



The Natural Capital & Ecosystem Assessment Programme

Mike Nelson | EA



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Shannon Moran / Ocean Image Bank



Hannah Westoby / EA



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Mike Best / EA



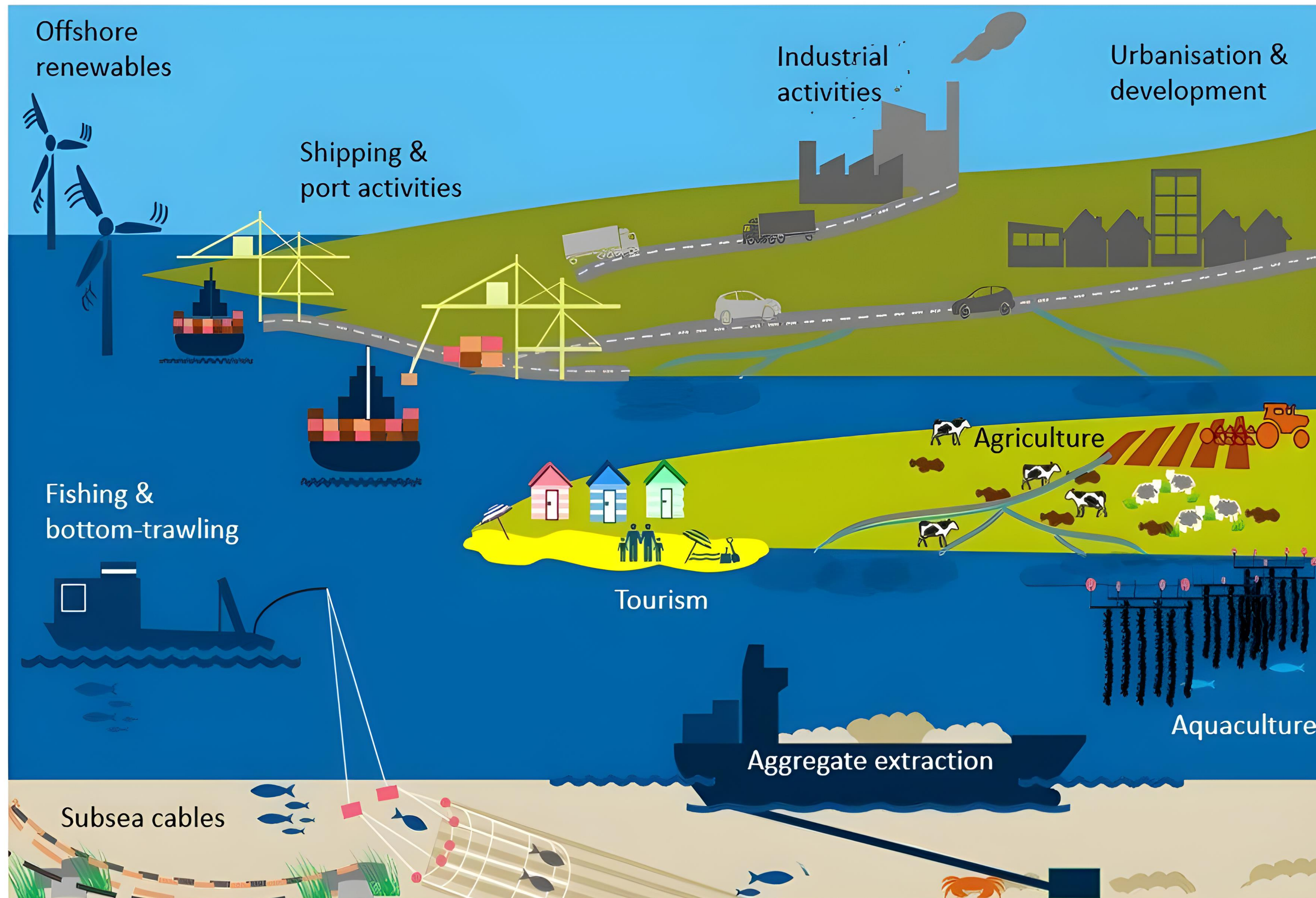
Shannon Moran / Ocean Image Bank

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What is the NCEA Programme?

