



Marine
Management
Organisation

East Marine Plan Update 2026

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Senior Marine Planner - MMO

...ambitious for our seas and coasts



What is Marine Planning?

Increasing and competing use of marine space and resources, impacting on sustainability.

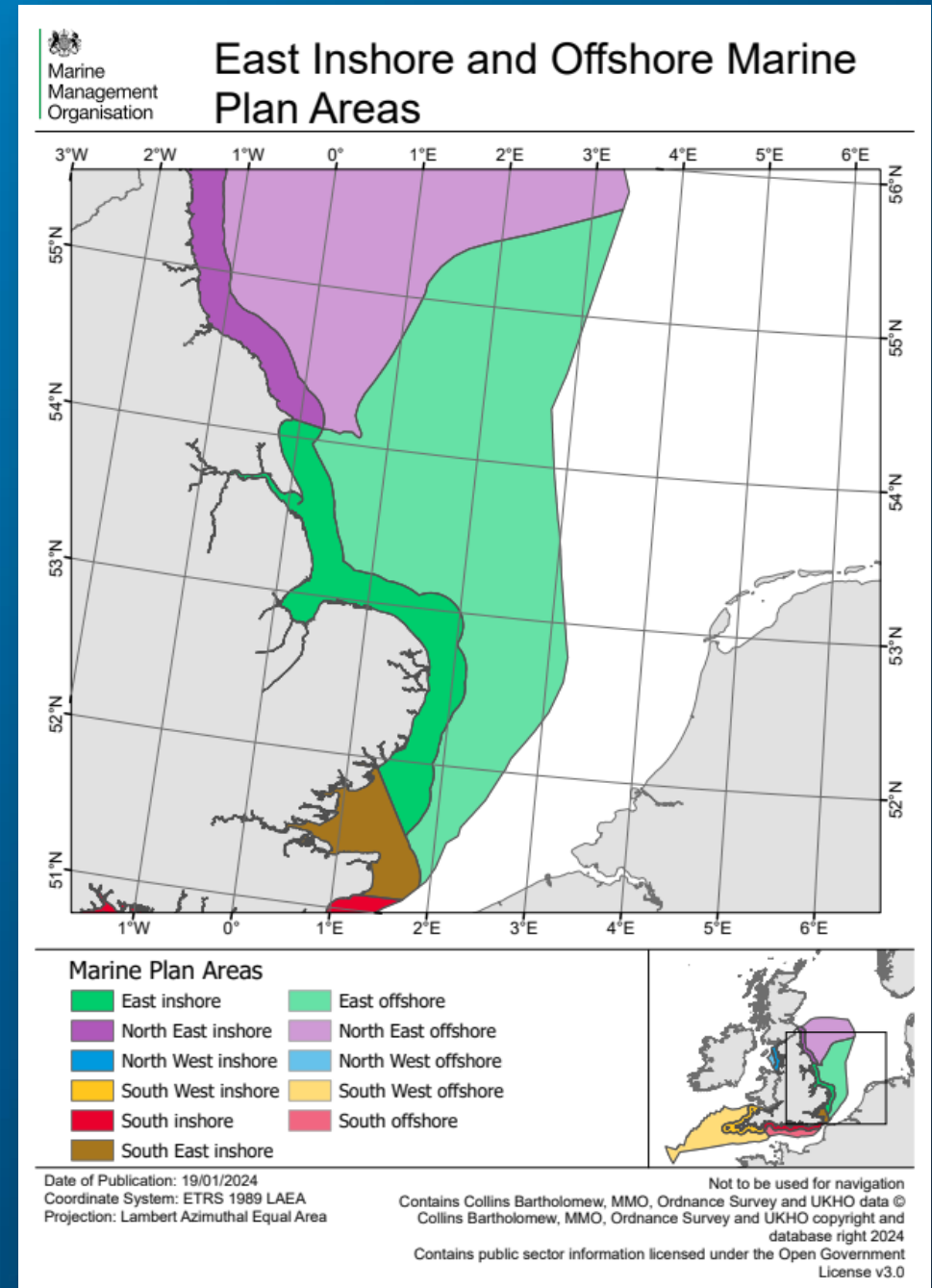
Marine planning makes sure that the **right activities** happen in the **right place**, at the **right time** and in the **right way**, in the marine area placing **sustainable development** at the centre of all decisions.



East Marine Plan Areas

East inshore marine plan area:
From Flamborough Head and Felixstowe. Stretching from mean high water springs to 12 nautical miles

East offshore marine plan area:
From the 12nm east inshore area to England's borders with the Netherlands, Belgium and France.



What is a Marine Plan?

Based on details in the Marine Policy Statement.

A collection of policies

- Economic, Environmental, Social

Both spatial and non-spatial policies.

