

A strategy for promoting an integrated approach to the management of coastal areas in England



defra

Department for Environment
Food and Rural Affairs



Dover, Kent

Foreword



Our coasts are hugely varied and greatly valued. Some of us enjoy our leisure time there; some of us live there; and some of us rely on the land at the coast or the sea for our livelihoods. A range of industries need, and compete for, space on land or at sea or both. Wildlife relies on habitats such as salt marshes, sand dunes and mudflats in estuaries. Protecting the assets of the coast, whilst benefitting from its resources, means that we need a clear vision for managing our coasts more sustainably.

In 2006 we asked for views on how to promote an integrated approach to the management of the English coast. This was a step towards developing an effective approach across Government and finding the best practical delivery solutions from the national to the local level. Responses to this consultation have helped us to develop the objectives and actions in this strategy.

There is no single solution for achieving a joined-up approach to coastal management. Each part of the coast is different and so needs its own approach, but can learn from other areas if we are all more proactive in sharing, learning from and applying the ideas that work.

This strategy highlights progress across Government, especially through the Marine and Coastal Access Bill, to build a joined-up approach to coastal management into our national policy development and delivery. This work will contribute towards a co-ordinated approach to managing our coasts, helping local coastal managers work with local people to meet local needs in a holistic way. The strategy also gives examples of local good practice – we will promote and support local initiatives as much as we can.

I hope that this strategy will help everyone involved in the management of coastal areas to take a more integrated approach to their work, learning from good practice. We will be making the most of the Coastal Partnerships and networks which have been set up to bring people together, co-ordinate local activities and share ideas and successes, and I hope that others will do the same. By working together we can achieve our vision for integrated coastal management.

Huw Irranca-Davies MP

Minister for the Natural and Marine Environment,
Wildlife and Rural Affairs

What is Integrated Coastal Zone Management?

Integrated Coastal Zone Management means adopting a joined-up approach towards the many different interests in coastal areas – both on the land and at sea. It is the process of harmonising the different policies and decision-making structures, and bringing together coastal stakeholders to take concerted action towards achieving common goals. Integrating the many different interests effectively means we can look at the coast in a holistic way.

What do we mean by the ‘coastal zone’?

There is no single definition of the ‘coastal zone’ (or ‘coast’ or ‘coastal area’) in legislation or in a specific coastal management mechanism in the UK. Planning Policy Guidance Note 20 on Coastal Planning offers the following guidance for Local Planning Authorities in defining the coastal zone for their areas:

“It could include areas affected by off-shore and near-shore natural processes, such as areas of potential tidal flooding and erosion; enclosed tidal waters, such as estuaries and surrounding areas of land; and areas which are directly visible from the coast. The inland limit of the zone will depend on the extent of direct maritime influences and coast-related activities. In some places, the coastal zone may be relatively narrow, such as where there are cliffs. Elsewhere, particularly where there are substantial areas of low-lying land and inter-tidal areas, it will be much wider.”¹

Setting the scene for Integrated Coastal Zone Management

The Government’s policy framework for protecting and managing our marine environment was published in 2002 in *Safeguarding Our Seas*². It sets out our vision of ‘clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas’. In that strategy, the Government made a commitment to encourage greater integration between management and decision-making processes to contribute to more sustainable development in coastal areas.

Also in 2002, the European Parliament and Council adopted a Recommendation on implementing Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Europe³, which asked Member States to undertake a national stocktake of coastal legislation, institutions and stakeholders. Based on this information, Member States were also asked to develop national strategies, following eight key principles, to implement an integrated approach to management of coastal areas and to report progress to the European Commission by February 2006.

¹ Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 20 – Coastal Planning. See: www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/planningpolicyguidance/planningpolicystatements/planningpolicyguidance/

² *Safeguarding Our Seas: A Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Development of our Marine Environment*
See: www.defra.gov.uk/marine/environment/stewardship.htm

³ Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Europe (2002/413/EC). See: www.ec.europa.eu/environment/iczm/

⁴ A strategy for promoting an integrated approach to the management of coastal areas in England

Key principles of Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the European Recommendation:

1. A broad holistic approach
2. Taking a long-term perspective
3. Adaptive management
4. Specific solutions and flexible measures
5. Working with natural processes
6. Participatory planning
7. Support and involvement of all relevant administrative bodies
8. Use of a combination of instruments

The UK Government wants to embed these principles into all coastal planning and management processes. To implement part of the Recommendation, Defra and the Devolved Administrations commissioned a stocktake⁵ of current practice in 2004; and since then each Administration has used the information to develop separate strategies for coastal management. Defra is working with the Devolved Administrations to achieve a strategic coastal management approach for the UK as a whole, and to ensure harmonisation between the separate strategies.

In 2006 Defra published a consultation, *Promoting an integrated approach to management of the coastal zone (ICZM) in England*⁶. This proposed objectives for implementing Integrated Coastal Zone Management, and the responses to this consultation fed into the development of proposals in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill and into other Government initiatives described in this strategy.

European Commission 2007⁴

“The implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management is a slow and long-term process”

⁴ European Commission 2007 Com (2007) 308 final – Communication from the Commission – Report to the European Parliament and the Council: An evaluation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in Europe.
See: www.eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2007:0308:FIN:EN:PDF page 5, para 3.1

⁵ ICZM in the UK: A Stocktake published in 2004. See: www.defra.gov.uk/marine/pdf/environment/iczm/st-full-report.pdf

⁶ Promoting an integrated approach to management of the coastal zone in England.
See: www.defra.gov.uk/marine/pdf/environment/iczm/iczm-consultation.pdf

In 2007 the European Commission reviewed progress on the implementation of the Recommendation⁷, and decided that improvements were being achieved across Europe, although in some cases slowly. The review concluded that further actions or new legislation were not needed at this time⁸.



Clovelly, Devon

⁷ Evaluation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in Europe.
See: www.eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2007:0308:FIN:EN:PDF

⁸ Commission Communication on the evaluation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in Europe, COM(2007)308 June 2007. See: www.eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2007:0308:FIN:EN:PDF

Our vision for coastal management

It is difficult to create a common vision for the coast of England, because of the diversity of geographical features, communities and uses from place to place. Many local areas and regions have a vision for their own stretch of coast. However, it is useful for there to be a common vision for how the coastline should be managed, which can help provide a consistent framework for local and regional managers and for policy makers within central Government.

The 2006 consultation on how to promote an integrated approach to coastal management set out a proposed vision for coastal management, which built on our earlier strategy, *Safeguarding our Seas*. Drawing on the responses to that consultation, we have now set out an agreed vision for coastal management.

Our vision

- Sustainably managed coastal areas, where competing demands and pressures have been taken into account and the social and economic needs of society have been reconciled with the need for conservation of the natural and historic environment.
- A clear policy and regulatory framework into which the principles of a holistic and co-ordinated approach are embedded.
- A new, strategic management approach in the marine environment, which is effectively integrated with the management of the land.
- More consistent application of the principles of good, holistic and co-ordinated management around the coast.
- A management approach that builds on existing structures and responsibilities, whilst encouraging organisations to work better together.
- A flexible management approach, which supports local initiatives and solutions to address local circumstances, within an overall regulatory framework.
- Appropriate and effective stakeholder and local community involvement throughout management processes.

European Commission 2007⁹

“Working at different scales and across administrative and sectoral boundaries remains a formidable challenge, but is central to achieving integration”

⁹ European Commission 2007 Com (2007) 308 final – Communication from the Commission – Report to the European Parliament and the Council: An evaluation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in Europe.
See: www.eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2007:0308:FIN:EN:PDF page 7, para 3.2

Achieving our vision

On the following pages we set out the actions to deliver our objectives and the progress we and others have made so far. Our objectives to deliver our vision are:

- to integrate coastal policies and provide a clear, strategic direction to coastal managers;
- to ensure a consistent, joined-up approach to regional and local planning and decision-making;
- to promote the benefits of local coastal initiatives which bring together coastal stakeholders;
- to promote awareness and understanding of the value of the coast and the issues facing it;
- to improve the quality and co-ordination of information about the coast to improve management practices;
- to monitor progress towards improving integration at the coast.



Credit: Stephen Collins

Shaldon, Devon

Policy and strategic direction

A wide range of policy areas and activities within Government will have implications for coastal areas. We are committed to taking a holistic view of the coast, and to providing and communicating a clear policy steer and strategic direction for coastal management.

Objective: To integrate coastal policies and provide a clear, strategic direction to coastal managers.

We will:

- ensure effective harmonisation of coastal policies and management between England and the Devolved Administrations of Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, by co-ordinating the joined-up approach each is taking. This will be achieved through the British Irish Council sub group for Integrated Coastal Zone Management, which also includes Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man;
- ensure a co-ordinated approach to management in cross-border areas and estuaries which fall within more than one Administration's jurisdiction;
- improve the process for co-ordinating the development of Government policy relating to the coast in England, both within Government Departments, and between them;
- continue to build on the effective relationships between central Government Departments and other competent authorities with responsibilities in coastal areas, such as the Environment Agency; and
- ensure effective involvement of stakeholders in the development of coastal policy.