The **Natural Capital and Ecosystem Assessment** (NCEA) is a Defra science innovation and transformation programme, spanning land and water environments, to answer:

- How can we improve our understanding of our **natural assets**?
- How can we better understand the **benefits** and **services** our natural assets provide?
- How can we ensure policy decisions take account of the **full value** of nature?
- How can natural capital approaches be applied in decision making to achieve **better outcomes for nature**?

What is the NCEA Programme?

Spit into **Marine** and **Terrestrial** programmes,
delivered by Defra ALBs and project partners

EA leads delivery of the NCEA for freshwater,
estuarine, and coastal waters



How NC approaches can be used in **decision making** at local and national scales

Monitoring natural capital assets (incl. seagrass, saltmarsh, kelp & plankton)

Innovation and Citizen Science

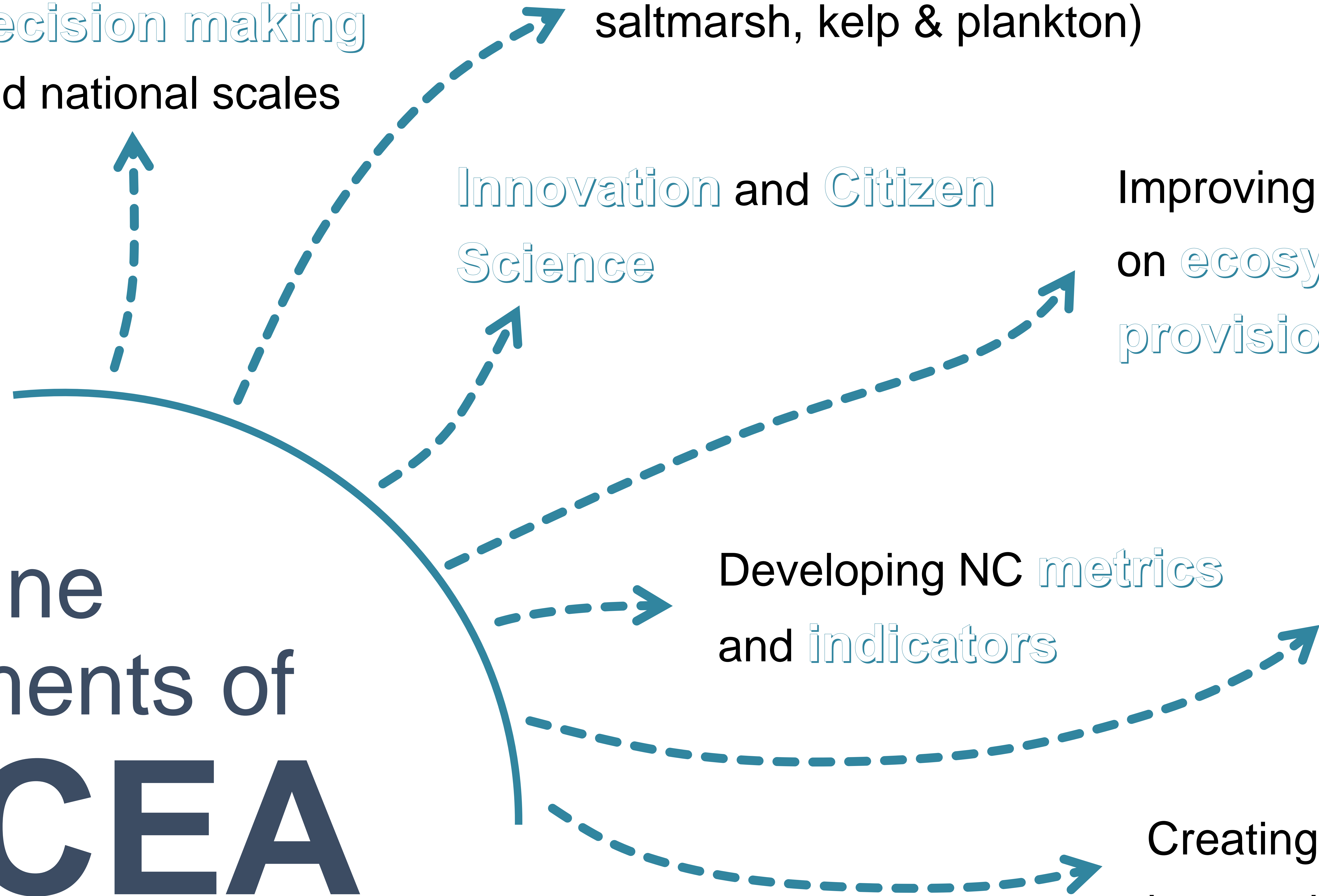
Improving our evidence base on **ecosystem service provision**

