



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Monitoring and Reporting Framework

Welsh National Marine Plan

January 2020



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This document outlines the strategic approach that Welsh Government, as the marine planning authority for Wales, will follow to develop indicators for monitoring the implementation of a plan-led system for Welsh waters. Details set out here are provisional and will be developed in partnership with key decision makers and wider stakeholders.

The Welsh National Marine Plan (WNMP)¹ is the first marine plan for Wales and represents the start of a planning process for Welsh Seas to support delivery of environmental, economic, social and cultural objectives. The purpose of the WNMP is to guide the sustainable development of the marine plan area. It applies to all decisions taken by public authorities which may affect the Welsh marine plan area (see figure 1).

Why Monitor and Report?

Monitoring provides crucial feedback within the cyclical process of sustainable, evidence-based policy-making. It connects the objectives of a plan to the evidence base and subsequent implementation of plan policies. Any future plan-review and policy development should be underpinned by the findings of monitoring.²

Specifically, Section 61 of the **Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA)** sets a legal requirement to monitor and report (at least every three years) on the implementation of marine plans. The purpose being to understand:

- the marine plan's contribution to meeting the High Level Marine Objectives (HLMOs) in the UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS)
- progress being made towards securing plan objectives

- the effects of the policies in the marine plan
- the effectiveness of plan policies in securing the plan objectives.

The MCAA also requires marine planning authorities to consider the need to amend a marine plan every six years from the date of introduction. Monitoring and review will allow the Welsh Government to determine the impact and effectiveness of the WNMP, ensure the policies are fit for purpose and whether amendments are required to help address any issues that have arisen.

In addition, the **Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004**⁴ specifically require monitoring of the significant effects of implementing the WNMP, including unforeseen adverse environmental effects. Welsh Government have undertaken a joint Sustainability Appraisal (SA)/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process for the WNMP and produced an SA report³ that integrates the requirements of the 2004 Regulations, including recommendations for monitoring indicators.

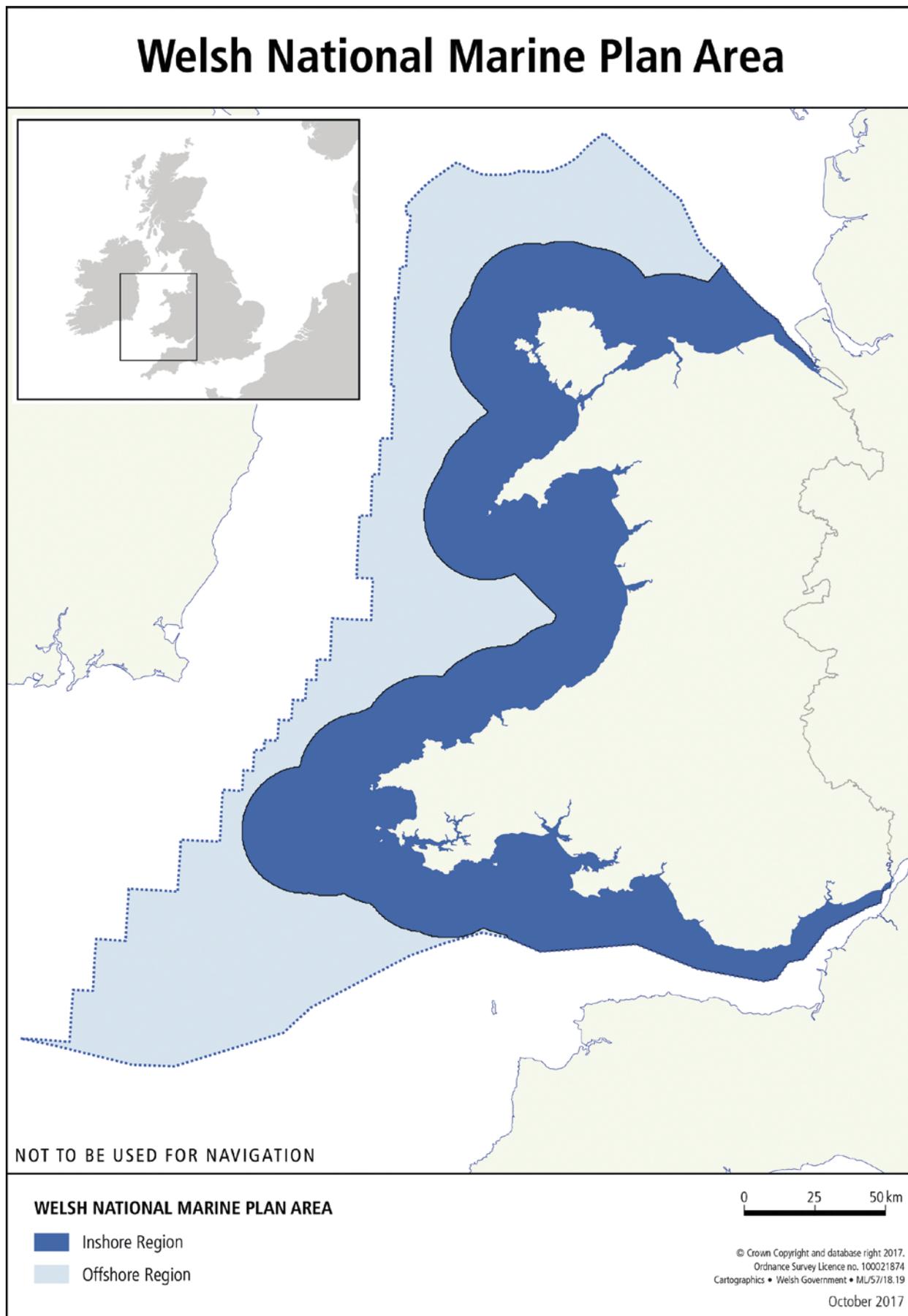
¹ www.gov.wales/welsh-national-marine-plan-document

² www.gov.wales/local-development-plan-manual-edition-2-2015

³ www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2004/1656/contents/made

⁴ www.gov.wales/welsh-national-marine-plan-sustainability-appraisal

Figure 1: Welsh Marine Plan Area



Approach to monitoring and reporting

This document represents the first step in the process of developing an approach to monitoring and reporting on the WNMP. Figure 2 shows the steps leading to publishing the first monitoring report in 2022. The continuous improvement step in the figure

refers to how feedback from the first monitoring report will inform future monitoring in terms of suitability of indicators, sources of information and assessment methodology, as well as the review of the WNMP itself.

Figure 2: WNMP Monitoring and Reporting process



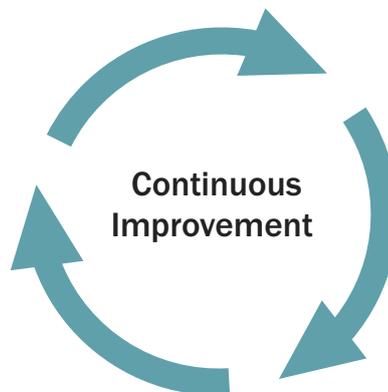
Baseline data

Identification of existing data, analysis of any gaps and limitations

New baseline data gathering

Methodology(s) developed

for new data gathering and interpretation



The approach to monitoring and reporting will integrate requirements across legislative drivers, incorporating:

- **Marine Plan/decision making monitoring:** identification and monitoring of indicators that will assess the **effectiveness** of the WNMP as an enabler in the achievement of its objectives.
- **Objective/Policy monitoring:** assessing the real-world outcomes (**effects**) to which policies under a number of objectives contribute.
- **Sustainability monitoring:** related to the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report and integrated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process, assessing whether plan policies are having a positive or negative effect on sustainability.