Hastings, East Sussex

Credit: www.istockphoto.com

Progress

Coastal Towns Working Group

Following the House of Commons Select Committee Coastal Towns Inquiry, in February 2008 the Government set up a cross-departmental working group to co-ordinate its efforts to develop policies and address the challenges faced by coastal towns. The Group is drawn from the following Departments: Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR); Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra); Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS); Department for Transport (DfT); Department for Work and Pensions (DWP); Communities and Local Government (CLG); and the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) will be included. Regional Development Agencies and the Environment Agency are also on the Group.

The Group aims to promote cross-government understanding of the needs of coastal towns; improve national and sub-national co-ordination of policies impacting on coastal towns; and define in practical terms what more could be done at national and sub-national levels to enable coastal authorities to respond better to their priorities in the context of the *Review of sub-national economic development and regeneration* being developed as part of this (see page 15).

The Group will also take an integrated approach, looking at social, environmental and economic issues together, for example, exploring opportunities for collaborative working on key issues for coastal town regeneration and sustainable development, including coastal erosion and flood risk management.

Regional Development Agency Coastal Towns Network

In June 2008 the Department for Communities and Local Government, working closely with the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), set up the Regional Development Agency (RDA) Coastal Towns Network. This brings together Regional Development Agencies, and national, regional and local stakeholders to improve co-ordination, and to share best practice on coastal town regeneration.

The Network is working closely with the Coastal Towns Working Group to complement its activities, including feeding back knowledge, expertise and experience to the Working Group. The Network will also build links with relevant external bodies representing coastal interests. One of the aims of the Network is to establish sub-groups to examine specific cross-cutting policy themes on which they will report findings back to the Working Group.

National Policy Statements

The Planning Act 2008 provides for a series of National Policy Statements and an Infrastructure Planning Commission (see page 21).

These Statements will enable Government to set out a clear national policy framework for the development of major infrastructure. The Statements will explain how Government has integrated strategic economic, social and environmental policy considerations with the aim of achieving sustainable development.

The UK Government is committed to ensuring that its objectives for sustainable development are central in deciding future infrastructure needs. The Planning Act therefore includes a duty on Ministers to ensure that, when designating a National Policy Statement, they must do so with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. The Act requires the Statements to be assessed for the sustainability of their policies. It also sets out statutory requirements for the content of and consultation on National Policy Statements. Effective public consultation will ensure that the statements are soundly based, authoritative and enable the public and other interested parties to have a say on the delivery of nationally significant infrastructure projects. The draft Statements will also be subject to Parliamentary scrutiny. National Policy Statements will strengthen the role of Ministers in strategic policy setting and make it more accountable to the public and Parliament.

National Policy Statements will also indicate how the Government's objectives for development of particular types of infrastructure have been integrated with other Government policies, including other national policy statements, relevant domestic and international policy commitments and national planning policy – including marine policy.



Liverpool, Merseyside

Credit: www.istockphoto.com

Marine Policy Statement

The UK Marine Policy Statement, to be agreed by Government departments and the Devolved Administrations, will articulate our joint vision and objectives for the protection and sustainable development of the marine environment and our objectives for coastal integration.

The Statement will bring together social, economic and environmental policies, to set a clear and consistent framework for coastal and marine regulators and users, helping everyone to work towards common objectives. The Statement will include and reinforce existing obligations, for example under the Water Framework Directive or Marine Strategy Framework Directive, clarifying how we expect people to implement these requirements. It will set out our policies on how marine issues should be tackled alongside other priorities in coastal areas, as well as our policies for coastal integration; therefore setting an integrated national framework for coastal regulators, users and communities. It will also enable them all to have a say in how the wider marine area and coastal waters should be managed.

As a first step in developing an integrated Marine Policy Statement for the UK's waters, in June 2008 we consulted stakeholders on high level marine objectives in *Our Seas – a shared resource*¹⁰.

National Planning Policy Guidance

National Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPGs), and their replacements – Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) – are prepared by the Government, after public consultation, to explain statutory provisions and provide guidance to local authorities and others on planning policy and the operation of the planning system. They also explain the relationship between planning policies and other policies which have an important bearing on issues of development and land use.

Planning Policy Statement 1: *Delivering Sustainable Development*¹¹ sets out the Government's overarching objectives for the planning system, and how planning should facilitate and promote sustainable patterns of development.

Planning Policy Statement 25 sets out Government policy on development and flood risk¹². It aims to ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages in the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, and to direct

¹⁰ *Our Seas – a shared resource*. See: www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/highlevel-marine/

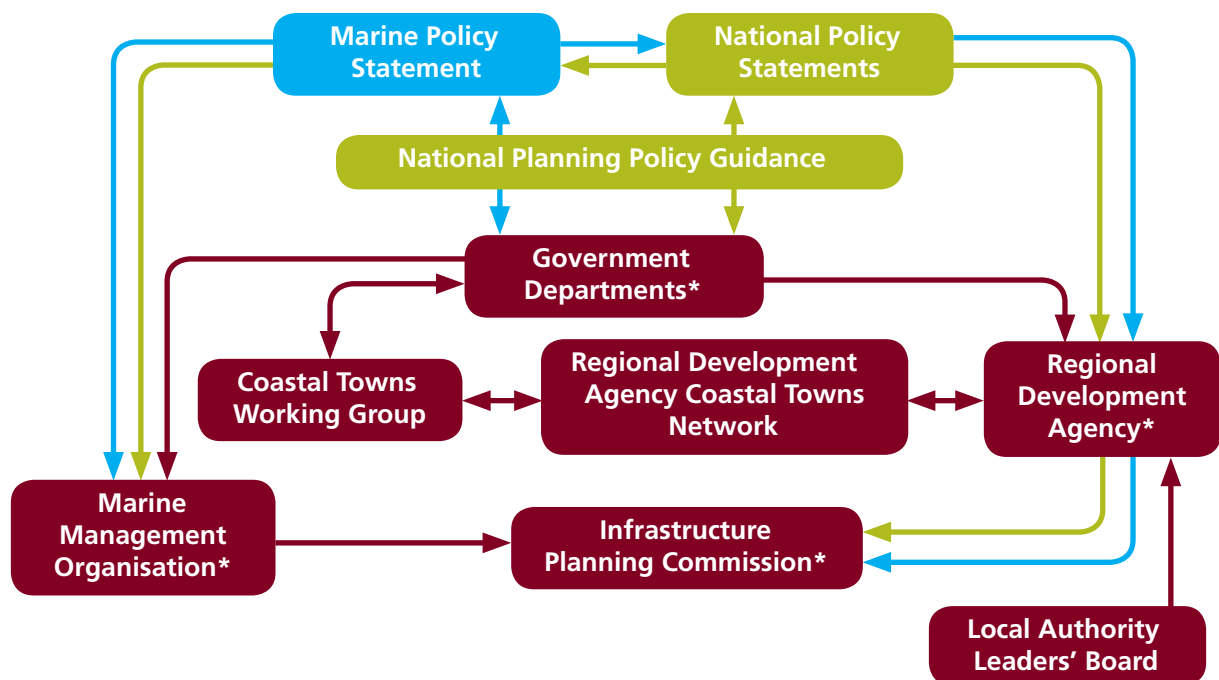
¹¹ Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1): *Delivering Sustainable Development*. See: www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/planningpolicyguidance/planningpolicystatements/

¹² Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25): *Development and Flood Risk*. See: www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/planningpolicyguidance/planningpolicystatements/

development away from areas of highest risk. Where new development is, exceptionally, necessary in such areas, the policy aims to make it safe, without increasing flood risk elsewhere, and, where possible, reducing flood risk overall. This Statement is supported by a practice guide so that stakeholders are clear about how to apply its policies.

The Department for Communities and Local Government is currently considering the need to update existing planning policy on coastal erosion in Planning Policy Guidance Note 20¹³ in the light of climate change and the forecast heightened sea level rise which may speed up erosion rates and increase the risk of changes to the coastline. The Government plans to consult on any proposed revisions to the current planning policy in early summer 2009.

Policy and strategic direction links



* indicates decision-making organisation

¹³ Planning Policy Guidance Note 20 (PPG20): *Coastal Planning* (1992).

See: www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/planningpolicyguidance/planningpolicystatements/

Planning and decision-making process

We are aiming, wherever possible, to ensure greater integration between the different planning and decision-making structures at the coast. We need to ensure a consistent, practical approach to coastal management, which recognises the relationships between different activities, the conflicts that may arise, and the effects that activities on land and in the marine environment, may have on each other. Through the Marine and Coastal Access Bill, we are aiming to create a more strategic and streamlined approach for managing the marine environment which will lead the process of integration in coastal areas.

