

Marine Strategy Implementation team  
1 floor Seacole block  
2 Marsham St,  
Westminster,  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Our ref:  
Your ref:  
Telephone:

20<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **UK MARINE STRATEGY: PART ONE (REVIEW OF TARGETS)**

Further to your invitation to offer comment on the *Marine strategy part one: UK updated assessment and Good Environmental Status* Consultation document (dated May 2019), we hereby offer the following response in reference to our role and responsibilities as explained below.

#### The role of Historic England

The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (HBMCE), known as Historic England, is the Government's adviser on all aspects of the historic environment in England including historic buildings and areas, archaeology and historic landscape with a duty to promote public understanding and enjoyment. HBMCE is an executive Non-Departmental Public body sponsored by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and we answer to Parliament through the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. Our remit in conservation matters intersects with the policy responsibilities of a number of other government departments – particularly the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government with their responsibilities for land use planning matters. The National Heritage Act (2002) gave HBMCE responsibility for maritime archaeology in the English area of the UK Territorial Sea and we provide licensing and planning advice in regard to the historic environment found within the English Inshore and Offshore Marine Planning Areas, as defined by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.



Historic England, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Cannon Bridge House, 25 Dowgate Hill, London EC4R 2YA  
Telephone 020 7973 3700 Facsimile 020 7973 3001  
[HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk)



Please note that Historic England operates an access to information policy.  
Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available.

### The purpose of this consultation

We appreciate that the UK Marine Strategy Regulations 2010 implement the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), which requires the UK to take measures to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES)<sup>1</sup> by 2020 which it does through implementation of the UK Marine Strategy. We therefore acknowledge that this consultation is focused on proposals for updating the UK Marine Strategy Part 1 (published in 2012). We note the detail provided regarding the assessment of progress towards the achievement of GES for UK seas and the inclusion of revised targets and indicators to be used over the next 6 years.

We also note that for the purposes of achieving GES the assessment and management of the marine environment covers all UK marine waters and beyond with a key aim for the UK Marine Strategy to coordinate actions with other countries, particularly for The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) Region II (the Greater North Sea) and OSPAR Region III (the Celtic Seas).

We are aware that the above referenced report considers other factors that might affect progress towards achieving or maintaining GES such as could be linked with an increase in the Gross Value Added (GVA) of the offshore wind sector in the coming decades. We also noted the detail regarding the economic relevance of the leisure and recreation sector at a UK reporting scale. Education and R&D are also recognised which could include professional academic or other state-supported investigations, which we appreciate that for the purposes of this exercise are aligned with UK Marine Strategy objectives.

### Consultation questions

In recognition of our specific responsibilities for the protection and management of our shared historic environment for England (as explained above), we have directed our attention to the following question only in the consultation document:

*Does the UK Marine Strategy Part One provide an accurate reflection of the state of UK marine waters and the economic and social uses of those waters?*

Regarding social analysis of the use of UK marine waters we appreciate that the focus is on the contribution made by various marine industries and the numbers of people employed and any identifiable changes since the Initial Assessment in 2012. It also provides an analysis of how the main marine activities engage with labour markets, an indicative cost of degradation, and an overview of research on public perceptions towards the UK marine environment.

The scale of analysis is such that key sectors are assessed e.g. offshore oil and gas industry (excluding the services sector); maritime transport; telecommunications; leisure and recreation; and marine renewable energy (e.g. considerable growth expected) with attention directed at “cost of degradation” i.e. marine quality and how socio-economic factors might be affected that utilise the natural environment.

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<sup>1</sup> GES is defined as “...the environmental status of marine waters where these provide ecologically diverse and dynamic oceans and seas which are clean, healthy and productive within their intrinsic conditions, and the use of the marine environment is at a level that is sustainable, thus safeguarding the potential for uses and activities by current and future generations.”



In our response it is important for us to reference Section 2.5.6 (social value and benefits of the marine environment) within the Consultation Document, which states:

*“In addition to providing economic value, the marine environment provides considerable social and cultural value including recreation, heritage and identity, beauty and inspiration, sense of place, health and well-being. Evidence on the size, characterisation and importance of these services is limited, but there is growing interest and research in this area.”*

In response to this question we acknowledge the attention directed by *A Green Future: our 25 year Plan to Improve the Environment* (HM Government, 2018) at adopting a natural capital approach and the associated marine pioneer projects<sup>2</sup>. Therefore in recognition of this matter we have commissioned projects to examine the concept of natural capital and the contribution made by cultural services<sup>3</sup>. We also have an established programme for Historic Seascape Characterisation (HSC)<sup>4</sup> that includes the English Inshore and Offshore Marine Planning Areas and which has produced a methodology for the generation of spatial data for perceptions of (historic) character utilising disparate data sources.

Furthermore, we are aware that for the purposes of marine planning attention is directed at the concept of seascape, as defined by the *UK Marine Policy Statement* (HM Government and Devolved Administrations, 2011) and the application of a methodological approach published by Natural England (*Approach to Seascape Assessment*, 2012) which our HSC programme compliments. However, we consider it a relevant matter in the consideration of economic and social uses of the marine environment to give sufficient attention to concepts of characterisation inclusive of natural and cultural Influences as well as aesthetic or other perceptual qualities. We therefore hope that the use of the evidence base which supports determination of GES will encompass the identification of key characteristics and differing perspectives.

It is a related matter that sufficient attention is given to how seascape character informs evidence-based Marine Plan preparation as an important means to accommodate our needs, to understand change and the implications for the state of UK marine waters. We also offer that in terms of economic and social use of UK marine waters it is relevant to explain and demonstrate long term change to our environment, as was highlighted within the *UK Marine Science Strategy (2010-2025)* (HM Government and Devolved Administrations, 2010) through utilisation of evidence about processes and impacts of past sea level change on submerged archaeology as a means to help understand changes expected in the future.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Christopher Pater  
**Head of Marine Planning**

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-pioneer>

<sup>3</sup> <https://research.historicengland.org.uk/Report.aspx?i=15572&ru=%2FResults.aspx%3Fp%3D371>

<sup>4</sup> <https://historicengland.org.uk/research/methods/characterisation-2/historic-seascapes/>

