



Marine Planning: understanding the benefits and opportunities

Marine Planning

Our seas provide a wealth of natural resources and services that we all benefit from – sand for construction, fish for food, space for recreation and enjoyment, climate regulation, clean energy to support our lifestyles, a means of global trade and transport amongst many.

Welsh Government considers that marine planning offers the scope to bring together stakeholders and policy makers, allowing us to reduce complexity and avoid duplication. It has the potential to facilitate Sustainable Development of the Welsh marine area to support the well-being of future generations in Wales and in doing so, making the sea more relevant to the aspirations of the people of Wales.

However as Marine Planning is relatively new it is important to have a clear understanding of the benefits marine users ultimately want to see from the marine planning process in Wales. To achieve this, a series of semi structured interviews were undertaken with Members of the Marine Planning Stakeholder Reference Group (MPSRG) and wider marine interest in Wales. This document presents some of the views expressed and will inform Welsh Government's approach to Welsh National Marine Plan (WNMP) development, implementation and assessment.

The views expressed in this document on the potential benefits and opportunities presented by marine planning represent views offered by stakeholders. They do not represent the view of Welsh Government.



Marine planning – stakeholder views on opportunities and benefits

Understanding what stakeholders expect from marine planning is critical in guiding our approach to planning and assessing its effectiveness.

Welsh stakeholders have highlighted to us that they consider the following issues important in taking marine planning forwards:

What Should The Marine Plan Do?

The WNMP will be an important tool to sustainably manage human activity in the marine environment. It should help ensure that Blue Growth is socially and ecologically sustainable as well as economically beneficial for Wales. Critical to its success will be the appreciation of the important activities and traditions that already take place in the marine environment as well as the opportunities that may be offered in the future through the marine planning process

The marine plan should make the management of the marine environment real for coastal communities. It can improve communication between users of the marine environment, champion the sustainable management of our seas and better address the value of the Welsh coastline to the Welsh economy. It should provide a clear framework for the sustainable development of our seas that will result in a better joined up and integrated approach to management. The WNMP can also help protect the marine habitat and species from over exploitation and degradation whilst also supporting better planning for the marine environment in a proactive rather than reactive manner. It could help bridge gaps between licensed and non-licensed activities. However for this to be achieved, the WNMP needs to simplify what the sustainable management of the marine environment actually means to people and outline the social, economic and environmental benefits of its protection.

Marine planning should help to encourage sustainable development, provide greater certainty for industries as well as deliver improved environmental protection in the longer term. Marine planning will also help to characterise and raise the profile of the benefits that activities in the marine environment provide to UK society and economy.

Marine users making choices about which activities they wish to pursue should be able to access a comprehensive evidence base and the online Marine Evidence Portal will help inform their thinking from an early stage. The marine plan can act as a central repository of

...better joined up and integrated approach

...greater certainty for industries as well as deliver improved environmental protection

information for the marine environment – a one stop shop for marine knowledge and management.

The collated evidence will help lessen the possibilities for conflict of interest as well as increase awareness of opportunities.

The evidence supporting the plan – showing the extent of the individual Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and the coherence of the MPA network as a whole, and the identification of areas of special interest, resources and concerns will make it clear to all those bringing forward proposals what is required in those designations. This is seen as a clear benefit of marine planning as it facilitates compatibility between proposed developments and natural resource management. Strategic Resource Areas (SRA's) should also help provide clarity for planners and developers. By allocating areas for defined activities co-existence can be encouraged and conflict for space and resources minimised. It will establish long term certainty for industry direction.

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Marine Planning for our Economy

The marine Plan will put a framework in place that will help manage activity and help inform businesses investment and growth. It can make a valuable, direct contribution to the formation of individual business investment. Providing clarity and confidence through a plan-led approach will foster sustainable development and provide a platform for innovation. Access to the information needed such as maps of what is happening – for example where the main shipping lanes are, where cables are sited, the extent and nature of areas protected for important species and habitats and their requirements, will support sustainable use through evidence based decision making.