Developing NC **metrics and indicators**

Connecting across the **Land-Sea Interface**

Creating partnerships and harnessing **social capital**

Marine elements of
NCEA



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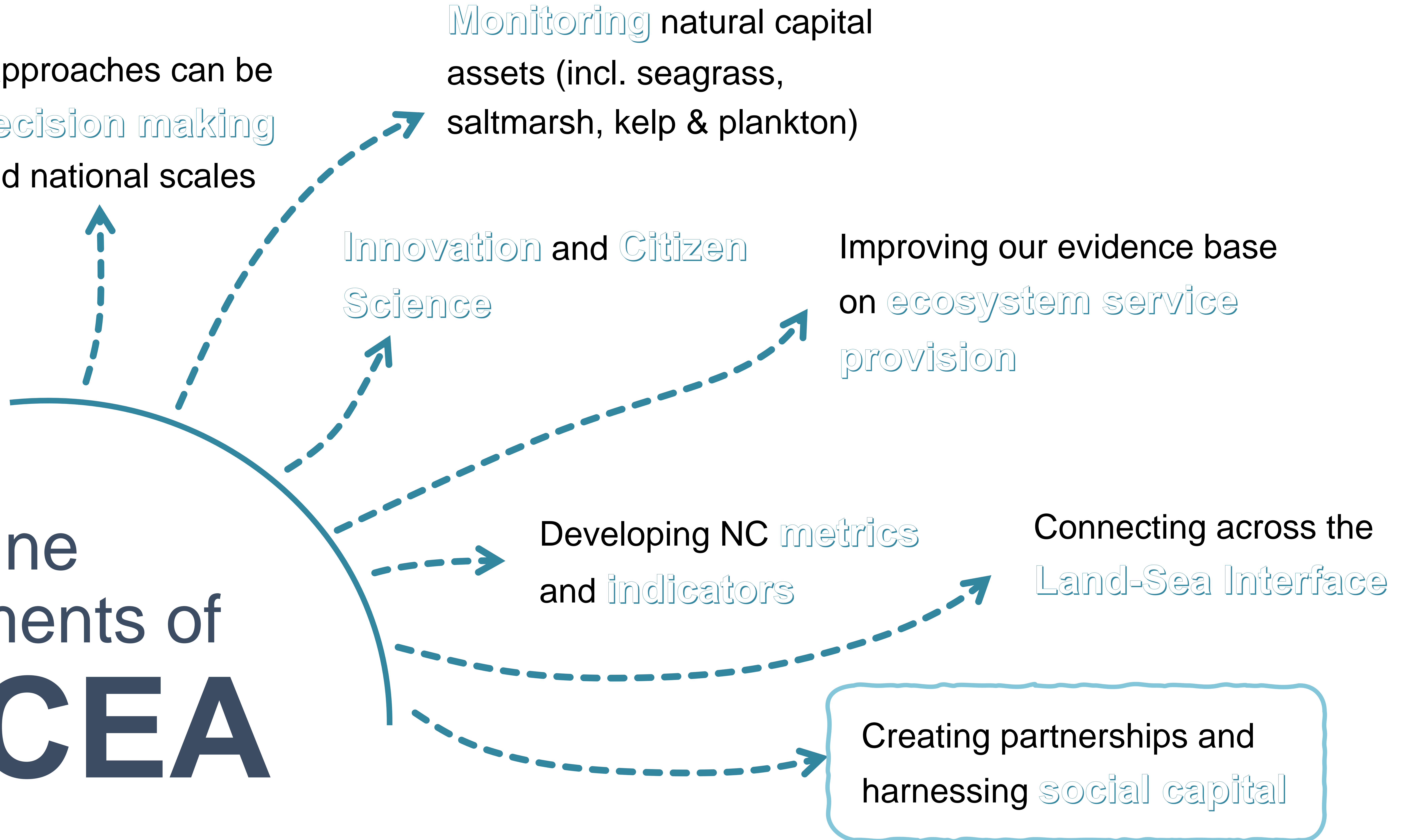
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Marine elements of
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South-West Marine Ecosystems in 2022 (The State of South-West Seas) Report for 2022



Seabirds numbers were affected (but not as severely as in northern parts of Britain) by the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza outbreak. Image: Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust.