Objective: To ensure a consistent, joined-up approach to regional and local planning and decision-making.

We will:

- identify ways to harmonise the activities of different competent bodies in the coastal zone, wherever practical, providing strong and effective integration between planning systems;
- ensure that the future direction of planning activity to address flood and coastal risk management is integrated effectively with other planning and management mechanisms, with full consideration of wider social issues such as regeneration;
- ensure that integrated processes are used for river basin planning under the Water Framework Directive. The Directive requires the joining-up of planning and management mechanisms, focusing holistically on a River Basin District. We will work with the Environment Agency to involve stakeholders in a partnership approach throughout the process;
- ensure that the new system of marine planning, proposed in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill, integrates effectively with existing mechanisms on land, in particular planning and development control, river basin management planning and shoreline management planning. We will also ensure that any new system incorporates involvement of local stakeholders and relevant competent bodies throughout; and
- streamline the complex marine licensing legislation through the Marine and Coastal Access Bill, joining up licensing and consenting for activities and developments in the coastal zone.

Progress

Planning

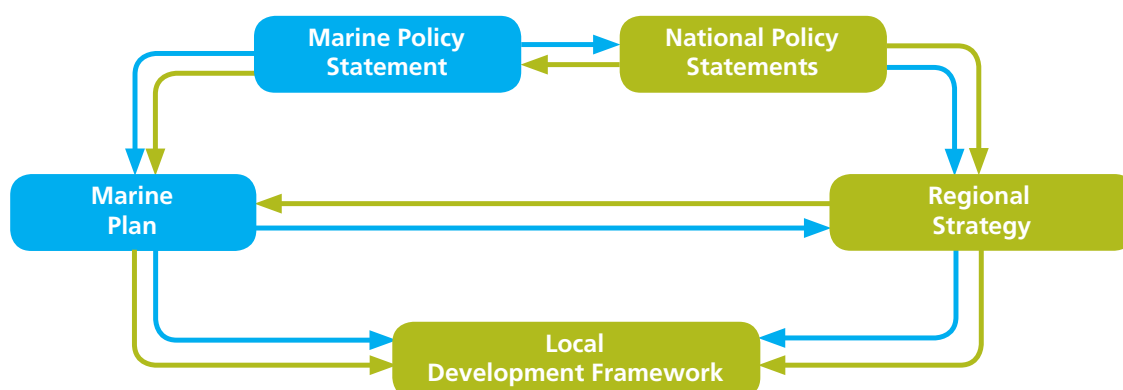
The next few years will see substantial changes in the planning and management of our marine and land areas which will improve the consistency, compatibility and integration of planning and decision-making in coastal areas.

Regional planning

The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill, before Parliament in December 2008, will introduce legislation needed to implement elements of the *Review of sub-national economic development and regeneration*. The Bill aims to give regions, sub-regions and localities greater powers, incentives and flexibilities to shape their own economic vision in line with their assets and strengths. It seeks to maximise prosperity in all parts of England and provides the framework to enable central and local government and other partners to work together to create the conditions for dynamic economies in a low carbon world. In response to the recommendations of the Review, the Government is taking forward proposals to give Regional Development Agencies and Local Authority Leaders' Boards joint responsibility for preparing, implementing and monitoring delivery of new Regional Strategies that will build upon and replace the existing regional spatial and economic strategies. This will enable greater integration of economic, social and environmental factors in regional planning. These strategies will have regard to National Policy Statements, Planning Policies and the Marine Policy Statement and will therefore take into account marine planning policies.

Local planning

Local planning on land is the responsibility of the Local Authority. Plans within the Local Development Framework, will be developed in accordance with the Integrated Regional Strategy, National Policy Statements, Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance. Local Planning Authorities will also have specific regard to the Marine Policy Statement and adjacent Marine Plans in all their coastal planning and decision-making activities.





Planning in local areas is also influenced by the community, its culture, heritage and aspirations. These form the basis for the Sustainable Community Strategy developed by the Local Strategic Partnership, which is led by the local authority. The Sustainable Community Strategy informs planners about the direction the community wishes to take and this is reflected in the local plans. The Communities and Local Government Department has issued guidance to local authority planners on the integration of the Sustainable Community Strategy with the Local Development Framework through the Local Strategic Partnership¹⁴. Local actions to fulfil local aspirations generally go further than what can be achieved through planning alone. Local Area Agreements provide scope for this.

Local Strategic Partnerships

The new Local Government Performance Framework develops the devolved governance and place-shaping role of local authorities, in particular in leading Local Strategic Partnerships. These partnerships, which include all public authorities in local areas, are responsible for preparing Sustainable Community Strategies setting out the local vision and priorities for the area. There are a number of delivery mechanisms for the Strategies, including Local Area Agreements¹⁵ and Multi Area Agreements.

Local Area Agreements

Local Area Agreements simplify access to some central funding, help join up public services more effectively and allow greater flexibility for local solutions for local circumstances. They are a performance management contract between central and local government for the delivery of services. The contents of the agreement are guided by the National Indicator set¹⁶ (which includes indicators for climate change adaptation,

¹⁴ *Planning Together: Local Strategic Partnerships and Spatial Planning – a practical guide.*
See: www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/planningtogetherlocal

¹⁵ See: www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/performanceframeworkpartnerships/localareaagreements/

¹⁶ Full set of National Indicators is available at: www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nationalindicatorsupdate
For details of which Defra indicators are included in which Local Area Agreement, see: www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localgovindicators/laa-2008.htm and for all local authority priorities for each Local Area Agreement, see: www.localpriorities.communities.gov.uk/default.aspx

flood and coastal erosion risk management, biodiversity, litter) and Public Sector Agreements¹⁷ (PSAs) including PSA 27 which is related to Climate Change and PSA 28 which covers a healthy natural environment (including the marine environment)¹⁸.

Local Government Association 2007¹⁹

“It’s vital you decide locally what are the most important priorities for your place which should be covered in your Local Area Agreement. These will come from your political priorities as councillors, from the ambitions for your place set out in the community strategy, from the views of the public and community organisations”

Many issues of concern for coastal areas can be included in a Local Area Agreement for concerted and co-ordinated action, depending on the decisions of the members of the Local Strategic Partnership. There is also the flexibility to include purely local priorities reflecting local issues.¹⁹ The Local Area Agreements allow local authorities to influence the priorities of much of the public sector in each locality and to draw down central government funding to deliver their agreed priorities. The Local Area Agreements provide a process for bringing local public bodies together to agree common objectives, with a duty to work together to achieve these objectives – a process many would recognise as the key element of Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

Multi Area Agreements

Multi Area Agreements between central government and groups of local authorities and partners aim to improve the delivery mainly of, but not restricted to, economic development. They offer opportunities for better partnership at the sub-regional level by assigning responsibilities against clear agreed targets, including targets relating to coastal issues. These Agreements will improve working relationships between local authorities and a range of public bodies. The Agreements are an extremely useful way of working across administrative boundaries and have potential for addressing coastal issues with a joined-up approach in the future.

¹⁷ Public Service Agreements (PSAs) set out the key improvements that the public can expect from Government expenditure. They are three year agreements, negotiated between each of the main Departments and HM Treasury during the Spending Review process. Each PSA sets out a Department’s high-level aim, priority objectives and key outcome-based performance targets. See: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pbr_csr07_public_service_agreements.htm

¹⁸ PSA Delivery Agreement 27: Lead the global effort to avoid dangerous climate change and PSA Delivery Agreement 28: Secure a healthy natural environment for today and the future. See: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/3708.htm

¹⁹ Local Government Association – A councillor’s guide to the new local area agreements. See: www.lga.gov.uk/lga/publications/publication-display.do?id=20572

The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill, before Parliament in December 2008, proposes a power for the Secretary of State to direct a nominated local authority to prepare an Multi Area Agreement in consultation with partner authorities (National Parks and Broads Authorities, Environment Agency and Natural England) and others specified in guidance. The local authority and its partner authorities will have a duty to co-operate with each other in determining local improvement targets for the area to be included in the Multi Area Agreement and to have regard to the targets.

Making Local Area Agreements work for the coast – a case study

The Wash Estuary Strategy Group has been actively involved in developing Lincolnshire's Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement. These recognise the Fens and The Wash as a unique environment and include targets relating to the local coastal communities, for example, for improvements in biodiversity and access to open and green spaces.

Improvement in green infrastructure was an agreed target in the first Lincolnshire Local Area Agreement. This empowered the Wash Estuary Strategy Group to request further resources from a range of partners for a Green Infrastructure Master Plan for The Wash and its hinterlands. This area is surrounded by growth points but has not received any resources to plan for potential impacts. Partner organisations, who all have competing priorities were more willing to provide more resources for the green infrastructure planning because it directly contributed to a target within the Local Area Agreement. The completed plan will help identify existing networks and gaps in green infrastructure; provide an evidence base for Local Development Frameworks; and act as a catalyst to enable further resources to be captured to deliver change on the ground – directly delivering the policies in the Wash Estuary Management Plan.