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The marine plan needs to fully recognise the range of activities that already take place in the marine environment and the important industries that provide valuable jobs and employment for Welsh coastal communities. Many of these industries including Ports are rigid and static and by their very nature cannot be moved. Nevertheless they are important income generators for coastal communities, locally and also further afield. The challenge for marine planning is to complement and balance these traditional industry needs with wider developer and operator interests.

The role of the WNMP should not be to add further administrative burden and complexity but to provide guidance that is clear and of benefit to decision makers and operators. There is concern that marine planning policies may go beyond current legislative requirements, for example introducing stricter policies on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) (such as introducing protection beyond that required by Habitats Regulations or Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA)), biosecurity

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(requiring measures to be put in place that go beyond MSFD Programme of Measures or EU Regulatory requirements).

Care needs to be taken to ensure a consistent and balanced approach is applied with government policy. This will be challenging when stakeholder views may be conflicting. However working to establish cooperation and shared understanding will help to reduce the risks of mis-understanding, administrative burden and complexity for those undertaking and planning activity in our seas. Proposals should demonstrate that they have followed relevant good practice, including early and effective engagement with the full range of appropriate stakeholders.

There is an important role for marine planning in helping to protect existing key navigational routes and future-proof them to ensure there is sufficient sea room for any increase in vessel traffic volumes created by trade growth, port development and construction/support opportunities in offshore industries. Marine planning provides an opportunity to identify potential future growth areas for the ports and shipping sectors and to ensure that this growth can be achieved alongside the sustainable development of other key marine sectors. Marine planning has the potential to help maximise the sustainable development benefits provided by the shipping sector in terms of its vital contribution to the Welsh and wider UK economy and its role in providing a fuel efficient mode of mass transport.

Marine planning should create a framework for consistent decision-making using best available evidence and, in doing so, the plan could provide greater certainty for the tourism industry on where to deliver sustainable growth of this sector. Many visitors to Wales are attracted to the coast because of its unspoilt qualities and access to marine wildlife. The Wales Tourism Alliance has reported that £2.7bn (5.8% of Wales' GDP) is directly contributed to the Welsh economy through tourism, a higher contribution than any other UK country. It has been reported that the natural and historic environment is the primary attraction for tourists visiting Wales (The Wales Visitor Survey 2013).

Work has been undertaken to determine the value of marine wildlife tourism to the Welsh economy. For example, Wales Activity Mapping¹ found that the 3rd highest value activity within the St David's area was wildlife boat trips, valued at £9.7m per annum of expenditure. Under the water, locations that repeatedly appear on the list of the top 10 UK dive sites for the British Sub Aqua Club (BSAC) include Pembrokeshire, the Gower and Anglesey. The UKNEAFO (Phase 2) estimated that there are 128,000-213,000 visits per year by divers to the seven marine Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in Wales². It is crucial then that any proposals for growth of the wildlife tourism sector is consistent with and support measures proposed within the management and improvement plans for MPAs in order to protect the assets on which wildlife tourism depends.

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¹ Wales Activity Mapping: A project commissioned by Welsh Government's Sustainable Development Fund and Port of Milford Haven

² UK National Ecosystem Assessment Follow On (UK NEAFO) <http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/>



With this in mind, Marine planning can support wildlife tourism by ensuring that all relevant information relating to MPAs is collated and used to inform plan making (e.g. MPA management plans and available data relating to habitats and species) and that the plan takes a strategic approach to MPA protection and enhancement (such as considering how to best to protect mobile species that move between sites and how to consider in-combination effects on the marine ecosystem).

In an RSPB study (2011) it was demonstrated that South Stack Nature Reserve on Anglesey attracted tourist spend of over half a million pounds to the local area in 2009 which could be directly linked to seabird tourism (a figure that is likely to have increased following development of new visitor facilities).³ Equally, the Wales Coast Path, which attracted an estimated 2.82 million visitors between September 2012 and September 2013, resulted in an estimated contribution of £32 million to the Welsh economy.⁴ It is the combination of a diversity of high quality and beautiful landscapes, seascapes, historical attractions and opportunities for marine wildlife spotting around the Welsh coast which makes Wales Coastal Path so attractive to visitors.