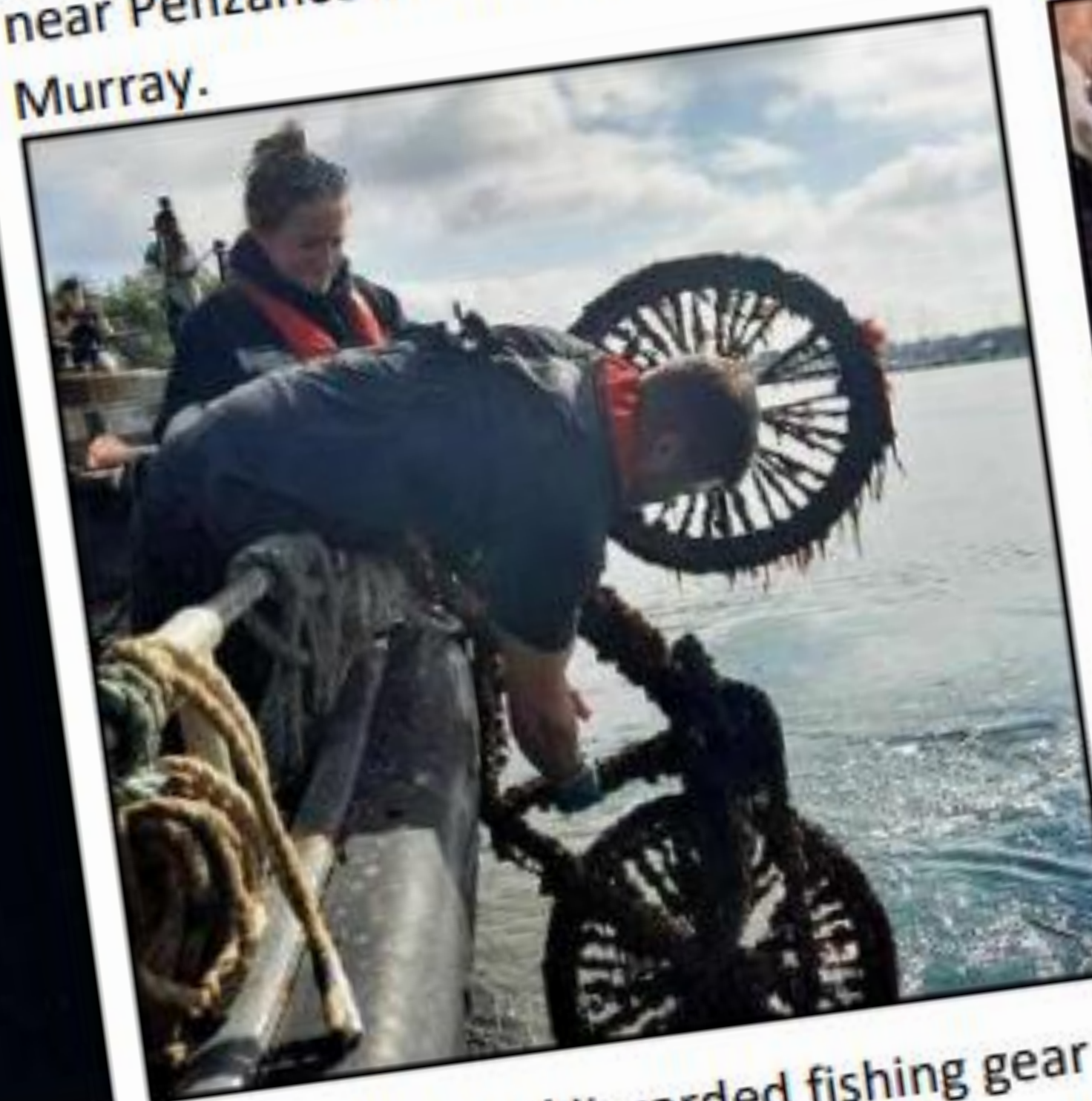
'New' species records for Britain in 2022. Here, the seaslug *Babakina andoni* in the Isles of Scilly. Also seen near Penzance in 2022. Image: Allen Murray.



