

Marine Policy Statement

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Marine planning

- 1st stage: Marine Policy Statement (MPS) – will set out policies in UK marine area to contribute to sustainable development
- 2nd stage: Marine plans – will apply MPS policies in more detail in specific parts of the marine area – to be developed by marine plan authorities (DOE in Northern Ireland)
- Decisions in the marine area will have to be in accordance with the MPS and, when available, marine plans – unless convincing reasons otherwise

Marine Policy Statement

- Provide framework for achieving sustainable development
- Intended to provide a consistent policy steer for decision makers and users in marine area
- Integrate and reflect wide range of existing policies
- Prioritise different policies and objectives where required
- Will be forward looking

Marine Policy Statement cont'd

- Will cover UK waters including marine aspects of coast
- May recognise differences in policy geographically
- Will be finalised within 2 years of Royal Assent (earlier if possible)
- Will be kept under review and updated when policies change.

Key Stages

- High Level Marine Objectives
- Statement of Public Participation (following Royal Assent)
- Appraisal of Sustainability
- Drafting of MPS
- Consultation
- Adoption & publication

High Level Marine Objectives

- Consulted on during 2008 – published 20 April 2009
- UK wide – sets out outcomes for UK marine area as a whole
- Articulated in terms of 5 sustainable development principles:
 - *achieving sustainable marine economy, ensuring strong healthy and just society, living within environmental limits, promoting good governance, and using sound science responsibly*
- Will underpin development of MPS

Next steps

- Inter-departmental / UK Administrations liaison
- Stakeholder involvement
- Resolving issues that impact on content of draft MPS
- Need some initial feedback – please complete questionnaire