

# Marine Planning and Licensing Newsletter

Issue 4

August 2010

## LATEST NEWS

In this issue you will find information regarding the public consultations and supporting documents on the draft Marine Policy Statement, the Marine Planning System and Marine Licensing System which are now live and will run until 13th October 2010. Also a summary of responses to the recent Marine Plan area consultation in England, news from Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, details of stakeholder events and an update from the Marine Management Organisation.

## Public Consultations

### United Kingdom

A consultation on the draft UK **Marine Policy Statement** (MPS) was launched on 21st July 2010. The MPS represents the first part of new systems of marine planning being introduced around the UK. The Marine Policy Statement will be the overarching policy framework for the UK marine area.

It will provide the high level policy context within which Marine Plans will be developed, and set the direction for marine licensing and other relevant authorisation systems. The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) should have regard to the draft MPS when making decisions. The draft MPS may also be relevant for other public authorities to take into account when making decisions which may affect the marine area.

The consultation package can be accessed here: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/marine-policy/index.htm>. The consultation closes on 13th October 2010.

### England

#### The Marine Planning System consultation

provides a detailed description of the marine planning system in England for the new Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and other interested organisations and persons. It aims to provide a context for the Marine Policy Statement by outlining the planning system in England as a whole.

This document is far reaching and, as such, Defra invites the views of all coastal, marine and terrestrial stakeholders who will be affected by this new system. This includes, amongst others, those in the fields of industry, research, nature and heritage conservation, town-planning, regeneration, recreation and tourism.

The consultation package can be accessed here: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/marine-planning/index.htm>. The consultation closes on 13th October 2010.

#### Summary of responses to the Consultation

**Marine Plan areas within the English Inshore and Offshore Marine Regions** was published on 21st July. The consultation sought views on a set of proposed Marine Plan areas and suggested criteria that the MMO apply when determining the order in which to prepare plans. The Summary of responses provides the conclusions drawn from the consultation, a revised set of recommended Marine Plan areas and amended criteria for the MMO.

The Summary is available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/marine-plan/index.htm>.

**The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 provides for a new, streamlined Marine Licensing System.** This will be delivered principally by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in England and is planned for launch in spring 2011.

The consultation sets out policy proposals for the implementation of the new system, covering key aspects including the application process, appeals against licensing decisions and exemptions.

The consultation package can be accessed here: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/marine-licensing-system/index.htm>. The consultation closes on 13th October 2010.

**The Government summary and response to the consultation on marine licensing enforcement** will be published on 17th August. The public consultation which closed on 1st June sought views on secondary legislation to introduce a system of civil monetary penalties to address licensing offences proportionately and a mechanism enabling appeals against statutory notices.

### **Northern Ireland**

Northern Ireland is committed to bringing forward a marine programme in order to deliver the UK's vision of 'clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas'. The marine programme comprises the UK Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (the UK Act), UK-wide regulations to transpose the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the proposed Northern Ireland Marine Bill.

The Northern Ireland Marine Bill will contain provisions for marine planning and marine nature conservation within Northern Ireland's territorial waters (within the 12 nautical mile limit) and subject to discussions with the other Government Departments may contain provisions for further streamlining of licensing for devolved functions.

The consultation document *A Northern Ireland Marine Bill Policy Proposals – Consultation Document* proposes a framework for Northern Ireland's seas based on: a new system of marine planning that will balance conservation, energy and other resource needs; a further streamlining of marine licensing above that which is already provided for in the UK Act and improved processes for marine nature conservation.

The consultation closed on 9th July 2010. Subject to Executive agreement, a draft Bill is expected to be prepared by early next year and introduced to the NI Assembly in May 2011.

During the summer of 2010 the Department of the Environment will be consulting on proposals and legislation to introduce the new marine licensing system provided for in the Marine and Coastal Access Act. Requests for additional information on any aspect of the Northern Ireland marine programme should be made via the team email box [marineteam@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:marineteam@doeni.gov.uk)

### **Scotland**

The new marine planning powers contained in the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 commenced on 1st July. Work has begun on a national marine plan and Ministers intend to consult on a draft Scottish National Marine Plan in March 2011 with the aim of delivering a final marine plan by March 2012. Work is also underway in preparing an initial assessment of the condition of the Scottish Marine area that will feed into the national marine plan. Consultation on Scottish Marine Region boundaries is planned for late summer 2010.

Consultation on proposals for the secondary legislation to implement the marine licensing systems provided for under the Marine (Scotland) Act and the Marine and Coastal Access Act will be undertaken in the next few months. This will include issues such as procedures, fees, exemptions and statutory

consultees. Any queries relating to this area should be forwarded to [marinelicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:marinelicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

## Wales

The Welsh Assembly Government intends to build on the strategic framework provided by the UK Marine Policy Statement by consulting widely later this year on the marine planning system for Wales' marine area. This will be on the basis of having a national plan and regional planning. The intention is to have the first national plan and start regional planning by 2012/2013. Any queries on marine planning should be directed to the Marine Team at: [marine@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:marine@wales.gsi.gov.uk).

The Welsh Assembly Government will be going out to consultation this summer on the new marine licensing system for Wales. Any licensing queries should be directed to the Marine Consents Unit at: [mcu@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:mcu@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

## Stakeholder Events

### Northern Ireland

We will be meeting with stakeholders to discuss our marine licensing proposals during the late summer/early autumn of 2010. Please email [marineteam@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:marineteam@doeni.gov.uk) for further information and to register your interest in taking part in a meeting/seminar.

## Marine Management Organisation

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) was established this year under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 to deliver the UK government's vision for clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas.

The MMO will prepare Marine Plans for the areas recommended by Government, which will encompass all marine activities and inform and guide marine regulators and users, and clarify the national and local context in which decisions are made. The MMO will announce the first areas for marine plans this autumn. Work on marine plans will commence in April 2011.

In addition, the MMO will be responsible for delivering the new marine licensing system in England. It will be a system that is easier for everyone to use – from individual sea users to corporate developers – with clearer, simpler and more transparent licensing decisions.

The MMO's headquarters in Newcastle is supported by 18 offices around the coast of England. For further information please visit our website at: [www.marinemanagement.org.uk](http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk)

## Contact details

For comments and feedback on the newsletter or other queries you may have, please email us at: [mps@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:mps@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

For further information regarding the MMO please email: [stakeholder@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:stakeholder@marinemanagement.org.uk)

For further information regarding Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland please contact:

Northern Ireland: email: [marineteam@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:marineteam@doeni.gov.uk)

Scotland: email: [ceu@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ceu@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

Wales: email: [marine@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:marine@wales.gsi.gov.uk)