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³ RSPB (2011). Natural Foundations – Conservation and Local Employment in the UK. www.rspb.org.uk/Images/naturalfoundations_tcm9-291148.pdf

⁴ NRW (2013). The Economic Impact of Wales Coast Path Visitor Spending on Wales

The economic value of Wales's marine wildlife tourism and its direct link to the quality of the natural environment demonstrates the economic advantages of effective spatial management of maritime activities in Wales.

Marine plans should also be of benefit to recreational boating in principle, where they provide clarity on decision making in the coastal zone and reduce uncertainty. Marine planning means that for the first time, the importance and value of recreational boating activity along the Welsh coastline will be recognised in a statutory planning context. The implementation of marine plans across the UK should protect and enhance recreation boating facilities, expanding and delivering the inherent benefits it brings to coastal communities.

Marine plans should enable developers to assess at an early stage where recreational boating activity takes place, such as important navigational routes, club/training centre facilities or cruising and racing areas, enabling them to design their schemes in a compatible way. However, marine plans should not increase regulatory burdens on the maintenance or improvement of recreational boating facilities and should ensure that existing activity is protected.

In setting the priorities, policies and direction for future development within estuaries and marine waters marine planning could benefit recreational users by adding clarity for all concerned. The policies will inform decisions by authorities when considering applications for development. Policies may affect proposals for maintenance or expansion of recreational boating facilities. They will be a means of managing development where it is likely to impact on a range of uses of the sea.

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Marine planning for society and our culture

The marine plan in Wales can help demonstrate how the Welsh marine area will support the wellbeing of future generations in Wales. This can be achieved by articulating Welsh national and regional priorities for the marine area that build on the identification of Wales' resources and assets. The marine plan may also help inform marine licensing processes and potentially alleviate some of the current challenges and complexities relating to marine licensing and consenting.

Proposals that contribute to the well-being of coastal communities should be encouraged. This includes achieving the appropriate balance in planning activities, matching the need for economic growth and jobs with the impact of activities on our natural resources. The benefits of longer term sustainability for our communities, our economy and our environment are crucial for the health and wellbeing of future generations.

Marine planning can contribute to the health of our communities both directly and indirectly. Planned, balanced activity in our marine area facilitates the sustainable use of marine space, including recreational activity. The plan can encourage all concerned to maintain and/or enhance access to the marine environment. Guidance on the extent and use of this access is provided in the plan to ensure that the benefits of planned recreational and the importance of suitable access reach all those consulting or using the plan

Proposals that enhance the significant aesthetic qualities, the unique coastal character and varied wildlife experience of our marine areas should be encouraged. Clean healthy seas and coastal areas provide a strong foundation for people's physical and mental well-being. Policies relating to access and opportunities to enhance the marine area for multiple benefits including recreational activities can be highlighted with a view to increasing enjoyment and use of with our seas. These benefits support our coastal communities and are also available for the many people who visit the coast and our marine area.

The marine plan might contribute to initiatives to tackle child poverty in our coastal communities and throughout Wales by providing opportunities for children and young people to experience the natural environment and learn from it. A healthy marine environment will facilitate outdoor recreation and promote health. The policies in the plan can clearly direct all those taking decisions about proposed activities to take all reasonable steps to minimise the risk of marine pollution incidents in order to safeguard our communities and the environment in which they thrive.

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There should be clear direction to use, conserve and promote the Welsh language. The Welsh Standards are the guide for delivery in this area. Our Welsh culture – our literature and history are to be recognised and valued. The plan should ensure that proposals demonstrate how potential impacts on historic or cultural assets and their settings have been taken into consideration. Our historic assets influence our national identity, support the education of future generations – and demonstrate our heritage to a wide variety of tourists who are fascinated by what we have to offer.

