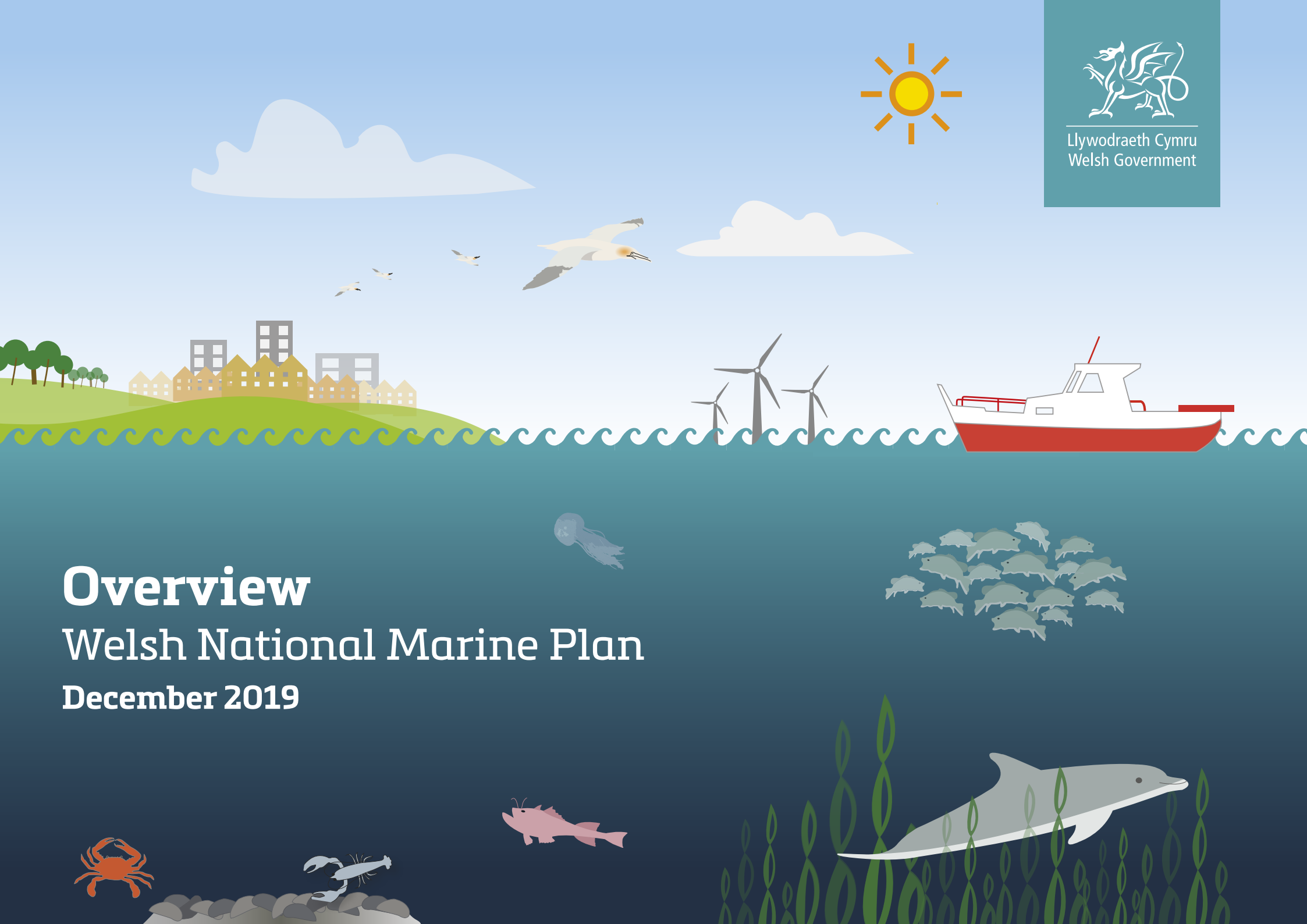


Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Overview

Welsh National Marine Plan

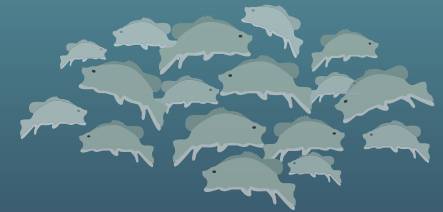
December 2019



Welsh Government has now adopted the first **Welsh National Marine Plan (WNMP)** to ensure that decisions within the marine area can be made in a sustainable way, that will benefit both current and future generations.



