

NORTH DEVON MARINE PLAN: MODIFICATIONS REPORT

OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION 2020

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INTRODUCTION

Public consultation on the Draft North Devon Marine Plan and supporting documents was held between the 5th March 2020 and the 16th April 2020.

Following this consultation, in accordance with the [Marine and Coastal Access Act \(S15 \(7\)\)](#), the North Devon Biosphere (NDBR) are required to publish statements detailing any modifications made to the consultation draft and the reasons for the modifications.

The North Devon plan areas [Statement of Public Participation ADD LINK TO DOCUMENT – UPLOAD TO WEBSITE](#) describes how the NDBR will analyse all responses to the consultation and produce a summary report setting out comments received, and changes made to the plans as a result.

In fulfilling these obligations, the NDBR has produced this modifications report which includes:

- A summary of responses to the consultation
- An overview of changes made
- An overview of changes not deemed appropriate

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to summarise:

- The engagement process on the consultation draft
- Responses received, provide an overview of the levels of agreement with the plan, and compliance with the Statement of Public Participation
- Amendments from the consultation draft to the North Devon Marine Plan

ENGAGEMENT ON CONSULTATION DRAFT

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PRIOR TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION

[Check MWG reports for years and numbers of participants](#)

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT DURING CONSULTATION

The public consultation involved a variety of activities including:

- Drop-in events in various public venues throughout northern Devon including the Coast and Countryside Centre (Braunton), Plough Arts Centre (Torrington), Exmoor National Park Visitor Centre (Lynmouth), Mole Valley Farmers (South Molton), Harbour Master's Office (Ilfracombe), Clovelly Visitors Centre, Hatherleigh Community Centre and Barnstaple Library
- 2 webinars; one to the Marine Working Group and one as part of a series of presentations organised by the MMO to share information about the outputs of the Marine Pioneers in North Devon and Suffolk
- A variety of communications and supporting material
- Media interest around the launch of the consultation (social media)

OVERVIEW OF RESPONSES

ASSESSMENT OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

The North Devon Biosphere undertook the following process to assess the consultation responses:

- Initial response and suggested actions against every comment, including where follow-up discussion required
- Cross-plan themes identified and additional response provided where required, e.g. lessons learned from the Marine Pioneer, definition of terms, explicit links between policies, aims and objectives
- Text changes made (taking account of previous comments), and the balance of comments from stakeholders
- Final response to each comment recorded to inform high level explanation in modifications report

RESPONDENT PROFILE

The consultation generated over 200 individual comments from 16 different organisations and individuals through a number of different channels: 9 via email, 7 via online survey.

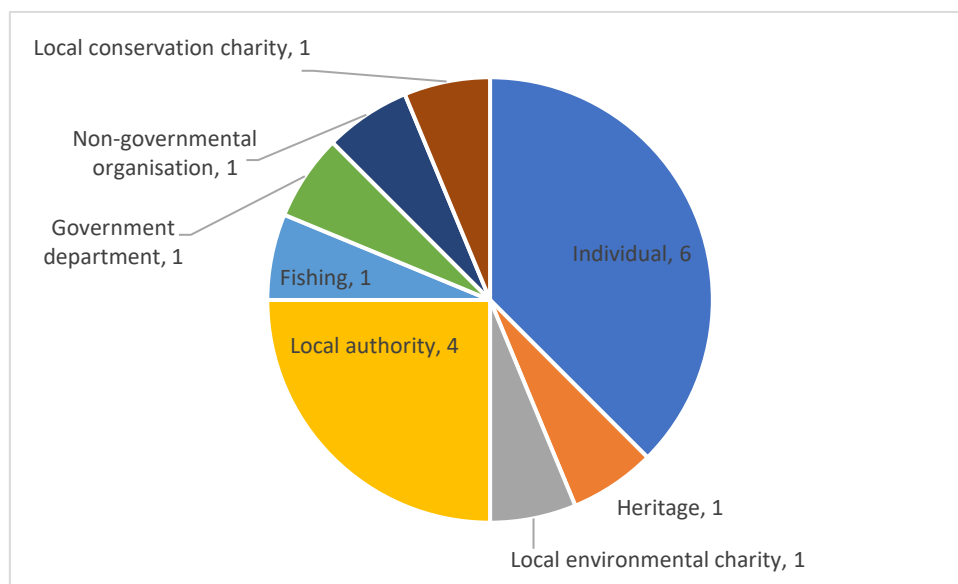


Figure 1. Breakdown of respondent to the consultation by sector

SUMMARY OF CHANGE TO THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

OVERVIEW OF QUESTIONS ASKED OF RESPONDENTS

Respondents to the consultation were asked to answer questions on the Draft North Devon Marine Plan sections to help structure their response. These questions are detailed in [Annex 3](#).

