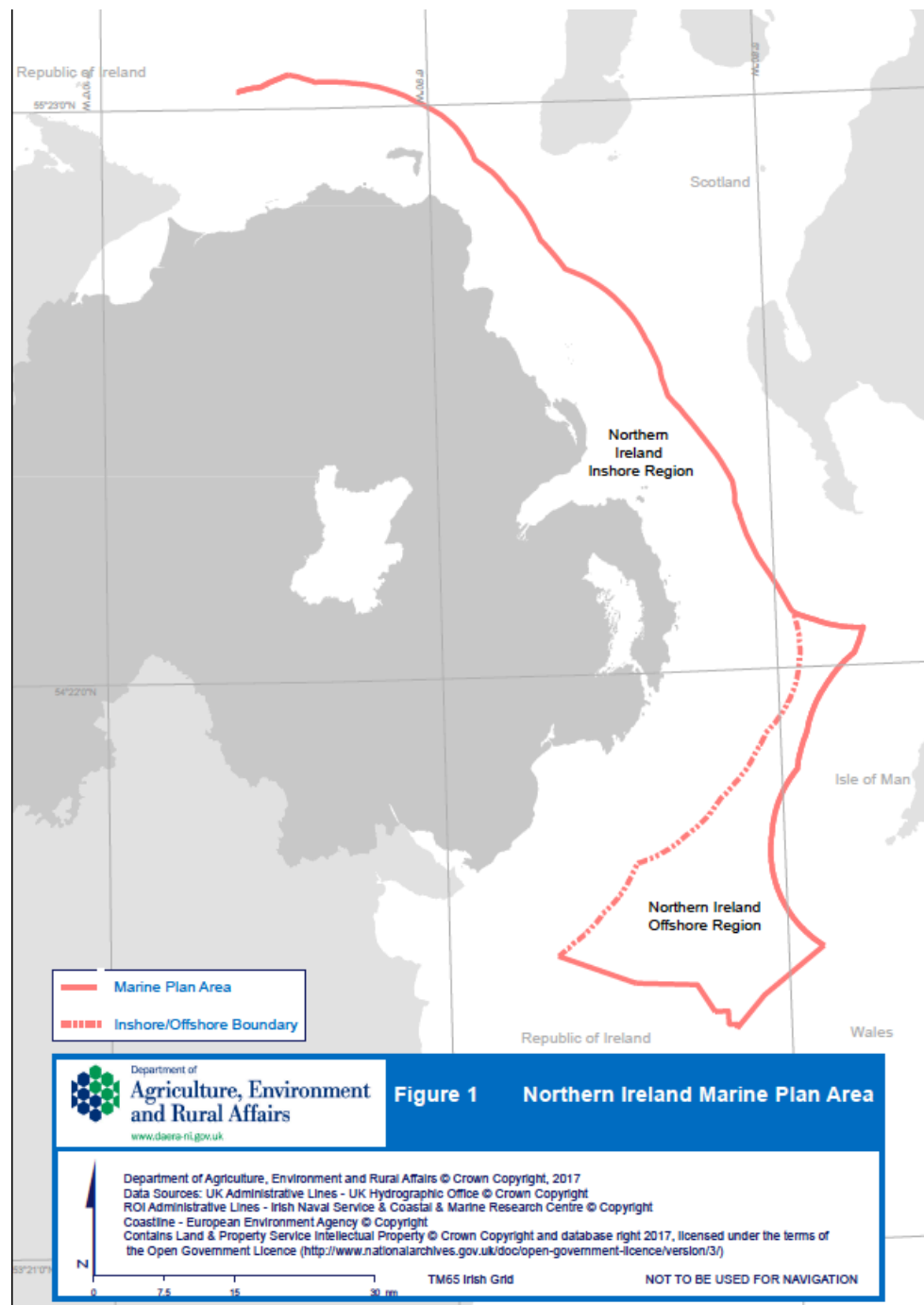


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### Northern Ireland

The Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 builds on the provisions set out in the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 by establishing a strategic system of marine planning in Northern Ireland's inshore and offshore waters. <sup>viii</sup>

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) is responsible for preparing marine plans in Northern Ireland. DAERA is currently developing marine plans for both the inshore and offshore regions, which will be published as a single document. A sustainability appraisal is also being undertaken to assist in the development of the marine plan. <sup>ix</sup>



NORTHERN IRELAND MARINE PLAN AREA: © Crown copyright and database right 2017. All rights reserved.

