



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Developing a new National Marine Plan for Scotland

Code of Conduct

- *Everybody is able to contribute fully, tabling all their views or reservations*
- *Everybody behaves respectfully towards each other, and all are given the chance to speak without interruption or derision*
- *Comments are not attributed to individuals, and that it is a ‘no blame’ environment*
- *The focus of the discussions is maintained without diversions, maintain the correct level of detail without glossing over important items*
- *Information presented is treated as being “in confidence” and as such respect that information is not disseminated without permission from the NMP2 team*
- *All participants will be able to restate their views during the Plans development in follow-up engagement events or through written communication to the NMP2 mailbox – nationalmarineplanning@gov.scot*

There are NMP2 note takers in room, comments will not be attributed to individuals and note of the meeting will be circulated afterwards

Roundtable Introductions

Aims

- To improve our understanding of the recreational boating sectors concerns which may addressed through marine planning
- To share an update on the development of NMP2
- To build stronger relationships with the sector
- To gather evidence and feedback that can help shape the development of NMP2

Agenda

Time	Section
1300-1325	Introductions and presentation on NMP2
1325-1340	Overview of Pre-Survey results
1340-1410	Planning Position Statement (PPS)
1410-1430	<i>Break and Refreshments</i>
1430-1550	Workshop Exercise
1600	Close



1. Marine Planning in Scotland and Introduction to NMP2



What is planning?



History and Key Milestones of Marine Planning in Scotland

Pre-2009:

- Fragmented, voluntary, sector-specific approaches
- Devolution (1998) - marine responsibilities (fishing, environment, and ports) to the Scottish Parliament.

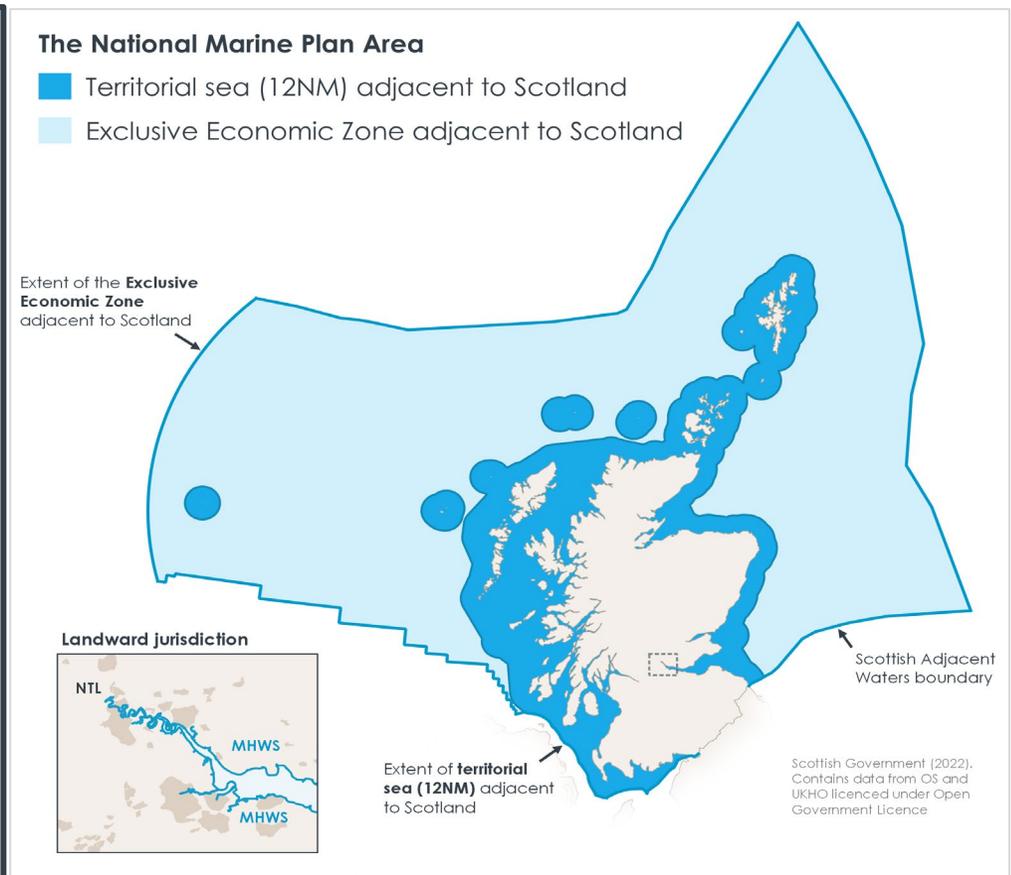
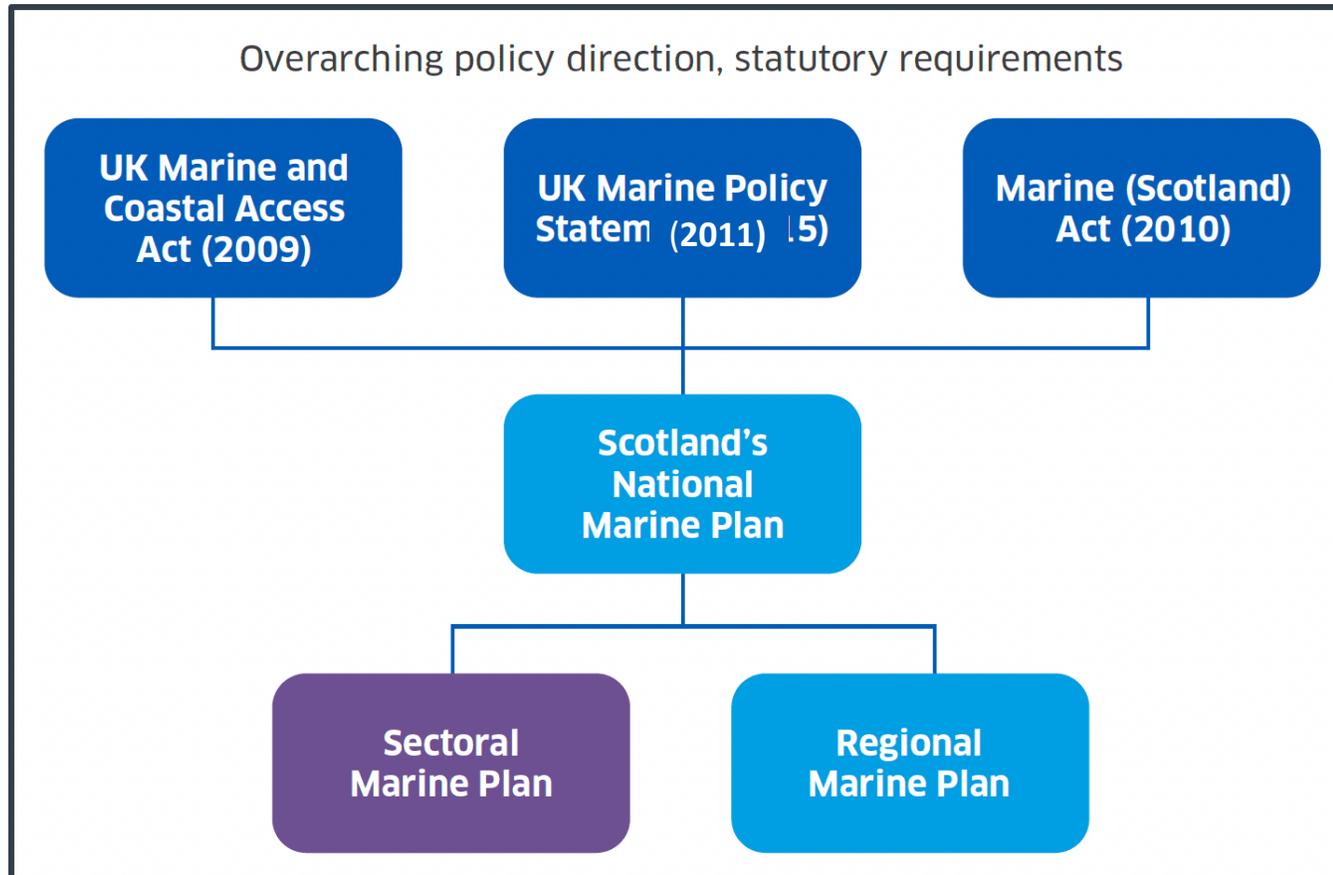
Statutory Planning (2009-):