Through engaging with the Local Area Agreement process, the Strategy Group's annual core budget from the original seven partner organisations is now £35,000 a year and this has doubled the funding and full-time staff available to work on green infrastructure.

See www.washestuary.org.uk for more information

Marine planning

The Marine and Coastal Access Bill will introduce a new system of marine planning that will be a key tool in helping the UK Government deliver its vision for the marine environment through strategic management. Marine planning will clarify our marine objectives and priorities for the future, and direct decision-makers and users towards more efficient, sustainable use and protection of our marine resources. Marine planning will encompass all marine activities, including the way in which activities interact, the conflicts between them, and their cumulative impacts.

Marine Plans

Marine Plans developed within the national policy framework will lead the process of joining up



between marine and land planning. Marine Plans will both have regard to the Regional Strategy and influence it. A series of Marine Plans will set out how the Marine Policy Statement (see page 12) should be implemented in specific areas, using information about spatial uses and needs in those areas.

Marine Plans will guide decisions on licence applications and other issues, and provide users of the sea with more certainty. Marine planning will offer new opportunities for coastal regulators and communities to have a say in the way the marine environment is managed in the same way as they input now into land planning at the coast. The benefits of effective marine planning include:

- the process of developing Marine Plans will bring together coastal managers, users and communities and enable them to work together and shape the direction of plans from an early stage. This will allow coastal managers and land planners to feed their skills, experience and knowledge into Marine Plans;
- people being offered a chance to be involved in the planning process will give them a greater sense of ownership of the final plan, and will increase the chance of the plan being implemented through effective decision-making;
- a participatory planning approach from an early stage, laid down within the Statement of Public Participation, will ensure greater transparency and enable increased public understanding of the marine environment;
- potential problems and conflicts between marine uses will be highlighted at an early stage in the development of Marine Plans providing greater opportunity to resolve these kinds of issues, preventing unnecessary delays;
- the gathering and sharing of consistent information during the planning process will encourage marine and coastal regulators to make more consistent decisions;
- the Marine and Coastal Access Bill sets out clearly who the marine plan authorities are in different parts of the UK's waters, and enables them to delegate those responsibilities. The Secretary of State will delegate marine planning to the Marine Management Organisation;
- marine plan authorities must have regard to other plans prepared by a public or local authority in that marine plan area. This will facilitate integration and include Local Development Plans within the Local Development Framework; Shoreline Management Plans; and River Basin Management Plans. The marine plan authority will be required to ensure, as far as reasonably possible, compatibility with adjacent terrestrial plans;

- under the Marine and Coastal Access Bill, marine plan authorities will be required to take all reasonable steps to ensure that their plans are compatible with marine plans in related plan areas. This will aid different Administrations planning, for example, in estuaries that straddle borders;
- marine plans will cover the jurisdiction of more than one local authority. This will encourage the Marine Management Organisation and these authorities to work together in an integrated way – indeed different plans (such as Local Development Plans and River Basin Management Plans) already overlap; and
- different plans in coastal areas may be reviewed in different time cycles, and this staged approach will enable planners to progressively consider the content of each other's plans, enabling gradual integration.

Work is currently being taken forward which will consider mechanisms that will enable the Marine Management Organisation to develop Marine Plans with the full participation of coastal regulators, authorities and stakeholders and provide for integration between planning and management mechanisms.



Credit: London Aerial Photo Library

River Thames, London

River basin management planning

Marine Plans and Regional Strategies will have regard to the River Basin Management Plans developed by the Environment Agency through the River Basin Liaison Panel. These Management Plans are required by the Water Framework Directive which introduced the concept of integrated river basin management. This concept provides an opportunity to plan for and deliver better water management. This involves the management of groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters (to one mile from low-water) to improve their ecosystems. Working with stakeholders, the Agency is assessing the main pressures and impacts on the ecology of each river basin, proposing environmental objectives and policies; and integrating existing and new measures to deliver them. This work will be included within a strategic River Basin Management Plan which will set out broad policies and proposals to underpin the integrated management of the whole water environment. The Plans will be published for consultation in December 2008, before being adopted in December 2009.

As the first step in a process of increasing engagement with Planning Authorities the Environment Agency has issued initial advice on the Water Framework Directive and its implications for land planning²⁰.

Decision-making on major infrastructure projects

The Planning Act 2008 introduces a new single consent regime for nationally significant infrastructure projects. This covers applications for nationally significant infrastructure projects for energy, transport, water, waste water and waste which are above thresholds set out in the Act. The Infrastructure Planning Commission will make decisions on nationally significant applications in accordance with policy set out in the relevant National Policy Statement, and the Commission will need to have regard to the Marine Policy Statement and relevant marine plans. Inquiries and decisions will be subject to statutory timetables.

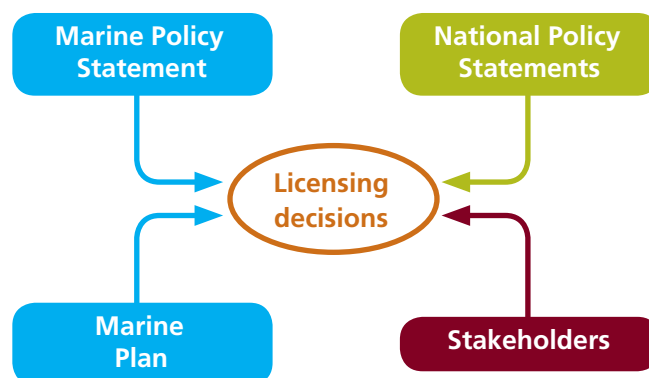
The Commission will issue development consents for large offshore renewable energy projects and for the biggest harbours. It will make decisions on applications and licence conditions using advice from the Marine Management Organisation which will be the centre of marine expertise.

²⁰ Environment Agency: *The Water Framework Directive and Planning – Initial advice to Planning Authorities in England and Wales*. See: www.lga.gov.uk/lga/aio/32481

Decision-making on marine projects

Marine licensing

The Marine and Coastal Access Bill proposes to reform the marine licensing system. The changes are explained in *Managing our marine resources – licensing under the Marine Bill*²¹. The policies in Marine Plans, developed in accordance with the Marine Policy Statement and National Policy Statements, and with input from all interested parties, will guide the licensing of development and activities in a Marine Plan area. The reforms will make the system for decisions on consents for marine developments more efficient, simpler and more effective, allowing more opportunities for people to be involved.



Greater transparency in the licensing system will give people better information about how and why decisions are made, so they will be better informed and better able to engage effectively in the process. It will be easier for licensing authorities to ensure their decisions are made about the project as a whole and are consistent with the Government's sustainable development aims.



Credit: DTI

Offshore wind farm

²¹ *Managing our marine resources – licensing under the Marine Bill*.
See: www.defra.gov.uk/marine/pdf/legislation/marine-licensing.pdf

Marine Management Organisation

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) will be the UK Government's strategic delivery body in the marine area, ensuring that it contributes to sustainable development. Through delegation by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the MMO will act for the marine plan authority, while also carrying out functions currently undertaken by the Department for Transport and the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

To enable further integration of Marine Plans with the land planning system, the MMO will work closely with local authorities and the regional planning body which, following the *Review of sub-national economic development and regeneration* reforms, will be the Regional Development Agencies jointly with Local Authority Leaders' Boards.

The MMO will also be the UK Government's regulator of most activities in the marine environment. It will make decisions according to the Marine Policy Statement, National Policy Statements and Marine Plans on most marine developments.

The Marine and Coastal Access Bill provides for a one-stop shop for most marine developments by empowering ministers to delegate their functions to the MMO. The ability of the MMO to bring together decisions on different elements of some important projects at the same time (as with renewable energy projects and harbours) will make it easier to consider all relevant factors and interactions together. This should result in more consistent decisions and more effective licence conditions.

The MMO will continue the marine fisheries management, marine development licensing and licensing of exemptions to nature conservation legislation currently delivered by the Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA). The MMO will use modernised powers to enforce marine legislation, working with other marine enforcement bodies. Through its network of coastal offices, the MMO will work closely with local authorities, the new Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities and other coastal stakeholders to integrate land and marine management. In all activities which impact at the coast the MMO and other delivery bodies will work to ensure coastal stakeholders have a say in how their local environment is managed.

Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities

The Marine and Coastal Access Bill modernises inshore fisheries and environmental management arrangements in England. It replaces current Sea Fisheries Committees with new Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) whose purpose will be to manage the exploitation of sea fisheries resources occurring in their districts in a sustainable way. In carrying out their functions, IFCAs will pay a greater consideration to the wider environmental impacts of fishing activity while assessing the social and economic benefits of any sea fisheries management decision.