The monitoring framework will be underpinned by the following principles (adapted from the Welsh Government Local Development Plan Manual⁵):

- **A focus about what needs monitoring**
e.g. where significant effects are likely and clarity about what sort of information is required. *However, consideration should also be given to the complexity of multiple influences: outcomes are rarely a result solely of development plan policies.*
- The **use of existing information**, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication with other monitoring mechanisms. *Although, reliance on existing data sources may mean that some indicators can no longer be monitored or may need to be amended to correspond with updated methods of data collection.*
- **Establishing (where possible) targets, indicators and trigger points** to promptly assess whether policies are achieving their stated objectives and ensure that emphasis is not just on data collection but interpreting and building on previous results to inform policy review, or a targeted response where necessary. *Choice of suitable timescales is important as many aspects of planning may not be capable of assessment until patterns emerge in the 2nd or 3rd review period.*

In developing this monitoring and reporting framework, Welsh Government have:

- considered the approaches of the reviews of UK marine plans that have been published to date^{6,7}, as well as more recent advice commissioned by the Marine Management Organisation⁸;
- engaged with key decision makers and other stakeholders through the Marine Planning Stakeholder Reference Group (MPSRG)⁹ and public consultation on the draft WNMP and Sustainability Appraisal¹⁰;
- advice on identification of indicators to inform development of the monitoring and reporting framework; and
- drawn on existing guidance for the terrestrial planning system in Wales.

⁵ www.gov.wales/local-development-plan-manual-edition-2-2015

⁶ www.assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/604900/east-marine-plans-three-year-progress-report.pdf

⁷ www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00533191.pdf

⁸ MMO 1151 Review of Marine Plan Monitoring Indicators and their Associated Logic Chains, 15 June 2018. A report prepared by ICF, Live Economics and ABPmer.

⁹ www.gov.wales/marine-planning-stakeholder-reference-group

¹⁰ www.gov.wales/welsh-national-marine-plan-sustainability-appraisal



Monitoring and Reporting Framework

Overview of the WNMP

The WNMP has been prepared in accordance with the **Marine Policy Statement (2011)** and adopted under the **Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA)** and will contribute towards achievement of the **UK High Level Marine Objectives (HLMOs)** in the Welsh marine plan area. The HLMOs reflect the UK Government and devolved administrations shared objectives for UK seas and include environmental, social and economic objectives as well as governance and science objectives.

The WNMP has been developed in line with of the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015** and **Environment (Wales) Act 2016** (see figures 3 and 4) and will also support achievement of Good Environmental Status (GES) as defined by the 11 descriptors of GES in the UK Marine Strategy.

Figure 3: WNMP Policy Context

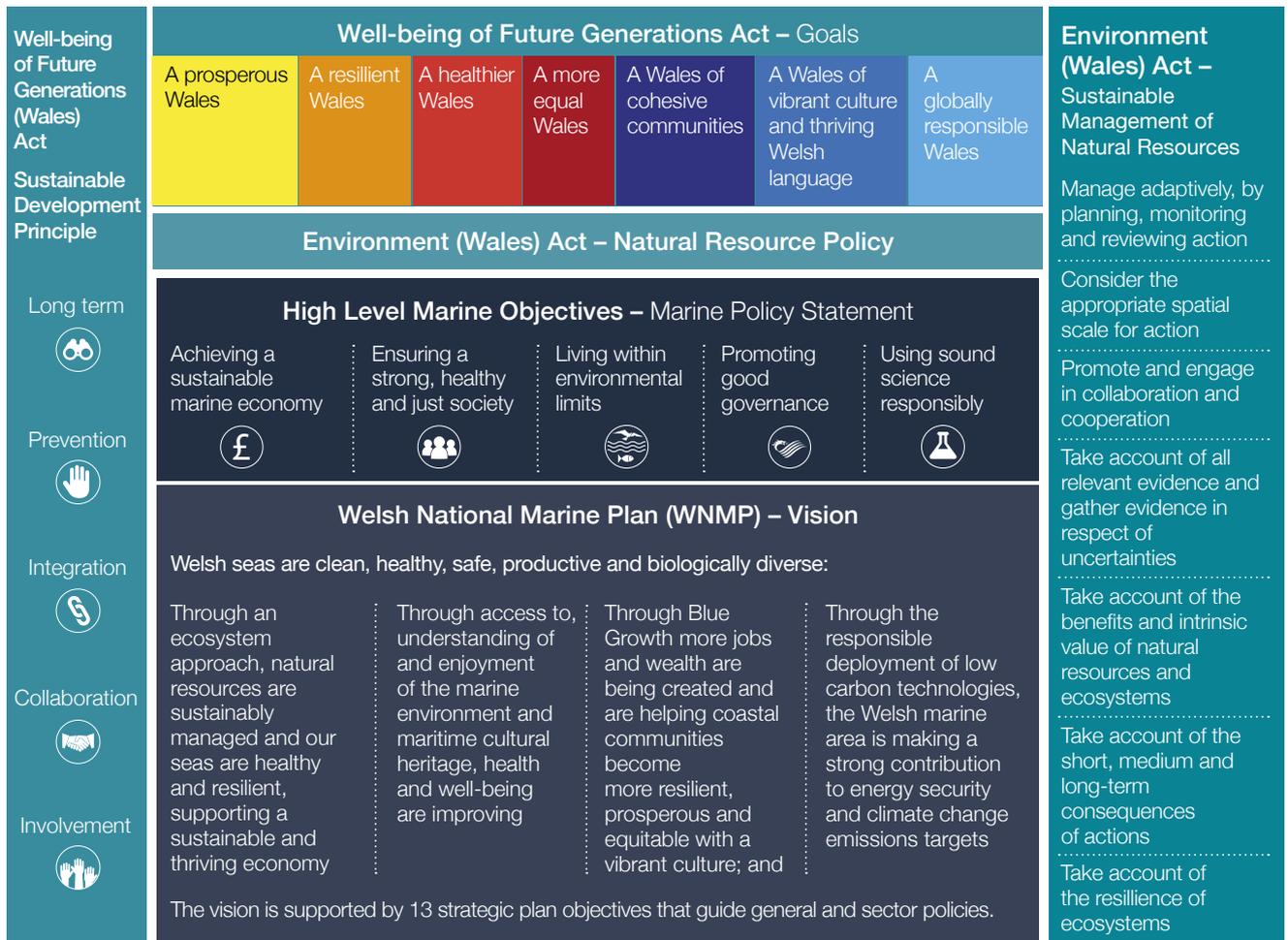
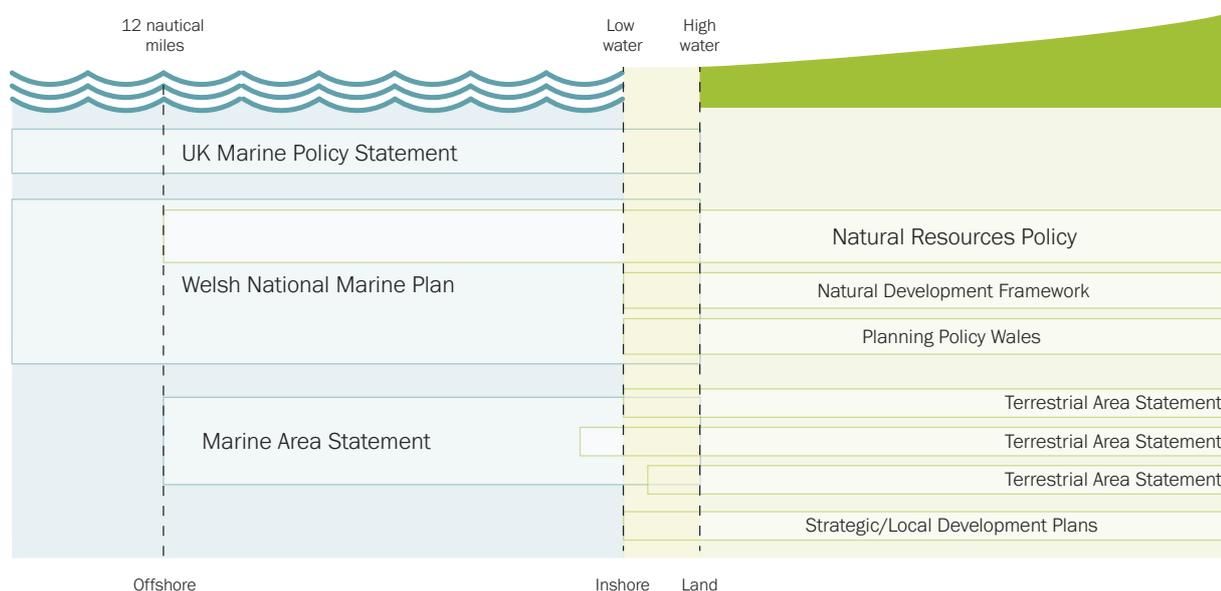