High numbers of Common Octopus, *Octopus vulgaris* were recorded/caught off western and southern coasts. Here in Falmouth Harbour. Image: Jamie Altenberg/Mylor Creek Shellfish.



Unusually high numbers of filter-feeding salps were recorded in the plankton during summer. (Here at Porthkerris. Image: Aaron Sanders.)

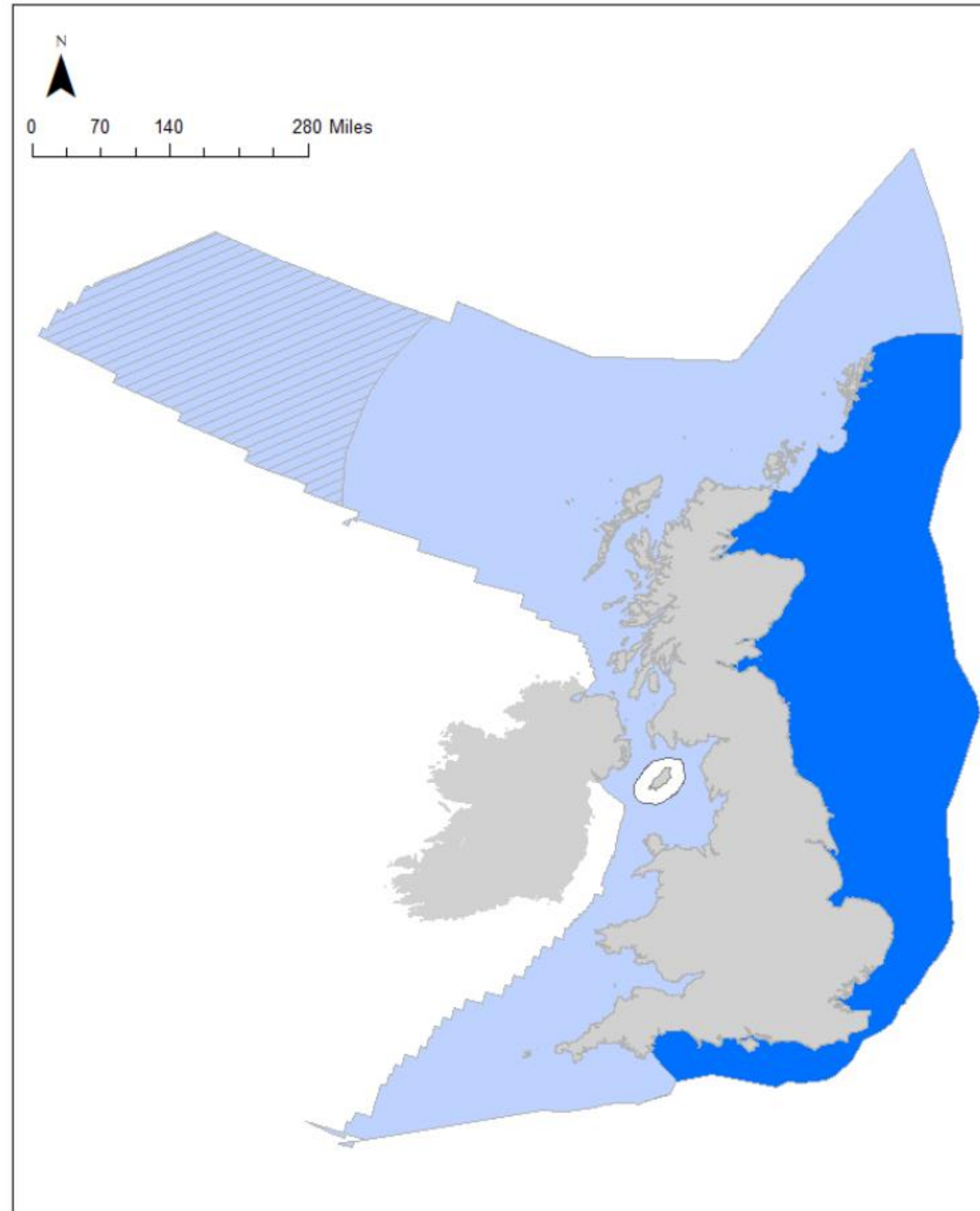


Recovering lost/discarded fishing gear and rubbish from the seabed continues. Here, in Plymouth Sound, the haul included 55 bikes. Image:



A resurvey of lobster numbers in the No-Take-Zone off Lundy during the Lundy Marine Festival revealed about four times as many as in nearby fished

- The **South-West Marine Ecosystems** approach reports annually at a regional scale
- Provides higher spatial/temporal **resolution** reports of changes in the marine environment
- Act as an **early warning system** for acute or emerging issues
- Brings together **diverse** group of practitioners with **expert knowledge** of their local seas
- Collates observations from **multiple disciplines**



Legend

- MSFD Sub-region: Celtic Seas (seabed and subsoil only)
- MSFD Sub-region: Celtic Seas
- MSFD Sub-region: Greater North Sea
- UK & Ireland

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UK Territorial Sea Limit. Contains UKHO data © Crown copyright.
MSFD Sub-regions. EEA 2017. Contains MSFD Sub-region boundary data decided on during MSFD committee meeting 2016.
(http://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?url=http%3A%2F%2Fmarine.dis.comap.eea.europa.eu%2Farcgis%2Fres%2Fservices%2FMarine%2FMarine_regions_subregions%2FMapServer&sourcemap=) Not to be used for navigation.

UKMMAS United Kingdom Marine Monitoring & Assessment Strategy

Marine online assessment tool

- Introduction to UK Marine Strategy
- Summary of progress towards Good Environmental Status
- Biodiversity, food webs and marine protected areas
- Pressures from human activities
- Ocean processes and climate
- Uses of the Marine Environment
- Acknowledgements
- Contact us
- Search

Summary of progress towards Good Environmental Status

Viewing: Latest Version, 2018 Assessment, no archives

Summary of progress towards Good Environmental Status

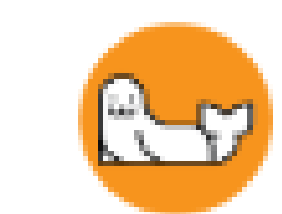


CETACEANS

- GES Partially achieved
- ↔ Stable situation since 2012

The extent to which Good Environmental Status has been achieved for cetaceans remains uncertain. The status of coastal bottlenose dolphin and minke whale are consistent with the achievement of Good Environmental Status in the Greater North Sea, but unknown/uncertain elsewhere. It is unknown if Good Environmental Status has been achieved for other species.

[More detail about this assessment >](#)

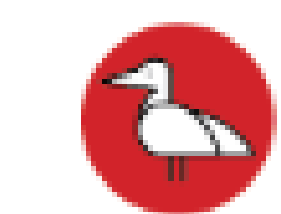


SEALS

- GES Partially achieved
- ↑ Improving situation since 2012

The UK has achieved its aim of Good Environmental Status for grey seals in the Greater North Sea and Celtic Seas. There was a significant increase in the abundance of harbour seals in West Scotland where the majority of harbour seals are located, but their status in other parts of the Celtic Seas is uncertain. Harbour seals in the Greater North Sea have not yet achieved Good Environmental Status.

[More detail about this assessment >](#)

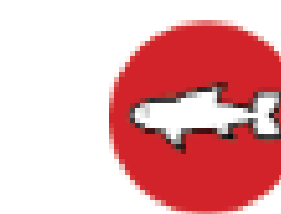


BIRDS

- GES Not achieved
- ↓ Declining situation since 2012

The UK has achieved its aim of Good Environmental Status for non-breeding waterbirds in the Greater North Sea but not in the Celtic Seas. Breeding seabirds have not achieved Good Environmental Status.