IFCAs will contribute to integrated coastal zone management in a range of ways. For example, their members will include one representative each from the Marine Management Organisation, the Environment Agency and Natural England. In addition to local authority representatives on each Authority, the Marine Management Organisation will appoint people acquainted with the needs and opinions of the fishing community. This includes people with knowledge of, or expertise in, marine environmental matters and recreational and commercial interests. A greater balance in representation and close working relationships between the relevant organisations will help to promote a more joined-up approach to coastal management in each district.

IFCAs will also have strengthened working relationships with other public bodies dealing with coastal defence, flood management and cultural heritage protection. Guidance and possible Memoranda of Understanding between the various public bodies will help deliver these working relationships. The Government will be consulting stakeholders on guidance.

IFCAs will have strengthened byelaw-making powers to ensure more effective management of marine habitats in the sea-land interface. This includes activities such as bait digging and seaweed gathering, previously unenforceable by Sea Fisheries Committees. Byelaw-making powers will also extend to ensure that more streamlined management of estuaries and Several and Regulating Orders will take place. Finally, IFCAs will have a duty to further the conservation objectives of Marine Conservation Zones and will be able to introduce byelaws for their protection where the impact is from fishing activity.

Coastal (Defence) Groups and Regional Flood Defence Committees

The Environment Agency has a new role to take a strategic overview of the management of all sea flooding and coastal erosion risk on the coast. To support the Agency, Coastal (Defence) Groups, which are involved in the development of Shoreline Management Plans, will become fewer, bigger and more strategic. There will be seven groups in England: North East, East Anglia, South East, Southern, South West, Severn Estuary and North West. By formalising the terms of reference and governance arrangements, ensuring consistency, and through stronger relationships with the Agency and Regional Floods Defence Committees, they will be fully able to contribute to effective integrated management of Sea Flooding and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in their areas. Following these changes, future legislation will extend the remit of Regional Flood Defence Committees to include coastal erosion. These Committees will invite a Coastal Group representative to each meeting. Closer working between the Committees and Coastal Groups will help improve the planning for flood and coastal erosion risk management, locally.

Desk study to explore the practical implications of proposals for marine planning, licensing and the Marine Management Organisation in coastal areas.

Management of the coastal and marine area is known to be complex due to the wide range of organisations and policies involved and there is clear support for a more integrated approach to all aspects of coastal and marine management.

Respondents to the Marine Bill White Paper consultation and the consultation on Integrated Coastal Zone Management welcomed proposals set out in the Marine Bill for a strategic approach to the way activities are managed in the marine area, but raised further points about how the new proposals would actually work *in practice* in coastal areas. For example, who would need to be involved in the planning process and how the new proposals would interact with existing land planning and management systems.

Defra, together with the Environment Agency, conducted research into some of the key areas of the Marine Bill through a desk study which focussed on case studies in the Thames Estuary, and South West England to assess the practical implications of marine planning and licensing on the coast.

A number of key messages emerged from both case studies including:

- stakeholder engagement across all levels from as early as possible was very important;
- advice on who the Marine Management Organisation should engage with when developing marine plans and the most effective mechanisms for doing so;
- participants believed that marine planning would improve integration between decision-making bodies on land and at sea, and could provide coastal decision-makers with the certainty they needed to make more informed decisions; and
- the planning process should be set out clearly, be transparent and democratically accountable.

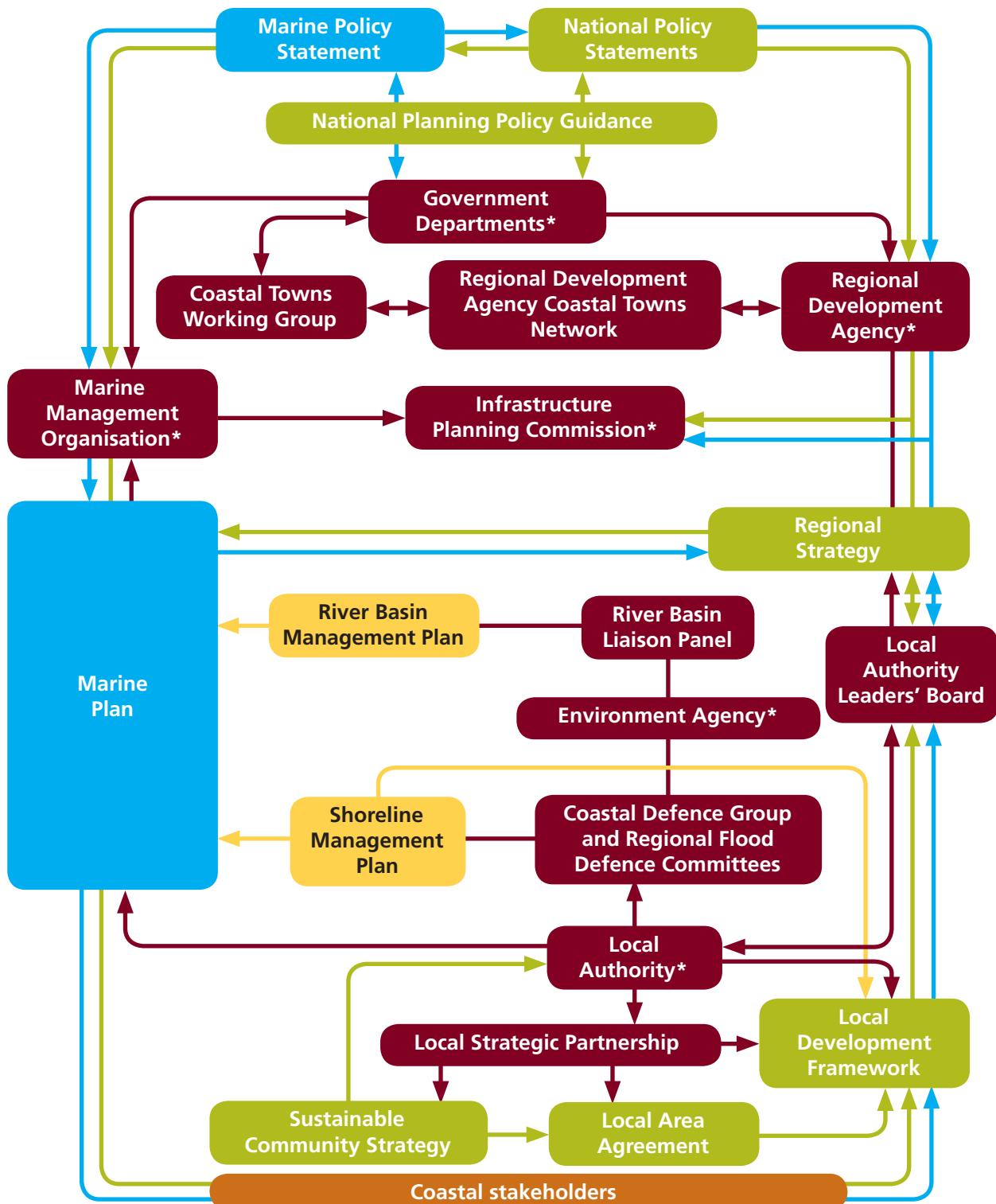
This work has helped to reinforce the comments made in the consultations on the Marine Bill and on promoting Integrated Coastal Zone Management and will also inform the Government's wider thinking about how the Bill's proposals contribute effectively towards coastal integration.

The summary report is at

www.defra.gov.uk/marine/pdf/legislation/marine-plan-desk-full.pdf

National framework for coastal integration

Stakeholders are involved in all planning and decision-making illustrated below. Coastal Partnerships are an effective way of involving stakeholders in all planning and decision-making for the coast.



* indicates decision-making organisation

Partnership working and participation

Effective coastal management is reliant on partnership working at and between all levels of governance: it should involve all those involved in the management and use of the coast. Coastal Partnerships and other local initiatives bring together organisations and individuals with an interest in the coast to seek solutions to coastal issues. Public participation throughout the management, plan development and decision-making processes in coastal areas improves the integration, quality and value of plans and decisions. It also increases understanding, gives a sense of coastal stewardship and empowers local people.

Objective: To promote the benefits of local coastal initiatives which bring together coastal stakeholders.

We will:

- support the English Annual Coastal Partnerships Forum. This enables the communication of national policies, exchange of ideas and feedback to central government;
- identify ways in which we can promote and support improved co-ordination between Coastal Partnerships, to enable the sharing of knowledge, best practice and experience;
- promote the use of the services provided by Coastal Partnerships and use the partnerships to involve local social, economic and environmental stakeholders, and local communities generally, in the delivery of aspects of Marine and Coastal Access Bill proposals, such as marine planning;
- publish guidance for the delivery of elements of the Marine and Coastal Access Bill, which provides clarity and understanding of marine management and the links with land management processes and the roles and responsibilities of the organisations involved;
- investigate ways in which we can enable access to all existing and future guidance through one source at one easily available contact point; and
- encourage coastal local authorities to further use the Local Governance Performance Framework's delivery mechanisms to address the variety of issues coastal areas face.