Contributing to Ecosystem Resilience

Marine planning seeks to ensure sustainable development of our seas. It should include objectives to drive blue growth through increasing use of our wealth of marine natural resources whilst ensuring that our marine ecosystems are resilient. The marine plan has a role to help identify areas for new use – for example, marine renewable energy, whilst protecting and supporting established uses including those such as shipping or tourism and recreation that are strategically important and have the potential to grow further.

A major benefit to marine planning in the UK is that, as directed under the UK Marine Policy Statement, marine plans are developed using an ecosystem based approach. This means that plans are framed in a transparent way that considers and involves all interested parties, balances economic growth with conservation and social needs, and recognises the limits to sustainable natural resource use.

The plan can encourage proposals which include ways to achieve climate change adaptation and mitigation. The plan should include clear direction that all proposals coming forward should demonstrate how they contribute to the protection, restoration and enhancement of marine ecosystems. Marine planning should help improve the assessment and management of cumulative interactions and impacts between different industries, particularly in protected areas and for protected mobile species which are not linked to protected sites.

Marine Planning presents an opportunity to better manage the marine environment for the benefit of the local economy without damaging the environment. It will champion the beneficial use of our seas rather than being reactive. It can help identify the best areas in Wales to strategically expand marine wildlife tourism in a way that is responsible, positive and sensitive to prevent damage or degradation to the assets it relies upon. A study by Land Use Consultants (2004) identified, analysed and mapped existing data on recreational activities in relation to their compatibility with Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) – the audit identified “hotspots” of activities that clearly overlapped with nature conservation and landscape designations, highlighting the draw of these areas for tourist activities.

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Marine planning should assess the capacity of the ecosystem services within the plan area for their ability to accommodate change or further activities, the outcome could be the identification and mapping of areas of least constraint that would accommodate additional marine wildlife-based activities in the future.

Marine planning can also signpost existing and potential new operators to the Codes of Conducts that exist for marine wildlife, such as the valuable work of the Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum and its Marine Code of Conduct. The Marine Code which was launched in Pembrokeshire in 2005 has been particularly effective in promoting the sustainable management of the marine environment. This Code has evolved over the years balancing the views of conservation bodies and wider interests such as wildlife organisations and tourist operators. Making the code work in practice is a matter of providing focus and securing stakeholder 'buy in' through positive and open dialogue. It has been particularly effective in bringing tour operators and personal watercraft operators together.

Building on the success of the Marine Code, Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum are now considering developing a Marine Code for Marinas to create healthy competition amongst the number of marinas along the Pembrokeshire Coast. The initiative could include a requirement for every berth holder to have a Marine Code at hand to consider and apply as appropriate. The initiative could well encompass a visitor giving scheme which could generate some much needed additional revenue that could be spent on environmental and sustainability projects locally.

Marine planning can also signpost existing and potential new operators to the Codes of Conducts that exist for marine wildlife



Providing Synergy and Clarity Across Borders and Sectors

Marine planning will encourage better communication between different users of the sea, which should lead to a better understanding of potential synergies between different uses (and could, for example, lead to collaborative evidence gathering), and better informed decision-making. Over time this improved understanding/evidence should inform spatial planning itself.

Integration, cross referral and cohesion will be needed for marine planning to be an effective management tool. It is needed between land/sea planning authorities in central and local Government in Wales. It will also be relevant for neighbouring planning authorities in England, the Isle of Man and Ireland. The benefits of achieving this will ease the use of the plan for those bringing forward proposals and those taking decisions. A smooth running, well informed marine planning system will keep overall and individual project costs (financial and time) to a minimum and avoid the need for cross referral and re-submission.

The marine plan can act as a conduit for good relationships between a number of sectors and interests in the sustainable management of natural resources in the marine environment. This is particularly true where there are two competing interests. By providing greater clarification and guidance on the nature of activities and their interactions, the planning system can help to foster up front consideration and collaboration between affected sectors.

One of the major challenges facing Marine planning in the UK is providing clarity particularly when addressing multiple regimes across devolved and jurisdictional boundaries. It is imperative that a consistent approach is applied to marine planning in both English and Welsh waters. Inconsistencies in approach across England and Wales will only fuel uncertainty amongst developers and marine users. Unnecessary barriers could be created which will inhibit rather than promote the sustainable management of our seas.