Figure 4: Interactions between the UK MPS (MCAA) and Welsh Natural Resources Policy (Environment Act) and associated plans across the land-sea interface.



The WNMP has the following components, which are linked to and will help to deliver the HLMOs and against the other drivers listed above. (see Annex 1 for full list of objectives and policies):

- **vision:** the overarching aim (ambition) for the Welsh Marine Plan Area;
- **13 plan objectives:** a statement of desired outcomes or observable behavioural changes that the WNMP is seeking to achieve in order to realise the vision;
- **sector objectives:** sector-specific statements of desired outcomes;
- **25 general cross-cutting policies:** these are cross-cutting plan policies that apply to all sectors and activities (though the degree to which they need to be considered depends on the scale and likely impact of the proposal) and support the delivery of the plan objectives;
- **17 sector policies:** operate alongside the general cross-cutting policies as sector specific policies that apply to decisions related to a particular activity. These include supporting policies (to support development of a given sector) and safeguarding policies (to protect a given sector’s current or potential future activities from negative impacts from other activities).

Marine Plan - decision making monitoring

The overarching purpose of the WNMP is to guide the sustainable development of the marine plan area. The WNMP sets out how proposals will be considered by relevant public authorities (RPAs) in making decisions which may affect the Welsh marine plan area. The desired **outcome** of a marine plan is to shift marine management away from what can be described in this context as a reactive and segmented approach, to being ‘plan-led’.

The effectiveness of the WNMP in enabling implementation of a plan-led system in Welsh waters will be assessed using indicators and information which can be summarised as **marine plan – decision making monitoring**.

There are two broad strands within this:

a. Is the WNMP being used?

For the policies within the WMNP to take effect all relevant decisions need to be made according to section 58 of MCAA, which states:

1. A public authority must take any authorisation or enforcement decision in accordance with the appropriate marine policy documents, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise.

2. If a public authority takes an authorisation or enforcement decision otherwise than in accordance with the appropriate marine policy documents, the public authority must state its reasons.
3. A public authority must have regard to the appropriate marine policy documents in taking any decision (a) which relates to the exercise of any function capable of affecting the whole or any part of the UK marine area, but (b) which is not an authorisation or enforcement decision.

Therefore, an assessment/indicator(s) will be required to inform us whether section 58 is being applied to all relevant decisions. This will involve gathering information including:

- mapping the decisions which fall under section 58, starting with section 58(1)
- how many relevant decisions are made using WNMP policies
- are there any particular policies which aren't being applied in practice and if so why?

b) Is the necessary support for marine plan-decision making in place and is it effective?

The benefits of plan-led marine management are articulated via the UK HLMOs, in particular under the themes of 'Promoting good governance' and 'Using sound science responsibly'. There are a number of **plan outcomes** that are linked to these themes and thereby to their associated WNMP objectives (12 and 13) and policies (GEN_02, GOV_02 and SCI_01).

The WNMP outcomes can be broken down into **intermediate outcomes** and **activities** which will support their achievement. As these activities and intermediate outcomes will be fundamental to the WNMP becoming an effective enabler in implementing a plan-led system in Welsh waters,

it is important to create and monitor a set of **marine plan-decision making indicators** (see table 1 on next page).

Many of these activities will be the responsibility of Welsh Government as the planning authority. However, public authorities may also choose to undertake pro-active work in support of their own marine management activity and associated decision making, for example Natural Resources Wales (NRW) have already commissioned a number of internal projects to support implementation of the SCI_01, GEN_02 and ENV_01 policies through their decision making and advisory functions.

RPAs will be an important source of feedback on the effectiveness of supporting activities and outputs and the Marine Planning Decision Maker's Group (MPDMG)¹¹ will be a key forum for gathering this information.

¹¹ www.gov.wales/marine-planning-decision-makers-group

Table 1: Example marine plan decision making indicators

WNMP Objectives	Plan outcomes	Activities	Intermediate Outcomes	Example marine plan–decision making indicators
<p>12. Support proportionate, consistent and integrated decision making through implementing forward-looking policies as part of a plan-led, precautionary, risk based and adaptive approach to managing Welsh seas.</p>	<p>Improvement in effectiveness and efficiency in management of marine activities.</p> <p>Successful integration between marine and terrestrial plans and cross border plans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and raise awareness of the WNMP (e.g. through MPSRG and MPDMG) • Collaborate on cross-border issues • Produce and maintain supplementary plan guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased awareness and understanding of the WNMP • Increased knowledge of needs of plan users • Relevant public authorities taking a proportionate, approach to application of relevant marine plan policies in decision making • Implementation Guidance and Marine Planning Notices 	<p>Monitoring of policy use for marine licence determination during a sample period. (Source: NRW Marine Licensing Team)</p> <p>Local Planning Authority (LPA) reference to WNMP in determination of planning applications (or reason for approval/refusal) (Source: LPAs)</p> <p>Development Plan documents referring to the WNMP (Source: WG/ LPAs, included as required monitoring for Development Management and Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) for LDPs).</p> <p>Marine Management Organisation (MMO) decision-making that refers to the WNMP (Source: MMO)</p>
<p>13. Develop a shared, accessible marine evidence base to support use of sound evidence and provide a mechanism for the unique characteristics and opportunities of the Welsh Marine Plan Area to be better understood.</p>	<p>An improved evidence base is available to support implementation, monitoring and review of the marine plan.</p>	<p>Maintain access to, an understanding of and, where appropriate, contribute to the evidence base</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current evidence base – distribution, quality, accessibility, whether spatial or not (Wales Marine Evidence Report (WMER) and Marine Planning Portal) • Evidence programmes and interaction with WNMP (e.g. Marine Evidence Strategy) 	<p>Quality and relevance of evidence – datasets availability on Wales Marine Planning Portal</p> <p>WMER updated, available and linked to policy indicators</p> <p>Progress on implementing WG/NRW Marine Evidence Strategy.</p> <p>Monitoring of use of WNMP in environmental and other submission to Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning (OPRED) (Source: OPRED – Environmental Management Team).</p>

Policy Monitoring

Defining the relationship between the components of the WNMP (objectives and policies) and the HLMOs is an important starting point for understanding how the WNMP works and to understand what requires monitoring. Table 2 sets this out. Whilst some

policies are expected to contribute to delivery of multiple objectives (see table 3 of the WNMP), for the purposes of developing a focused and proportionate set of indicators each policy has been mapped against the primary objective it will deliver against.