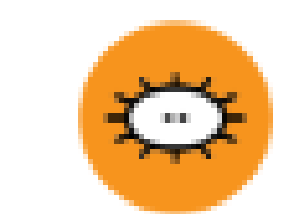
[More detail about this assessment >](#)



FISH

- GES Not achieved
- ↑ Improving situation since 2012

Demersal fish communities are recovering from over-exploitation in the past, but Good Environmental Status has not yet been achieved in either the Greater North Sea or the Celtic Seas. A partial assessment of



PELAGIC HABITATS

- GES Partially achieved
- ↔ Stable situation since 2012

Prevailing environmental conditions are likely to be driving the observed changes in plankton communities but human activities cannot be ruled out and it is uncertain whether Good Environmental Status has been



BENTHIC HABITATS

- GES Not achieved
- ↔ Stable situation since 2012

The achievement of Good Environmental Status is uncertain for intertidal and soft sediment habitats. The levels of physical damage to soft sediment habitats are consistent with the achievement of Good

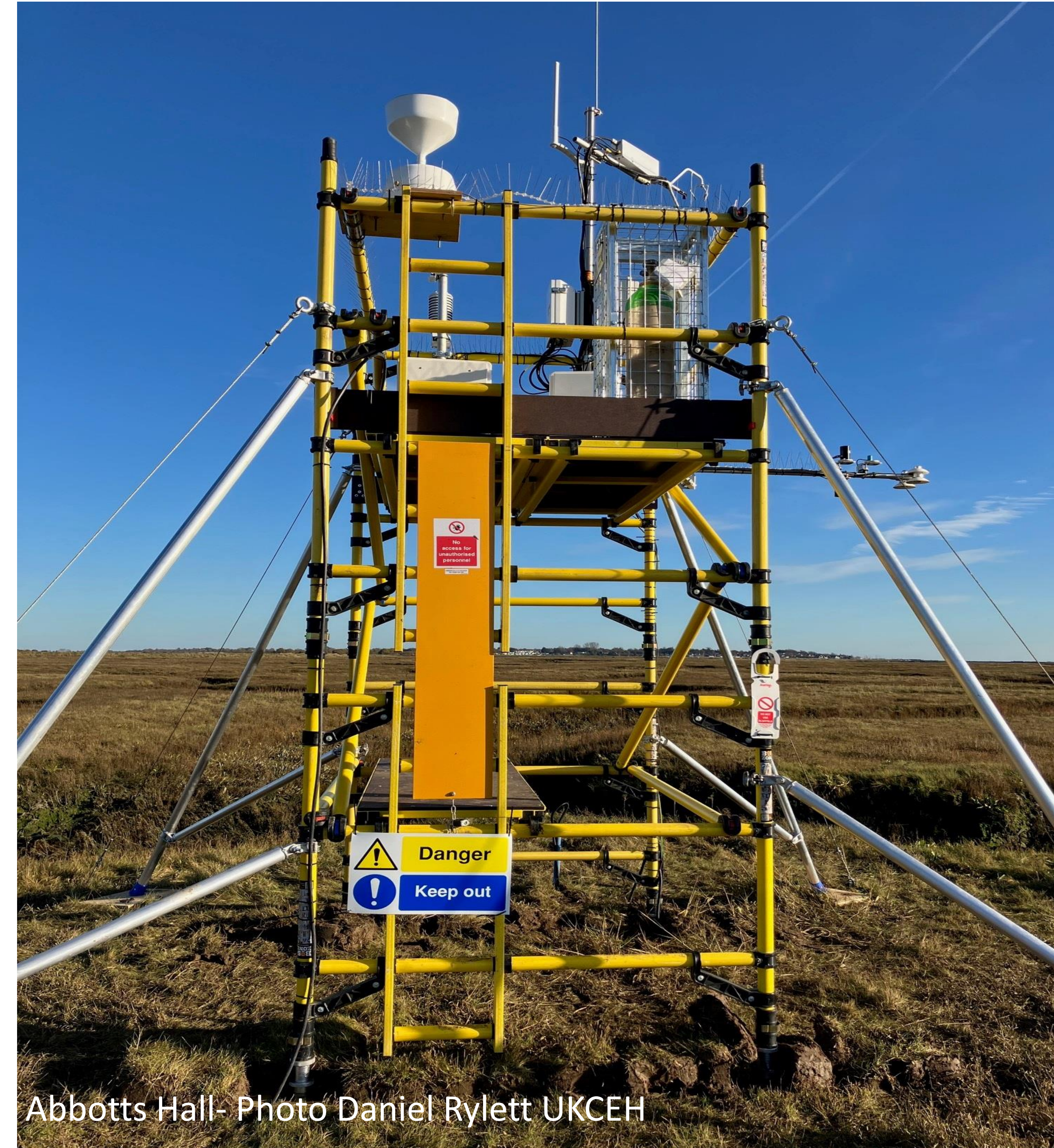
What's Next?

