



# South Marine plan

The Government has adopted a new framework for planning marine activities around the south coast of England.

England's South Marine Plan will inform decision-making on what activities take place in the marine environment. The plan will guide where and how this is developed, protected and improved over the next 20 years. It will help ensure that when activities take place, they happen in the best location and in the right way within the marine environment.

## The plan:

- is a strategic vision for the sustainable use of the shared marine environment
- informs and guides decisions by regulators managing the development of industry in marine and coastal areas, while conserving and enhancing the environment and recognising leisure uses
- represents a wide range of activities and interests including tourism, fisheries, aggregates, ports and shipping, marine conservation, defence and seascape
- provides certainty for developers ensuring that the right activities happen in the right place, at the right time and in the right way
- is brought into effect through its use in decision-making - all public bodies are legally required to make authorisation and enforcement decisions which are likely to affect the marine area in accordance with the plan, unless an exception states otherwise
- is available on GOV.UK and relevant data on the Marine Information System

The MMO is working closely with decision makers and stakeholders along the coast to ensure the Plan is understood and used effectively.

## Key facts:

The plan area stretches from Folkestone, Kent to the River Dart, Devon, covering an area of approximately 1,700 kilometres of coastline and over 21,000 square kilometres of sea.

The plan is the culmination of around 5 years of engagement with business, charities, representative organisations and individuals.

The South Marine Plan area is very dynamic, including 9 world heritage sites, some of the busiest shipping channels in Europe and 60 marine protected areas.