Table 2: Relationship between the HLMOs and WNMP Objectives and policies

HLMO Theme	WNMP Objectives	WNMP Policies (mapped to primary objective)
Overarching	1. Support the sustainable development of the Welsh marine area by contributing across Wales' well-being goals, supporting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR) by taking account of the cumulative effects of all uses of the marine environment	GEN_01 GOV_01
Achieving a sustainable marine economy	2. Contribute to a thriving Welsh economy by encouraging economically productive activities and profitable and sustainable businesses that create long term employment at all skill levels.	ECON_01 and the following sector policies and their objectives: AGG, AQU, D&D, O&G_1a, FIS, P&S, CAB
	3. Supporting the opportunity to sustainably develop marine renewable energy resources with the right development in the right place, helping to achieve the UK's energy security and carbon reduction objectives, whilst fully considering other's interests, and ecosystem resilience.	ELC policies and sector objective(s)
	4. Provide space to support existing and future economic activity through managing multiple uses, encouraging the coexistence of compatible activities, the mitigation of conflicts between users and where possible, by reducing the displacement of existing activities.	ECON_02, SAF_01, SAF_02 and DEF_01
	5. Recognise the significant value of coastal tourism and recreation to the Welsh economy and well-being and ensure such activity and potential for future growth are appropriately safeguarded.	T&R_01
Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society	6. Contribute to supporting the development of vibrant, more equitable, culturally and linguistically distinct, cohesive and resilient coastal communities.	SOC_02 and SOC_04
	7. Support enjoyment and stewardship of our coasts and seas and their resources by encouraging equitable and safe access to a resilient marine environment, whilst protecting and promoting valuable landscapes, seascapes and historic assets.	SOC_01, 05, 06 and 07
	8. Improve understanding and enable action supporting climate change adaptation and mitigation.	SOC_08, 09, 10, 11

HLMO Theme	WNMP Objectives	WNMP Policies (mapped to primary objective)
Living within environmental limits	9. Support the achievement and maintenance of Good Environmental Status (GES) and Good Ecological Status (GeS).	ENV_03, 04, 05, 06, 07
	10. Protect, conserve restore and enhance marine biodiversity to halt and reverse its decline including supporting the development and functioning of a well-managed and ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and resilient populations of representative, rare and vulnerable species.	ENV_01
	11. Maintain and enhance the resilience of marine ecosystems and the benefits they provide in order to meet the needs of present and future generations.	ENV_02
Promoting good governance	12. Support proportionate, consistent and integrated decision making through implementing forward-looking policies as part of a plan-led, precautionary, risk based and adaptive approach to managing Welsh seas.	GOV_02 GEN_02
Using sound science responsibly	13. Develop a shared, accessible marine evidence base to support use of sound evidence and provide a mechanism for the unique characteristics and opportunities of the Welsh Marine Area to be better understood.	SCI_01

As with the marine plan-decision making indicators, it is helpful to use a stepwise approach to identify policy indicators, as set out for a number of example policies in Table 3 (below). For policy indicators, this involves setting out the **aim** and **desired outcome** of each policy, so that indicators and measures can be identified which can assess the real-world outcomes (**effects**) to which the WNMP policies contribute. Measures will also be required to monitor the extent to which a particular policy is being used by applicants to support their proposals and/or being taken into consideration by decision makers.

Working through this approach with RPAs and stakeholders will enable identification of indicators, sources of baseline and future monitoring information and also the links to sustainability monitoring (see section 2.4).

In some cases, a careful definition of the indicator in sectoral, temporal and geographical terms may be required. Consideration will also need to be given to the potential for overlapping policy effects, e.g. between sectoral supporting policies and the coexistence (ECON_02) and safeguarding (SAF_01) policies, all of which may contribute to the outcome of increased productivity of a particular sector.

Importantly, it is recognised that other influences, external to the WNMP, may also overlay and confound a clear understanding of the impact of the WNMP and the implemented policies. It may be beneficial to identify some of these potential sources of external influence as part of the process of developing policy indicators so that they can be taken into account in any subsequent policy review or targeted action. These influences can also be summarised in future monitoring reports as “contextual information” which would form part of the narrative accompanying monitoring information on each policy or objective.

Table 3: Example framework for identifying policy indicators

Policy	Policy aim and outcomes (from WNMP)	Potential policy measures/ indicators
HLMO: Achieving a sustainable marine economy		
<p>T&R_01a:</p> <p>Proposals that demonstrate a positive contribution to tourism and recreation opportunities and policy objectives (for the sector) around the Welsh coast will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan.</p> <p>Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.</p> <p>T&R_01b:</p> <p>Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities for sustainable tourism and recreation around the Welsh coast, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. developing a strategic evidence base to improve understanding of current and potential tourism and recreation activities, including eco-tourism and other low impact activities; and b. opportunities to define areas of future opportunity for tourism and recreation; in order to support the sustainable development of the tourism and recreation sector through marine planning. 	<p>To support proposals which can make a positive contribution to and maximise the potential for the sustainable development of the sector.</p> <p>Increase in sustainable tourism and recreation.</p> <p>To encourage new initiatives and collaborative working to identify opportunities for the sustainable development of tourism and recreation activities and to build the evidence base.</p> <p>Increase in collaborative projects and improved evidence base for this sector.</p>	<p>Number of proposals/applications citing this policy (and trend analysis i.e. increase or decrease from baseline). <i>(Source: NRW, Local Planning Authorities (LPAs), Harbour Authorities)</i></p> <p>Total consents issued or refused for tourism and recreation related activities or development (and trend analysis). <i>(Source: NRW, LPAs, Harbour Authorities)</i></p> <p>Funding allocated to collaborative tourism proportion and enabling projects. <i>(Source: NRW, WG)</i></p> <p>Tourism and recreation evidence base. <i>(Source: WG e.g. Wales Marine Evidence Report / Wales Marine Planning Portal)</i></p>

Policy	Policy aim and outcomes (from WNMP)	Potential policy measures/ indicators
HLMO: Achieving a sustainable marine economy		
<p>ECON_02: Proposals should demonstrate how they have considered opportunities for coexistence with other compatible sectors in order to optimise the value and use of the marine area and marine natural resources.</p>	<p>To support coexistence of relevant activities and uses by encouraging proposals to consider opportunities to bring together differing but compatible activities to make the best possible use of marine space and natural resources over time.</p> <p>Increase in economically active space in the marine plan area.</p> <p>Increase in density and diversity of uses in economically active space in the marine plan area.</p>	<p>Number of proposals/applications citing this policy and/or considering coexistence opportunities (and trend analysis i.e. increase or decrease from baseline). <i>(Source: e.g. NRW, LPAs, Planning Inspectorate)</i></p> <p>Total consents issued or refused for proposals which include coexistence with another activity (and trend analysis). <i>(Source: NRW, LPAs, Harbour Authorities)</i></p> <p>Evidence of decision makers and other stakeholders forming liaison or management groups to facilitate coexistence between compatible sectors (qualitative)</p> <p>Change in density and patterns of marine use. <i>(Source: WG/Wales Marine Planning Portal)</i></p>
HLMO: Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society		
<p>SOC_05: Proposals should demonstrate how potential impacts on historic assets and their settings have been taken into consideration and should, in order of preference:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> avoid adverse impacts on historic assets and their settings; and/or minimise impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or mitigate impacts where they cannot be minimised. <p>If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.</p> <p>Opportunities to enhance historic assets are encouraged.</p>	<p>To prevent substantial loss of or harm to historic assets as a result of inappropriate or uninformed development and where possible identify and take up opportunities to enhance them.</p> <p>Quality and value of historic assets, maintained and if possible enhanced.</p>	<p>Number of proposals/applications citing this policy (and trend analysis i.e. increase or decrease from baseline) <i>(Source: e.g. NRW, LPAs, Planning Inspectorate)</i></p> <p>Trends in the number, extent, type and condition of designated historic assets offshore and in coastal areas.</p> <p>Percentage of designated historic environment assets that are in stable or improved conditions <i>(Source: CADW and WG)</i></p> <p>Number of proposals consented or rejected that would have adverse impacts on historic assets and their settings that cannot be avoided/minimised/mitigated.</p> <p>Number of proposals consented that include measures to enhance historic assets. <i>(Source: NRW Marine Licensing Team, LPAs, Crown Estate)</i></p> <p>Funding allocated to projects which enhance historic assets. <i>(Source: WG, CADW)</i></p>