- Marine planning was formalised through legislation – aim to balance economic growth and environmental protection
- Foundations laid for a statutory planning system designed to manage competing demands like renewable energy, conservation, and tourism

Timeline:

- **2009** – Marine & coastal Access Act
- **2010** – Marine (Scotland) Act
- **2011** – UK Marine Policy statement
- **2015** – Scottish Marine Regions Order
- **2015** – Scotland's first National Marine Plan
- **2020** – Sectoral marine plan for OW energy
- **2025** – Shetland Islands Regional Marine Plan

Marine Planning in Scotland



The National Marine Plan (2015)

- ❖ The National Marine Plan (NMP) provides a single, integrated policy framework for the sustainable use of Scotland's seas.
- ❖ Links marine planning with terrestrial planning systems to ensure coherent management across land-sea boundaries.
- ❖ Seeks to balance economic growth, environmental protection, and social benefits in line with sustainable development principles.
- ❖ Guides public authorities, developers, and regulators when making decisions on marine activities (e.g., aquaculture, renewables, shipping, fisheries).



The NMP is legally binding on public authorities and must be considered in all marine-related decisions.

Marine (Scotland) Act Section 15: Decisions of public authorities affected by marine plans

(1) A public authority must take any authorisation or enforcement decision in accordance with the appropriate marine plans, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise.

(2) If a public authority makes an authorisation or enforcement decision otherwise than in accordance with the appropriate marine plans, it must state its reasons.

(3) A public authority must have regard to the appropriate marine plans in making any decision—

(a) which relates to the exercise by them of any function capable of affecting the whole or any part of the Scottish marine area, but

(b) which is not an authorisation or enforcement decision.

