



Marine Management Organisation



Marine planning newsletter Issue 1 Spring 2015





Consultation on options for the South marine plans

The consultation on the options for the South marine plans closed on 4 March 2015 following a 4 week consultation. As part of our on-going engagement in the South marine plan areas, we wanted to understand your views on the different ways of achieving the draft marine plan objectives and vision and any alternative approaches to developing marine plan policies.

We received a number of responses to the consultation which we are considering alongside the outputs from the workshops. We have produced a summary report which briefly details some of the outcomes of the options consultation.

The next stage of the marine planning process in the South will be the development of the draft plans which will include the plan policies. Formal consultation on the draft plans is anticipated to begin in spring 2016 so there is an opportunity later in the process to provide your views too.

Options workshops in the South

Alongside the consultation, we held three workshops in February 2015 in Brighton, Southampton and Exmouth, attended by over 130 people. It was great to see local authorities, those with an interest in fishing, recreation, biodiversity and development amongst others join with us to discuss the options for the plan. Read the summary from the workshops and consultation.

Implementation in the East

Following the adoption of the East marine plans in April 2014 we have been working with local authorities (LA) in implementing the plans through their decision-making processes. We have designed a series of workshops delivered by our East implementation officers, Stacey Clarke and Rachel Wood. The first series of sessions have taken place with a number of LAs working in planning policy and development management. The aim of these sessions was to help LAs understand their legal obligations under section 58 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. The second series of sessions will centre on those LAs who are in the process of preparing their own local plans with a focus on the join up between marine and land-use planning. If you're a local authority located within the East plan area and would like Stacey and Rachel to deliver an implementation session with you, please get in touch:

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Rachel Wood (Grimsby) Rachel.Wood@marinemanagement.org.uk Mobile 07717422988

Implementation in the South

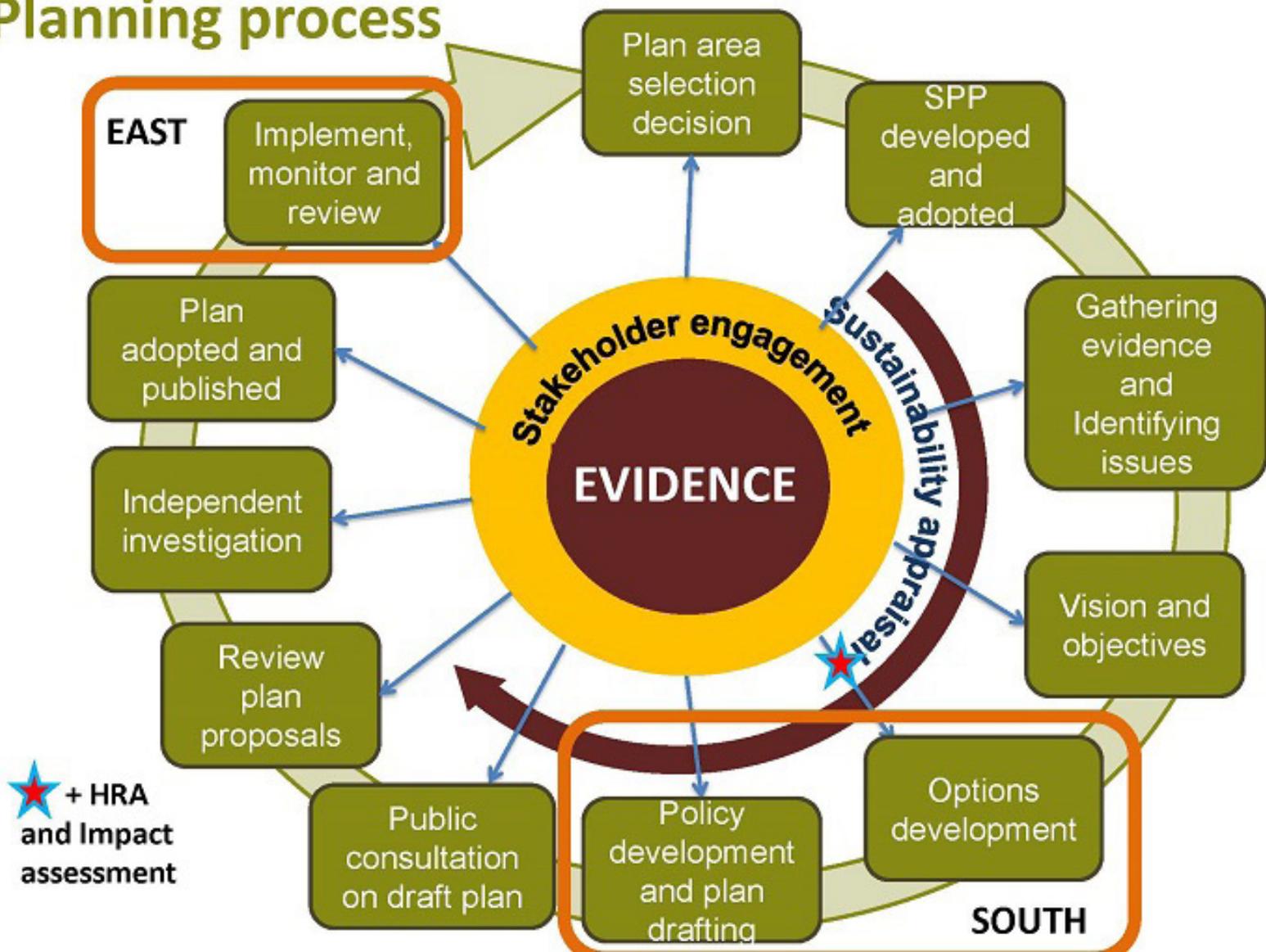
Although adoption of the plans feels far away (currently anticipated to be later in 2016) we think it prudent to start considering implementation. Therefore, look out for invitations to workshops with decision-makers, initially with local authorities between April and June 2015. They will then be rolled out to other decision-makers. Clare Kavanagh and Pete Cosgrove, our implementation officers in the South, will be helping to run the sessions. If you would like more information please contact them.