Policy	Policy aim and outcomes (from WNMP)	Potential policy measures/ indicators
HLMO: Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society		
<p>SOC_10: Proposals should demonstrate how they, in order of preference:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> avoid the emission of greenhouse gases; and/or minimise them where they cannot be avoided; and/or mitigate them where they cannot be minimised. Where significant emission of greenhouse gases cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals for regulated activities must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. 	<p>To ensure that proposals consider all emissions directly related to the proposed development or activity (including greenhouse gases associated with construction and operation) as well as emissions indirectly related to the development or activity (such as increased journey lengths for vessels arising from a development).</p> <p>Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from proposals with potential to affect the marine plan area.</p>	<p>Number of proposals/applications citing this policy and/or considering potential greenhouse gas emissions (and trend analysis i.e. increase or decrease from baseline). <i>(Source: e.g. NRW, LPAs, Planning Inspectorate)</i></p> <p>Case for proceeding for proposals consented where significant emission of greenhouse gases could not be avoided, minimised or mitigated (qualitative).</p> <p>Total, change and trend in marine-related greenhouse gas emissions (kCO₂e). <i>(Source: WG)</i></p>
HLMO: Living within environmental limits		
<p>ENV_01: Proposals should demonstrate how potential impacts on marine ecosystems have been taken into consideration and should, in order of preference:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> avoid adverse impacts; and/or minimise impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or mitigate impacts where they cannot be minimised. <p>If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.</p> <p>Proposals that contribute to the protection, restoration and/or enhancement of marine ecosystems are encouraged.</p>	<p>To ensure that biological and geological components of ecosystems are maintained, restored where needed and enhanced where possible, to increase the resilience of marine ecosystems and the benefits they provide.</p> <p><i>Increase in biodiversity (biodiversity is protected, conserved & where appropriate, recovered and enhanced).</i></p> <p><i>A biologically diverse environment and a healthy and resilient ecosystem.</i></p>	<p>Number of proposals/applications citing this policy (and trend analysis i.e. increase or decrease from baseline).</p> <p>Number of proposals consented that would have adverse impacts on marine ecosystems that cannot be avoided/minimised/mitigated.</p> <p>Number of proposals consented that involve habitat restoration and enhancement. <i>(Source: e.g. NRW, LPAs, Planning Inspectorate)</i></p> <p>Marine biodiversity and resilience indicators from State of Nature Reporting (SoNaRR). <i>(Source: NRW)</i></p>
<p>ENV_03: Proposals should demonstrate how they avoid or minimise the risk of introducing and spreading invasive non-native species (INNS). Where appropriate, proposals should include biosecurity measures to reduce the risk of introducing and spreading of invasive non-native species.</p>	<p>To reduce or stop the introduction or spread of invasive non-native species.</p>	<p>Number of proposals/applications citing this policy and/or including biosecurity measures (and trend analysis i.e. increase or decrease from baseline). <i>(Source: e.g. NRW, LPAs, Planning Inspectorate, OPRED)</i></p> <p>Distribution of INNS in the marine plan area (including trend analysis). <i>(Source: NRW/Wales Marine Planning Portal)</i></p>

Sustainability Monitoring

As required by Schedule 6 (Part 10) of the MCAA, a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) was carried out to assess the WNMP against a range of socio-economic and environmental criteria to help ensure that sustainable development has been integrated into the WNMP.

The SA of the WNMP outlines 14 criteria that represent the desired social, economic and environmental outcomes of the WNMP and involve minimising potential adverse effects and enhancing

positive effects. By appraising the policies of the WNMP against the criteria, it is apparent where they will contribute to sustainability, where they might have an adverse effect, and where any positive effects could be enhanced.

The requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (Wales) also requires monitoring of the significant effects of implementing the WNMP (see table 4 below) including unforeseen adverse environmental effects.

Table 4: Summary of significant effects identified by the Sustainability Appraisal of the WNMP

SA Criteria	Significant Positive Effects		Significant Negative Effects	Linked to WNMP Objective:
	General Policies	Sector policies		
1. Biodiversity	SOC_03, ENV_01 - 06			10
2. Water	SOC_03, ENV_01, 02, 04, 06	SAF_01		9
3. Physical Environment	SOC_08, 09, ENV_01, 02			11
4. Air Quality	SOC_03, ENV_06			9
5. Landscape and Seascape	SOC_05, 06, 07		ELC_01	7
6. Climate Change	SOC_08, 09, 10, 11, 12	SAF_01, ELC_01, 02, 03, O&G_02, CAB_01		8
7. Heritage	SOC_04, 05, 07			7
8. Welsh Language	SOC_04			6
9. Tourism	ECON_01, SOC_01, 05, 07,	SAF_01, T&R_01		5
10. Resources	SOC_10, ENV_04	AGG_01, ELC_01, 02, 03, CAB_01		3
11. Economy	ECON_01, 02, SOC_09, ENV_03	SAF_01, AGG_01, AQU_01, D&D_01, ELC_01, 02, 03, P&S_01, 02, CAB_01, T&R_01		2
12. Wellbeing	ECON_01, SOC_02, 03	ELC_01, 03, P&S_01, 02, CAB_01, T&R_01		6
13. Health	SOC_03, 09, ENV_06	SAF_01, T&R_01		6
14. Governance	GEN_02, ECON_02, GOV_01, 02, SCI_01	ELC_01		12

Appendix G of the SA, contains a list of example indicators for sustainability monitoring, but notes that these are provisional and indicative. As part of an integrated monitoring framework for the WNMP, Welsh Government propose to cross reference the detailed assessment of the significant effects of each policy in the SA with the indicators identified through consideration of policy aims and outcomes (see section 2.3 above).

This will ensure that where relevant, **each policy will have indicators for those SA criteria which have been assessed as being significantly impacted by that policy.**

For example, for policy **ELC_01 Low carbon energy (supporting) wind** significant positive effects have been identified for:

- **Climate change and resources:** in the long term offshore windfarms (OWF) have been assessed as having a significant positive effect on climate change and use of resources, however in the short-term, construction of the windfarms will use energy and raw materials, leading to mixed minor negative impacts as well. It may therefore be important to monitor the input/output for new OWF development to ensure that the benefits are indeed outweighing the costs.
- **Economy and wellbeing:** there is potential for considerable investment in local economies and supply chain for new OWF development and investment in communities through community funds; this could be monitored to understand how benefits are being felt locally.

- **Governance:** collaboration between relevant public authorities, industry and researchers that results in further strategic planning and evidence gathering for the OWF sector should have a significant positive effect on governance in terms of de-risking consenting and ensuring development of this sector in the marine plan area is sustainable. Progress in this area and the availability of new evidence around constraints and opportunities for the OWF sector could be monitored.