Marine planning could help inform development of marine projects and activities, through the signposting of opportunities and challenges, including opportunities for co-location of uses, and the encouragement of engagement with relevant sectors, stakeholders and sea users, to help optimise how the marine area contributes to national priorities and the well-being of future generations.

There is considerable potential for the co-location of activities in the marine environment and where alternative activities could take place based on sound evidence and data. Understanding the interactions between shipping and other contributing marine sectors will help decision makers develop optimum marine planning solutions.

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By sharing information there will be better opportunities for co-location between shipping and other important activities in the marine environment including offshore renewable energy, oil and gas exploration, defence and national security, telecommunication cabling, marine aggregates and dredging, fisheries, tourism and recreation and marine protected areas. With the envisaged growth in the marine energy sector there will also be greater calls for new installations in the future – this will mean there will also be calls for more power cables. Marine plans can help address this by promoting greater synergies between sectors, overcoming the challenges and preventing conflicts in the first place.

By taking an ecosystem approach and accounting for users and potential future use of the environment, marine planning can ensure sustainable and equitable use of marine natural resources. This helps promote synergies between sectors and help prevent mis-understanding and conflict. Elements of spatial prescription of the Welsh marine area will help to avoid conflicts or competition. Prioritising future use in certain areas and for certain sectors will help to provide certainty and clarity on future opportunities.

Many activities can and already do coexist and the plan should support this coexistence in order to optimise the benefits that we receive from our marine natural resources over the long-term.

The Marine Planning Portal will be a particularly effective interactive tool in illustrating the distribution of human activities and natural

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resources in Welsh seas. Data provided through the Portal could then be used by planners to identify development opportunities, such as areas around the Welsh coast that are suitable for harnessing energy resources. For the first time potential investors, wherever they are based in the world, can use this information on what the policy priorities are and what is happening in the marine environment and where to inform their business planning from an early stage.

The Marine Planning Portal will also help depict different activities together, which will be an important first step in considering how sector activities overlap and how activities can be better planned and co-ordinated. This could help the Marine Plan set its strategic direction, reduce application processes and address developer concerns. By detailing to developers what is required, such a plan can significantly help reduce red tape. With greater future clarity on marine spatial planning it will also help developers consider what is possible in certain locations and present actions and proposals accordingly. Requests for data at a more local level could be facilitated through the Portal. This could prove an important and cost effective support for businesses to inform their initial, pre-decision thinking.

The evidence supporting the plan – showing the extent of the individual Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and the coherence of the MPA network as a whole, and the identification of areas of special interest, resources and concerns will make it clear to all those bringing proposals what is required in those designations. This is seen as a clear benefit of marine planning as it facilitates compatibility between proposed developments and natural resource management.

Learning Lessons and Maximising Opportunities

Marine Planning is a new process. Delivering on the WNMP's vision and aspirations will be challenging but can be achieved through collaboration and partnership between stakeholders with a common interest in the sustainable management of the marine environment.

The evaluating, monitoring and reporting mechanisms in place will measure implementation and performance. It will be important to learn by doing – working to implement the plan, evaluating its effectiveness, reflecting upon changes achieved and adapting accordingly. The Wales Marine Evidence Report (WMER)⁵ has already been published and should be regularly updated to ensure developers, operators and marine users always have the most recent evidence base to support their planning and decision making processes.

It is important to understand that the publication of the WNMP is a journey and will not be an end event in itself. Expectations will need to be managed proactively balancing ambition versus pragmatism.

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5 <http://gov.wales/docs/drah/publications/151008-wales-marine-evidence-report-master-october-2015-en.pdf>

Resisting the temptation to venture too far too soon will help temper expectation.

There are marine plans already in place across the UK and these can be very useful in informing progress in Wales. There is close dialogue between marine planners in Wales and in the MMO in England and this has usefully influenced the Welsh marine planning process. There is also good practice guidance already available which demonstrates practical ways which some sectors can overcome difficulties, for example between recreational boating and renewable energy or aquaculture.

