

# A proposed National Marine Park for Plymouth?

- a new way to protect the environment

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#MarineParkPlym

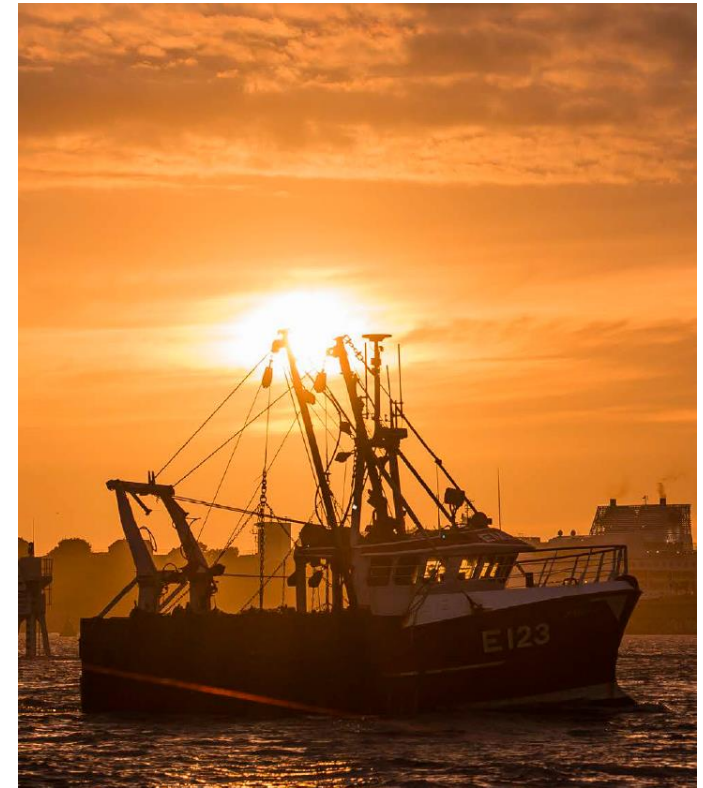
# Why should we create the Plymouth Sound National Marine Park?

- Plymouth Sound and Tamar Estuaries Marine Protected Area covers 405 km<sup>2</sup> - over five times the size of the city
- Plymouth is home to one of the largest fish markets in the UK and an incredibly important asset for the UK fishing industry
- The waters are currently collaboratively managed by the Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum that brings together the 18 organisations with statutory responsibilities for the waters
- HMNB Devonport, the largest naval base in Western Europe is located off Plymouth Sound
- The marine sector in Plymouth employs over 7,100 people
- Like National Parks on land, there is a huge level of support for and interest in the marine environment with 116 million day trips to the UK coast recorded in 2017