For each of the questions, respondents were asked to state whether or not they agreed with a plan section, objective or policy and were invited to provide a comment to clarify their answer and / or suggest changes. In some cases, respondents chose not to answer certain questions or provide comment.

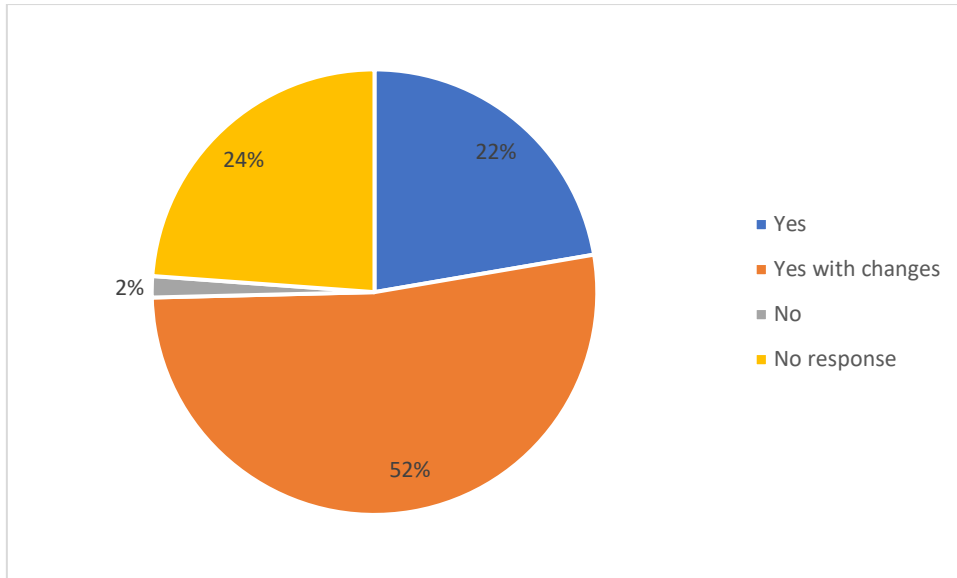


Figure 2. Percentage of respondents answering yes, yes with changes, no, or no comment across the entire consultation

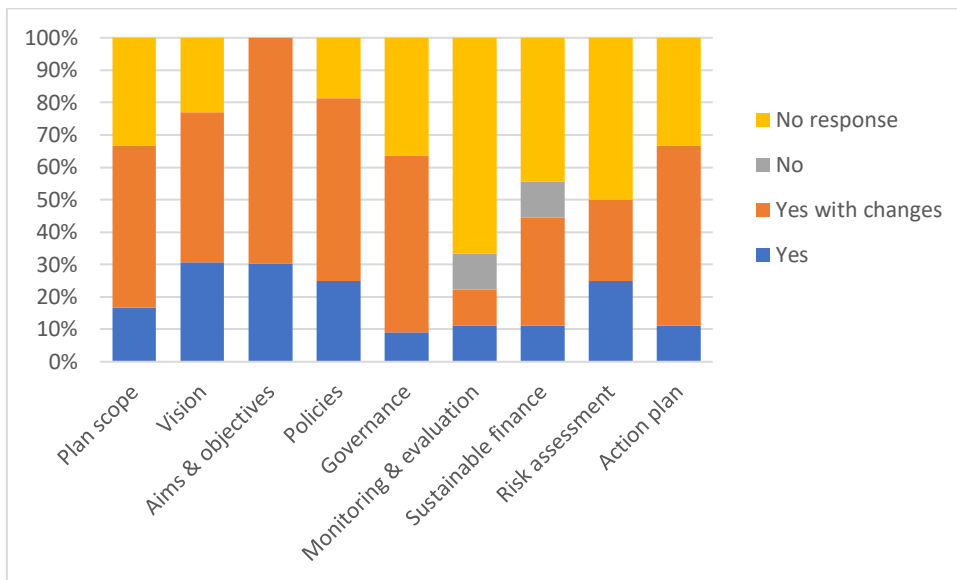


Figure 3. Percentage of respondents answering yes, yes with changes, no, or no comment for each section of the consultation

The comments leading to document changes can be found in [Annex 1](#), this provides a summary of changes made to document sections, objectives and policies.