Implementation of NMP – Sectoral Marine Planning

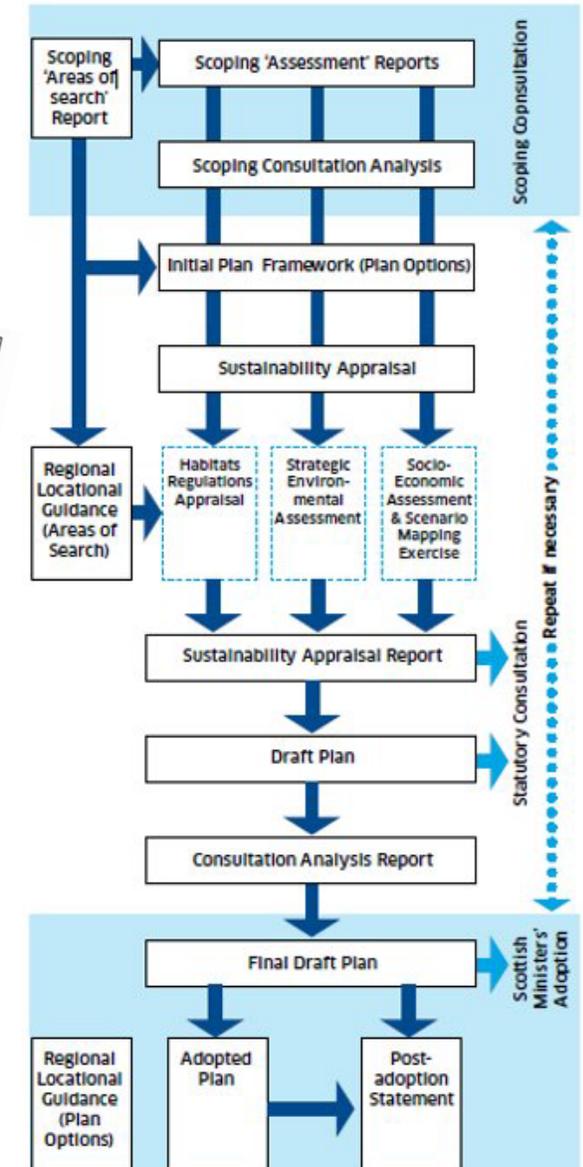
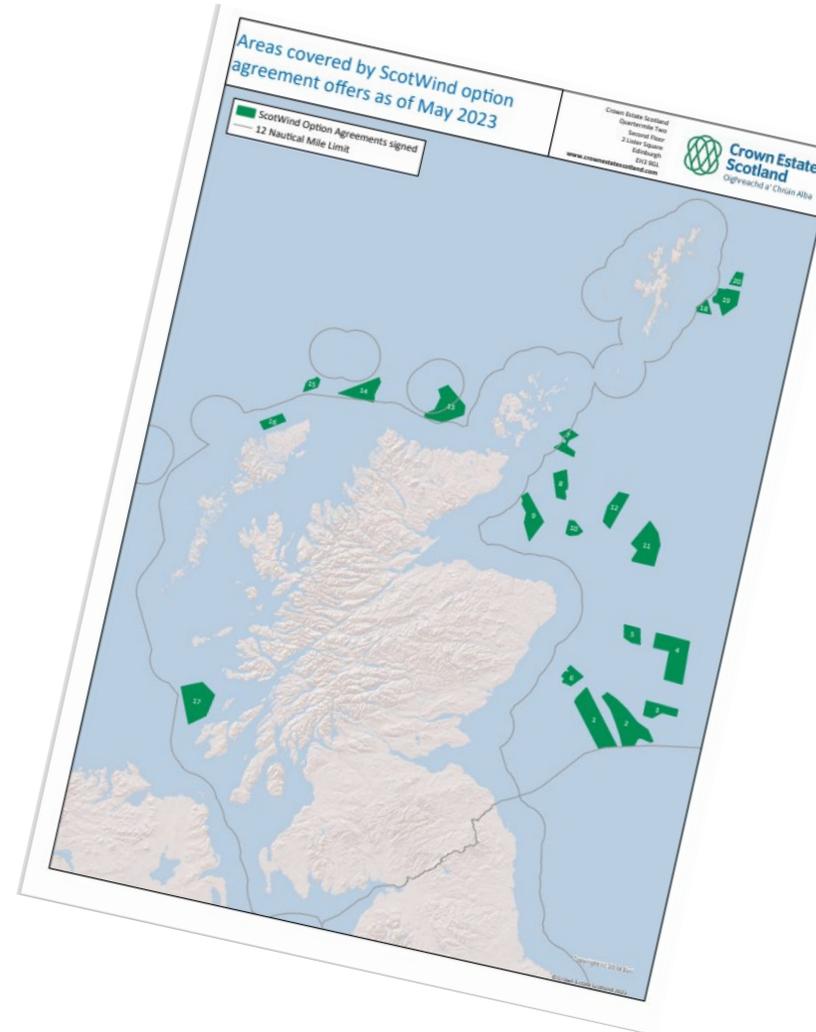
Constraints and Opportunities Analysis

Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy (Commercial Scale) 2020. Plus assessments and consultation

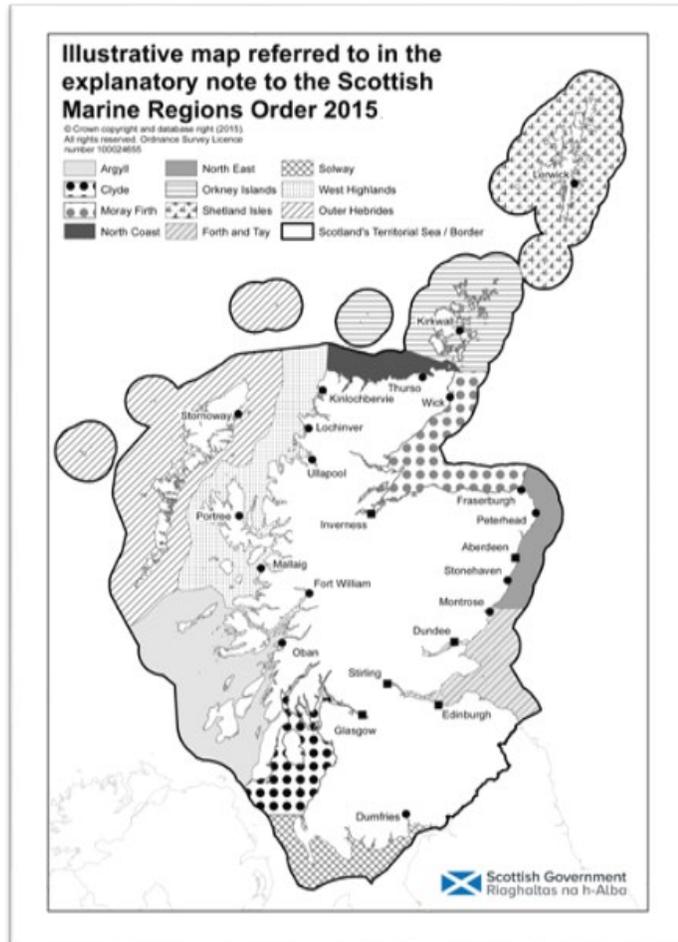
Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy 2025 Consultation and Offshore Wind Policy Statement 2026

