

Marine Management Organisation



Planning for economic activities offshore

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The Marine Management Organisation

- Established 2010, sponsored by Defra
- We license, regulate and plan marine activities in the seas around England so that they're carried out in a sustainable way.
- Responsibilities:
 - Statutory marine planning authority developing marine plans, and issuing marine licences
 - Managing English fishing fleet capacity and quotas
 - Create and enforce marine conservation byelaws
 - Responding to **marine emergencies**



Coastal Offices and HQ



Varied responsibilities



Why? - Busy marine plan areas



Marine planning

- Will provide detailed policy and guidance for the marine plan area
- Will manage the increasing demand on space and resources
- Will enable sustainable economic growth whilst protecting the marine environment



Makes sure the **right activities** take place in the **right place** and in the **right way** placing sustainable development at the centre of all decisions.



Marine Plan Areas



- 11 plan areas
- Covered in 6
 marine plans
- Inshore (MHWS or tidal limit 12nm)
- Offshore (12nm 200nm or territorial limit)
- 20 year horizon

Progress to date

- East Inshore and Offshore adopted April 2014
- South Inshore and Offshore adopted July 2018



Developing new plan areas

- NE, SE, SW, NW developed concurrently
- Iterative approach-Iteration 3, Summer 2018 – Spring 2019
- Publish all by 2021*

* Adoption by 2021. Aim for June 2020 for contingency, or any Independent Investigation if required



Marine Planning Legislation



Marine & Coastal Access Act, Section 58

 58(1): A public authority <u>must</u> take any authorisation or enforcement decision in <u>accordance</u> with the appropriate marine policy documents, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise

Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

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- **58(3):** A public authority <u>must</u> <u>have regard</u> to the appropriate marine policy documents in taking any decision—
- a) which relates to the exercise of any function capable of affecting the whole or any part of the UK marine area, but
- b) which is not an authorisation or enforcement decision

Decisions made in accordance with a marine plan - S.58(1)

- These vary widely and include:
 - Local Planning Authorities determining planning permissions
 - MMO marine licences
 - The Crown Estate leasing the seabed for renewable energy
 - Environment Agency permitting of flood and coastal defence works and water discharges
 - Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities permits

Decisions made having regard to a marine plan - S.58(3)

- Broadly, decisions having <u>regard to</u> a marine plan can be considered in two types:
 - (a) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) which are determined by a Secretary of State
 - (b) decisions that may indirectly affect the UK marine area e.g. the adoption of a plan that goes on to inform a relevant authorisation or enforcement decision

Marine licensing

- Marine licensing is a plan led system
- New applications in the South and East marine plan areas undergo a marine plan policy assessment to ensure all licence applications are in accordance with the marine plan
- Licence requests that have not considered the marine plan are sent back to the applicant for further information
 - This wastes the time and money of both the applicant and the MMO



What may require an MMO marine licence?

- Section 66 of Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 details licensable activities below MHWS and include:
 - <u>Construct</u> alter or improve any works in or over the sea, or on or under the sea bed.
 - Any form of <u>dredging</u> (whether or not involving the removal of material from the sea or sea bed).
 - <u>Deposits</u> in the sea, on or under the seabed from a vehicle, vessel, aircraft, marine structure, floating container or a structure on land which has the purpose of depositing solids in the sea.
 - Incineration of any substance or object
 - <u>Removals</u> of any substance or object from the sea bed. Using a vehicle, vessel, aircraft, marine structure or floating container to remove any substance or object from the sea bed.
 - **Scuttling** of any vessel or floating container

Marine planning and licensing in context



The overlap, and the Duty to Co-operate

- The overlap ensures that marine and land planning will address the whole of the marine and terrestrial environments respectively
- Localism Act 2011; Section 110 parts 1-3
- Reinforced through the Defra 25yr Environment Plan
- Planning Advisory Service checklist



Coastal Concordat

 Sets out how regulatory bodies can co-ordinate the separate processes for coastal development consents in England



Statement of Common Ground

- Encourages joined-up approach between marine and terrestrial planning
- Accords with National Planning Policy Framework
- Particularly important in areas of dynamic coastal processes
- Gives a clear definition of engagement for the local authority in relation to marine plans under Marine & Coastal Access Act



Why use the marine plan?

- Legal requirement adopted and draft marine plans (as a material consideration) must to be considered in all decisions that affect England's marine area, now and into the future
- 2. Decisions that take account of marine plans:
 - reduced risk of legal challenge
 - informed by the best available evidence
 - considered against wider context, both on land and at sea
 - ensure sustainable management of England's marine area
 - save time and money



Pop Quiz

- Name the UK marine planning authorities? (4)
- 2. What are the 3 statutory marine planning documents? (3)
- What initiative was launched in 2013 to coordinate regulators? (1)
- What legislation relates to an enforcement or authorisation decision? Provide example. (4)
- 5. Give an example of an activity that may require a marine licence. (1)

- Marine Scotland, Dept of Agriculture, Envt & Rural Affairs, Marine and Fisheries Dept Welsh Gov, MMO
- 2. Marine & Coastal Access Act, Marine Policy Statement, Marine Plans
- 3. Coastal Concordat
- MCAA S58(1) approval(1), confirmation(1), consent(1), licence(1) or permission(1) which affects or might affect the marine environment
- 5. Construction, dredging, deposition, incineration, removal, scuttling

TOTAL POINTS = 13

Questions?