Supporting documentation, including environmental and sustainability assessments, and technical annex detailing supporting evidence and implementation.

The adopted East Marine Plans will remain effective until the adoption of the new East Marine Plan



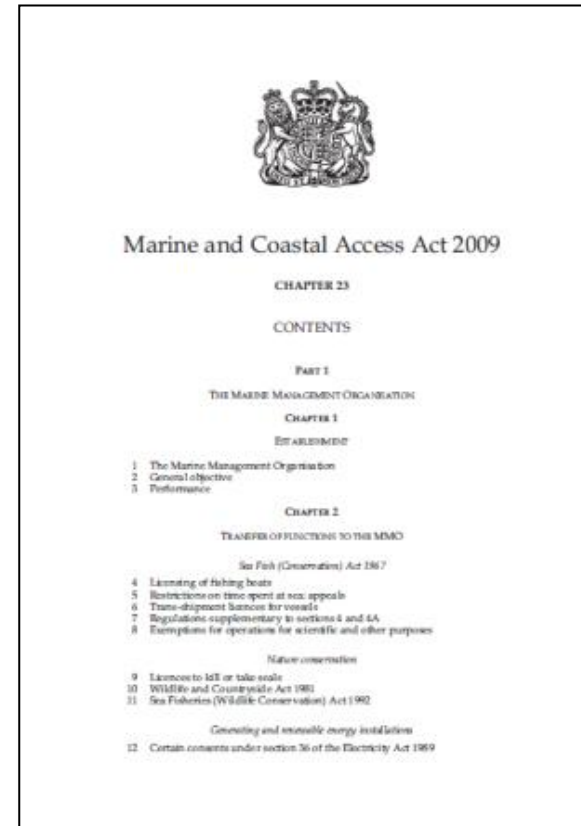
HM Government

East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plans



Legislation and Guidance

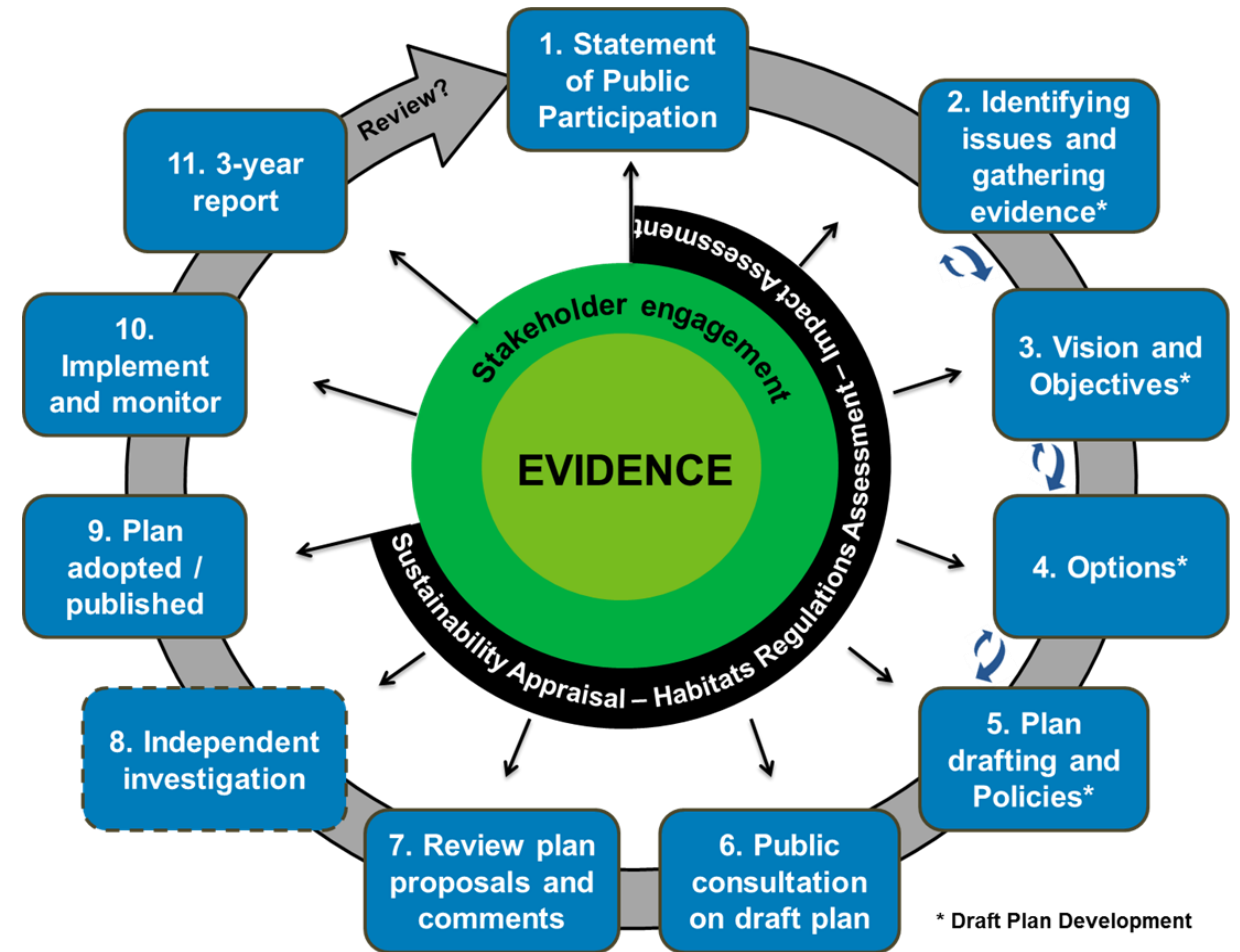
- The Act provides the legislative framework
- UK MPS provides the overarching policy framework to prepare marine plans
- Statutory requirement to monitor and report to Parliament:
 - Every 3 years for each adopted marine plan (MMO)
 - Every 6 years on all marine plans



