

North Devon Marine Natural Capital Plan – local delivery of the Government’s 25 Year Environment Plan

Statement of public participation

Introduction to the Plan

The North Devon Marine Natural Capital Plan is a comprehensive framework to support delivery of the UK Government’s “A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment” (25 YEP) across all chapters, in a place and involving local people. It will provide supplementary information for existing plans (local plans, regional marine plans) to ensure that nature’s assets and functions, that provide us with a range of benefits, are protected for us and future generations. This framework will help us understand and make recommendations of how this can happen North Devon.

What is its purpose?

The main purpose of the framework is to support decision making groups at a local and, potentially, a national level to help them incorporate the marine natural environment, and its flows and benefits into how they make decisions, as well as supporting them to integrate working across different decision making bodies and across land and sea.

It will identify where both public and private money should be spent to enhance and restore nature.

Importantly, it will provide a route to identifying trade-offs when decisions are made and to then scrutinise the results of those decisions

As this framework was developed through the progression of the Marine Pioneer in North Devon, it can potentially provide lessons that can be transferred to other areas, and feed into delivery of national objectives.

Who is it for?

The primary audience for this plan is people that make decisions that affect the marine environment - IFCA, MMO, and other regulatory bodies, local planning authorities, businesses, and investors. It could also be used by creators of voluntary codes of conduct providing them with the information they need to develop methods to protect and enhance the natural environment. Finally, it could be used by people who use the marine area for recreation and business in general, as the products for the primary audience can also be made useful to other users.

The area

Initially based on the Marine Pioneer area outside Cornwall, see figure 1 below. It will be further refined through stakeholder engagement.



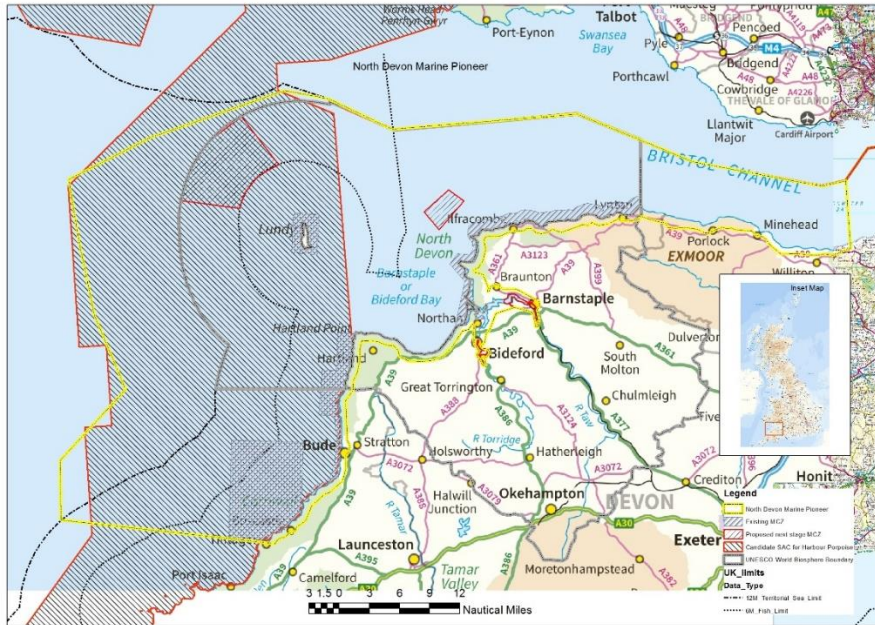


Figure 1 The North Devon Marine Pioneer area and North Devon Biosphere.

How we will do it

Engagement will include both formal (meetings, drop in events) and informal (face to face, word of mouth) methods, allowing stakeholders and the general public to have their say (see table 1 below). We will also make use of online resources such as, but not exclusively, the North Devon Biosphere website and social media and online surveys.

All engagement will be inclusive and adhere to North Devon Biosphere’s strategy.

Principles of engagement

We will:

- Provide further opportunities for the public to engage
- Resist the use of complex language, technical jargon and acronyms when talking to non-technical audiences.
- Be adaptable and develop engagement, within timescales and broad definitions as set out below.
- Make documents publicly available on the North Devon Biosphere [website](#)
- Let people know that their views have been taken into account (see “what we will do with your ideas”, below)

When we will do it

The estimated timetable for engagement (which will be regularly updated) will follow the timings in Table 1 below, which are estimated, so subject to change. Opportunities to engage will be advertised through the North Devon Biosphere and partner website, e-news and social media and, where possible, local press.

Table 1 Estimated timetable for engagement

Activity	Content	Estimated timing
Workshops and events	Consultation on developing plan with evidence, and supporting workshops	From mid-January 2020 to mid-February 2020

Activity	Content	Estimated timing
Public consultation	Online presentation of plan on Biosphere website www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk with method to make comment	4 th March 2020 to 15 th April 2020
Public consultation drop in events	Drop in events where people can understand the purpose of the plan and make comment on the broad objectives see website https://www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk/mncp.html	9 th – 15 th March 2020
Attending community group and organisation meetings to present the plan.	Requested attendance at meetings (staff resource permitting) of Marine Natural Capital Plan team	Throughout March 2020
Communicating with people who have commented	Communication with stakeholders to clarify responses to the public consultation (where necessary)	From early March 2020 to mid-April 2020
	Amendments to plan and contact those that responded to the plan	Late March to early May 2020
Launch of plan	.	7 th May 2020

How you will be able to comment on the draft plan?