## Progress

### England

Each of the 11 marine plan areas are scheduled to have a plan completed by 2021. The East Marine Plans (East Inshore and Offshore) were completed in 2014 and their first implementation and monitoring report was carried out in 2017.<sup>x</sup> The South Marine Plans (South Inshore and Offshore) were the second plans to be adopted in July 2018. Work is continuing on the remaining plans, which have now all completed their second iteration of stakeholder engagement in the spring of 2018.

MMO maintains a Marine Information System<sup>xi</sup>, which allows stakeholders to view and comment on the MMO's data layers and evidence base. Stakeholder engagement is informed by Statements of Public Participation and takes the form of nationwide stakeholder engagement.

## Scotland

Scotland's National Marine Plan was produced by Marine Scotland and published in 2015. A consultation was carried out in 2013<sup>xii</sup> concerning the establishment of Scottish Marine Regions, which set the boundaries for regional marine planning in Scottish waters. These Regions have now been finalised and initial steps are now being taken to prepare marine plans for each. The Clyde Marine Planning Partnership, and the Shetland Marine Planning Partnership have been established and are finalising with their Regional Assessments, which will underpin the development of their formal marine plans.

Part of the Marine Scotland Open Access Data Network<sup>xiii</sup> the Marine Scotland Maps interactive tool (National Marine Plan interactive or NMPI<sup>xiv</sup>) has been designed to assist in the development of national and regional marine planning. The tool allows you to view different types of information and, where appropriate, links have been provided to the related parts of Scotland's Marine Atlas, the National Marine Plan as well as links to data sources to facilitate data download.

## Wales

A Strategic Scoping Exercise was undertaken in 2014 to identify the best currently available evidence on Welsh seas. It collates available evidence and highlights marine issues.

This evidence, coupled with the relevant policy context, that has also been collated, has been used to identify key issues for the Welsh marine planning process.<sup>xv</sup> In addition, the Wales' Marine Evidence Report (WMER) provides an overview of the status, use and potential future of our marine natural resources<sup>xvi</sup>.

The Marine Planning Portal<sup>xvii</sup> is an interactive planning tool which has been designed to support the marine planning process by raising awareness and understanding of the marine data that is readily available for Welsh seas, provide an understanding of the current planning evidence base available and also provide interested parties with the opportunity to comment on the evidence base and the need or availability of further spatial evidence. The portal can be viewed online by anyone to view maps online showing the distribution of human activities and natural resources in Welsh seas. New layers added and existing layers refreshed as evidence develops.

In January 2017, the Welsh Government updated their Statement of Public Participation (SPP)<sup>xviii</sup> and confirmed their intention to draft a plan ready to be published for consultation that year. The draft Welsh National Marine Plan (dWNMP)<sup>xix</sup> was published in December 2017 and consultation ran until the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018. A summary of responses to the consultation was published in July 2018<sup>xx</sup>.

## Northern Ireland

Following a period of engagement with both Northern Ireland and UK Departments and Agencies and a process of stakeholder engagement, and a Sustainability Appraisal, a draft Marine Plan has been prepared which was published in 2018<sup>xxi</sup>. The consultation period ran from 18 April 2018 until 15 June 2018. A publicly accessible map-viewer is currently under development. This will provide information to proposers and stakeholders, and will assist public authorities in their decision-making process. This online facility, will be updated as and when new evidence becomes available.