Following the latest 3 yearly Report for the East Marine Plan the Secretary of State agreed with the MMO's recommendation to replace the East Marine Plans.

Work done to date – past 12 months

- Issues with Supporting Evidence
- Vision and Objectives
- Options Process
- 2 rounds of policy drafting
- Compatibility testing
- Assessments



Past Engagement

Statement of Public Participation

- 3 Face to Face
- 2 Online

Issues with Supporting Evidence

- 3 Face to Face
- 2 online

Policy Development

- 3 Face to Face
- 2 online



Options Process

The options stage:

- considers different ways of delivering the plan objectives
- determines how marine plans will respond to issues

The Marine and Coastal Access Act does not require an options stage. Instead, the statutory requirement comes from the [Strategic Environmental Assessment \(SEA\)](#).

The Sustainability Appraisal must assess 'reasonable alternatives'

Options must be:

- 1) Reasonable
- 2) Deliverable
- 3) Meaningfully different

“Develop reasonable alternatives for achieving the plan objectives”



Preferred Option

Option 1- Baseline

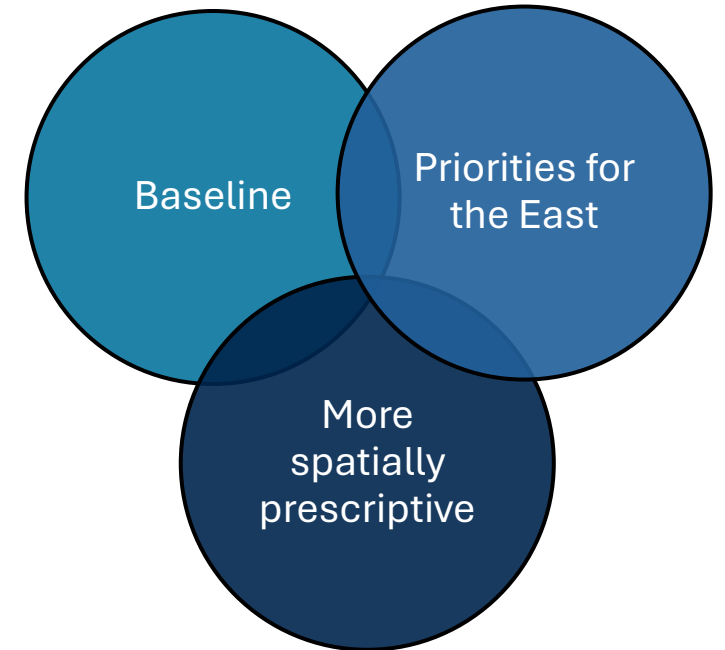
(Building on the most recent plans)

Option 2 - Priorities for the East

(National and International relevance in an East context)

Option 3 - more Spatial and Temporal

(greater Prescription and fully evidence based)



Based on the SA assessment and MMO analysis, there was no clear option identified as “The Preferred Option”.

Policy updates – What's new

Opportunities where we were able to develop new or enhance existing policy.

