

Marine Planning Newsletter

Issue 17 – November 2013

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East plan areas update

Consultation on the draft inshore and offshore marine plans closed on 8 October after a 12-week period. MMO is currently working through more than 100 responses, containing over 2,000 individual comments. Responses came from a variety of interests including local authorities, ports and shipping, aggregates, leisure industries, fishing bodies, government, coastal partnerships, non-governmental organisations and other sectors. Many groups and organisations were involved in public drop-in sessions held during the summer throughout the East plan area, ensuring as many people as possible heard about the draft plans and had chance to comment on them.

MMO has been assessing the comments and amending the plan and supporting documents accordingly. Some comments have required discussion with stakeholders over the past few weeks, to clarify their response, seek further information, or to resolve concerns. MMO are continuing to work through the individual issues and are now in discussion with government departments regarding the suggested revisions to the marine plans. Responses are also under consideration regarding the sustainability appraisal and the Habitats Regulations assessment, both of which will need to be reviewed in response to changes to the marine plans.

In due course MMO will produce a summary of responses, alongside a modification report which will outline any changes made to the document. MMO has to submit the revised plans and supporting documents for formal clearance by government, following which after they are adopted by the Secretary of State and subsequently published. Depending on the above steps and considerations, and whether an independent investigation is required, the East marine plans may be formally adopted in the early part of 2014. MMO will continue to update stakeholders regarding the plans progress.

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Decision makers' workshops summary report

On the 10, 11 and 12 September 2013 MMO held workshops for decision makers in Hull, Peterborough and London. At the workshops MMO stated that the outputs of the events would be

documented and highlighted in a summary report. The production of the report has been delayed due to the review of the consultation comments on the draft East inshore and offshore marine plans.

The [summary report](#) has now been produced and is available online.

In addition to the summary report, a verbatim record has been collated from each workshop venue. These are substantial documents and are not available on our internet pages. However, you can request PDF copies of each verbatim record by emailing planning@marinemanagement.org.uk

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South plan areas update

Thank you to everyone who responded to the draft South Plans Analytical Report (SPAR) consultation that closed on 1 November 2013. MMO received more than 70 responses containing nearly 1,000 separate comments from a range of stakeholders with an interest in the marine area. MMO also held 5 workshops in October and people were invited to come along and give us their views on the draft SPAR which included issues for the south plan area. These workshops were a great success and were carried out in partnership with Devon Maritime Forum, Dorset Coast Forum and Solent Forum.

Workshop presentations are available at www.marinemanagement.org.uk/marineplanning/areas/south_spar.htm. A report on the outcomes from the workshops will also be made available online early 2014.

Work continues on the development of the SPAR which will help to feed into the development of a vision and objectives for the South marine plan areas.

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Change of timetable for SPAR

While we are focusing on finalising the East marine plans, work continues on the South marine plans. To ensure this significant milestone is completed we will be reallocating some resources to aid in this process.

This will have some effect on the publication date of the revised SPAR report. That has the benefit of enabling us to take longer to reflect on the issues raised by stakeholders. We will use this time to also think about more about how to approach the next step in the planning process (vision and objectives) – this will pay dividends in the subsequent steps. It is anticipated that the amended SPAR will be published in spring 2014. MMO will update stakeholders on its progress in early 2014.

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New liaison officers in the South

In September 2013, we welcomed 2 liaison officers to our team who are supporting engagement in the south marine plan areas. Clare Kavanagh is based in our Poole office and Peter Cosgrove in Portsmouth.

Their work on engagement in the South includes discussing the integration of marine and land use planning with local authorities and undertaking engagement with a range of key stakeholders to maintain dialogue regarding the marine planning process.

If you would like Clare or Peter to visit your organisation or group and explain more about marine planning in your area please email planning@marinemanagement.org.uk or call 0191 376 2790.

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Evidence gathering projects

MMO has commissioned a range of research projects to support the development of marine planning and wider organisational needs to inform decision-making.

There are 7 new research projects that can be viewed from later today (20 December) on our [Evidence reports](#) page.

- Spatial trends in aquaculture potential in the South and East inshore and offshore marine plan areas
- Future trends in fishing and aquaculture in the South Inshore and Offshore marine plan areas
- Spatial models of essential fish habitat (South Inshore and Offshore marine plan areas)
- Economic baseline of the South Coast
- Social impacts of fisheries, aquaculture, recreation, tourism and marine protected areas (MPAs) in England
- Spatial trends in shipping activity
- Compilation of spatial data on marine recreation activities: Phase 2

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Out and about

2013 Humber Estuary conference

On 27 November Rachel Wood attended the Humber Estuary annual conference and presented on the East marine plans. The event was very well attended by a range of stakeholders with an interest in the estuary.

The theme of the event was to develop "practical steps to enable economic development in the estuary, while safeguarding and enhancing the environment".

Rachel described the event as "a very informative day and a great opportunity to meet people from various industries in the area".

More information on the Humber Nature Partnership can be found at www.humburnature.co.uk/

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And finally...

The Marine Planning Team and all of us at the Marine Management Organisation would like to wish you a happy Christmas and best wishes for 2014.