# Maritime Spatial Plans

## Existing Maritime Spatial Plans

### England - East Inshore & Offshore Plans

The east inshore and offshore plans were the first produced for English seas. The East Inshore Marine Plan area includes the coastline stretching from Flamborough Head to Felixstowe, extending from mean high water out to 12 nautical miles, including inland areas such as the Broads and other waters subject to tidal influence, and covers an area of 6,000 km<sup>2</sup>. The East Offshore Marine Plan area covers the marine area from 12 nautical miles out to the maritime borders with the Netherlands, Belgium and France, a total of approximately 49,000 km<sup>2</sup> of sea.

The aim of the East marine plans are to help insure the sustainable development by contributing to economic growth in a way that is beneficial to society whilst respecting the local community and protecting marine ecosystems. The plans will help to reduce the net regulatory burden on applicants and users by acting as an enabling mechanism for those seeking to undertake activities or development in the future and providing more certainty about where activities could best take place. As a result, the East Inshore and Offshore Marine Plans should provide developers with greater certainty on where to invest their capital, ensuring that marine projects benefit from the right information at the right time. Based on analysis conducted by the MMO in 2014 the East Inshore and Offshore Plans will provide an economic benefit building on a calculated current economic activity of 10 billion. The marine plans will be principally applied via decisions made by local authorities and delivered via existing decision making and regulatory processes. These marine plans conform with the Marine Policy Statement and other national policy including the National Planning Policy Framework and National Policy Statements.

The high level objectives of the East Inshore and Offshore Plans are listed in the table below

*Table 1 Overview of Objectives - East Marine Plans<sup>xxii</sup>*

Objective 1	To promote the sustainable development of economically productive activities, taking account of spatial requirements of other activities of importance to the East marine plan areas.
Objective 2	To support activities that create employment at all skill levels, taking account of the spatial and other requirements of activities in the East marine plan areas.
Objective 3	To realise sustainably the potential of renewable energy, particularly offshore wind farms, which is likely to be the most significant transformational economic activity over the next 20 years in the East marine plan areas, helping to achieve the United Kingdom's energy security and carbon reduction objectives.
Objective 4	To reduce deprivation and support vibrant, sustainable communities through improving health and social well-being.
Objective 5	To conserve heritage assets, nationally protected landscapes and ensure that decisions consider the seascape of the local area.
Objective 6	To have a healthy, resilient and adaptable marine ecosystem in the East marine plan areas.
Objective 7	To protect, conserve and, where appropriate, recover biodiversity that is in or dependent upon the East marine plan areas.
Objective 8	To support the objectives of Marine Protected Areas (and other designated sites around the coast that overlap, or are adjacent to the East marine plan areas), individually and as part of an ecologically coherent network.
Objective 9	To facilitate action on climate change adaptation and mitigation in the East marine plan areas.

Objective 10	To ensure integration with other plans, and in the regulation and management of key activities and issues, in the East marine plans, and adjacent areas.
Objective 11	To continue to develop the marine evidence base to support implementation, monitoring and review of the East marine plans

The East Inshore and Offshore Marine Plans contain policies on the following areas xxiii:

- Economic
- Social and Cultural
- Environment
- Climate Change
- Governance
- Defence
- Oil and Gas
- Offshore Wind Renewable Energy Infrastructure
- Tidal Stream and Wave
- Carbon Capture and Storage
- Ports and Shipping
- Dredging and Disposal
- Aggregates
- Subsea Cabling
- Fisheries
- Aquaculture Tourism and Recreation

### England - South Inshore & Offshore Plans

The South Inshore and Offshore Plans were combined into the second English marine plan to be adopted. It covers an area of around 20,000 square kilometres of inshore and offshore waters across 1,000 kilometres of coastline from Folkestone to the river Dart. The South Inshore Marine plan area cover the area from the mean high water spring tide out to 12 nautical miles. The area includes the UNESCO world heritage Jurassic coast and contains a diverse range of habitats and species. The South Offshore Plan area covers the area from 12 nautical miles to the maritime borders with France and the Channel Islands, totalling approximately 10,000sq km.