CES ScotWind Award = 27.6GW

Iterative Plan Review Process and INTOG



Implementation of NMP – Regional Planning



Scotland Marine Order 2015

MPP Clyde, Shetland and Orkney

Shetland Regional Marine Plan published Dec 2025

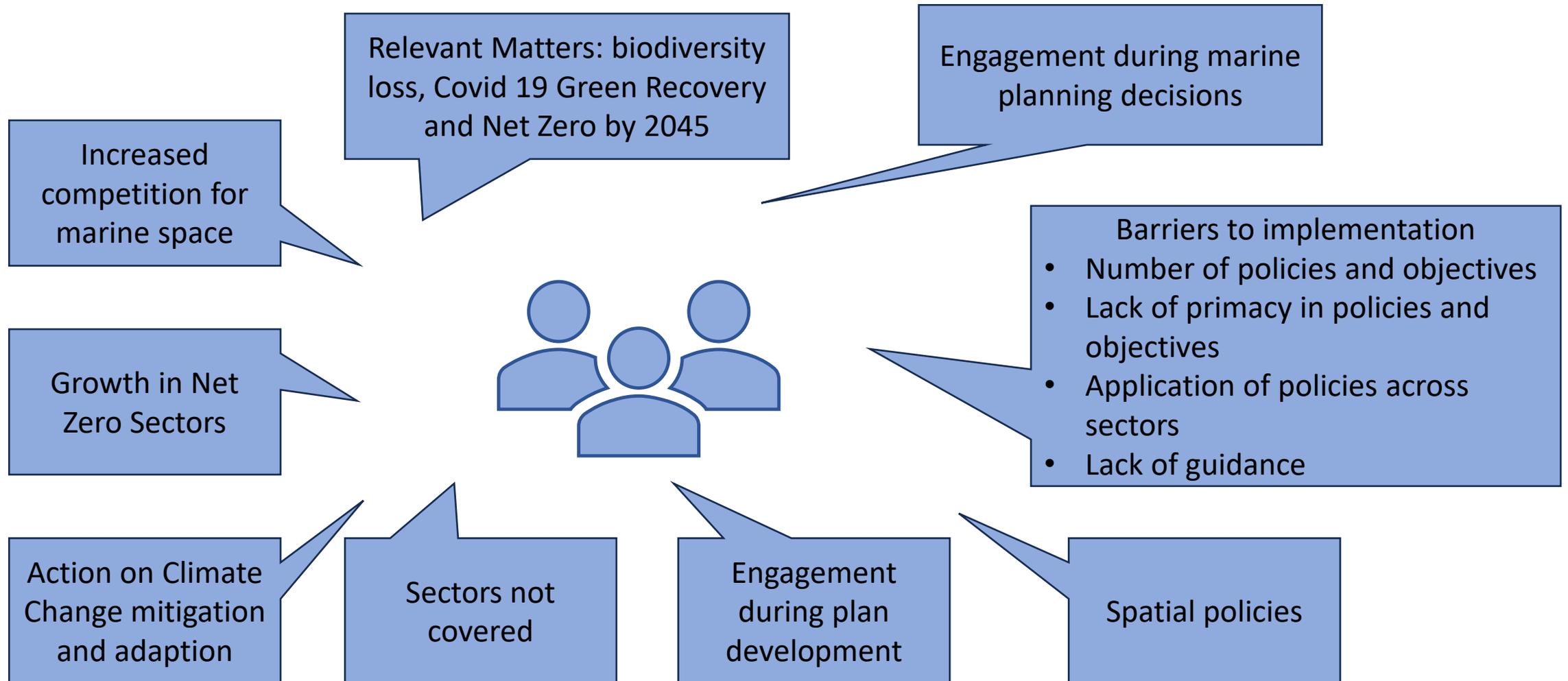
ECCLR

- Vision
- Governance
- Competencies and training
- Financing

NMP2

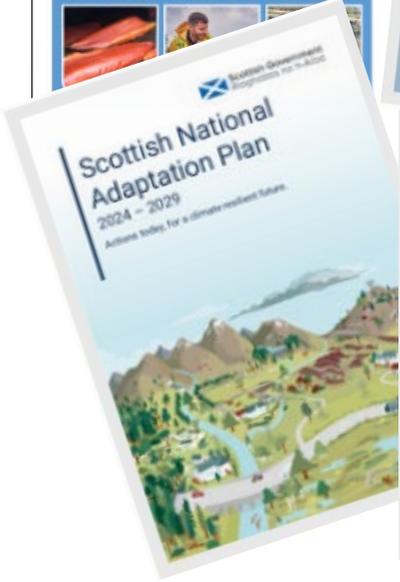
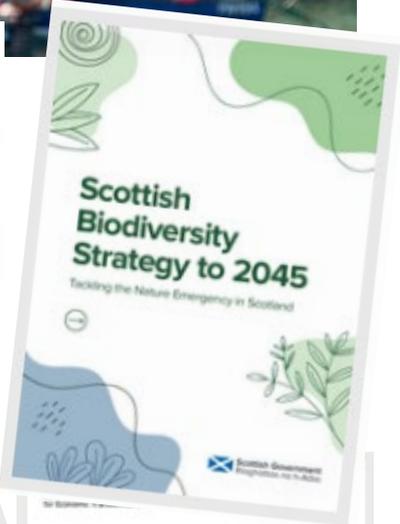
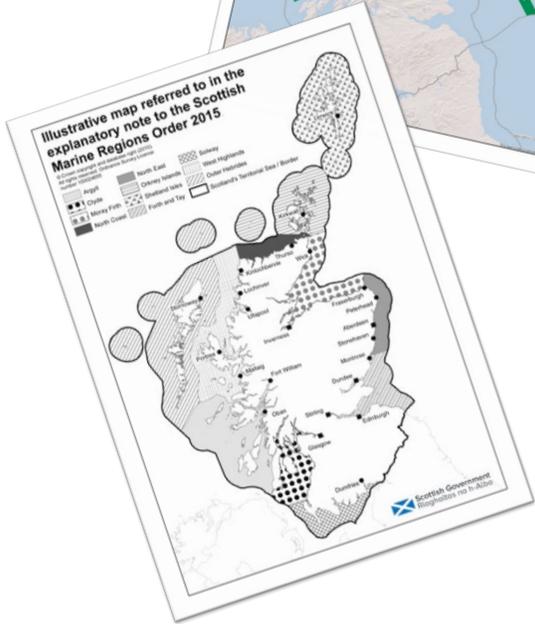
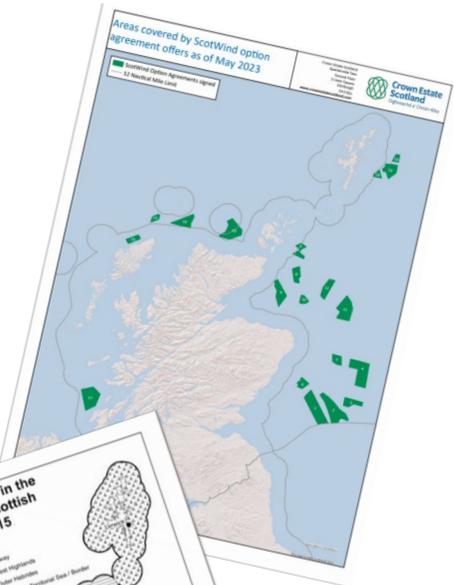
Regional Planning Forum