There are also lessons that could be learnt from approaches adopted in regions and countries further afield notably Germany, Denmark, Netherlands, the Gulf of Maine, Canada and New Zealand. However all approaches understandably differ. They operate at varying scales and have been developed and tailored according to their own respective needs. The levels of financial and human capital in support of such approaches also significantly differ to reflect the scale of their endeavours and challenges faced.

The Welsh Government has provided opportunity for stakeholders to engage with the plan throughout its development. There has been substantial stakeholder engagement throughout the plan development process. This included working with a variety of stakeholders from different interests through interactive feedback groups including the Marine Planning Stakeholder Reference Group. Such engagement has been well facilitated and stakeholders have had the opportunity to comment on initial drafts of the plan. Whilst stakeholders naturally have their own respective interests the coming together of stakeholders in this way has resulted in collaboration between users and cohesion of ideas which is likely to increase buy-in of the plan once adopted.

The marine plan needs to engage effectively with stakeholders and sector interests. This requires an understanding of the traditional, cultural as well as the temporal nature of coastal communities and businesses that will be influenced by future marine planning. Moreover securing ownership is important.

Changes should not necessarily be viewed as a threat but more as an opportunity. Engaging with communities effectively and making them aware of its relevance to them and their day to day lives is key. A way of achieving this is to identify activity champions for specific sectors to mobilise community interest and action. One successful example was the production of the 'Engaging the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park – Recreation Plan for Pembrokeshire' where over 80 responses were received to the recreation plan. Through positive dialogue this engagement approach has subsequently led to the production of an

There has been substantial stakeholder engagement throughout the marine plan development process.

Action Plan. Stakeholders now review its progress annually and help support delivery.

The WNMP needs to champion clear and transparent planning and decision-making and ensure effective processes are in place to resolve conflicting issues in a transparent manner. It should also deliver a more effective and efficient planning and licensing regime with a clearer framework in terms of how decisions are determined of benefit to the sustainable management of the marine environment.

To secure a successful legacy marine planning needs to be respected. Stakeholders need to view it as a positive and industry use it as a good, solid means by which the sustainable management of the marine environment can deliver growth and jobs as well as improve the wellbeing of current and future generations.

Marine planning needs to have a strong and integrated evidence base to support decision-making about the future use of the marine environment and provides an effective means to influence terrestrial plans and decision-making processes to better meet social, economic and environmental needs. The production of the marine plan should not be viewed as the end of the process. It sets the direction but delivery is key. The marine plan needs to be used by developers, regulators and all those interested in the future management of the sea. This will be a challenging task but is achievable through guidance, stakeholder engagement and positive dialogue.

To secure a successful legacy the marine planning needs to be respected and people make reference to it. Stakeholders need to view it as a positive and industry use it as a good, solid means by which the sustainable management of the marine environment can deliver growth and jobs as well as improve the wellbeing of current and future generations.



Marine planning policy context

Marine planning will be of benefit to small, medium and larger scale operators and regulators who will be expected to work to the same plan, providing transparency and consistency in decision-making for all kinds of development. Marine planning will provide information and guidance which will help marine users make sustainable choices and decisions on activities in our marine environment. It will bring clarity to interactions in the marine environment and the way in which it is managed. It achieves this by providing a clear policy context for decision-making in the same way that planning policy Wales and Local Authority Development Plans guide the use of space on land.