The overall vision for the south marine plan area states the area's iconic and unique qualities, and that its characteristics and culture will be conserved, promoted and where needed enhanced, through good management of its marine space, looking forward to 2038. The vision for the plan will be achieved through a series of 12 high level objectives which have associated policies (53 in total) which have been specifically drafted if legislation doesn't already exist to meet a particular objective. Each policy is situated within the objective it is most related to. Policies can be applied to the whole of the plan area, or just the inshore Or offshore or to defined areas. Further detail can be found in the Technical Annex<sup>xxiv</sup> or via the Marine Information System<sup>xxv</sup>. The objectives take into account the findings of the South Plan Analytical Report consultation with government, local authorities and other stakeholders and local and national planning documents<sup>xxvi</sup>. Unlike the East Marine Plans, the objectives of the South Marine Plans are cross cutting rather than specific to individual topics and sectors

Table 2: Overview of Objectives -South Marine Plans

Objective 1	To encourage effective use of space to support existing, and future sustainable economic activity through co-existence, mitigation of conflicts and minimisation of development footprints.
Objective 2	To manage existing, and aid the provision of new, infrastructure supporting marine and terrestrial activity.
Objective 3	To support diversification of activities which improve socio-economic conditions in coastal communities.

Objective 4	To support marine activities that increase or enhance employment opportunities at all skills levels among the workforce of coastal communities, particularly where they support existing or developing industries within the south marine plan areas.
Objective 5	To avoid, minimise, mitigate displacement of marine activities, particularly where of importance to adjacent coastal communities, and where this is not practical to make sure significant adverse impacts on social benefits are avoided.
Objective 6	To maintain and enhance inclusive public access to, and within, the south marine plan areas appropriate to its setting.
Objective 7	To support the reduction of the environmental, social and economic impacts of climate change, through encouraging the implementation of mitigation and adaptation measures that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• avoid proposals' indirect contributions to greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>• reduce vulnerability</li> <li>• improve resilience to climate and coastal change</li> <li>• consider habitats that provide related ecosystem services</li> </ul>
Objective 8	To identify and conserve heritage assets that are significant to the historic environment of the south marine plan areas.
Objective 9	To consider the seascape and its constituent marine character and visual resource and the landscape of the south marine plan areas.
Objective 10	To support marine protected area objectives and a well-managed ecologically coherent network with enhanced resilience and capability to adapt to change.
Objective 11	To complement and contribute to the achievement or maintenance of Good Ecological Status or Potential under the Water Framework Directive and Good Environmental Status under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, with respect to descriptors for marine litter, non-indigenous species and underwater noise.
Objective 12	To safeguard space for, and improve the quality of, the natural marine environment, including to enable continued provision of ecosystem goods and services, particularly in relation to coastal and seabed habitats, fisheries and cumulative impacts on highly mobile species.

### Scotland's National Marine Plan

Scotland's National Marine Plan (2015) covers both Scottish inshore waters (out to 12 nautical miles) and offshore waters (12 to 200 nautical miles).<sup>xxvii</sup> It has been developed in accordance with the EU Directive 2014/89/EU which came into force in July 2014. Devolution within the UK allows the Scottish Parliament the authority to legislate in relation to marine matters for Scotland's inshore waters (with the exception of reserved matters). Scotland's offshore waters are legislated by the UK Parliament with the exception of matters executive devolved (including oil and gas exploration and production). Marine planning matters in Scotland's inshore waters are governed by the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 an Act of the Scottish Parliament, and in its offshore waters by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, an Act of the UK Parliament. These two Marine Acts have established a new legislative and management framework for the marine environment allowing the competing demands on the sea to be managed in a sustainable way across all of Scotland's seas. The Marine (Scotland) Act states Scottish Ministers must adopt a national marine plan and the Marine and Coastal Access Act further required Ministers to seek to ensure that a marine plan is in place in the offshore region when a Marine Policy Statement was in effect.