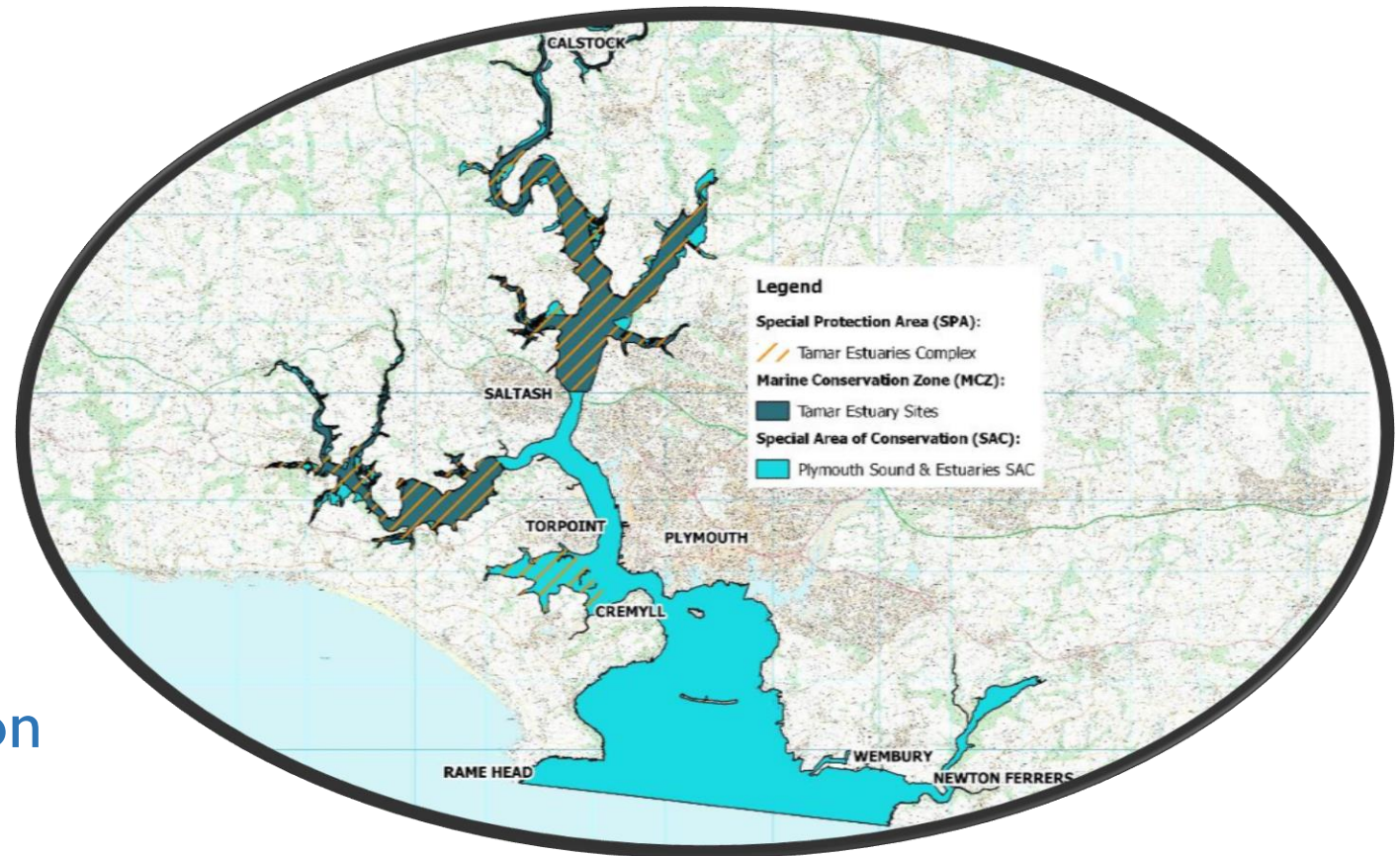


“Plymouth Sound is a beautiful and unique natural environment that is integral to what makes Plymouth special, it is a place where people and nature coexist.” ***Sue Dann, Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene, Plymouth City Council***



## But do we need another designation?

- Special Areas of Conservation
- Marine Conservation Zones
- Special Protection Areas
- N2K site
- Marine SSSIs
- AONBs
- Heritage Coasts
- Voluntary Marine Conservation Zones
- Highly Protected Marine Areas



# A legacy we can create together



- 90% of people in England say National Parks are important to them
- 96% say they want every child to experience a National Park first hand

“A Marine Park is a specially recognised coastal or marine space important for its environment and community health and wellbeing. Marine Park status will encourage greater prosperity, responsible enjoyment, deeper knowledge and enhanced appreciation of the natural world and our place within it.” MarCoPol/*Blue Marine Foundation*

“There is also a belief that a National Marine Park could be more socially inclusive than inland National Parks. Comparably easier access to seaside towns, than for example to the Peak District, means that seaside visits are more likely to be taken by families and those in the less affluent social grades.” Prof Martin Attrill.