Progress

National partnership working

The Coastal Towns Working Group and the Regional Development Agency Coastal Towns Network which provide policy and strategic direction (see page 10) are also key mechanisms as we develop a national level partnership approach to addressing coastal issues. Partnership working at the national level is often driven forward from the local level, for example through the Coastal Communities Alliance.

The Coastal Communities Alliance

The Coastal Communities Alliance is a virtual network of over forty local authorities and coastal organisations that seeks to promote best practice in coastal regeneration and to inform policy and funding by providing local evidence and solutions to the distinctive problems of coastal towns. It was set up by local authorities in response to the first Government Response to the House of Common Select Committee Coastal Towns Inquiry. It is led by East Lindsey District Council and Lincolnshire County Council and is largely an officer level body. The Alliance meets about quarterly. The Department of Communities and Local Government recently updated the Alliance on the Coastal Towns Working Group's activities to ensure effective linkages between the Alliance and the Group.

Marine Management Organisation

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO), which will be a Non-Departmental Body (NDPB) (see page 23 also) will provide a new mechanism for national partnership working. The Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will be formally advised on the discharge of his responsibilities for the MMO by a cross-Government MMO Sponsorship Group of senior civil servants from the following Departments, which have a policy interest in the MMO: Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR); Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra); Department for Transport (DfT); Communities and Local Government (CLG); Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC); Ministry of Defence (MoD); and Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

These Departments will advise the MMO on key coastal policies including: integrated coastal management, coastal erosion, flood defence management and coastal access – for all of which Defra has the lead responsibility; ports and harbours – for which Department for Transport has the lead responsibility; interaction with the land planning

system – for which Department for Communities and Local Government has the lead responsibility; and heritage, recreation and tourism – for which Department for Culture, Media and Sport has the lead responsibility.

The MMO will develop strong and effective engagement with its key delivery partners, the full range of coastal and marine industries and interests, and existing stakeholder groups such as Coastal Partnerships. To achieve this wider engagement, a stakeholder committee of representatives of specific industries, sectors and interests will advise the MMO Board.

As the MMO delivers its functions, it will be working with others at national, regional and local levels. For example, in developing Marine Plans, the MMO will work with a wide range of organisations including Natural England, Cefas, Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities, English Heritage, local authorities, Government Offices, the Crown Estate, the Environment Agency, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, and Coastal Partnerships.

Coastal Partnerships

The Coastal Partnerships Working Group and the Annual Coastal Partnerships Forum both provide valuable opportunities for local Partnerships to work together at a national level.

The Coastal Partnerships Working Group

The Coastal Partnerships Working Group, formed in 2006, encourages the regular exchange of information, experience and debate between Coastal Partnership Officers across the UK; linking Partnership Officers to the wider field offering increased opportunities for learning and influence. The Group has established new communication mechanisms for Coastal Partnership Officers and reports to the Annual Coastal Partnerships Forum. The Group helps to strengthen and support all Coastal Partnership Officers and encourages stronger representation of the local stakeholder value of Coastal Partnerships' work, to supporting Partners and in the wider field.

The Group has worked with Defra and the Local Government Association on the study of financial benefits to working in partnership at the coast, and organised the Annual Coastal Partnerships Forum 2008.

See www.coastalpartnerships.org.uk for more information.

Text supplied by Coastal Partnerships Working Group

Annual Coastal Partnerships Forum

The Annual Coastal Partnership Forum in 2008 was organised for the first time by the Coastal Partnerships Working Group. The Forum enables Coastal Partnership Officers to share their experience of *internal* activities and how to strengthen their *external* role.

Twenty-four Coastal Partnerships attended the Forum with representatives including officers, chairs and members of Partnership Management or Steering Groups.

The aims of the Forum included:

- improving links between Coastal Partnership Officers and chairs;
- providing a direct avenue for the exchange of experience;
- clarifying Marine and Coastal Access Bill and Integrated Coastal Zone Management positions and the potential future role of Coastal Partnerships;
- raising awareness of existing external barriers to Coastal Partnerships' development;
- discussing funding and benefits available to partners/members;
- seeking recommendations for future research/projects;
- indicating key policy areas for future Coastal Partnerships development; and
- agreeing a strategy of action for Coastal Partnerships Working Group and the future form of the network for coastal practitioners.

The benefit of this event can best be summed up by a quote from one of this year's participants – *"Learning from others, making face to face contact with people, space for 'free thinking' and working out solutions"*.

The 2008 Forum report is at www.coastalpartnerships.org.uk/

Regional and local partnership working

The East of England Coastal Initiative is a good example of a new approach to partnership working at a regional level.

East of England Coastal Initiative

The East of England Coastal Initiative is a multi-agency partnership, initiated by Government Office East and covering the Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex coast. It was set up because:

- the East of England coast is an extremely complex and dynamic environment and one of the region's most valuable and often underrated and underutilised assets;
- the coast is home to some of the region's most deprived communities. The regional organisations recognise the need for regeneration and that growth opportunities could extend beyond the Key Centres for Development and Change identified in the East of the England plan. The coastal communities and economies face changes and pressures that, although different in character, are as challenging and far reaching as those facing communities directly affected by growth; and
- the coastal communities need to address some significant challenges from climate change, a fragile, changing coastline, and significant areas of high-value agricultural land and rare habitats which are vulnerable to flooding and salting.

The Initiative aims to use the coast and its assets to build economic opportunities, as a contribution to a growing regional economy, and to tackle the deprivation in coastal communities. It also seeks to develop a shared understanding and approach to managing the effects of a changing climate and the region's changing coastline, from which other regions can learn lessons. It provides a case-study of the application of Integrated Coastal Zone Management principles. To deliver this, the Initiative will establish a region-wide, self-sustaining Coastal Forum or network to develop a vision and strategy for a sustainable future for the East coast. This will be reflected in the region's strategies, and will be used to influence Government, communities and business nationally, regionally and locally through the process of change.

By working with regional and local partners, the Initiative is pulling together a shared evidence base and is engaging with coastal decision-makers. This will help the Initiative to integrate policies affecting East coast communities both vertically (joining-up national, regional and local policies) and horizontally (joining-up across policy areas at all levels). This policy integration will directly benefit coastal communities by allowing them to develop or refine their own increasingly sustainable future; to adapt to the changing shape of the East coast; and to grasp the opportunities offered by their coastal location.

See: www.goeast.gov.uk/goeast/environment_and_rural/environment_issues/coastal_Initiative/ for more information

Local Coastal Partnerships

There are 41 local voluntary Coastal Partnerships in England²². They undertake valuable work in bringing together different organisations and individuals with an interest in the coast to discuss solutions to coastal issues. They also raise awareness of local coastal issues and the impact of national and European initiatives. They are brought together into a national network through the Coastal Partnership Working Group (see page 29). A recent study has identified the benefits of working together through local coastal partnerships.

The financial benefits to working in partnership at the coast

Defra, in partnership with the Local Government Association's Special Interest Group on Coastal Issues and the Coastal Partnerships Working Group, have assessed the benefits to partners of working together at the coast through local Coastal Partnerships.

The project aimed to:

- assess current service benefits from Coastal Partnerships;
- gather information on the monetary value to partners of existing and potential core services and projects; and
- recommend innovative and creative ways in which Coastal Partnerships can promote their benefits to become self sufficient.

The project was based on case studies of partner benefits using information from a local authority, a Wildlife Trust, Natural England, the Environment Agency, ABPmer, British Petroleum, E-On, the National Farmers' Union, and a water company.

The case studies show a range of quantified and unquantified benefits from the services that Coastal Partnerships provide. However, the main benefits come from the ability to engage with local stakeholders through an established and trusted local platform and the ability of the Partnership to raise awareness of local and national issues to educate and empower local stakeholders.

The project report is at: www.defra.gov.uk/marine/environment/iczm.htm

²² For the full list of 41 Coastal Partnerships see appendix B at: www.defra.gov.uk/marine/pdf/environment/iczm/coastal-partnership-report-july08.pdf

Participation

The marine planning proposals enable planning authorities to seek advice from various organisations to help them develop plans effectively. We will be working closely with the range of organisations that may be called upon to provide advice in the coming months to ensure that they are prepared for this and to discuss implications for resourcing and the need for guidance.

It is important that regulators, coastal communities and a range of individuals and organisations with an interest in the marine and coastal environment are able to shape the planning process and play a key role in the way that plans are developed. It is particularly important that those organisations who already hold key planning and regulatory roles in coastal areas and coastal waters, such as regional planning bodies, local authorities, the Environment Agency and the Crown Estate, are able to play a full and effective role throughout the process and ensure that marine planning integrates effectively with other management processes that will operate alongside it.