A significant negative effect has been identified for **landscape and seascape** due to the nature of large scale offshore windfarms and the sensitivity of a large proportion of the Welsh coast (54% is designated as Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) or National Park). However, the SA also notes that the magnitude of visual impact of offshore wind development may be minimised by siting away from sensitive areas and following guidance on layout and design. It will be important therefore to monitor whether these mitigation measures are being applied.

Table 5 (overleaf) summarises how indicators for these potential significant effects can be identified either by linking them to policy indicators (that reflect the aim and desired outcome of each policy) or identifying additional indicators.

Table 5: Example policy and sustainability indicators for the ELC_01 policies

Policy	Policy aim and outcomes (from WNMP)	Potential policy measures/indicators (with links to SA indicators/criteria):
ELC_01 Low carbon energy (supporting) wind		
<p>ELC_01a:</p> <p>Proposals for offshore wind energy generation will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.</p> <p>Proposals for wind >350MW will be considered by UK Government in accordance with relevant national policy. In determining an Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) for a wind proposal, the decision maker will have regard to this plan.</p>	<p>To support further commercial deployment of offshore wind technologies at scale over the lifetime of this plan.</p> <p><i>Further offshore wind development contributes significantly to the decarbonisation of our economy and to our prosperity.</i></p>	<p>Amount of new OWF development in Welsh waters and it's contribution to meeting WG renewable energy generation target.</p> <p>(links to SA climate change criteria)</p> <p>Employment level in the OWF sector</p> <p>Number of local businesses in the OWF sector</p> <p>(links to SA economy criteria)</p> <p>Additional SA indicators:</p> <p>Landscape and Seascape: location of new OWF development in relation to the low and medium magnitude buffer zones for visual impact, identified in NRW guidance.¹²</p> <p>Climate change and resources: lifecycle analysis of any new OWF to analyse carbon and resources used in their production compared with those saved over the lifetime of the wind farm.</p> <p>Wellbeing: contribution of OWF community funds to wellbeing of coastal communities.</p>
<p>ELC_01 b: In order to understand future opportunities for offshore wind development, including floating technologies, this plan supports strategic planning for the sector.</p> <p>Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities for the sustainable use of wind energy resources.</p>	<p>To support relevant public authorities, industry and researchers to collaborate to better understand and identify future opportunities for new offshore wind development.</p> <p><i>Increased understanding of the opportunities for the sustainable development of the offshore wind sector in the marine plan area.</i></p>	<p>New strategic planning or evidence gathering for OWF in Welsh waters.</p> <p>Availability of evidence for the OWF sector in the marine plan area (e.g. on the Marine Planning Portal).</p> <p>Progress in development of potential Strategic Resource Areas for offshore wind energy resource safeguarding in the marine plan area.</p> <p>(links to governance criteria)</p>

¹² White, S. Michaels, S. King, H. 2019. Seascape and visual sensitivity to offshore wind farms in Wales: Strategic assessment and guidance. Stage 1- Ready reckoner of visual effects related to turbine size. NRW Evidence Series. Report No: 315, 94pp, NRW, Bangor.

Next Steps

Welsh Government intends to continue working with the Marine Planning Stakeholder Reference (MPSRG) and Marine Planning Decision Makers (MPDMG) groups to develop a full set of WNMP indicators and supporting baseline and monitoring information using the approach outlined in this framework and the implementation guidance produced in support of the WNMP.

For further information contact:

marineplanning@gov.wales



Annex 1 – Vision, Objectives and Policies

Plan Vision

Welsh seas are clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse:

- Through an ecosystem approach, natural resources are sustainably managed and our seas are healthy and resilient, supporting a sustainable and thriving economy.
- Through access to, understanding of and enjoyment of the marine environment and maritime cultural heritage, health and well-being are improving.
- Through Blue Growth more jobs and wealth are being created and are helping coastal communities become more resilient, prosperous and equitable with a vibrant culture.
- Through the responsible deployment of low carbon technologies, the Welsh marine area is making a strong contribution to energy security and climate change emissions targets.

Plan Objectives

HLMO theme	Objective	
Overarching	1	Support the sustainable development of the Welsh marine area by contributing across Wales' well-being goals, supporting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR) through decision making and by taking account of the cumulative effects of all uses of the marine environment.
Achieving a sustainable marine economy	2	Contribute to a thriving Welsh economy by encouraging economically productive activities and profitable and sustainable businesses that create long term employment at all skill levels.
	3	Support the opportunity to sustainably develop marine renewable energy resources with the right development in the right place, helping to achieve the UK's energy security and carbon reduction objectives, whilst fully considering other's interests, and ecosystem resilience.
	4	Provide space to support existing and future economic activity through managing multiple uses, encouraging the coexistence of compatible activities, the mitigation of conflicts between users and, where possible, by reducing the displacement of existing activities.
	5	Recognise the significant value of coastal tourism and recreation to the Welsh economy and well-being and ensure such activity and potential for future growth are appropriately safeguarded.
Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society	6	Contribute to supporting the development of vibrant, more equitable, culturally and linguistically distinct, cohesive and resilient coastal communities.
	7	Support enjoyment and stewardship of our coasts and seas and their resources by encouraging equitable and safe access to a resilient marine environment, whilst protecting and promoting valuable landscapes, seascapes and historic assets.
	8	Improve understanding and enable action supporting climate change adaptation and mitigation.

HLMO theme	Objective	
Living within environmental limits	9	Support the achievement and maintenance of Good Environmental Status (GES) and Good Ecological Status (GeS).
	10	Protect, conserve, restore and enhance marine biodiversity to halt and reverse its decline including supporting the development and functioning of a well-managed and ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and resilient populations of representative, rare and vulnerable species.
	11	Maintain and enhance the resilience of marine ecosystems and the benefits they provide in order to meet the needs of present and future generations.
Promoting good governance	12	Support proportionate, consistent and integrated decision making through implementing forward-looking policies as part of a plan-led, precautionary, risk-based and adaptive approach to managing Welsh seas.
Using sound science responsibly	13	Develop a shared, accessible marine evidence base to support use of sound evidence and provide a mechanism for the unique characteristics and opportunities of the Welsh Marine Area to be better understood.

General Policies

GEN_01: Planning policy

There is a presumption in favour of the sustainable development of the plan area in order to contribute to Wales' well-being goals.

GEN_02: Planning policy

Relevant public authorities should take a proportionate, risk-based approach to application of relevant marine planning policies in decision making.

ECON_01: Sustainable economic growth

Proposals for economically sustainable activities are encouraged, particularly where they contribute to:

- the sustainable management of natural resources thereby supporting ecosystem resilience;
- a more resilient economy;
- employment opportunities particularly for coastal communities;
- protecting and creating employment at all skill levels;
- maintaining communities with a high-density of Welsh speakers; and/or

- tackling poverty by supporting deprived coastal communities.

ECON_02: Coexistence

Proposals should demonstrate how they have considered opportunities for coexistence with other compatible sectors in order to optimise the value and use of the marine area and marine natural resources.

SOC_01: Access to the marine environment

Proposals that maintain or enhance access to the marine environment are encouraged.

SOC_02: Well-being of coastal communities

Proposals that contribute to the well-being of coastal communities are encouraged.

SOC_03: Marine pollution incidents

Proposals should demonstrate how they minimise their risk of causing or contributing to marine pollution incidents.

SOC_04: Welsh language and culture

Proposals that contribute to the promotion and facilitation of the use of the Welsh language and culture are encouraged.