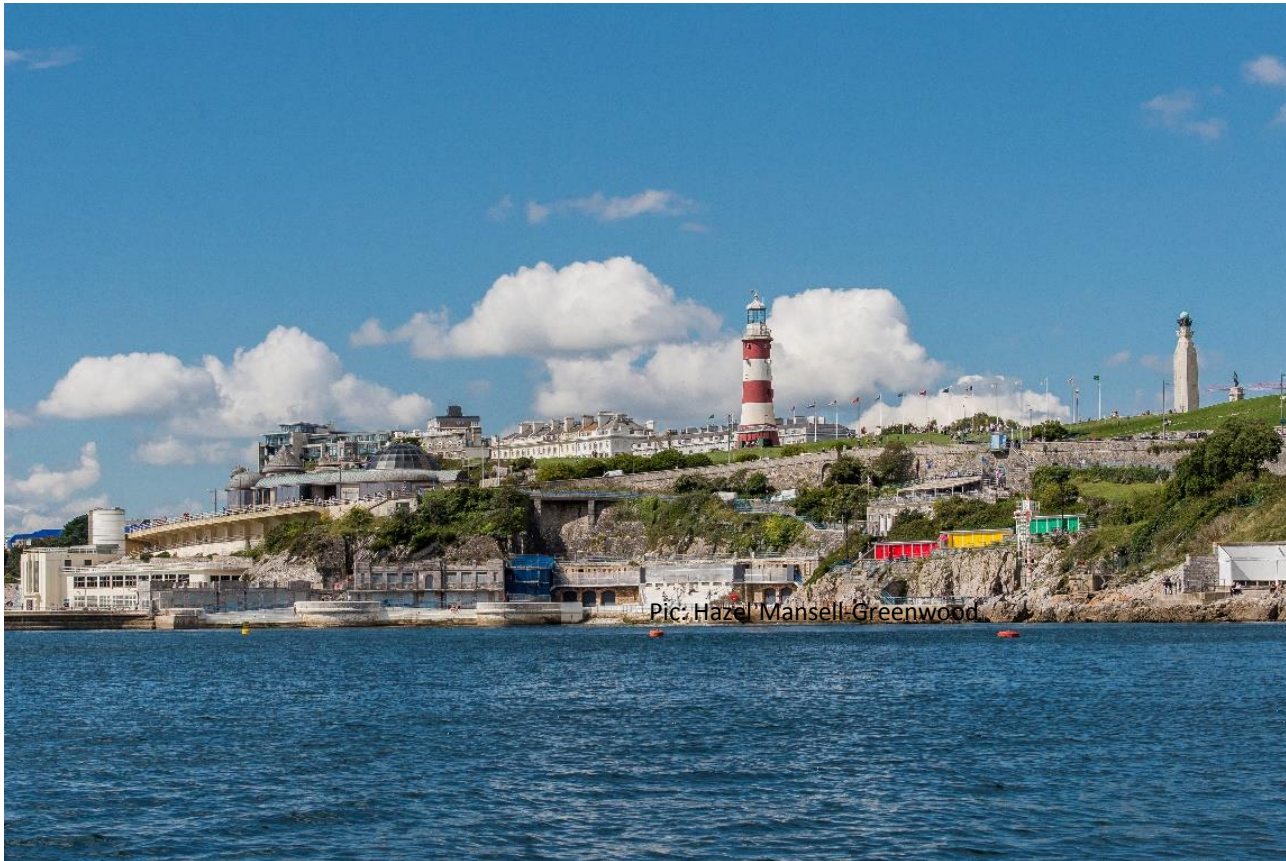
## Timeline

- 2012 “Britain’s seas should be national parks” Prof Martin Attrill and Monty Halls. Opinion piece in The Guardian.
- 2018 Conference on National Marine Parks held at National Marine Aquarium
- 2018 “The Case for Marine Parks”. Prof Martin Attrill and Charles Clover of Blue Marine Foundation
- 2018 Prospectus for Plymouth National Marine Park published by Luke Pollard MP
- 2019 Workshops, online engagement and conversations held with just under 300 stakeholders



