



North Devon Marine Pioneer

A long-term vision for the North Devon Marine Pioneer

We asked workshop participants to:

- *describe* the main assets of, challenges to, and opportunities for North Devon's marine area
- *define* core values that should be reflected in management approaches
- *propose* a series of goals for consideration under the Marine Pioneer programme
- *imagine* alternative futures.

- strong, engaged community; working in partnership; links to the terrestrial sector
- specific sectors and approaches – Marine Protected Areas; locally led fisheries management; recreation and tourism
- needs for – data and research to inform decision making, education and publicity; funding, grants and capital investment.

Assets, challenges and opportunities

- The Marine Working Group (MWG) ranked the five highest-scoring assets as:
 - North Devon's marine species and habitats (ranking score 112)
 - water quality (25)
 - sustainable fishing practices (23)
 - research (17)
 - North Devon's mixed economy (16).
- The five challenges that received the highest scores were:
 - lack of awareness of the marine environment's natural capital (12)
 - lack of funding/investment (11)
 - agricultural and sewage run-off (10)
 - issues arising from fisheries policy (10)
 - marine litter (9).
- Opportunities, resources and needs identified were:
 - new management approaches and policy influence

What should our core values be?

In the core values, nine themes were identified:



Participants identified North Devon's marine species and habitats as by far the area's most important assets – ranked over four times higher than other assets.

Goals for consideration

Participants agreed on the following key goals:

- improving local fisheries management and seafood sales to achieve a viable and sustainable fishery for an optimised local economy (ranking score 45)
- robust protection of biodiversity to protect the natural beauty and tranquillity of the marine area for the local community and economy, including maintaining healthy estuarine ecosystems to allow full utilisation of natural capital (33)
- increased local decision making to ensure effective governance at all levels (32)
- defining and implementing a response to climate change (14)
- creating jobs in vibrant marine industries to develop a sustainable economy (13)
- developing a sustainable and productive aquaculture sector (11)
- reducing marine litter (11)
- harnessing sustainable tidal stream energy (5)
- developing sustainable coastal tourism and leisure based on natural and cultural assets (2).



VALUE OF NATURE



ecological



societal



economic

Stakeholders

Twenty-seven stakeholders representing a range of interests attended the workshop:

- local fishermen and consultants – North Devon Fishermen's Association, Seascope
- recreational users – Ilfracombe & North Devon Sub Aqua Club
- local projects, forums and NGOs – Coastwise, Sustainable Fish Education, Lundy Field Society, Devon Maritime Forum
- regional and national statutory agencies – Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, Natural England, Marine Management Organisation
- larger NGOs – National Trust, WWF, Devon Wildlife Trust
- local councils and designated areas – North Devon Council, Torrington District Council, North Devon Coast Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, North Devon Biosphere Reserve

The North Devon Marine Pioneer contributes to the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan, A Green Future

For more information go to: northdevonbiosphere.org.uk/marinepioneer.html

And view the [full report of the First Marine Pioneer Stakeholder Workshop](#)

This workshop was a contribution to the North Devon Marine Pioneer

