

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.

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

- 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.

What should our core values be?

In the core values, nine themes were identified:

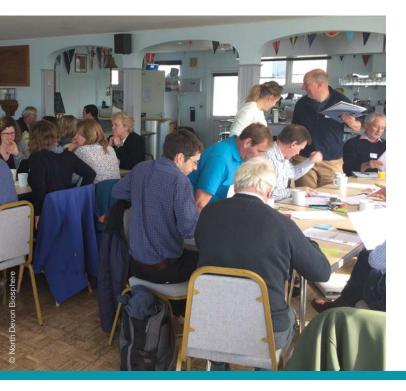


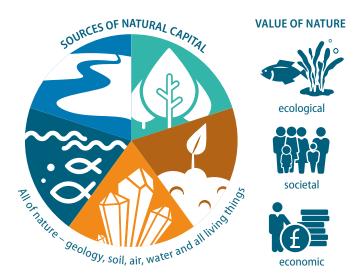
Participants identified North Devon's marine species and habitats as by far the area's most important assets – ranked over four times higher than other assets.

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).





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, Torridge 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