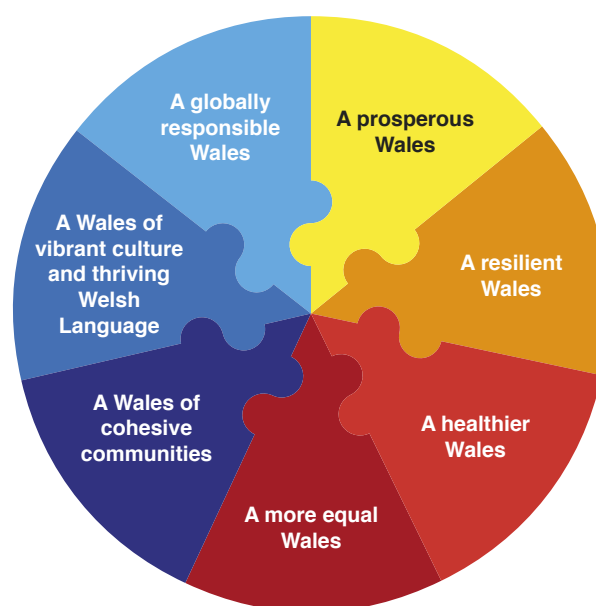
With a focus on driving blue growth, we are recognising that an ecosystem based, plan-led approach built on the principles of sustainability can make an important contribution to achieving Wales' well-being goals by guiding decisions on future use of marine natural resources.

The benefits of Marine Planning will not be realised immediately. It is a new approach which will take time to implement and take effect. Welsh Government has made a number of commitments to take forward a more integrated approach to the sustainable management of Wales' natural resources. This includes far reaching policy and legislative reforms such as the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and the Well Being and Futures Generations (WBFG) Act 2015. Marine Planning will make a valuable contribution helping to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural contribute well-being of Wales as part of this wider context. By taking an ecosystem approach as required by the UK marine policy statement, marine planning supports those commitments.

The Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015 requires public bodies listed in the Act to think about the longer term and to work better with people and communities to deliver a more joined-up approach towards achieving the seven well-being goals.

The requirements of the Act apply equally to the marine area for the public bodies listed in the Act and therefore the Welsh National Marine Plan (WNMP) in terms of the duty it places on Welsh Ministers. The Act put in a place a Sustainable Development (SD) principle to support public bodies in meeting their duties.

The Seven Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Goals



Marine planning is an integrated process that incorporates the ecosystem approach as required by the UK Marine Policy Statement. The WNMP applies the sustainable development principle and supports the sustainable management of marine natural resources.

SD principle	Delivering marine planning
Look to the long term so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;	The WNMP takes a 20 year view and will consider current and future potential trends as well as recognise the implications of climate change. By championing the sustainable use of the marine environment it will focus on managing activities over the long term and integrate decision-making.
Take an integrated approach so public bodies look at all the well-being goals in deciding priorities;	Marine planning considers land-sea interactions, embedding Integrated Coastal Zone Management principles. The WNMP will take account of existing terrestrial planning legislation of relevance in tandem with other related management plans. It will present an integrated set of policies covering all aspects of natural resource management and uses of the Welsh marine environment. These policies have been developed in line with the WFGA 2015 Act goals and principles.
Involve a diversity of the population in the decisions that affect them;	The planning process is inclusive and ensures all interested parties have the opportunity to comment on the WNMP's at various stages. The Statement of Public Participation sets out opportunities for engagement. An initial draft WNMP was shared online for early feedback and refinement. The development process includes consideration of diversity and inclusion.
Work with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions; and	Marine planning involves working collaboratively with a wide range of policy areas and stakeholders. This is being addressed through a comprehensive stakeholder engagement process with input from internal WG policy colleagues as well as stakeholders. To help facilitate the production of the WNMP a Welsh Government Marine Planning Stakeholder Reference Group has been established as well as an over-arching Welsh Government stakeholder advisory group and separate Welsh Government Governance Board. This high level engagement has helped drive collaborative working.
Understand the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring and examining whether how we currently deploy our resources should change.	Taking an evidence based approach to marine policy development and planning is critical to the success of the WNMP. It provides a means to better consider the complexity of the marine environment and apply appropriate interventions to improve its future management. Early engagement with stakeholders has identified a range of challenges and opportunities as well as emerging research and future evidence needs. The WNMP will be widely shared, evaluated and monitored. This is important to ensure that the WNMP remains relevant and flexible to embrace future challenges and opportunities as they arise.

The WNMP will contain a suite of integrated policies to guide the development of proposal and decision making on the use of our marine natural resources.

This suite of strategic plan policies will be designed to contribute across the 7 Well-being Goals of the Well-being For Future Generations (Wales) 2015 Act.