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Clare Kavanagh (Poole) Clare.Kavanagh@marinemanagement.org.uk Mobile 07770784 294

Plan-making progress

Planning process



Plan-making continues in the South marine plan areas and you can see from the diagram we are at the options stage, beginning to develop plan policy for the consultation draft for the South marine plans.

The marine plans for the East plan areas were adopted in April 2014 and continue to be implemented through decision-making processes.

The decision as to where we will be next preparing marine plans has not yet been made, but we will keep you informed when this happens. In preparation for the decision we are already gathering evidence and engaging with many stakeholders on other plan areas.



The Impact Assessment (IA) for the South marine plans is a requirement of the planning process and will continue until plan adoption. As part of the IA, we are currently undertaking a short term project which seeks to engage with business and representative organisations.

The aim of this project is for businesses and organisations to provide estimates of the possible costs and benefits of the three options consulted on during the options stage of the South marine plans process.

This will be used to inform the assumptions that feed into the IA. Consultants are currently undertaking interviews with businesses and representative organisations and will begin modelling the outputs over the next week, with a draft report due at the end of March 2015.



Sustainability Appraisal

The South marine plan areas' Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a process where the marine plans are independently assessed at each stage of the plans development. The first stage of the SA is the scoping stage and this has now been completed with the report available online.

The SA contractors are now completing an assessment of the plan options, which will be finalised in April 2015. The next stage of the SA is an assessment of the plans which will take place in the summer of 2015.



Habitats Regulations Assessment



The South marine plan areas' Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is undertaken as a requirement of the habitats regulations. The process will assess the effects the marine plans may have on the Natura 2000 network, which includes Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protected Areas (SPAs), Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) and Candidate SACs (cSACs), collectively known as European sites.

Also included are wildlife sites that are given the same protection as European sites in England (Potential SPAs (pSPAs), listed or proposed RAMSAR sites and sites identified as compensatory measures for adverse effects on European sites).

The first stage of the HRA is the pre-screening report, which was completed in July 2014 and is available online. The next stages will be the screening and assessment process, which will result in the screening report and the appropriate assessment information report. These two stages will begin in May 2015 and will be completed by the end of the summer 2015.



Royal Town Planning Institute seminar in the East of England

We held a seminar in March 2015 in Bury St Edmunds in collaboration with the East of England branch of the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI). The aim of the session was to update members on the progress of marine planning in the East, in particular regarding implementation of the East marine plans following their adoption in April 2014.

It was attended by local authority, county council and consultant members and included presentations, Q&A sessions and lots of discussion. Find out more about the event on the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) website.



Evidence projects round up

Sub-national plans analysis - a review of all relevant statutory and non-statutory plans for marine relevance which will help inform our evidence base for marine planning in future plan areas. It will also assist us in looking across the marine and land interface and with the integration between marine and land use planning.

Seascape - the first stages of a seascape assessment for the North East, North West and South East inshore and offshore marine plan areas. The study is due to be completed by the end of March 2015. It aims to undertake the desk study stages of the assessment and will include draft character area boundaries and names and draft key characteristics.



Underwater noise project - a project mapping background noise in the sea to manage noise levels for certain activities.