Comments received that did not lead to revisions of the plan can be found in [Annex 2](#). These comments were grouped based on shared subject themes which did not result in document changes.

ANNEX 1: SUMMARY OF CHANGE BY SECTION

Section	Stakeholder comment summary	Resulting amendment
Overall structure and content	Hard to 'navigate' the document or understand how sections link together	Navigation references corrected throughout document and additional text providing a summary of each section included
	More context needed to understand how plan links to the Marine Pioneer	Preface added to include more information on how Marine Pioneer informed the plan
	Consistency of terminology and definitions of technical terms currently lacking	Additional text providing an explanation of technical terms where they are first introduced has been included
Background		
Overall aims and Introduction	More detailed explanation of what natural capital is and this plan used a 'natural capital approach'	Additional text providing a definition of 'natural capital' and 'natural capital approach' with reference to sources of further information included
	Hard to understand the overall aims of the plan before the scope, purpose and concepts have been introduced	Order of text rearranged so that statement of scope and purpose of the plan, and explanation of natural capital approach are introduced first
	Need to define the audience and signpost to sections / other documents (e.g. executive summary) for different groups	Additional text added to define intended audience and description of what information can be found in each section
	Unclear how this plan will fit within the context of the Nature Recovery Network (25YEP policy)	Additional text has been added to clarify link between the plan and the Nature Recovery Network
The plan area	Inclusion of 'evidence' from Asset & Risk register is confusing in this section	Evidence such as results from the Asset & Risk register has been moved to provide rationale for plan aims, policies and objectives
Strategic and legal context	Further clarification on the relevance of some policies needed where no description is provided	Additional text clarifying the relevance of the policy to the plan included where it was missing
Overview of plan development and supporting documents	Descriptive only – further clarification on the role of the listed documents in supporting the plan is needed	Additional text describing how the documents can be used to support the plan included
Vision, aims, objectives and policies		
Scenarios for the future	Definition of 'scenarios' and explanation of the purpose of the scenario-testing workshop in development of the vision is needed	Additional text describing development and rationalisation of the vision through scenario-testing included

Section	Stakeholder comment summary	Resulting amendment
Vision for the plan area	It was highlighted that the vision statement should be the first subsection to reflect the title of the whole section	Text reordered so that vision statement is first in this section
	The vision could be more ambitious and specific, with greater emphasis on the consideration of nature as a whole system. The words 'prosperous' and 'clean growth' were both considered inappropriate.	
Aims and objectives	Add rationale for each aim and further clarification on how they are 'natural capital specific'	Additional text providing evidence / rationale for each aim included
	Unclear how individual policies, objectives and aims are linked	Additional text explicitly linking policies with specific aims and objectives included
	Unclear which individuals / organisations are intended 'actors' for some objectives, or on what basis they are / are not obliged to fulfil these actions	Additional text identifying relevant organisations and routes for delivery of specific objectives included
	Include standard terminology such as Maximum Sustainable Yield where sustainable exploitation limits are referred to	The term Maximum Sustainable Yield has been referenced throughout the document where exploitation limits are mentioned
AM01	No background information given on FRMP or Herring Project	Additional text providing details about these two projects included
	Objectives should explicitly reference ecosystem approach to fisheries management	Text amended for relevant objectives to ensure ecosystem approach is highlighted
AM02	Clarity needed for relevant actors and their obligations, acknowledgement of need for harmonisation with other users in the system and conservation objectives for MPAs required	Text for specific objectives has been amended to include reference to other users and / or conservation objectives and additional text identifying relevant delivery bodies included
AM03	3.2 reads as encouraging damaging activity	Text amended to specify protection of sensitive habitats
	3.5 suggest rewording to be more ambitious	Text amended to reflect ambition to eliminate disturbance where possible
AM04	4.6 Specific delivery mechanisms (i.e. PFND) should not be named within the objective itself but identified in action plan	Text amended to remove PFND from strategic objective and delivery mechanism details provided in action plan