When the draft plan is published you will be able to comment on the plan

- The plan will be found here: www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk/mncp
- We will provide an online survey to make comments.
- via email to marineplan@devoncc.onmicrosoft.com
- You will be able to write to us, at Marine Natural Capital plan, North Devon Biosphere, Taw View, Barnstaple, EX31 1EE
- We always prefer written comments for our records, but know this isn't always possible, so you can ring us on 01271 388590 or 01271 388669.

What we will do with your ideas?

Feedback will be published in our website (in line with General Data Protection Regulation 2018). Feedback to individuals and organisations that have responded to our consultation will be thorough our website, the North Devon Biosphere's [newsletter](#), or directly by email (where permissions have been given).

We will also produce a summary of the consultation, where appropriate. All stakeholder input will be taken into consideration but we will make decisions to include or exclude information dependant on legality, and fit with the plans aims but we will be clear with people who have responded as to how those decisions were made and, if appropriate produce a summary of responses - showing where feedback has shaped the plan, and where we have had to make concessions. We would like to reiterate that not all responses/feedback will result in a change to the plan but that all responses will be considered.

What we have done so far

The Marine Natural Capital Plan has been advanced through the Marine Pioneer in North Devon.

To deliver the 25 YEP locally, a method called the natural capital approach (see figure 2 below) has to be used along with other methods, including the ecosystem approach

(management of land, water and living things that promotes conservation and fair, sustainable use) and considering social capital (how people interact with each other, their networks and relationships)

The natural capital approach
to a sustainable future for the sea

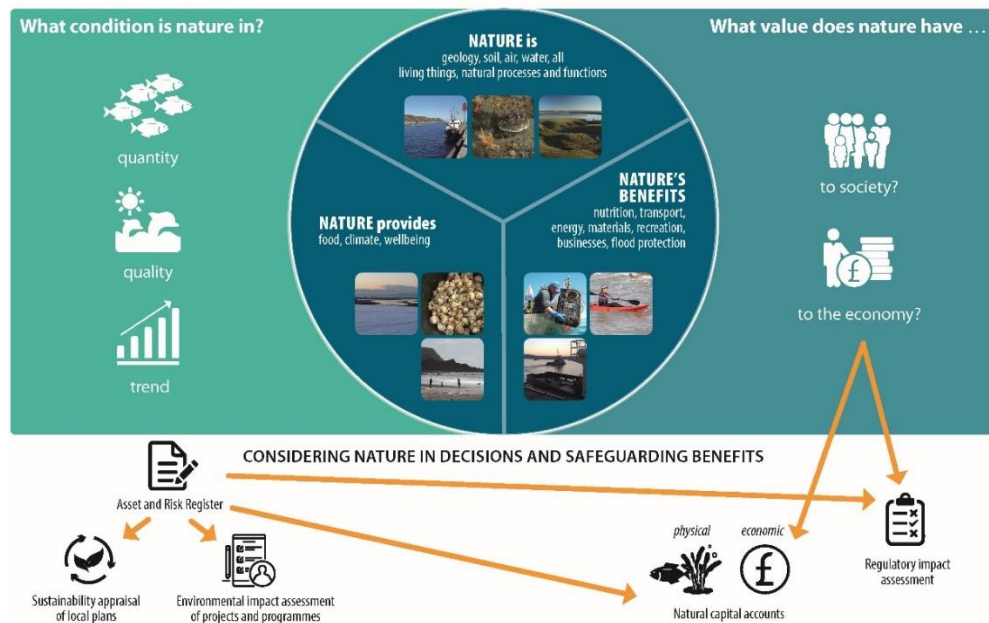


Photo credits: North Devon Biosphere: except: (top row) underwater – Keith Haddock / (middle row) wharf – D&S / F&A, kayaker – North Devon Coast; AQ&E / (bottom row) boats – Roger Frost

Figure 2 How the natural capital approach can help with decision making as well as provide the basis for this plan.

Marine Pioneer Stakeholder Engagement

Through the lifetime of the Marine Pioneer, the stakeholder group has primarily been the North Devon Biosphere Marine Working Group which is an advisory group for the North Devon Biosphere partnership (see figure 3 below), with additional expert groups bringing other people into the discussion. The Marine Working Group membership has increased through the Marine Pioneer and now covering a range of different groups and organisations.