Developing NMP2



Sources: 2018 and 2021 statutory reviews, stakeholder survey and calls, user survey, FMEC, internal and external workshops and forum

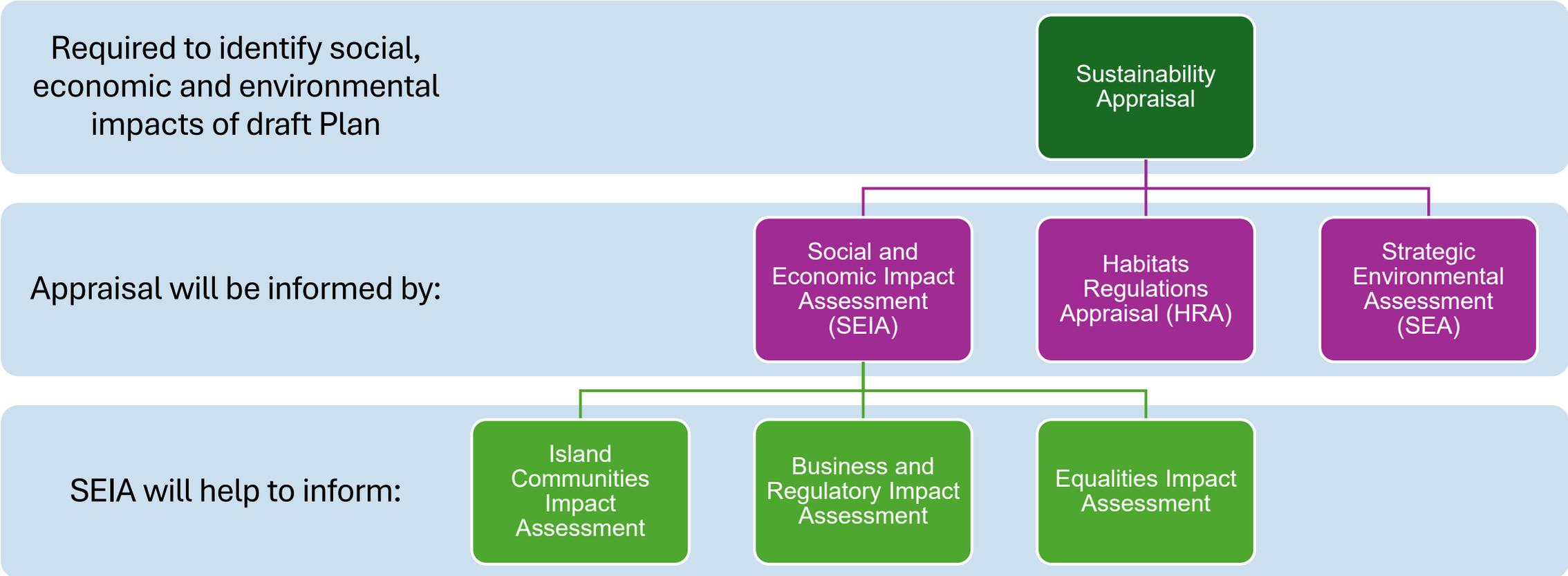
Marine Planning Context



What are the aims of NMP2?

- Further the achievement of **Sustainable Development**
 - Help tackle twin crisis of biodiversity loss and global climate emergency
 - Support transition to net zero
 - Adopt blue economy approach and support delivery of blue economy outcomes
 - Reduce likelihood for conflict for marine space
 - Safeguard sustainable marine sectors
- Develop **planning** policy
- Support Licensing and Consenting and streamlining
- Context for sectoral and regional planning
- Consider implementation of the plan
- Deliver Statutory Assessments
- Design Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
- Composite plan 0-200 nm

Development of NMP2: Assessment of the Plan

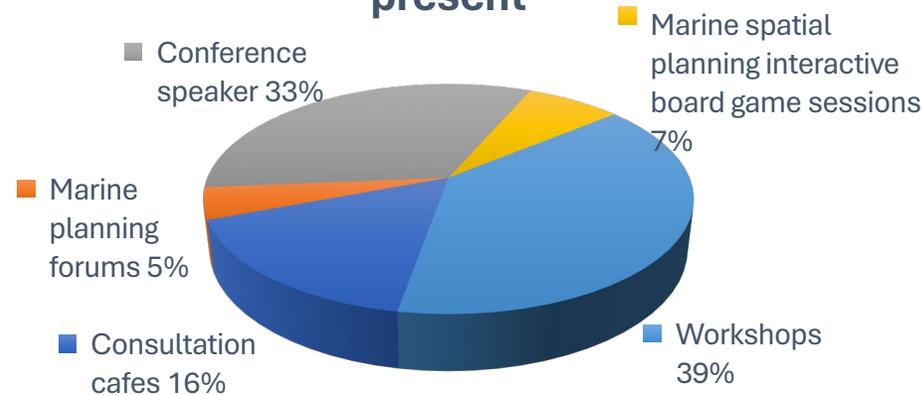


How are we developing NMP2?

“Everyone who uses, relies on or has an interest in Scotland’s seas has the opportunity to inform decision-making in the marine space, and they embrace the National Marine Plan as a key resource to guide decision-making.”

- National Marine Planning Forum
- Steering Group
- Building partnerships
- Future Scenario Workshops
- Sector Workshops
- Community drop-in
- Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping consultation
- Planning Position Statement consultation

Engagement methods used - 2023 to present



[stakeholder engagement strategy and statement of public participation](#)

Summary recommendations from community engagement events

Participants expressed a strong connection to the marine environment, and a desire to have their voices heard in shaping its future.