AM05	Aim should be more ambitious, beyond the protection of biodiversity to nature recovery	Specific objectives already refer to nature recovery but further rationale and reference to Nature Recovery Network added to overall Aim statement
AM06	6.1 Reference not given for 50-80Ha target	Reference to report providing rationale for specific target added
	6.5 Use of the phrase “acceptable criteria” gives the impression projects will be automatically accepted	Text amended from “acceptable criteria” to “minimum criteria to enable project consideration”
	6.6 Use of phrase “natural sea defences” infers engineered design rather than natural processes	Text amended from “natural sea defences” to “solutions that achieve protection by emulating or re-establishing natural processes”
AM07	7.1 Should refer to ecosystem approach as well as fishing effort	Text amended to include “and wider ecosystem assessment of fishery impacts”
AM08	No comments necessitated changes to AM08	
Policies	Unclear how individual policies, objectives and aims are linked	Additional text explicitly linking policies with specific aims and objectives included
PL01	No comments necessitated changes to PL01	
PL02	No comments necessitated changes to PL02	
PL03	No similar consideration is given for wild-capture fisheries activities in the plan policies	
PL04	No comments necessitated changes to PL04	
PL05	No comments necessitated changes to PL05	
PL06	No comments necessitated changes to PL06	
PL07	No comments necessitated changes to PL07	
PL08	No comments necessitated changes to PL08	
PL09	Unclear how this sits alongside current legislation which grants protection specifically to qualified features	
PL10	Seems to suggest further restrictions outside of MPAs for demersal fishing in North Devon which is contrary to other plan aims and policies to support local fisheries	
PL11	No comments necessitated changes to PL11	
Governance		
General comments	Intent to integrate marine governance is stated but need clarification on who delivery	

	bodies are, responsibilities of different agencies and more detail on how this will be achieved	
Background	Further clarification required for claims regarding marine planning in Para 90 and references needed	
	Citations needed to support statements in Para 91 regarding stakeholder input and engagement	
Marine Pioneer in North Devon	Relevance of Marine Pioneer to governance section is not clear	
Principles for good governance	Additional information needed to relate the four principles of governance to the marine system	
Review of current governance	More information needed on current governance structures	
	Figure 4 does not illustrate "current governance" so does not make sense in this section	
The Biosphere Partnership	Discusses current problems with governance in the area which might be more appropriate in background section of Governance chapter	
Proposed governance structure	Include Terms of Reference for the proposed governance structure as an Annex	
	Cross reference with aims and objectives relating to governance	
	More background information required to introduce the various groups mentioned in this section	
Conformity and harmonisation	This section admits there are policy conflicts but gives no further information and does not clarify the decision-making process for resolution	
Monitoring and evaluation		
General comments	Clear logic chain between policies, objectives, aims and the indicators is missing so difficult to assess if the monitoring and evaluation is suitable	
Sustainable finance and investment		
No comments necessitated changes to the Sustainable Finance and Investment Opportunities section		
Action Plan		
No comments necessitated changes to the Action Plan		

Sustainability assessment
No comments necessitated changes to the Sustainability Assessment
Geonode
No comments necessitated changes to the GeoNode and associated guidance documents

ANNEX 2: SUMMARY OF NO CHANGE BY THEME

Theme	Stakeholder comment summary	Reason for no change

ANNEX 3: LIST OF CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Section: Background

1. Do you understand what the plan is and what it will be used for? Yes / no / yes with changes
2. Do you understand what the plan is and what it will be used for? Text comment

Section: The vision, objectives and policies

3. Do you agree with the overarching vision? Yes / no / yes with changes
4. Do you agree with the overarching vision? Text comment