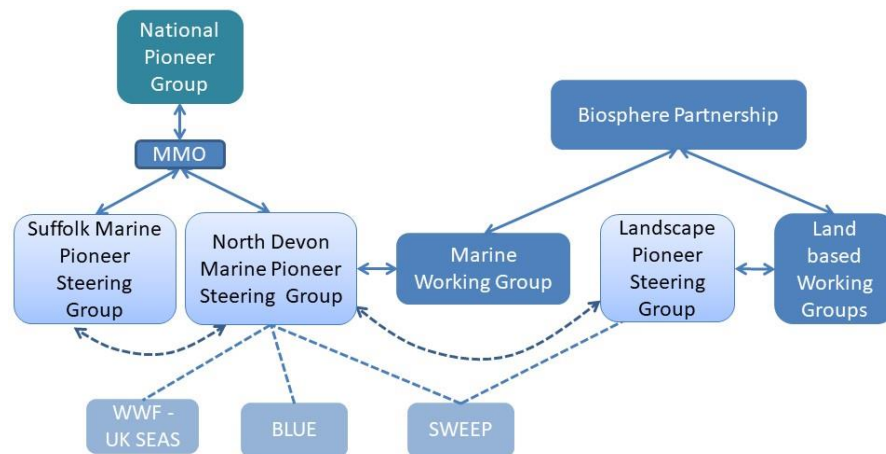


Figure 3 The Governance of the Marine Pioneer and its relationship to the North Devon Biosphere Partnership, the North Devon Landscape Pioneer and the Suffolk Marine Pioneer

The stakeholder engagement for the Marine Pioneer (see table 2 below) has produced the long term ambitious goals for the marine component of the Biosphere, which will contribute to the vision and objectives for the plan. It has provided information on local perceptions of marine governance. It has also provided input of how local people perceive risk to our natural

environment to inform the [North Devon Marine Natural Capital Asset and Risk Register](#) as well as providing local understanding of issues and benefits of North Devon and West Somerset's marine and coastal environment.

This alone will not provide the engagement needed to produce a comprehensive basis for the plan but has provided some preliminary evidence. Nor has it provided the opportunity to talk to people (not part of the stakeholder group) that may also benefit from or be affected by the introduction of the plan.

Table 1 Timeline of stakeholder engagement undertaken through the Marine Pioneer

Activity	Content	Timing	Outputs	Lead/partners
1 st stakeholder workshop (Marine Working Group) - Instow	Development of long term and ambitious goals for marine component of the North Devon Biosphere	27 th Mar 2017	Workshop Report and Summary	Marine Pioneer Steering Group
South West Marine Natural Capital Conference 2017 - Exeter Racecourse	Conference to present Marine Pioneer partners work and introduce Marine Natural capital to leading practitioners, businesses and interested stakeholders from the Southwest	11 th July 2017	Workshop Report	WWF ¹ , Devon Maritime Forum, North Devon Biosphere, South West Partnership for Environmental and Economic Prosperity ² (SWEEP)
Natural Capital and Local Decision Making Workshop 1 - Caddsdow, Bideford	Using planners, licensors and regulators to consider and help design methods that could be used to incorporate nature into local decision making.	20 th Nov 2017	Workshop Report and Summary	SWEEP, Biosphere
Building on the vision for the North Devon Marine Pioneer programme (Marine Working Group) - Alverdiscott	Development of ideas for demonstration projects for the North Devon Marine Pioneer	6 th Feb 2018	Workshop Report and Summary	Marine Pioneer Steering Group

¹ WWF contributes to the Marine Pioneer through their UK SEAS project which is funded by Sky Ocean rescue.

² The Marine Pioneer is supported by SWEEP, through contributions by University of Plymouth and Plymouth Marine Laboratory. The SWEEP programme is funded by Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)

Activity	Content	Timing	Outputs	Lead/partners
North Devon Marine Pioneer workshop (Marine Working Group) - Ilfracombe	Inclusion of community based risk to Natural capital asset and risk register for the natural assets of North Devon (SWEEP), and to prioritise management and/or governance actions, that could be delivered through the WWF's UK SEAS project/Marine natural capital plan	17 th Sept 2018	Perceptions of marine governance Report and Summary	Marine Pioneer Steering Group
Sustainable finance expert workshops -various locations	To provide the focus of the UK SEAS Sustainable finance workstream	Various dates 2017 - 2018	Sustainable finance 1 st report	WWF– UK SEAS, Environmental finance
Marine Protected Area (MPA) expert workshops -various locations	To provide the understanding of what a well-managed MPA might look like	Various dates 2017 - 2019	MPA governance tool kit and summary MPA effectiveness compass survey report	UK SEAS, Natural England
Fisheries meetings in Clovelly, Ilfracombe, and Appledore/Bideford	To understand the issues for local fishing and develop ideas for viable, sustainable fisheries for the future.	Various dates 2018 – 2019	Herring project update	Blue Marine Foundation, IFCA, BR
Natural Capital and Local Decision Making Workshop 2 - Barnstaple	Development of a sustainability appraisal method that would incorporate Natural capital into decision making	2 nd October 2019	Workshop report	PML, (SWEEP), BR
Marine Pioneer Marine Working Group webinar	Presentation of the proposed governance for the plan	6 th February 2020	Webinar recordings (not currently available)	Marine Pioneer Steering Group