Key findings highlighted the need to:

- **address** the growing competition for marine space
- **safeguard** vital marine industries like fishing
- **strengthen** measures for environmental protection
- **improve** access to, and recognition of, the wellbeing benefits of the sea
- **ensure** meaningful community involvement in marine planning decisions

Important to ensure dialogue and collaboration between the Marine Directorate, stakeholders, and communities in the continued development and implementation of NMP2

[Community engagement events for National Marine Plan 2: analysis and synthesis - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/publications/analysis-synthesis-community-engagement-events-for-national-marine-plan-2/pages/summary-recommendations-from-community-engagement-events.aspx)



HMC
HOWELL MARINE
CONSULTING

Howell Marine Consulting

Analysis and Synthesis of Community
Engagement Events for National Marine Plan 2

Scottish Government Marine Directorate

Headline progress with NMP2

Engagement

- Internal and external workshops on HLOs and policy ideas and policy stress testing
- Future scenarios workshops and published report
- Published an updated Statement of Public Participation
- Hosted two National Marine Planning Forums
- Established NMP2 steering group
- Published consultation analysis report for
 - SEA scoping
 - PPS
- Published HMC recommendations from community engagement

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Indicator identification
- Development of methodology

Assessments

- Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment and Habitats Regulations Appraisal methodology agreed and assessment underway
- Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment scoping - complete
- Social and Economic Impact Assessment methodology agreed and assessment underway
- Children Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment , Equality Impact Assessment screening and Island Communities Impact Assessment underway

Policy Development

- Strategic Appraisal of NMP
- Develop draft high-level national-objectives
- Planning Position Statement
- Plan development ongoing

2. Survey Results

Survey Results

- We asked:
- Your familiarity with marine planning in Scotland, your biggest concerns around the recreational boating sector, and what do you think could be achieved through marine planning to alleviate your concerns.
- We received 14 responses to the pre-survey
- You said:
- Your biggest concerns were around competition for space, continued access to ports and access to moorings/slipways
- Other concerns raised were a lack of capacity to respond to consultations, wildlife disturbance and marine pollution.
- Concerns were raised outside the scope of marine planning like attracting young people into the sector, access to specific moorings or abandoned vessels.

3. NMP2 Planning Position Statement

Planning Position Statement

What

- Collation of thoughts, ideas and feedback from sector workshops in summer 2024
- Wider Government commitments
- Current thinking and proposed policy direction for NMP2

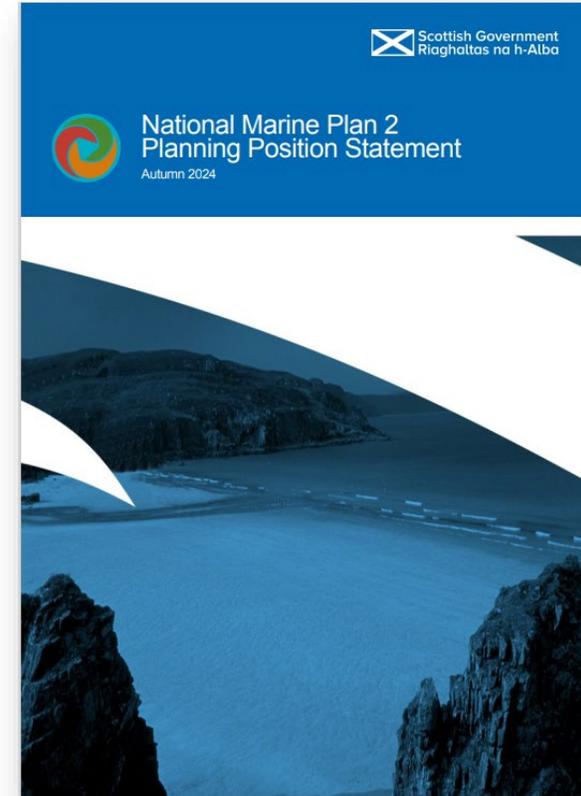
Why

- Further discussion on the content of a draft plan
- Share updated draft High-level Objectives

When

Public Consultation 05 November 2024 to 07 February 2025

[Planning Position Statement](#)



PPS – High level Objectives

- Wording
 - Clearer, stronger, active
- Themes
 - Cover appropriate issues
 - Can be consolidated
 - Food production
- Implementation
 - Too many
 - Relationship with regional and sectoral planning

Mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change in Scotland's seas.

Protect and enhance Scotland's marine nature to support functioning and resilient ecosystems.

Support sustainable economic development and use of Scotland's seas.

Enable safe and fair access to Scotland's coast and seas, whilst protecting and promoting valuable cultural assets.

Enable consistent and transparent decision-making to ensure sustainable use of Scotland's seas.

PPS – Policy Ideas

Climate mitigation and adaptation

- Significant weight to twin crisis
- Siting & Design

Nature

- Nature Protection & Enhancement
- Nature Inclusive Design
- PMFs
- Nature Positive

Management of Pressures

- Air Quality
- Invasive non-native species
- Marine litter
- Noise
- Water
- Wild diadromous fish

Sustainable marine economies

- Safeguarding
- Co-existence
- Sectoral planning
- Compensatory measures/ strategic compensation

Sustainable marine economies

- Aggregates
- Aquaculture
- Cables
- Defence
- Energy
- Fisheries
- Ports and Harbours
- Transport
- Tourism and recreation

Decision-making

- Mitigation hierarchy
- Evidence-based
 - social-economic impacts
 - Spatial data
 - Ecosystems services
 - Cumulative effects
 - Land/sea interactions
 - Community engagement
- Prioritisation

