



### Aim

MMO require a framework for monitoring marine plans against the social pillar of sustainable development, which can be used in combination with economic and environmental monitoring to report on the impact of marine planning and update and amend marine plans in the future. It will aid MMO to satisfy their legal monitoring duties.

This work was used to inform the implementation and monitoring plan for the East inshore and offshore marine plans<sup>1</sup> published in April 2014.

### Introduction and methodology

MMO required this work to ensure that the high level marine objectives in the Marine Policy Statement are achieved through implementation of marine plans and their policies and that this is evidenced through monitoring. This is a legal requirement as set out in the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 under section 61.

MMO has a duty to monitor and report on:

- The effects of marine plan policies.
- The effectiveness of policies in securing the objectives for which the marine plan was prepared and adopted.
- The progress being made towards securing those objectives.
- The contribution of the marine plans to meeting the objectives of the Marine Policy Statement (MPS).

This project focussed on the 'social' outcomes of marine plans. The approach taken, which lends itself to clear monitoring and indicator selection, is one that defines social impact through a two-staged process. The first stage is based on the recognition that social impacts arise when an individual, or group of individuals (i.e. household or family) are affected in their degree of access to something. The second

stage is then to define the 'something'. A comprehensive classification that seems appropriate for use in relation to marine planning is:

- Local economy and labour market.
- Environmental amenity.
- Health, safety and education.
- Community cohesion.
- Governance.

The project used a framework approach to define pathways to sustainable development that reflect a 'theory of change'. Using this knowledge logic chains were produced to detail inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes and impacts as they relate to plan objectives and policies.

Following construction of the logic chains, summary social outcomes were mapped from the objectives of the East plans to the social outcome types. Potential indicator types for social monitoring were identified through a scoping exercise of relevant available datasets, guided by the summarised social outcomes (and outputs where appropriate).

### Results

A short-list of social indicators were produced for the East marine plans and subjected to a detailed appraisal to establish their suitability for inclusion in the monitoring framework. A final list was taken forward to the monitoring framework under four categories:

- Employment-based indicators.
- Labour market indicators.
- Deprivation-based indicators.
- Coastal visit-based indicators.

The indicators identified are listed below. They are likely to be relevant to all marine plans as they reflect the MPS objectives. The indicators should be utilised alongside relevant economic and environmental indicators to provide context

<sup>1</sup>[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/324567/eastimpfinal.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/324567/eastimpfinal.pdf)



and overcome certain limitations of the indicators.

- Marine sector employment.
- Marine sector employment as a proportion of total coastal community employment.
- Coastal community employment deprivation.
- Coastal community employment rate.
- Coastal community income deprivation.
- Number of recreation visits to the coast.
- Health deprivation.
- (Subjective) mental health benefits of visiting the coast.
- (Subjective) learning about the natural environment during visits to the coast.
- Coastal community multiple deprivation.

Each of the indicators identified can be constructed for different scales from local to national to allow a picture across plan areas

### Conclusions and recommendations

The project identified social outcome indicators that might realistically be affected by plan based activity. It is necessary to identify how much change in these indicators can be attributed to the workings of the plan rather than the result of other influences. It would be highly desirable if an Evaluation Plan was concerned with the monitoring and effectiveness of the social, economic and environmental objectives of plan activity taken as a whole. Such an approach would allow a better investigation of the relevant interactions.

It is recommended that the indicators should be measured over the six yearly monitoring cycles and that a baseline position established for all marine plan areas, the nation and any comparator areas. Evaluation of monitoring outputs would be appropriate at each of the three yearly plan review points, and a more comprehensive ex-post evaluation at the six yearly plan review points (or similar periods as

adopted for the overall plan monitoring framework).

Suggestions have been made for future research to improve the indicator set:

- Support development of Marine National Natural Capital Accounts.
- Improve marine UK Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) of Economic Activities.
- Use appropriately defined coastal communities to monitor social outcomes.
- Improve research linking environmental quality changes and environmental amenity changes over time.
- Improve use of the Watersports participation survey.
- Consider quantitative information on Seascape character for use in monitoring.
- Further primary research could be carried out across a broad number of social issues to better inform and monitor marine plans.

### MMO comments

This project has provided a framework for monitoring the social outcomes of marine plans.

Understanding the available data for indicators gives MMO insight to the importance of developing marine plan policies that can be robustly monitored by looking at logic chains.

This work will be useful for MMO to monitor the effect of marine plans and to inform the updating of plans during the review cycle.

MMO is committed to working with others to effect successful and informative monitoring of marine plans that demonstrates the contribution of the plans to marine management that achieves sustainable development.

### Further information

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