

## SUMMARY - A LONG TERM VISION FOR THE NORTH DEVON MARINE PIONEER PROGRAMME

Stakeholder workshop: North Devon Yacht Club, Instow, 27 March 2017

### 1. Participation and method

27 stakeholders representing a range of interests attended the workshop. Participants were asked to describe the main assets of, challenges to, and opportunities for, North Devon's marine area; to define core values that should be reflected in management approaches, and to propose a series of goals for consideration under the Marine Pioneer Programme. Participants were also asked to imagine alternative futures and how drivers and activities affecting the marine environment would change under these different world views. The full report is available at:

[www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk/marinepioneer.html](http://www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk/marinepioneer.html)

### 2. Important Features of North Devon's Marine Area

**2.2 Assets** - more information can be found on pp. 2-3 of the full report

The five *assets* that scored<sup>1</sup> most highly when ranked by the group were: North Devon's marine *species and habitats* (112) , *Water quality* (25) , *Sustainable fishing practices* (23), *Research* (17) and North Devon's *mixed economy* (16)

**2.3 Challenges** - more information can be found on pp. 3-5 of the full report

#### 2.3.1 Priorities for the Marine Pioneer

The five *challenges* that received the highest weighting were: *Lack of awareness* (12) of impacts/benefits of the marine environment, *Lack of funding/investment* (11), *Agricultural and sewage run off* (10) the challenges presented by *Fisheries policy* (10) and *Marine litter* (9)

#### 2.3.2 Challenge themes beyond the scope of the Pioneer<sup>2</sup>

Themes identified as outside the scope of the pioneer were: *changing demographics* (9), *isolation* (7), *lack of demand for local seafood* (4), *unsustainable development and erosion from over-use* (5).

**2.4 Opportunities** - more information can be found on pp. 5-6 of the full report

The Pioneer programme was viewed as an opportunity for *new management approaches and policy influence*, Resources are the *strong, engaged community, partnership working and links to the terrestrial sector*. Specific sectors and approaches included the role of *Marine Protected Areas, Locally led fisheries management, opportunities for fisheries development, recreation and tourism and economic development. Data and research* to inform decision making, *education and publicity* programmes could be built upon. A need for *funding, grants and capital investment* was identified.

### 3. Developing a Vision

Each participant responded to the question: **What are the overarching, core values that should be reflected in the management of, and activities in, North Devon's marine area?** A second group exercise was to **define goals for the Pioneer programme** and to weight the importance of them.

<sup>1</sup> the score from the ranking exercise is given in parentheses

<sup>2</sup> The score in parenthesis represents the number of participants who considered the theme to be beyond the remit of the programme.

**3.2 Core Values** - more information on the core values can be found on pp. 6-7 of the full report  
Nine themes were identified: *biodiversity and conservation, sustainability, fisheries, managing climate change, community, innovation and job creation, sense of place, governance and research and education.*

**3.3 Goals<sup>3</sup>** - more information on each goal can be found on pp. 7-11 of the full report

- **Goal 1: Improving local fisheries management and seafood sales (45)** p.7  
*High level aim:* A viable and sustainable fishery for an optimised local economy
- **Goal 2: Robust protection of biodiversity (33)** p.8  
*High level aim:* To protect the natural beauty and tranquillity of marine area for the local community and the economy, including maintenance of healthy and functioning estuarine ecosystems to protect ecosystem services and allow full utilisation of natural capital
- **Goal 3: Increased local decision making (32)** p.8  
*High level aim:* To ensure effective governance at all levels.
- **Goal 4: Define and implement a response to climate change (14)** p.9  
*High level aim/Specific objective:* To define and implement a response to climate change
- **Goal 5: Job creation in marine industries (13)** p.9  
*High level aim:* To develop a sustainable economy with vibrant marine industries.
- **Goal 6: Develop sustainable aquaculture (11)** p.10  
*High level aim:* To develop a sustainable and productive aquaculture sector
- **Goal 7: Reduce marine litter (11)** p.10  
*High level aim/Specific objective:* To reduce marine litter.
- **Goal 8: Sustainable tidal stream energy (5)** p.10  
*High level aim/Specific objective:* To harness sustainable tidal stream energy
- **Goal 9: Sustainable coastal tourism and leisure (2)** p.11  
*High level aim:* To develop sustainable tourism based on natural and cultural assets.

#### 4. Scenarios

The third component of the workshop was generating a set of storylines that describe possible futures from the marine and coastal perspective. The results from the workshop will be used as inputs for ecological modelling and wider assessment as part of the Marine Ecosystem Research Programme (MERP). **Summary results** can be found on page 13 of the full report

**5. Data inventory and evidence gaps** - more information can be found on pp. 14 of the full report  
During refreshment breaks, participants were invited to complete an inventory of data sources and to highlight gaps in evidence which should be prioritised when commissioning future research.

Participants identified that that to support any meaningful local fisheries management, more research is needed on:

- Distribution and movement of fish species and correct geographical unit for management
- Local stock assessment (e.g. bass and rays)
- Local nursery areas

#### 6. Next steps

Participants responded positively to the invitation to join the marine working group. Further meetings will be convened, the first of which will be in the summer. The results of the MERP modelling will also be reported back to the group in the autumn.

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<sup>3</sup> The number in parentheses after the title of each goal is the weighting given by the workshop participants.