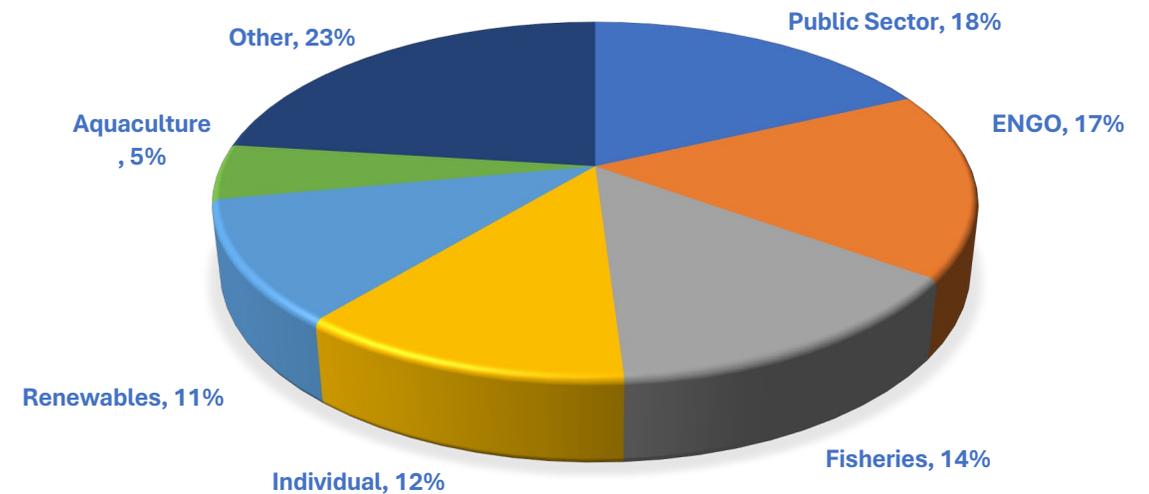
Well-being and accessibility

- Culture heritage
- Support to island and coastal communities
- Access
- Landscape / seascape

Headline feedback from PPS

- Request: for clear priorities for Scotland seas
- Concern: competition for marine space
- Request: for marine spatial planning (MSP)
- Concern: weaken environmental protection
- Request: confirm commitment to regional planning
- Request: for high-level objective on island and coastal communities
- Request: additional planning policies for -
 - 5 environmental principles
 - Community benefit
 - Wet storage
 - Transboundary cooperation
 - Impact on shipping

RESPONSES TO PPS BY SECTOR



4. Workshop Exercise

Workshop Session: Evaluation of planning policy options

Aim: to evaluate potential planning policy options
(these options have been taken from existing marine or terrestrial plans)

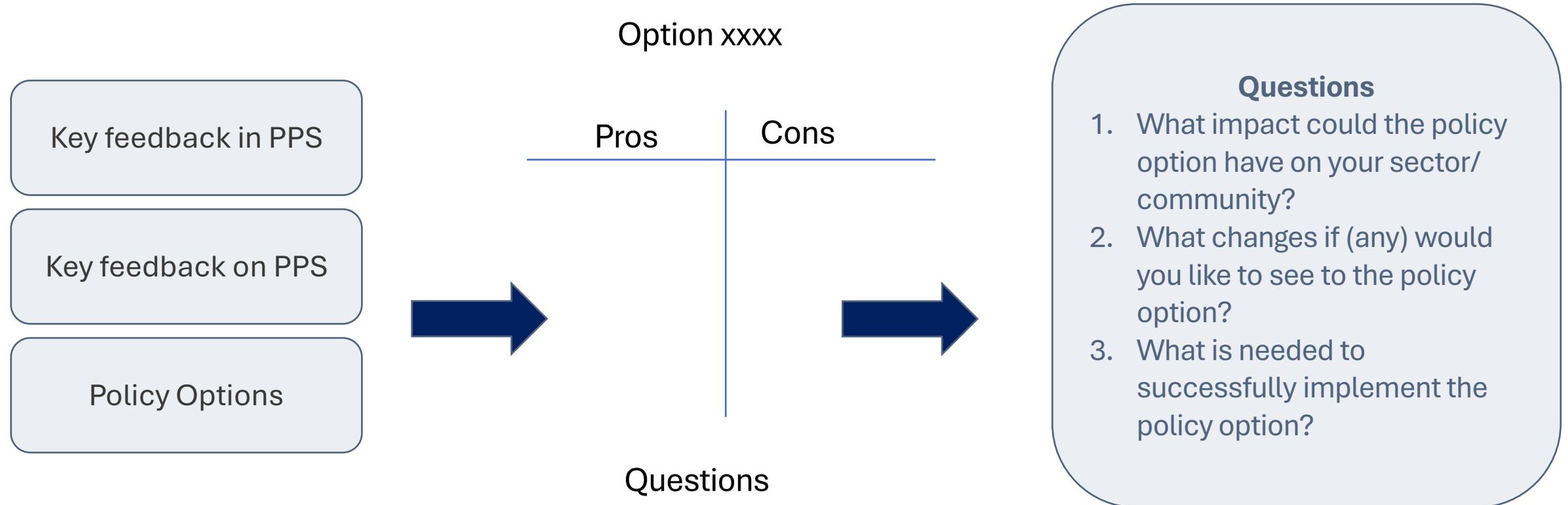
Activity: options appraisal - consider pros and cons of the different policy options and potential impacts on your sectors or communities

Time: Options evaluation 1 hour
Plenary discussion 20 mins

What are planning policies?

- Planning policy has been established through decades of planning practice
- UKG Inside Government team “a statement of the government’s **position, intent or action.**”
- Types of potential planning policies:
 1. Provide support to decision makers in the form of provision of supporting information
 2. Provide support to decision makers on how they deliver existing duties in planning decisions
 3. Spatial policies: consideration of spatial restrictions, or requirements to operate within a given space or requirements to consider spatial data in decision making
 4. Planning policies to address gaps

Workshop Session: Evaluation of planning policy options



Workshop Session: Evaluation of planning policy options

Policy areas for discussion:

Co-existence

Tourism and
Recreation

Ports, harbours
and shipping

Community
engagement

Activity:

- Begin with policy area assigned to your table. Each table is supported by SG facilitator and note taker
- Select a spokesperson for feeding back
- Read the options and supporting material (provided by SG facilitator)
- Discuss pros and cons of each option and capture on flip chart
- Consider the implications / potential impacts from your perspective
- If time allows, select a second policy area to work through