Updated or enhanced policy

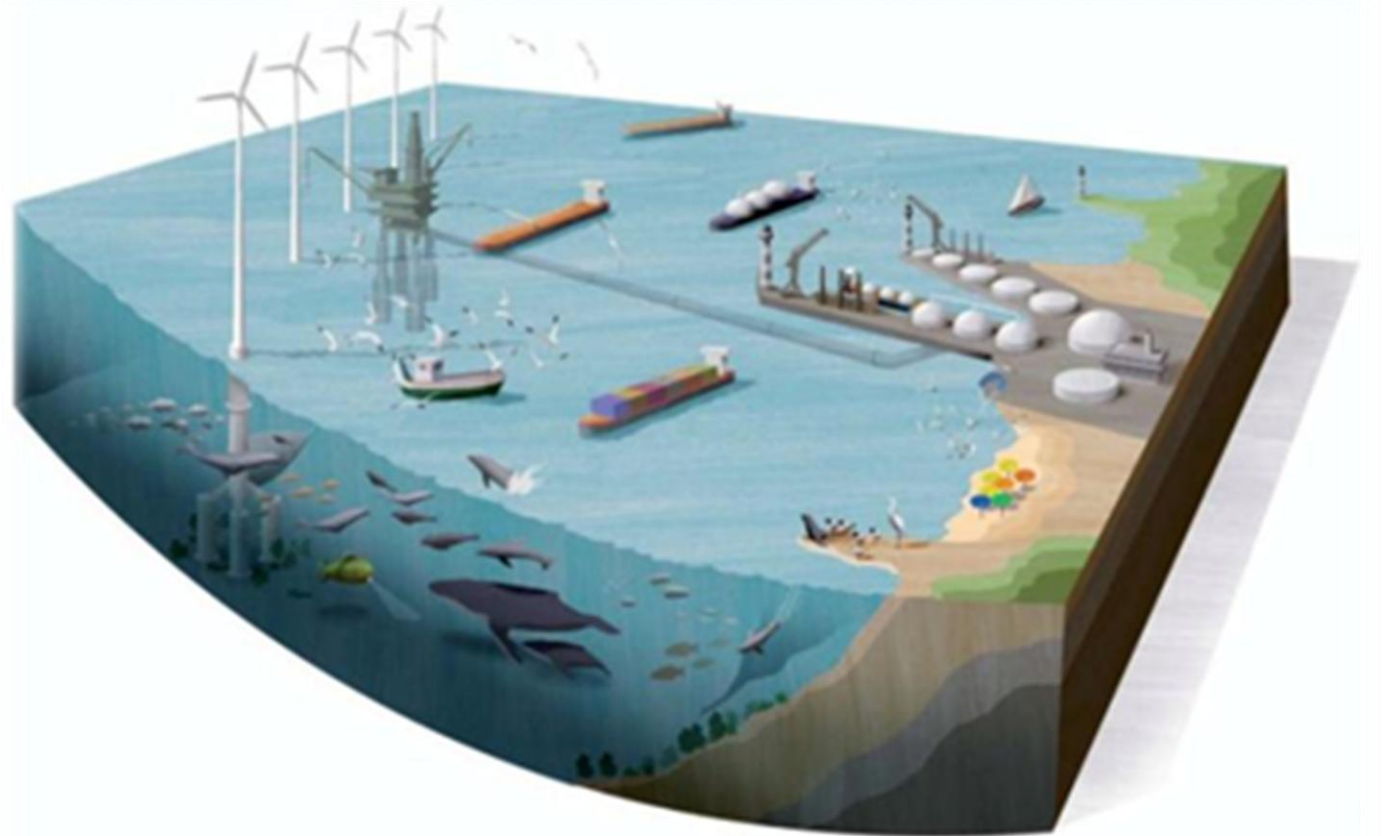
- Renewables
- Cables
- Ports and Shipping
- Aquaculture
- Fishing
- Climate Change

New topic areas

- Hydrogen
- Environmental Compensation
- Decommissioning
- Ecosystem Health
- Sustainable Alternative Fuels
- Industrial Clusters
- Nuclear

Next Steps

- Plan development
- Assessments
- Consultation
- Monitoring and Indicator development
- Implementation sessions
- Engagement summary
- Feedback



Monitoring and Indicator Development

Three types of monitoring:

- Process – examining the development and use of marine plans
- Outcome – measuring progress towards real world changes resulting from the marine planning process
- Context – recognising that marine plan monitoring must consider changes in the wider operating context

How we undertake monitoring

- Annual surveys
- Indicators and indicator report card collection
- Explore Marine Plan analytics

Indicators

- Monitor whether the plan and policies are having their intended effect
- Provide metrics which can be measured to evaluate progress of plan and policy aims

East Timeline

Activity	Period
Vision and objectives review	March 2026
East Indicator development	May 2026
Assessments process (SA & HRA)	July 2026
Plan drafting process	October 2026
Consultation preparation	September – November 2026
Government write-round process	September – November 2026
Statutory consultation of the draft plan	November 2026 – March 2027
Plan amendment process	March – August 2027
Plan adopted	End 2027

Keep in touch



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Thank you!