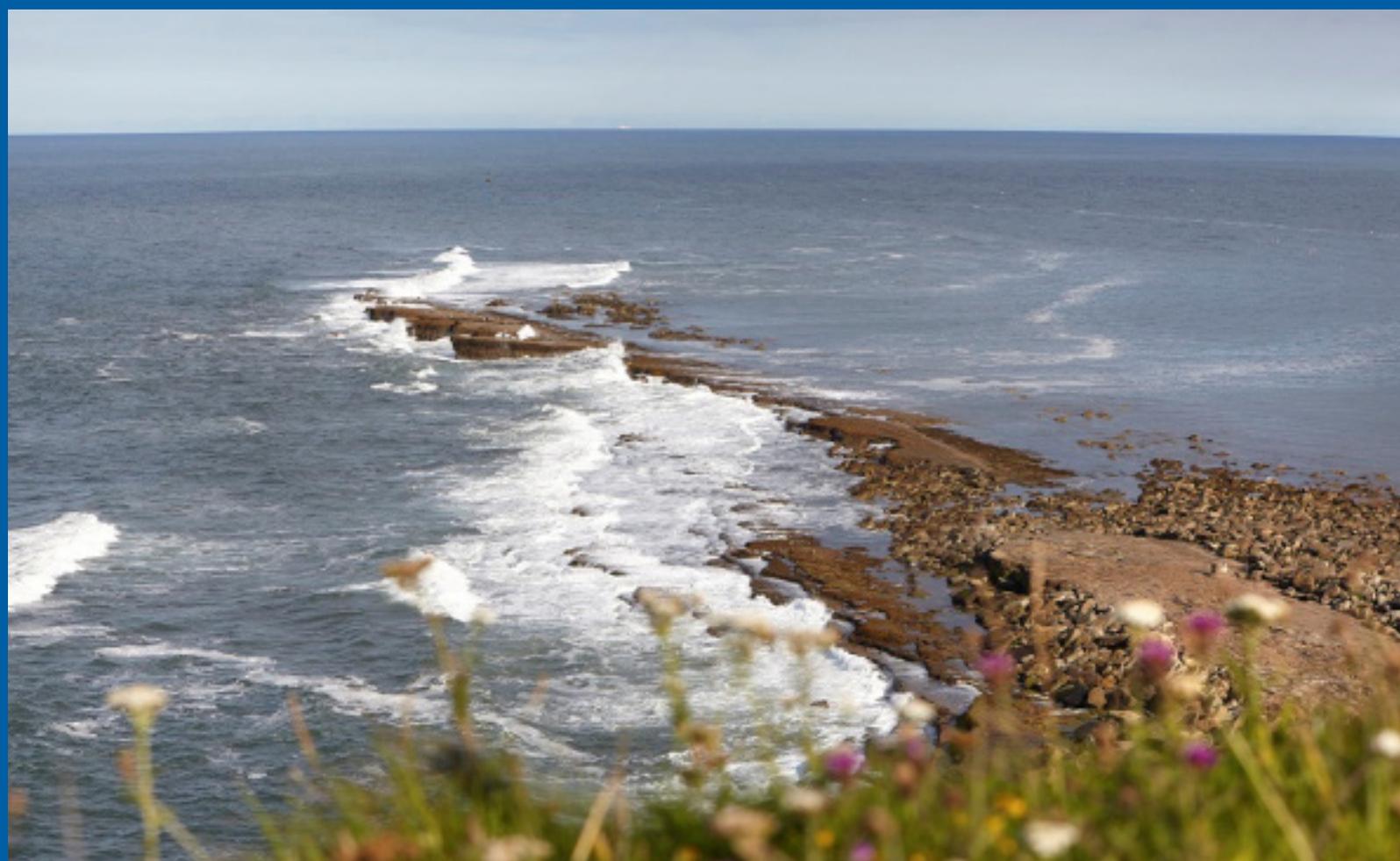
Essential fish habitat - a project modelling the location of fish nursery spawning and feeding grounds. It aims to Explore methodologies for improvement of data and methods to predict habitat occurrence.

UK and non-UK fishing effort distributions - ongoing data refresh.

For more information on any of these evidence projects, please get in touch on planning@marinemanagement.org.uk or call 0191 376 2790.

Updated Statements of Public Participation

The Statements of Public Participation (SPP) for the South and for the East have been updated to take into account changes to the planning timeline and clarified that the detail regarding implementation monitoring and review.



EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive

The EU has adopted a Maritime Spatial Planning Directive to help develop and coordinate various activities taking place at sea so that they are as efficient and sustainable as possible. All Member States are required to have marine plans in place by 2021.

Staff moves and changes

Over the past year, the planning team has been through a few changes. We welcomed Rachel Brown, Chris Sweeting and James Lawson as new marine planners working in the Newcastle Office. Jo Myers will also soon be joining the team from Australia! Ruth Barber, Dan Hallam and Mark Hazelton have moved on to other roles either elsewhere within the MMO or externally.

Award nominations



We are pleased to inform you that the MMO were shortlisted for 3 awards last year. We are proud that, in its short life, the marine planning process has received such recognition. The awards and categories were:

Civil Service Awards for the East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plans in the Policy Award category

Planning Awards for the East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plans in the Strategic Planning category

Landscape Institute Awards (pictured above) for the South seascape assessment prepared by Land Use Consultants (LUC). Highly commended in the Strategic Planning category.