# What is the Ambition...

## Comments so far:



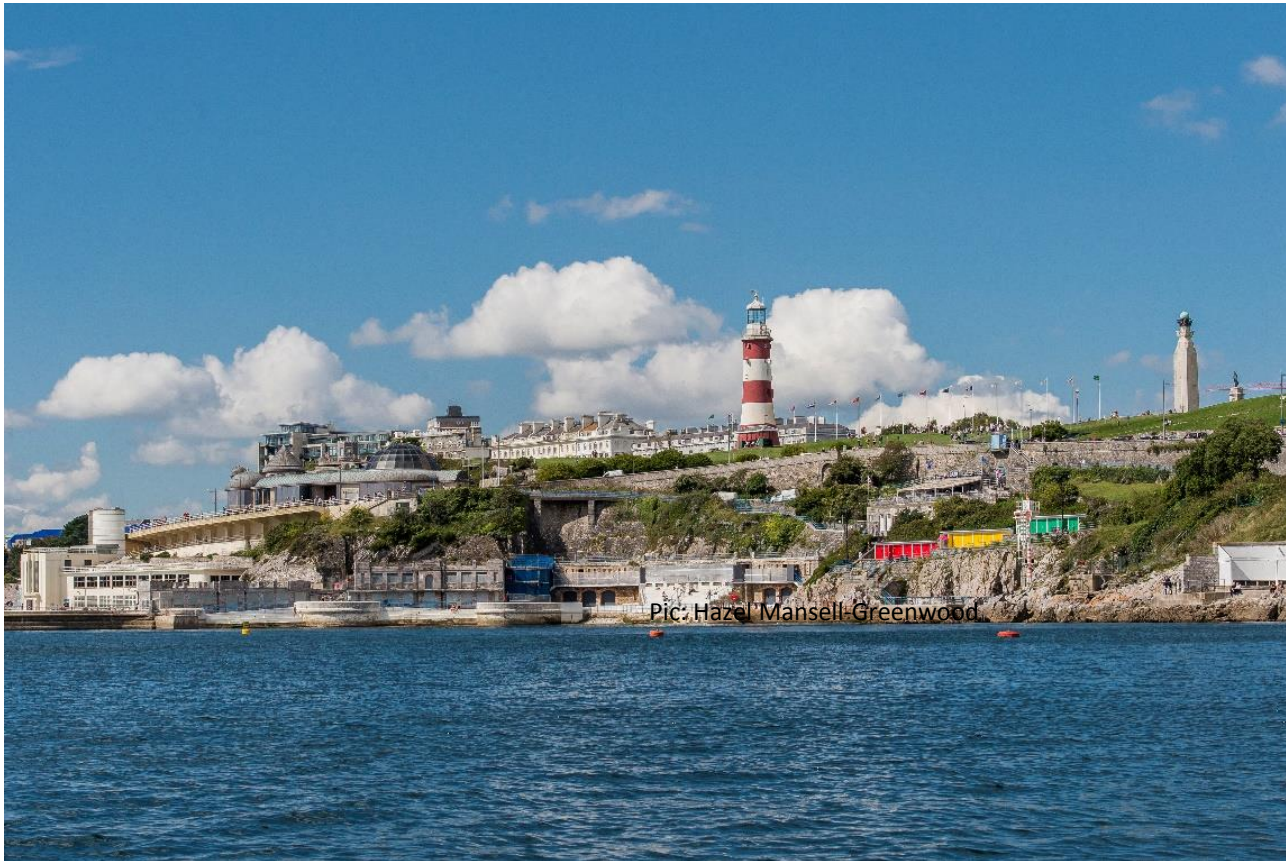
“If marine parks evolve from communities like Plymouth it shows we can govern well from a local level” **Natasha Bradshaw, University of the West of England**

“A Marine Park shouldn’t be a point in time, it should be able to flex and adapt as things change. Keep stakeholders involved the entire time, they will keep helping you do good things”  
**Paul Renfro, Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum**

“A multi-use platform, not a legal straightjacket but a new status, new legitimacy – legally and politically”  
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We want the National Marine Park to be inclusive in its nature



Proposed  
Objectives – these  
will evolve.....

## Plymouth Sound National Marine Park – Proposed objectives

1

Establish the UK's first  
National Marine Park (NMP)  
in Plymouth Sound.

2

Develop 'Marine Citizenship' - Increasing  
ownership, understanding and use of  
our marine environment, utilising this  
enhanced engagement to improve  
community health and wellbeing.

3

Create a greater sense of public and business engagement  
and pride in the waters around Plymouth and enhance  
and celebrate the natural beauty and wildlife in and  
around our coastal waters.

4

Promote truly sustainable use of Plymouth Sound, carefully balancing  
social, economic and environment needs to deliver a world-class  
environment that has a positive impact for everyone.

5

Develop a framework for National Marine Parks that can be replicated across  
the UK not just in the far South West, leading to a network of these  
special places.

“In a society where it’s not  
always easy  
to have a cohesive fabric,  
there’s a real  
opportunity here [in  
Britain’s Ocean City]”  
**Tom Hooper, Isles of  
Scilly IFCA**