To facilitate this process and make it transparent, the planning authority will be required to publish a Statement of Public Participation at the beginning of the development of each marine plan setting out how it intends to involve stakeholders during each stage. This will enable those with an interest to be clear about the process, decide what involvement they want and plan ahead for it.

To underpin the democratic accountability of the marine planning system, there will be full public consultation on the draft Marine Policy Statement and each draft Marine Plan before adoption by Ministers. If certain proposals in a draft plan are controversial or unpopular with the local community or stakeholders, there is provision in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill for an independent person appointed by the Secretary of State to investigate the proposals and make recommendations back to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. In general those with an interest in marine issues will have a much greater opportunity to shape what happens than they do now.

Marine planning will follow a full participatory planning approach, very similar to that used by the Finding Sanctuary project, but far more extensive.

Finding Sanctuary

Finding Sanctuary is a partnership project aiming to develop a regional marine protected area network around the coast of south-west England. The network will safeguard and encourage the recovery of marine biodiversity, and to help ensure the long-term sustainability of the region's marine resources. Under the Marine and Coastal Access Bill, Finding Sanctuary will be the formal decision-making process through which marine protected area sites in south-west England are recommended to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by May 2011.

The project brings together a wide cross-section of marine stakeholders. Finding Sanctuary provides the mechanism for exploring possible networks that are in line with scientific advice, identifying conflicts at an early stage, and finding ways of tackling them.

A small team of Geographical Information System (GIS) specialists is collating data and developing a network, while a team of liaison officers helps to ensure that local stakeholders are involved in decision-making through informal gatherings, mapping exercises and formal group meetings.

Finding Sanctuary, which was set up in 2004, is supported by Cornwall, Devon and Dorset County Councils, Natural England, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, the National Trust, RSPB, the South West Wildlife Trusts and South West Food and Drink.

See www.finding-sanctuary.org for more information

Empowerment through public awareness and education

It is important to promote awareness and understanding of coastal areas and the issues facing them to encourage the public to participate in management processes. Many people living on or visiting the coast may not be fully aware of the complex issues operating within the coastal zone, or its value as an economic, social, historical and environmental resource. Improving knowledge of the coast's value, and awareness of possible increasing degradation of conditions or threats, will encourage a greater sense of stewardship within the wider community. Giving the public opportunities to become involved in a project or management process can assist the smooth implementation of coastal initiatives and create a greater chance of long-term success.

Objective: To promote awareness and understanding of the value of the coast and the issues facing it.

We will:

- identify ways, such as through awareness and education schemes, to encourage, promote and support the dissemination of local knowledge on the coastal zone more widely among stakeholders including users and the local coastal community;
- identify ways in which we can promote and support local work with Local Education Authorities with the aim of enhancing the education of marine and coastal issues within our schools; and
- identify how we may work with universities to best develop holistic vocational training with practical benefits for the future management of our coastal areas.

Progress

Public awareness

Around the coast numerous Coastal Partnerships and other initiatives have taken steps to improve the knowledge and understanding of coastal issues amongst local communities, coastal users and visitors. These include guided tours and walks; events; conferences and informative and educational websites. They have also produced DVDs and publications including factsheets; newsletters; guides; guidance and magazines – all aiming to raise awareness, inform and empower local people.

Kent Coast Fact Sheets

The Kent Coast Fact Sheets provided by **Kent Coastal Network** look at the many issues facing the natural and built coastal environment, providing background information and facts and figures in the following sheets:

- **Introduction to the Kent Coast** – facts and figures for the Kent coast and an index of the Kent Coast Fact Sheets.
- **Biodiversity** – an introduction to coastal biodiversity and the Kent BAP.
- **Coastal Management** – a look at coastal erosion and sea level rise in Kent and an overview of the management of coastal change.
- **Coastal Towns** – a look at the issues of deprivation, employment, population and property.
- **Fisheries** – an overview of Kent's fishing industry including catch and fleet statistics and fisheries management.
- **Integrated Coastal Zone Management** – an introduction to how ICZM is being implemented in the EU, UK and Kent.
- **Marine and Coastal Litter** – a review of coastal and marine litter in Kent. The sheet also looks at beach award schemes and the Kent beaches that have met their criteria.
- **Offshore Renewable Energy** – an introduction to offshore wind farms, including details of current and proposed developments off the Kent coast.
- **Ports** – a look at Kent's ports and the roles they play in the local economy.
- **Tourism** – a look at the important role the coast plays in Kent's tourism economy.
- **Water Quality** – a look at water quality, pollution effects and monitoring efforts.

Taken from material at www.coastalkent.net/

Education

The National Curriculum can raise awareness and understanding of coastal issues. It includes Coasts and Coastal management in the Geography syllabus. Geography is a compulsory part of the curriculum from the ages of 5-14.

- At Key Stage 2 (7-11 year olds) pupils are taught about water and its effects on landscapes and people, including the physical features of rivers or coasts and the processes of erosion and deposition that affect them.
- The current Key Stage 3 (11-14 year olds) curriculum requires pupils to be taught about the effects of environmental planning and management on people, places and environments (for example, managed re-alignment).

However, parts of the National Curriculum form a selection of suggested areas from which Local Education Authorities, schools and individual teachers can choose to teach. Teachers have made it clear to us that providing a ready-made locally specific teaching resource will further encourage coverage of coastal and marine issues. Coastal education packs are very useful resources for schools.

The Marine and Coastal Education Pack

The Marine and Coastal Education Pack prepared by **Dorset Coast Forum** contains a variety of resources that will aid teachers in the discussion of coastal and marine issues. Aimed at Key Stage 2 pupils, the pack provides a springboard for learning about marine life and conservation, coastal processes, food chains, reproduction, climate change, over-fishing, litter and pollution, and fossilisation. The long-term aim is to embed a clear understanding of coastal and marine issues in pupils who will in turn educate and raise awareness in parents and friends.

Activity <i>Curriculum Covered</i>	Brief description
1. Seashore Discovery Box <i>Science, Geography</i>	This box contains objects that are found washed up from the sea. Pupils can touch and discuss objects.
2. Marine & Coastal Quiz <i>Science, Geography</i>	The quiz links with the Discovery Box. Pupils have to find answers by searching out statements on laminated cards.
3. Fossil Hunters <i>Geography, Citizenship, Field Trip</i>	Activities include discussing images about safe ways to fossil hunt and worksheets on how fossils are formed.

continued opposite

The Marine and Coastal Education Pack (continued)

Activity <i>Curriculum Covered</i>	Brief description
4. Litter Pollution Along Our Coast <i>Geography, Citizenship, Maths, Field Trip</i>	Introduces pupils to the problem of marine litter; what it is and what damage it can cause. There are opportunities to complete a beach clean.
5. Coastal Processes <i>Science, Geography</i>	Links to a BBC website which explains general coastal processes, together with local examples from the Dorset coast.
6. Coastal Environments & Habitats of Dorset <i>Science, Geography, Field Trip</i>	Images showing the different coastal environments and habitats in Dorset. Pupils can discuss the different human and wildlife activities that take place.
7. Using the Sea – Fishing <i>Science, Geography</i>	Links to the Marine Stewardship Council's teaching resources on sustainable fishing, eating fish and simple ecology of the sea.
8. Safety and the Sea <i>Geography, Citizenship, Literacy, Drama</i>	Learning about being safe on the coast with the RNLI and MCA through storytelling and drama, posters and newspaper articles.
9. Marine Pollution, Oil Spill Exercise <i>Science, Citizenship, Drama</i>	Pupils can recreate an oil spill disaster in the classroom and role play as part of an environmental task force to deal with the situation.
10. Eels and Rope <i>Ladders Game, Science, Citizenship, Geography</i>	A large floor game for pupils that's fun to play yet educates on the different aspects of climate change in a simple and easy to understand way.

See www.dorsetforyou.com/index.jsp?articleid=20595 for more information.
Text supplied by Dorset Coast Forum.

Durham Heritage Coast Education Pack

The Durham Heritage Coast Education Pack is targeted at the Key Stage 1 and 2 level of learning and is available to any schools who are interested in using it.

The aim of the pack is to help primary teachers get the most out of this unique resource on their doorstep. It contains plenty of background information for teachers to assist with planning and understanding of the topics and a series of activity programmes, along with supporting resources. The pack explains the development of the heritage coast from the rocks, to the people that have lived and used the area over the years.

For more information see: www.durhamheritagecoast.org/

Marine planning skills

As we implement the Marine and Coastal Access Bill and the actions in this strategy, we will need to ensure that there are enough people with the right skills to deliver them.

Courses in Marine Planning

Working with the National Trust, Cornwall and Devon County Councils, and other partners, the University of Plymouth Marine Institute is developing tools to implement marine planning including predictive species modelling, the economic valuation of goods and services provided by marine biodiversity, and GIS-based decision support tools. This work will help with the development of new courses on marine planning funded by the Association of Higher Education Institutions in the South West. These courses will be available for professionals as part of a continuing development portfolio as well as for Masters students from 2009.