SOC_05: Historic assets

Proposals should demonstrate how potential impacts on historic assets and their settings have been taken into consideration and should, in order of preference:

- a) avoid adverse impacts on historic assets and their settings; and/or
- b) minimise impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or
- c) mitigate impacts where they cannot be minimised.

If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.

Opportunities to enhance historic assets are encouraged.

SOC_06: Designated landscapes

Proposals should demonstrate how potential impacts on the purposes and special qualities for which National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty have been designated have been taken into consideration and should, in order of preference:

- a) avoid adverse impacts on designated landscapes; and/or
- b) minimise impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or
- c) mitigate impacts where they cannot be minimised.

If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.

Opportunities to enhance designated landscapes are encouraged.

SOC_07: Seascapes

Proposals should demonstrate how potential impacts on seascapes have been taken into consideration and should, in order of preference:

- a) avoid adverse impacts on seascapes; and/or
- b) minimise impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or
- c) mitigate impacts where they cannot be minimised.

If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.

Opportunities to enhance seascapes are encouraged.

SOC_08: Resilience to coastal change and flooding

Proposals should demonstrate how they are resilient to coastal change and flooding over their lifetime.

SOC_09: Effects on coastal change and flooding

Proposals should demonstrate how they:

- avoid significant adverse impacts upon coastal processes; and
- minimise the risk of coastal change and flooding;

Proposals that align with the relevant Shoreline Management Plan(s) and its policies are encouraged.

SOC_10: Minimising climate change

Proposals should demonstrate how they, in order of preference:

- a) avoid the emission of greenhouse gases; and/or
- b) minimise them where they cannot be avoided; and/or
- c) mitigate them where they cannot be minimised.

Where significant emission of greenhouse gases cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals for regulated activities must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.

SOC_11: Resilience to climate change

Proposals should demonstrate that they have considered the impacts of climate change and have incorporated appropriate adaptation measures, taking into account Climate Change Risk Assessments for Wales.

Proposals that contribute to climate change adaptation and/or mitigation are encouraged.

ENV_01: Resilient marine ecosystems

Proposals should demonstrate how potential impacts on marine ecosystems have been taken into consideration and should, in order of preference:

- a) avoid adverse impacts; and/or
- b) minimise impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or
- c) mitigate impacts where they cannot be minimised.

If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.

Proposals that contribute to the protection, restoration and/or enhancement of marine ecosystems are encouraged.

ENV_02: Marine Protected Areas

Proposals should demonstrate how they:

- avoid adverse impacts on individual Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and the coherence of the network as a whole;
- have regard to the measures to manage MPAs; and
- avoid adverse impacts on designated sites that are not part of the MPA network.

ENV_03: Invasive non-native species

Proposals should demonstrate how they avoid or minimise the risk of introducing and spreading invasive non-native species.

Where appropriate, proposals should include biosecurity measures to reduce the risk of introducing and spreading of invasive non-native species.

ENV_04: Marine litter

Proposals should demonstrate how they:

- avoid the deliberate introduction of litter into the marine plan area; and
- minimise the risk of accidental release of litter.

ENV_05: Underwater noise

Proposals should demonstrate that they have considered man-made noise impacts on the marine environment and, in order of preference:

- a) avoid adverse impacts; and/or
- b) minimise impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or
- c) mitigate impacts where they cannot be minimised.

If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.

ENV_06: Air and water quality

Proposals should demonstrate that they have considered their potential air and water quality impacts and should, in order of preference:

- a) avoid adverse impacts; and/or
- b) minimise adverse impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or
- c) mitigate adverse impacts where they cannot be minimised.

If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.

ENV_07: Fish Species and Habitats

Proposals potentially affecting important feeding, breeding (including spawning & nursery) and migration areas or habitats for key fish and shellfish species of commercial or ecological importance should demonstrate how they, in order of preference:

- a) avoid adverse impacts on those areas; and/or
- b) minimise adverse impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or
- c) mitigate adverse impacts where they cannot be minimised;

If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.

GOV_01: Cumulative effects

Proposals should demonstrate that they have assessed potential cumulative effects and should, in order of preference:

- a) avoid adverse effects; and/or
- b) minimise effects where they cannot be avoided; and/or
- c) mitigate effects where they cannot be minimised.

If significant adverse effects cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.

Proposals that contribute to positive cumulative effects are encouraged.

GOV_02: Cross-border and plan compatibility

Relevant public authorities, in making their decisions, should have regard to:

- any applicable policy in a relevant marine plan;
- any applicable policy in relevant terrestrial development plans or related documents;
- the Natural Resources Policy;
- any relevant local well-being plan(s) (including the local well-being assessment); and

- evidence in any relevant Area Statement(s) produced by Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

SCI_01: Using sound science responsibly

Relevant public authorities should make decisions using sound evidence and a risk-based, proportionate approach. Where appropriate they should apply the precautionary principle and consider opportunities to apply adaptive management.

Sector Supporting Policies

Aggregates

Sector Objective

To continue to use marine aggregates resources at a rate and in locations which best meet our current and future needs by ensuring adequate reserves are provided for through long-term licences.

AGG_01a: Aggregates (supporting)

Proposals for new aggregate extraction will be supported, within any tonnage limits, where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.

AGG_01b: Aggregates (supporting)

Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities:

- for the sustainable use of wider marine aggregate natural resources;
- to define and, once in place, further develop and refine Strategic Resource Areas for aggregates

in order to support the sustainable development of the aggregate sector through marine planning.

Aquaculture

Sector Objective

To facilitate the development of sustainable aquaculture in Welsh waters, including promoting innovative finfish, shellfish and marine algal businesses and associated supply chains.

AQU_01a: Aquaculture (supporting)

Proposals for new aquaculture developments will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.

AQU_01b: Aquaculture (supporting)

Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities for the sustainable use of aquaculture resources including the identification of:

- natural resources that provide aquaculture potential
- opportunities to define and, once in place, further develop and refine Strategic Resource Areas for aquaculture

in order to support the sustainable development of the aquaculture sector through marine planning.

Defence

Sector Objective

To contribute to the defence of the nation by ensuring that Defence and National Security activities are not compromised.

Dredging and Disposal

Sector Objective

To maintain safe and effective navigational access for shipping, fishing and leisure craft and support future growth and increases in port facilities and vessel size whilst promoting the optimal sustainable use of dredged material and ensuring adequate disposal facilities are available.

D&D_01: Dredging and Disposal (supporting)

Proposals that maintain navigable channels and long term access to open at-sea disposal sites for appropriate material will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.

Energy – Low Carbon

Sector Objective

To contribute significantly to the decarbonisation of our economy and to our prosperity by increasing the amount of marine renewable energy generated, through:

- Supporting further commercial deployment of offshore wind technologies at scale over the lifetime of this Plan;
- Supporting the development and demonstration of wave energy and tidal stream technologies in the short to medium term;
- Increasing (where appropriate) the number of wave energy and tidal stream energy generation devices deployed in commercial scale developments over the medium term;
- Developing a better understanding of the potential for tidal lagoon power technology; and
- Recognising the potential role of the marine environment in new coastal nuclear energy generation facilities.

To develop Wales as an exemplar of marine renewable energy technology by developing the essential skill base, infrastructure and technical knowledge to support the development of the industry over the next 20 years.

ELC_01a: Low carbon energy (supporting) wind

Proposals for offshore wind energy generation will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.

Proposals for wind >350MW will be considered by UK Government in accordance with relevant national policy. In determining an NSIP for a wind proposal, the decision maker will have regard to this plan. Any determination in relation to energy developments of any scale will be taken in accordance with this plan alongside any other relevant considerations.