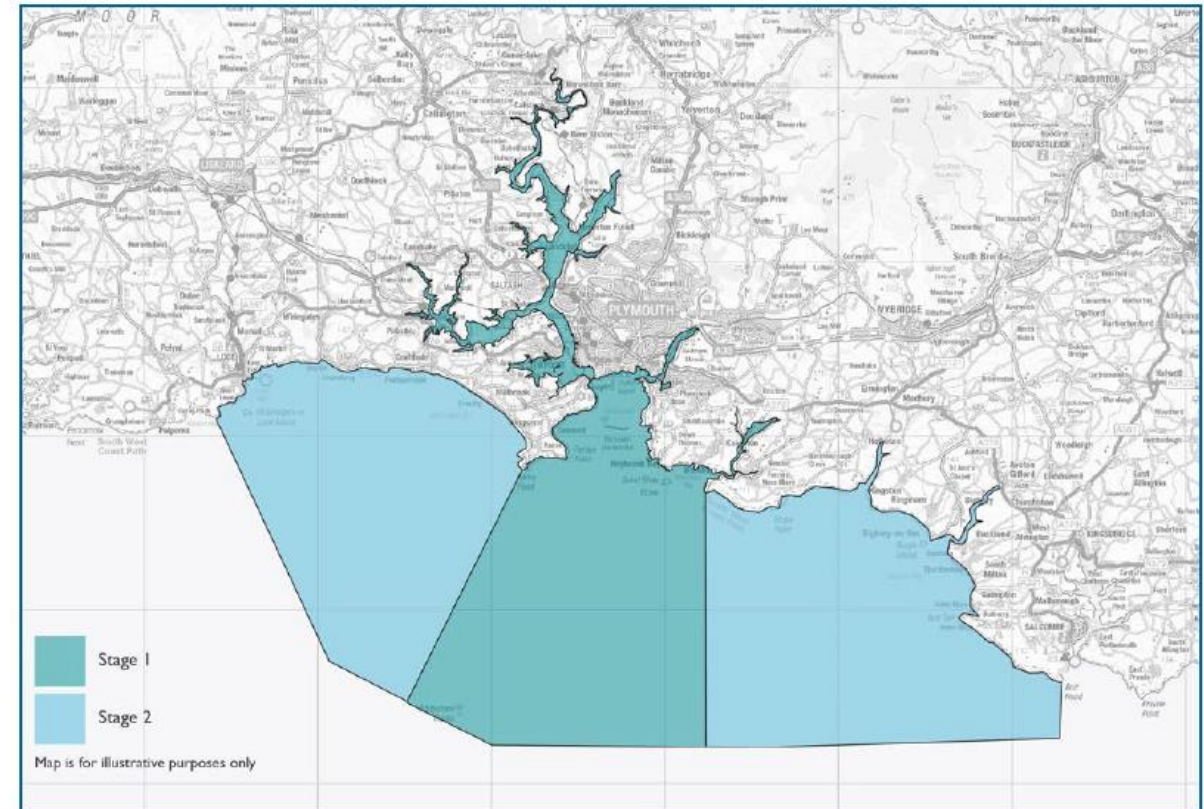
# Proposed Site

## Proposed initial area

- Plymouth Sound from the Hoe to Rame Head in the west and Gara Point in the east (broadly the area covered by the current Plymouth Marine Protected Area)
- Continued south to the Eddystone Reef
- The rivers that flow into Plymouth Sound and Tamar Estuaries Marine Protected Area

## Proposed extension area

- Subject to the agreement of Devon, South Hams and Cornwall Councils, the National Marine Park boundaries would be developed from the initial area as outline below, extending from Looe in Cornwall to Salcombe in Devon
- Extending out to the full 6 or 12 mile legal limit in the south
- Building on the work of the successful Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum, the extended National Marine Park would additionally include the rivers Avon, Erme and Seaton



There is currently discussion about how much of the foreshore it should include, and if it should extend back in to the city. We propose a 'fuzzy line' to include the foreshore but not be prescriptive about how far from the coast the National Marine Park should extend.

## Next steps

Now the first phase of engagement is complete we will:

- Translate the work and commitment from the city and surrounding communities into a marine park.
- Undertake all work collaboratively with those who live, work, protect, and enjoy Plymouth Sound
- See how partners and stakeholders can contribute and support a robust declaration.
- Develop locally and then create a nationally recognised Marine Park



Pic: Hazel Mansell-Greenwood

# Contacts

## NMP Project team:

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Head of Environmental Planning - Kat Deeney

NMP Advisor PCC/Blue Marine Foundation - Josh McCarty

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[www.plymouth.gov.uk/marinepark](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/marinepark)

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- *Blue Marine Foundation*
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- *Marine Biological Association*
- *National Marine Aquarium*
- *Plymouth City Council*
- *Plymouth Marine Laboratory*
- *University of Plymouth*