For more information see:

www.research.plymouth.ac.uk/marine/pages/sustainable/msp.html



School group at St Margaret's Bay, Kent

Credit: Stephen Collins

Data, evidence and information

The availability and co-ordination of data and information is essential for evidence-based policy and decision-making. Ensuring the best information possible about coastal areas will support the quality of coastal management decisions.

Objective: To improve the quality and co-ordination of information about the coast to improve management practices.

We will:

- identify available data for the coastal zone, gaps in data, and further action needed to ensure coastal management practices are based on sound evidence;
- ensure individuals and groups working locally can contribute to the gathering of coastal data and information; and
- liaise with UK co-ordination points for coastal data to learn from their experiences of data collation, management and dissemination.

Progress

Achieving the collaboration needed between the organisations with a stake in data collection and information, and achieving a common approach to the collection and storage of data, will take time. We are closely involved in a number of initiatives to achieve this, including the Marine Environment Data Information Partnership (MEDIN) and the UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy (UKMMAS) (see page 43). MEDIN will work to improve access to and management of UK marine environmental data and information. This continues the earlier work of the Marine Environmental Data Action Group (MEDAG) and Marine Data and Information Partnership (MDIP). Both of these groups will help to ensure that the most up-to-date information is available to the Marine Management Organisation to inform its decisions.

Data – Memorandum of Understanding

Defra is leading the negotiations to establish a Memorandum of Understanding which will allow the free exchange of data at the survey level between Defra; the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA); the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas); the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC); Natural England; the UK Hydrographic Office; and the British Geological Society. This groundbreaking agreement will allow the free exchange of raw data for non-commercial purposes and will also draw together these organisations to discuss future survey plans which will allow collaboration on future marine surveys to be realised in UK waters.

Data for the Marine Management Organisation

The robustness of Marine Plans and effective licensing of marine activities will depend on the quality and sufficiency of marine data. We are identifying and acquiring the marine data needed by the Marine Management Organisation to deliver the proposals in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill. Practical tools are also being developed to support the new marine planning system.

Marine Science Coordination Committee

The Government has recently set up the Marine Science Coordination Committee, which will provide a framework to enable the co-ordination of marine science to better serve the needs of decision-makers.

The Committee has two main responsibilities:

- to develop and implement the UK Marine Science Strategy, which will help to provide the evidence needed to deliver the UK's Marine Objectives and other policies. The evidence will include scientific research and monitoring, economic and statistical analysis and social research; and
- to improve UK marine science co-ordination to achieve effective delivery of the UK Marine Science Strategy. The Committee and the Strategy will both cover only those aspects of marine technology which specifically support the advancement of marine science, for example the development of scientific instruments.

The Committee's other responsibilities include:

- promoting knowledge transfer from scientists to policy-makers;
- monitoring the overall level of funding for marine science;
- bringing together UK representatives on all relevant international bodies to establish agreed common science; and
- reviewing organisations, committees and other bodies coordinating marine science to reduce the number of co-ordinating bodies.

The Committee will help the UK to face up to future marine policy and science challenges. To achieve this the Committee will provide leadership and vision in joining up marine science across Departments, but it will not determine the policy and science priorities for individual Departments.

The Marine Management Organisation will have a seat on the Committee.



Credit: Cefas Photo Library

Cefas scientists working on board the 'Cefas Endeavour'

Development of practical tools to support the new marine planning system

The new marine planning system proposed in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill will allow us to be forward thinking to achieve our sustainable objectives in the marine area. Plans under the new system will take account of all the relevant activities in an area and decisions will be based on reliable scientific data and evidence on the impacts of those activities on each other and on the environment.

Defra is working with the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) to develop a set of tools for the Marine Management Organisation to use to help it with practical decision-making through the planning process. The focus will be on developing tools with a spatial component, which use data and apply processes to achieve specific outcomes such as addressing cumulative and in-combination effects between competing activities. The project will also develop possible scenarios for the future activity of sectors in plans. These scenarios could include opportunities for conflict planning and for prioritising the efficient use of marine space for some activities for a particular purpose. The project began in May 2008 and is due to be completed in December 2009.

Monitoring progress

We need to monitor the environmental, social and economic benefits of an integrated approach to management of our coast to check the effectiveness of the approach and the benefits derived from a sustainably managed coast.

Objective: To monitor progress towards improving integration at the coast.

We will:

- undertake a 'State of the Coast' review covering natural and historic environment, economic and social data and issues;
- work with Devolved Administrations to develop a common set of social, economic and environmental indicators which enables the monitoring of progress across the UK;
- assess our progress against the principles of the EU Recommendation and publish a progress report bi-annually; and
- work with key stakeholders to monitor the effect of the actions and initiatives in this strategy on promoting an integrated approach to management of coastal areas, and with them determine if further action is required.



Credit: David Johns, Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science (SAHFOS)

Monitoring plankton using a Continuous Plankton Recorder

Progress

Charting Progress

Charting Progress,²³ an assessment of the state of UK seas, published in 2005, monitored progress towards achieving our vision of 'clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse' seas. It also highlighted the need for greater integration of Government marine monitoring programmes and recommended a significant restructuring of the system for collecting, collating and interpreting data (see UKMMAS below). The data in *Charting Progress* and subsequent versions will help with policy development and evaluation.

Charting Progress II, to be published in 2010, will report progress towards achieving our marine vision since *Charting Progress*. It will bring together all the relevant evidence in three reports assessing how productive, clean, healthy and biologically diverse our seas are. These reports will be combined to provide an integrated assessment of the overall 'state' of the UK's seas and will show how the 'ecosystem approach' gives a better understanding of the state of our marine environment.

The UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy

The UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy (UKMMAS) is a UK-wide Government initiative which brings together the many organisations carrying out monitoring in the marine environment. UKMMAS was set up in response to a recommendation in *Charting Progress* that greater integration and co-ordination of marine monitoring was required and therefore its role is to co-ordinate all UK marine monitoring and assessment activities to support:

- marine policy formulation;
- monitoring of policy effectiveness and compliance;
- legislative and non-legislative reporting obligations;
- operational and decision support needs;
- international initiatives to monitor the global marine environment;
- efficient production of obligatory and non-obligatory assessments; and
- identification of the policy implications resulting from marine assessments and ensuring effective communication to those able to action, providing where appropriate a proactive lead towards adaptive management.

²³ *Charting progress: an integrated assessment of the state of UK seas.*
See: www.defra.gov.uk/marine/pdf/science/stateofsea/chartprogress.pdf

A goal of the UKMMAS is to deliver a more cohesive monitoring community and thus increase the ability to produce assessments. Between 2008 and 2013, this will include the production of *Charting Progress II* in 2010, the *OSPAR Quality Status Report*²⁴ in 2010 and the Initial Assessment required under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive by 2012.

Regional monitoring initiatives

Regional monitoring within England is divided into five regions: South West, South East, North East, North West, and Anglia. All five programmes have Defra funding until 2010/2011. Defra is assembling a board to look at how these regional programmes can be pulled together to ensure greater cohesion and consistency and to make a single submission to the Environment Agency for funding up to 2016.

The South West regional monitoring programme is one of the most advanced programmes.

South West England regional coastal monitoring programme

This strategic regional coastal monitoring programme for South West England aims to provide freely available data of consistently high quality to inform coastal management and future strategy.

The maritime local authorities, coastal groups of South West England and the Environment Agency (South West Region) are working together to develop a long-term, region-wide coastal process monitoring and analysis programme.

The integrated survey programme covers about 1000km of open coastline and estuaries between Portland Bill, and Sand Point, Somerset. The programme has been designed in a similar format to that for the South East Strategic Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme. Data are collected via a series of contracts.

Large quantities of data will be made freely available from the survey and analysis programme. This is expected to be useful to local authorities in the region, the Environment Agency, consultants in coastal defence, conservation management, academic research and for educational use.

A team at the Plymouth Coastal Observatory will manage the programme and develop the data analysis, storage and dissemination procedures. All data collected by the Programme and analysis reports will be made available on the internet, which also acts as the data storage facility for the South East coastal monitoring programme.

For more information see: www.channelcoast.org

²⁴ The OSPAR Convention is the current legal instrument guiding international co-operation on the protection of the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic. Work under the Convention is managed by the OSPAR Commission, made up of representatives of the Governments of 15 Contracting Parties and the European Commission, representing the European Community. See: www.ospar.org

Next steps

Our immediate priority is to deliver the Marine and Coastal Access Bill which is the trigger for many, but not all, of the initiatives in this strategy. We will be working with a range of stakeholders and stakeholder groups to progress the actions in this strategy and also to assess the 'on the ground' effect of all the changes. This will help to identify any further actions that may be needed. We will include these actions in our first Strategy Review in 2011.

For more information on the Marine and Coastal Access Bill, see www.defra.gsi.gov.uk/marine/legislation/index.htm

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