

Shetland Marine Region 6 Month Update – August 2017

On 22 March 2016, Scottish Ministers gave a Direction to the Shetland Fisheries Training Centre Trust (operating as the NAFC Marine Centre) and the Shetland Islands Council to prepare a regional marine plan

(<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/seamanagement/regional/partnerships/Shetland>).

Since the progress update of February 2017 the NAFC Marine Centre and the Shetland Islands Council (SIC) have worked together to:

- Hold an additional advisory group meetings to discuss the development of the regional marine plan
- Draft a Statement of Public Participation
- Worked together to respond to Marine Licence Applications
- Developed a 'Shetland Marine Region State of the Environment Assessment' which has been subject to review and published in July 2017.
- Identified data gaps and initial stages of Environmental Action Plan
- Initiated the process of gathering information for policy formation, SEA, HRA and BRIA documents
- Started the SEA and HRA process
- Reviewed existing policies within the NMP and the existing SIMSP to identify potential policy gaps, improvements and additions
- Form 3 Policy Working Groups titled Environment, Industry and Community (including recreation) in order to discuss potential policy gaps, improvements and additions in specific areas
- Notice of Intention to prepare a Regional Marine Plan sent to Orkney Islands Council
- Work has started to prepare data from the SoEA to be added to NMPI
- An update on the Regional Marine Plan was given at the Marine Planning Practitioners Event in Edinburgh on the 22nd June 2017

The NAFC Marine Centre completed 'Shetland Islands Marine Region State of the Environment Assessment' (SoEA), as required under the Marine Act in April 2017 and published in July 2017. This assessment has been subject to review by MASTS and provides a baseline data set for the development of a regional marine plan and for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which will accompany the regional plan. The SoEA is now being used as a baseline to assist in policy development and to form an action plan for the development of the Shetland Islands Regional Marine Plan (SIRMP).

The NAFC Marine Centre have started work on the development of the SIRMP alongside the SEA and HRA. In addition the NAFC Marine Centre and SIC have co-ordinated responses to Marine Licence applications as Marine region delegate. To date 16 licence application responses have been provided to Marine Scotland in the last 6 months.