- > The aim of the plan is to support the **shared UK vision of clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas.**
- > The WNMP is a new consideration for relevant public authorities when making decisions which have the potential to affect the plan area.
- > It contains policies to inform decisions taken by public authorities – who will be important users of the plan, as well as those wishing to propose an activity or development.




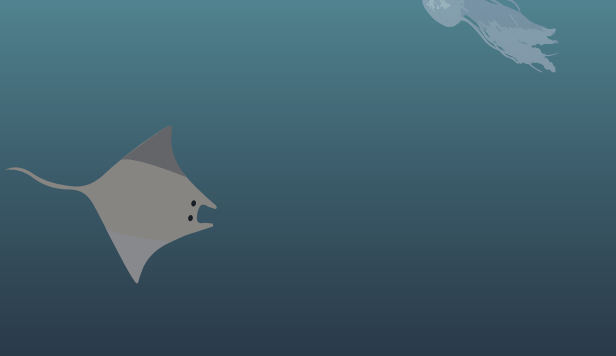
Background



- > The marine plan area around Wales is **32,000 km²** of sea, with **2,120 km** of coastline.
- > The WNMP covers the inshore plan area from high water spring tides out to **12 nautical miles** and the offshore plan area beyond 12 nautical miles.
- > The plan takes a **20 year view**.
- > Similar plans are being made across the UK and by our neighbours around the Irish Sea.
- > We've been working with the UK Government, local councils and other public authorities to ensure a joined up approach.
- > The plan works alongside other UK marine plans and will also be compatible with land use plans including Local Development Plans and the new National Development Framework – when published.



The General Policies

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- > The WNMP includes policy in relation to a wide range of general considerations (set out as a series of **General Policies**) including:
 - nature conservation
 - water quality
 - sustainable use
 - seascapes
 - coastal communities and economic growth
 - cumulative impacts
 - heritage etc.
 - > These General Policies are organised under the themes of the shared **UK High Level Marine Objectives**.
 - > They will be used to guide proposals as they come forward and any related consent or authorisation decisions taken by public authorities. General policies will be applied to all decisions.
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The Sector Policies



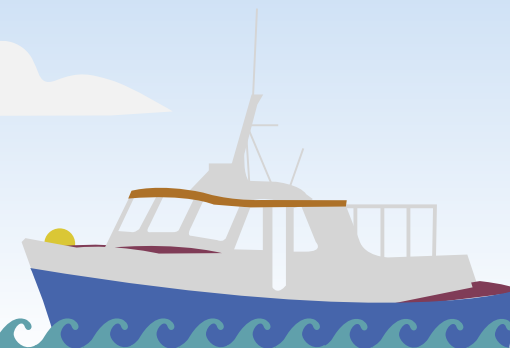
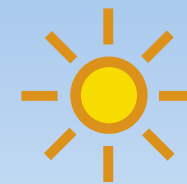
- > The WNMP contains **sector objectives** and **sector policies** for **11 different sectors** that operate in the marine area. These are;

Aggregates, Aquaculture, Defence, Dredging & Disposal, Fisheries, Renewable Energy, Oil & Gas, Ports & Shipping, Subsea cabling, Surface water and Wastewater treatment and disposal and Tourism & Recreation.

- > Sector Policies include ‘supporting’ and/or ‘safeguarding’ policies to help ensure each sector can develop in a sustainable way. A sector specific supporting policy encourages, over the term of the plan, the sustainable growth of that sector.
- > Sector safeguarding policies seek to protect established and authorised activities or already well developed proposals from adverse impacts resulting from other sector activities.



Looking ahead



- > The plan makes provision for publication of **Marine Planning Notices** and identification of **Strategic Resource Areas (SRAs)**. SRAs will safeguard areas with natural resources of particular importance to a sector (e.g. tidal energy, wave energy, sand for construction etc); and will be within wider resource areas of relevance to that sector.
- > Now the plan has been adopted and published it will be essential to monitor and report on its effectiveness and we are developing a framework to help us do this.
- > Whilst planning isn't a new concept, having a new statutory marine planning framework to guide future use of our seas is. The publication of the first WNMP is the start of an ongoing process in helping ensure the sustainable development of our seas.
- > We've been working with stakeholders throughout this process to ensure their needs are reflected in the plan and we'll continue to engage with relevant public authorities, developers and other sea users to ensure the plan is implemented effectively.