Section: Specific aims and objectives

5. Do you agree with AM01? Yes / no / yes with changes
6. Do you agree with AM01? Text comment
7. Would you like to comment on a specific objective in AM01? Yes / no
8. Would you like to comment on a specific objective in AM01? Text comment
9. Do you agree with AM02? Yes / no / yes with changes
10. Do you agree with AM02? Text comment
11. Would you like to comment on a specific objective in AM02? Yes / no
12. Would you like to comment on a specific objective in AM02? Text comment
13. Do you agree with AM03? Yes / no / yes with changes
14. Do you agree with AM03? Text comment
15. Would you like to comment on a specific objective in AM03? Yes / no
16. Would you like to comment on a specific objective in AM03? Text comment
17. Do you agree with AM04? Yes / no / yes with changes
18. Do you agree with AM04? Text comment
19. Would you like to comment on a specific objective in AM04? Yes / no
20. Would you like to comment on a specific objective in AM04? Text comment
21. Do you agree with AM05? Yes / no / yes with changes
22. Do you agree with AM05? Text comment
23. Would you like to comment on a specific objective in AM05? Yes / no
24. Would you like to comment on a specific objective in AM05? Text comment
25. Do you agree with AM06? Yes / no / yes with changes
26. Do you agree with AM06? Text comment
27. Would you like to comment on a specific objective in AM06? Yes / no
28. Would you like to comment on a specific objective in AM06? Text comment
29. Do you agree with AM07? Yes / no / yes with changes
30. Do you agree with AM07? Text comment
31. Would you like to comment on a specific objective in AM07? Yes / no
32. Would you like to comment on a specific objective in AM07? Text comment
33. Do you agree with AM08? Yes / no / yes with changes
34. Do you agree with AM08? Text comment
35. Would you like to comment on a specific objective in AM08? Yes / no

36. Would you like to comment on a specific objective in AM08? Text comment

Section: Policies

37. Do you agree with PL01? Yes / no / yes with changes

38. Do you agree with PL01? Text comment

39. Do you agree with PL02? Yes / no / yes with changes

40. Do you agree with PL02? Text comment

41. Do you agree with PL03? Yes / no / yes with changes

42. Do you agree with PL03? Text comment

43. Do you agree with PL04? Yes / no / yes with changes

44. Do you agree with PL04? Text comment

45. Do you agree with PL05? Yes / no / yes with changes

46. Do you agree with PL05? Text comment

47. Do you agree with PL06? Yes / no / yes with changes

48. Do you agree with PL06? Text comment

49. Do you agree with PL07? Yes / no / yes with changes

50. Do you agree with PL07? Text comment

51. Do you agree with PL08? Yes / no / yes with changes

52. Do you agree with PL08? Text comment

53. Do you agree with PL09? Yes / no / yes with changes

54. Do you agree with PL09? Text comment

55. Do you agree with PL10? Yes / no / yes with changes

56. Do you agree with PL10? Text comment

57. Do you agree with PL11? Yes / no / yes with changes

58. Do you agree with PL11? Text comment

Section: Governance

59. Do you feel that this is the best way to govern the plan? Yes / no / yes with changes

60. Do you feel that this is the best way to govern the plan? Text comment

Section: Monitoring and evaluation

61. Do you feel that monitoring and evaluation of the plan is suitable and realistic within the governance of the plan? Yes / no / yes with changes

62. Do you feel that monitoring and evaluation of the plan is suitable and realistic within the governance of the plan? Text comment

Section: Sustainable finance and investment

63. Do you feel that the options for sustainable finance and the investment opportunities are suitable for delivery of the aims of the plan? Yes / no / yes with changes

64. Do you feel that the options for sustainable finance and the investment opportunities are suitable for delivery of the aims of the plan? Text comment

65. Do you agree with the qualitative risk assessment for the proposed activities for the plan? Yes / no / yes with changes

66. Do you agree with the qualitative risk assessment for the proposed activities for the plan? Text comment

Section: Action plan

67. Do you agree with the actions for the plan? Yes / no / yes with changes

68. Do you agree with the actions for the plan? Text comment

Section: Sustainability assessment

69. Do you have any other comments about the sustainability assessment? Text comment

Section: GeoNode

70. Do you have any comments about the Marine Natural Capital Plan Geonode? Text comment

Section: General comments

71. Do you have any other comments about the presentation of the plan or any of its contents? Text comment