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## North Devon Marine Pioneer

# Marine Geodatabase – building evidence for North Devon

### The challenge

- What data exist to help us manage natural capital for the benefit of the environment, economy and society?
- How useful are current data in supporting decision making for managing natural capital at a scale relevant to North Devon?

### Key findings

- The development of a North Devon Marine Pioneer Geodatabase is consolidating the economic, social and environmental data that exist for the North Devon Marine Pioneer Area, supporting the aims of the 25 Year Environment Plan.

- The data collected have already formed the basis for a marine Natural Capital Asset and Risk Register recently developed for North Devon.
- We will also use the Geodatabase to support development of a North Devon Natural Capital Plan and to provide visual support for communication with stakeholders.

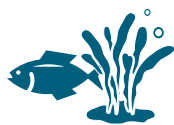
**The information in the Geodatabase provides a vital foundation for North Devon’s Marine Natural Capital Asset and Risk Register, and the Marine Natural Capital Plan.**

A **geodatabase** stores geographical information about an area, including:

- spatial data (maps) and related non-spatial information
- relationships between the data
- images
- surveys.



#### VALUE OF NATURE



ecological



societal



economic



## In practice

- We identified all relevant national and regional data holders, and reviewed all existing data sets across ecology, economy and society themes that are relevant to natural capital and the North Devon Marine Pioneer Area.
- The development of the Geodatabase provides:
  - a baseline of marine information for the managers of the North Devon Biosphere Reserve to improve measures to secure the flow of benefits (also called ecosystem services) from natural capital to local and regional communities
  - an indication of what data are currently lacking and need to be researched
  - a decision support tool for future management of marine areas.



## The future

- The Geodatabase will be updated and added to as work progresses beyond the Pioneer.
- Through the North Devon Marine Natural Capital Plan, we will investigate ways to make the Geodatabase directly useful for the people of North Devon.

## Project partners

[University of Plymouth](#)

[Natural England](#)

[North Devon Biosphere](#)

This North Devon Marine Pioneer project contributes to the policies of the Government's [25-Year Environment Plan, A Green Future:](#)

- natural capital asset and risk registers
- local marine natural capital plans
- natural capital approach to marine licensing, planning, fisheries and Marine Protected Areas

This project is a contribution to the North Devon Marine Pioneer ([northdevonbiosphere.org.uk/marinepioneer.html](http://northdevonbiosphere.org.uk/marinepioneer.html))