NCEA now entering its **third year**

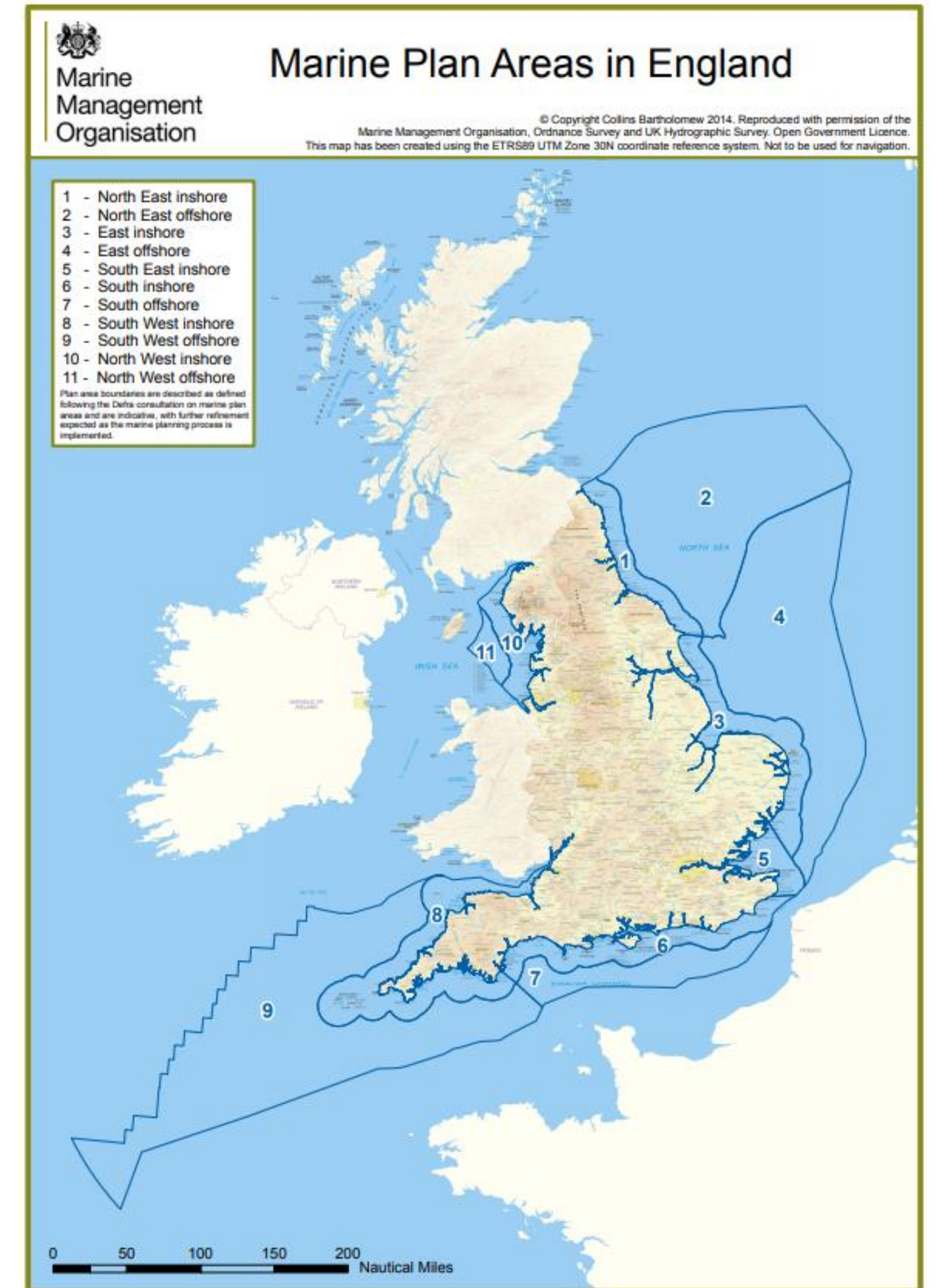
Focus on continuing to develop **evidence and tools**

Move towards integrating **source-to-sea** NC approaches into 'business as usual'

Social capital project aiming to expand to **one other region** in `24/`25



Abbotts Hall- Photo Daniel Rylett JKCEH



Thanks for listening!