ELC_01b: Low carbon energy (supporting) wind

In order to understand future opportunities for offshore wind development, including floating technologies, this plan supports strategic planning for the sector. Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities for the sustainable use of wind energy resources including identification of:

- natural resources that provide potential opportunity for future use;
- evidence to de-risk consenting for the sector; and
- opportunities to define and, once in place, further develop and refine Strategic Resource Areas for offshore wind energy resource safeguarding;

in order to support the sustainable development of the sector through marine planning.

Relevant public authorities should make appropriate evidence available to support planning and decision making in order to support the sustainable development of the sector through marine planning, where it is appropriate to do so.

ELC_02a: Low carbon energy (supporting) wave

Proposals for wave energy generation will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.

ELC_02b: Low carbon energy (supporting) wave

In order to understand future opportunities for wave energy development, relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities for the sustainable use of wave energy resources including identification of:

- natural resources that provide potential opportunity for future use;
- evidence to de-risk consenting for the sector; and
- opportunities to define and, once in place, further develop and refine Strategic Resource Areas for wave energy resource safeguarding;

in order to support the sustainable development of the sector through marine planning.

Relevant public authorities should make appropriate evidence available to support planning and decision making in order to support the sustainable development of the sector through marine planning, where it is appropriate to do so.

ELC_03a: Low carbon energy (supporting) tidal stream

Proposals for tidal stream energy generation will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.

ELC_03b: Low carbon energy (supporting) tidal stream

In order to understand future opportunities for tidal stream energy development, relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities for the sustainable use of tidal stream energy resources including identification of:

- natural resources that provide potential opportunity for future use;
- evidence to de-risk consenting for the sector; and
- opportunities to define and, once in place, further develop and refine Strategic Resource Areas for tidal stream energy resource safeguarding;

in order to support the sustainable development of the sector through marine planning.

Relevant public authorities should make appropriate evidence available to support planning and decision making in order to support the sustainable development of the sector through marine planning, where it is appropriate to do so.

ELC_04: Low carbon energy (supporting) tidal range

In order to understand future opportunities for tidal range development, strategic planning for the sector is encouraged. Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to:

- collect evidence to support understanding of environmental constraints and opportunities for the sustainable use of the tidal range resource;

- support understanding of the optimal siting of tidal lagoon developments across Wales as part of a wider, UK perspective; and
- identify opportunities to define and, once in place, further develop and refine Strategic Resource Areas for tidal lagoon safeguarding purposes.

Relevant public authorities should make appropriate evidence available to support planning and decision making in order to support the sustainable development of the sector through marine planning, where it is appropriate to do so.

Energy – Oil and Gas

Sector Objective

Maximising the sustainable recovery of UK oil and gas in order to provide commercial and domestic consumers with a secure, affordable and resilient supply of energy whilst meeting UK decarbonisation goals.

O&G_01a: Oil and gas (supporting)

Proposals that maximise the economic recovery of oil and gas sustainably will be supported where they comply with the objectives of this plan, and fully meet the environmental safeguards contained within the statutory processes of awarding production licences and subsequent activity-specific approvals. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.

O&G_01b: Oil and gas (supporting)

Welsh Government policy is to avoid the continued extraction of fossil fuels in intertidal areas and estuaries and coastal inlet waters that fall within the Welsh onshore licence area. Applications for new petroleum licenses in these areas should not be supported, unless required for mine safety or scientific purposes. Proposals for the development

and extraction of oil and gas in these areas with land based elements must provide robust and credible evidence to demonstrate how they conform to the Planning Policy Wales Energy Hierarchy for Planning, including how they make a necessary contribution towards decarbonising the energy system.

O&G_02: Oil and gas (supporting)

Proposals that support the long-term development of carbon capture and storage technology will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.

Fisheries

Sector Objective

To support and safeguard a sustainable, diversified and profitable fishing sector including promoting sustainable capture fisheries and optimising the economic value of fish caught as a supply of sustainable protein.

FIS_01a: Fisheries (supporting)

Proposals that support and enhance sustainable fishing activities will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.

FIS_01b: Fisheries (supporting)

Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities to develop a strategic evidence base to improve understanding of opportunities for the sustainable development of fisheries in order to support the sustainable development of the fisheries sector through marine planning.

Ports and Shipping

Sector Objective

To safeguard established shipping routes and support sustainable development in the shipping and ports sector.

P&S_01a: Ports and Shipping (supporting)

Proposals for ports, harbours and shipping activities will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.

P&S_01b: Ports and Shipping (supporting)

Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities to support the sustainable development of the ports and shipping sector through marine planning.

P&S_02: Ports and Shipping (supporting)

Proposals that provide for the maintenance, repair, development and diversification of port and harbour facilities will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.

Subsea Cabling

Sector Objective

To support the optimal distribution of electricity and better global communications through the growth of digital communication networks.

CAB_01: Subsea cabling (supporting)

Proposals that facilitate the growth of digital communications networks and/or the optimal distribution of electricity will be supported where

they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.

Surface Water and Wastewater Treatment and Disposal

Sector Objective

To safeguard the capacity to safely and effectively treat and discharge surface water runoff and wastewater.

Tourism and Recreation

Sector Objective

To contribute to sustainable development by protecting and promoting access to the coast and improving the quality of the visitor experience thereby increasing Wales' reputation as a world class sustainable marine tourism and recreation destination.

T&R_01a: Tourism and recreation (supporting)

Proposals that demonstrate a positive contribution to tourism and recreation opportunities and policy objectives (for the sector) around the Welsh coast will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.

T&R_01b: Tourism and recreation (supporting)

Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities for sustainable tourism and recreation around the Welsh coast, including:

- a) developing a strategic evidence base to improve understanding of current and potential tourism and recreation activities, including eco-tourism and other low impact activities; and
- b) opportunities to define areas of future opportunity for tourism and recreation;

in order to support the sustainable development of the tourism and recreation sector through marine planning.

Sector Safeguarding Policies

SAF_01: Safeguarding existing activity

- a) Proposals likely to have significant adverse impacts upon an established activity covered by a formal application or authorisation must demonstrate how they will address compatibility issues with that activity.

Proposals unable to demonstrate adequate compatibility must present a clear and convincing case for the proposal to progress under exceptional circumstances.

- b) Proposals likely to have significant adverse impacts upon an established activity not subject to a formal authorisation must demonstrate how they will address compatibility issues with that activity.

Proposals unable to demonstrate adequate compatibility must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.

Under SAF 01 a and b, compatibility should be demonstrated through, in order of preference:

- Avoiding significant adverse impacts on those activities, and/or
- Minimising significant adverse impacts where these cannot be avoided; and/or
- Mitigating significant adverse impacts where they cannot be minimised

SAF_02: Safeguarding strategic resources

Proposals which may have significant adverse impacts upon the prospects of any sector covered by this plan to engage in sustainable future strategic resource use (of resources identified by an SRA) must demonstrate how they will address compatibility issues with that potential resource use.

Proposals unable to demonstrate adequate compatibility must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.

Compatibility should be demonstrated through, in order of preference:

- Avoiding significant adverse impacts on this potential strategic resource use, and/or
- Minimising significant adverse impacts where these cannot be avoided; and/or
- Mitigating significant adverse impacts where they cannot be minimised

DEF_01: Defence (safeguarding)

Proposals that:

- potentially affect Ministry of Defence (MOD) Danger Areas, Exercise Areas or strategic defence interests; and/or
- potentially interfere with communication, surveillance and navigation facilities necessary for defence and national security;

should only be authorised with the agreement of MOD.