Existing coexistence policies

	Pros	Cons	Evaluation of option
<p>English - NW- CO-1 Proposals that optimise the use of space and incorporate opportunities for co-existence and co-operation with existing activities will be supported. Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on, or displace, existing activities must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate - adverse impacts so they are no longer significant. If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals must state the case for proceeding.</p>			
<p>WNMP SAF_01: Safeguarding existing activity</p> <p>a. Proposals likely to have significant adverse impacts upon an established activity covered by a formal application or authorisation must demonstrate how they will address compatibility issues with that activity. Proposals unable to demonstrate adequate compatibility must present a clear and convincing case for the proposal to progress under exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>b. Proposals likely to have significant adverse impacts upon an established activity not subject to a formal authorisation must demonstrate how they will address compatibility issues with that activity. Proposals unable to demonstrate adequate compatibility must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.</p> <p>Under SAF 01 a and b, compatibility should be demonstrated through, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoiding significant adverse impacts on those activities, and/or • Minimising significant adverse impacts where these cannot be avoided; and/or • Mitigating significant adverse impacts where they cannot be minimised 			

Existing tourism and recreation policies

	Pros	Cons	Evaluation of option
<p>English - NW- TR- 1 Proposals that promote or facilitate sustainable tourism and recreation activities, or that create appropriate opportunities to expand or diversify the current use of facilities, should be supported. Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on tourism and recreation activities must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate - adverse impacts so they are no longer significant.</p>			
<p>NMP Recreation & Tourism 2</p> <p>The following key factors should be taken into account when deciding on uses of the marine environment and the potential impact on recreation and tourism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent to which the proposal is likely to adversely affect the qualities important to recreational users, including the extent to which proposals may interfere with the physical infrastructure that underpins a recreational activity. • The extent to which any proposal interferes with access to and along the shore, to the water, use of the resource for recreation or tourism purposes and existing navigational routes or navigational safety. • Where significant impacts are likely, whether reasonable alternatives can be identified for the proposed activity or development. • Where significant impacts are likely and there are no reasonable alternatives, whether mitigation, through recognised and effective measures, can be achieved at no significant cost to the marine recreation or tourism sector interests 			

Existing Ports, Harbours and Shipping policies

	Pros	Cons	Evaluation of option
<p>English NW: Ports, Harbours and Shipping NW-PS-1: Only proposals demonstrating compatibility with current port and harbour activities will be supported. Proposals that may have a significant adverse impact upon future opportunity for sustainable expansion of port and harbour activities, must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate - adverse impacts so they are no longer significant. If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should state the case for proceeding.</p>			
<p>NMP Transport 02 Marine development and use should not be permitted where it will restrict access to, or future expansion of, major commercial ports or existing or proposed ports and harbours which are identified as National Developments in the current NPF or as priorities in the National Renewables Infrastructure Plan.</p>			

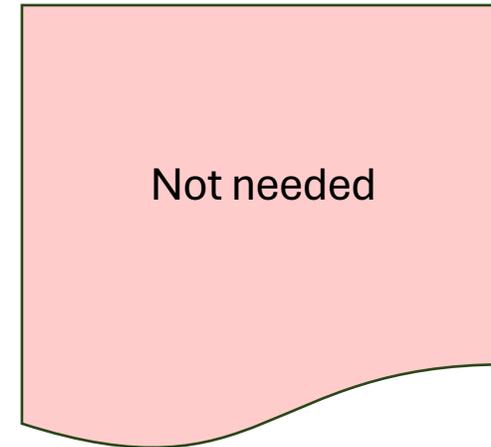
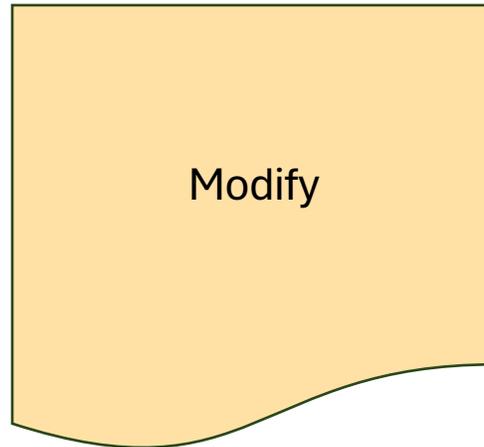
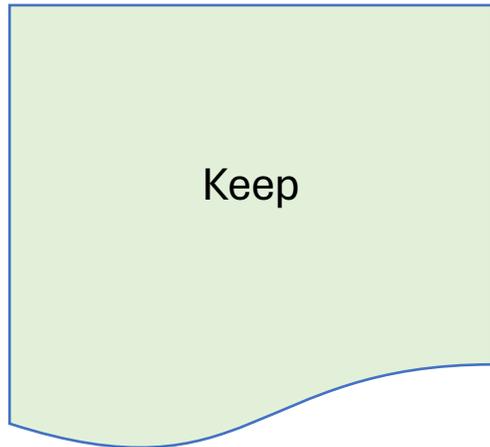
Existing engagement policies

	Pros	Cons	Evaluation of option
<p>SIRMP Policy MP COM1: Community Considerations Proposals for marine development or use should consider the social impact on the local community. Where adverse social impacts may occur, proposals for marine development or use may be required to demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) there is no alternative location for this type of development; b) all necessary mitigation measures have been included in the development proposal; c) local stakeholders, community councils, groups and other marine and coastal users have been consulted and engaged in the development process; and d) how impacts have been assessed and considered in a manner proportionate to the scale of the development. 			
<p>NMP General Policy 18 Engagement: Early and effective engagement should be undertaken with the general public and all interested stakeholders to facilitate planning and consenting processes.</p>			

Evaluation of planning policy options

Please agree within your table

For your policy option should we ***And why***



Workshop Exercise: Using MIRO

MIRO can be accessed via the link posted in the meeting chat

- Click on and off.
- Use arrow to select and edit.
- Use hand tool to move around the page.
- Double click whilst using hand tool to change to select.



Add Post-it Notes
Choose colour and click and drag around screen to desired position

Individual frame - each category has its own frame

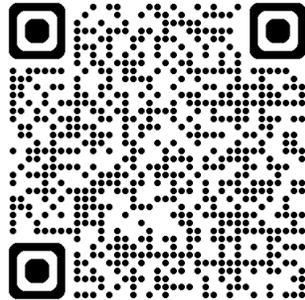
Click to show frame navigation pane.

Zoom bar



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Any Questions?



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