<p>A prosperous Wales</p>	<p>An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p> <p>The WNMP can recognise the importance and potential of our marine natural resources to well-being and the value of supporting and promoting blue growth. The transition to a low carbon society is supported through policies that recognise the importance of addressing climate change impacts. This will ensure that new proposals have taken into account climate change predictions and shoreline management plans.</p> <p>WNMP policies should support projects that aid blue growth and provide demonstrable economic benefits. There are also strong linkages between the sustainable management of the marine environment in Wales and the future prosperity of coastal communities. This close interdependence will provide opportunities for further employment and wealth generation.</p>
<p>A resilient Wales</p>	<p>A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).</p> <p>The WNMP can include policies that will support the conservation and recovery of marine biodiversity and marine ecosystems. The vision recognises that healthy, functioning ecosystems underpin and support social and economic resilience. Policies that support ecosystem recovery help identify opportunities to secure multiple benefits from ecosystems.</p>
<p>A healthier Wales</p>	<p>A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.</p> <p>Marine planning can contribute to the health of coastal communities both directly and indirectly. Planned, balanced activity in our marine environment can help facilitate the sustainable use of marine space including recreational activity.</p> <p>Clean healthy seas and ecosystems provide a strong basis for people's physical and mental well-being. Policies relating to access, the promotion of recreational activities and the wider enhancement of the marine area for multiple benefits could be included in the WNMP with a view to increasing enjoyment and use of the marine area. Marine Planning will help facilitate links between seemingly disparate activities to support the promotion of a healthier Wales.</p>

A more equal Wales	<p>A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).</p> <p>Marine planning is being developed in an open and transparent manner. This has not only involved sharing documents in draft form with key stakeholders but also the arrangement of wider engagement fora to capture views. Seeking the views and expertise of many different interests has been integral to the development of the WNMP and achieving an appropriate policy balance to secure Sustainable Development. As a result the policies have been designed to achieve an appropriate balance in supporting Sustainable Development for the benefit of all our communities. This sharing of the best available evidence to aid transparent and plan-led decision making has also supported equality of opportunity. This has helped in the development of policies of critical importance to the future use of our seas. Marine planning will, for the first time, make available to stakeholders a wide range of marine data and information so they can understand what is happening in our seas.</p>
A Wales of cohesive communities	<p>Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.</p> <p>Marine planning provides a means of engagement with our coastal communities. It focuses directly on activities either planned or taking place in their marine environment. WNMP policies will recognise the importance of coastal communities to our national society and acknowledge their needs and aspirations. The attractiveness of the Welsh coastline and its importance to coastal communities and visitors alike should be addressed in marine planning.</p>
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	<p>A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.</p> <p>Wales has a valuable and thriving marine heritage. Marine planning provides an opportunity to ensure that future proposals recognise, work with and contribute to Welsh culture. Cultural and heritage related evidence has already been made available and this will greatly benefit the WNMP decision making process. This evidence helps to ensure that any conflicts of interests are identified at an early stage (rather than in later stages) in order that they can be addressed. It has also helped ensure that our cultural heritage is valued, protected and promoted.</p>
A globally responsible Wales	<p>A globally responsible Wales. A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being. The Marine Planning process in Wales follows the direction provided by the UK Marine and Coastal Act (2009) and the European Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning 89/2014. This provides the framework for marine planning in Wales. The WNMP will contain policies that will contribute to wider issues such as climate change and recognise that activities in the Welsh marine environment may have implications beyond Wales that need to be considered in decision making. Marine planning works beyond boundaries and reflects the joined up nature of our seas and marine natural resources.</p>

Next Steps

Marine planning must be an inclusive process in order to ensure that those with a view on the future use of Welsh seas have an opportunity to contribute. The Statement of Public Participation for marine planning sets out the opportunities to input to the WNMP development process.

Welsh Government will continue to engage with stakeholders as we move to consult on a draft marine plan followed by adoption and implementation. The views expressed by stakeholders are helping us to refine the draft plan and will also focus our approach to plan evaluation and reporting.