Scotland's National Marine Plan (2010) is commonly referred to as the 'National Marine Plan' addresses both the requirements of the Marine (Scotland) Act and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and policies within this Plan apply to both inshore and offshore waters. Stakeholder involvement was central to the development of the plan. An assessment of the condition of the of the Scottish marine area including a summary of the significant pressures and human impacts was provided by Scotland's Marine Atlas:

Information for the National Marine Plan.<sup>xxviii</sup> An interactive GIS portal - National Marine Plan interactive (NMPi) has been developed to display the spatial data which underpinned the Atlas.<sup>xxix</sup> Information regarding marine planning in Scotland is available on National Marine Plan Online (NMPO).<sup>xxx</sup>

Scotland's National Marine Plan was updated in reviewed 2018, A resulting update was made to Marine Scotland Maps (NMPi)<sup>xxxi</sup>

Scotland's National Marine Plan contains chapters on the following sectors:

- Sea Fisheries
- Aquaculture
- Wild Salmon and Diadromous Fish
- Oil and Gas
- Carbon Capture and Storage
- Offshore Wind and Marine Renewable Energy
- Recreation and Tourism
- Shipping, Ports, Harbours and Ferries
- Submarine Cables
- Defence
- Aggregates

### Shetland Islands' Marine Spatial Plan (SIMSP)

Within Scotland the Shetland Islands Council adopted the Shetland Islands Marine Spatial Plan which as of 2015 was on its fourth edition.<sup>xxxii</sup> The Shetland Islands' Marine Spatial Plan (SIMSP) provides an overarching policy framework to guide marine development and activity. It incorporates authoritative spatial data on the marine environment, its various uses and assets. The SIMSP was developed under the guidance of a Local Advisory Group. It represents an innovative approach to marine planning, based on Scottish Ministers' commitment to making marine management more efficient, inclusive and accessible now and for future generations. The SIMSP addresses the range of activities occurring in, and placing demands on, the plan area. Where possible, areas of constraint and/or opportunities for development have been identified and mapped. This aims to reduce potential conflict, maximise compatibility between marine activities and encourage co-existence of multiple uses.

The SIMSP has been founded on a sound evidence base, as far as information has been made available, however it notes the changeable nature of marine policy at both national and international levels and is considered part of an ongoing process. The SIMSP has been adopted as Supplementary Guidance to the Shetland Islands Council's Local Development Plan.<sup>xxxiii</sup>

The implementation of this SIMSP will test the effectiveness of this approach, which aims to deliver the key benefits of:

- providing a plan-led approach to the management of the sea around Shetland;
- facilitating a more integrated and better informed decision-making process regarding the future distribution of activities and resources;
- enabling long-term protection and use of the marine environment.

The SIMSP contains guidance for the following sectors:

- Commercial Fishing
- Aquaculture Planning Framework
- Seaweed cultivation
- Oil and Gas Exploration and Decommissioning
- Renewable Energy
- Marine Aggregate Extraction
- Tourism
- Infrastructure: Shore Access and Moorings
- Infrastructure: Cables and Pipelines
- Infrastructure: Commercial Moorings for Weather and Radar Masts

- Marine Transport
- Future Ferry/ Harbour Developments
- Dredging and Disposal

## Overview of MSP-related uses and issues

MSP-related uses and issues are regularly being assessed and communicated by the marine planning authorities. Three of them have online portals providing access to comprehensive information.

England: Marine Information System <http://mis.marinemanagement.org.uk/>

Scotland: National Marine Plan Interactive <https://marinescotland.atkinsgeospatial.com/nmpi/>

Wales: Wales Marine Planning Evidence Portal  
<http://lle.gov.wales/apps/marineportal/#lat=52.5145&lon=-3.9111&z=8>

Northern Ireland: information not currently available

# Sources

## Specific citations

- 
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<sup>xxxiii</sup> Shetland Local Development Plan:

[http://www.shetland.gov.uk/planning/documents/ShetlandLocalDevelopmentPlanAdopted26\\_09\\_2014.pdf](http://www.shetland.gov.uk/planning/documents/ShetlandLocalDevelopmentPlanAdopted26_09_2014.pdf)