

# Scotland's National Marine Plan 2

Stakeholder Engagement Strategy  
and Statement of Public Participation

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# 1. Ministerial foreword



This engagement strategy has been prepared to support the preparation and implementation of a new National Marine Plan for Scotland's seas (NMP2). The current National Marine Plan (2015) sets out the strategic policies for the sustainable development of our marine resources out to 200 nautical miles (nm), covering topics including offshore wind and other marine renewables, aquaculture, aggregates and shipping, ports and harbours. Since the first National Marine Plan was published, there have been significant changes in Scotland – including the Scottish Government's commitment to becoming a net zero nation

by 2045, the impacts of EU exit and increased understanding of the impacts of climate change and human activity on the marine environment.

Widespread stakeholder participation and engagement with the general public is essential if we are to successfully deliver a new National Marine Plan for Scotland that helps us:

- deliver our priorities in line with our statutory targets;
- support sustainable economic recovery, and;
- protect and enhance the natural goods and services our marine environment provides.

There will be tough choices to make as we proceed through the planning process. We want all sectors and communities to be part of developing NMP2, building shared objectives for the management of Scotland's seas.

This strategy sets out our overarching framework for engaging the people of Scotland, and beyond, over the next three years, as we develop and deliver NMP2. It sets out our approach to engagement, options for how we will engage with different sectors and communities, and timeframes for engagement during the different stages of the planning process.

The strategy will be updated regularly, based on stakeholder feedback and evidence collected throughout the planning process.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mairi McAllan'.

**Mairi McAllan MSP**

Minister for Environment,  
Biodiversity and Land Reform

## 2. Introduction

### 2.1 What is marine planning and who does it?

Marine planning is a practice to help manage the multiple uses of our seas and oceans. Unlike other types of planning, such as land-use planning or urban planning, marine planning is a relatively new activity in Scotland – it was introduced as a statutory duty for Scottish Ministers under the “Marine Acts” in 2009-10<sup>1</sup>. Marine planning activities often result in the creation of a plan, strategy or framework, that is then used to guide decisions on how, when and by whom, certain activities can be undertaken in the marine environment.

In Scotland, marine planning activities are undertaken nationally, regionally and for specific sectors (Figure 1). To date, marine planning activities in Scotland have resulted in a statutory National Marine Plan, several draft Regional Marine Plans and a Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind, described below.

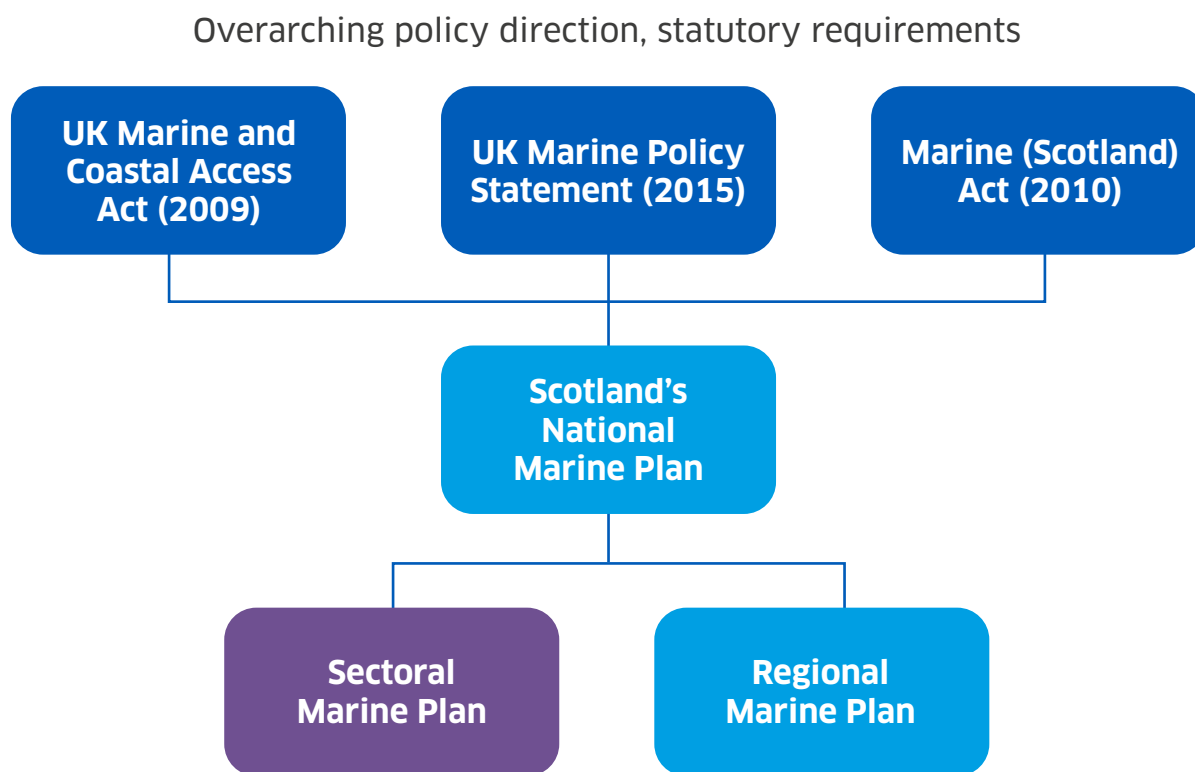
The Scottish Government’s Marine Scotland Directorate undertakes national marine planning activities in accordance with the requirements and conditions set out in the Marine Acts. For example, under section 5 the Marine Scotland Act (2010) (“the 2010 Act”), National Marine Plans must include policies for the sustainable development of Scotland’s seas and set objectives for economic, social and marine ecosystems and mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. The Scottish Ministers must also state their policies on the contribution of designated conservation sites for the protection and enhancement of the sea and these will help to ensure that our international commitments on conservation are met. The current National Marine Plan (2015) also sets the wider context for marine planning within Scotland, including what should be considered when creating regional marine plans and sectoral marine plans.

Marine Scotland Directorate undertakes spatially explicit planning for specific marine sectors, including offshore wind and marine conservation practices, such as marine protected areas. The [sectoral marine plan for offshore wind energy](#), published in 2020, identifies sustainable plan options for the development of commercial-scale offshore wind energy in Scotland.

Finally, Marine Scotland Directorate supports Regional Marine Planning Partnerships, made up of local stakeholders who reflect marine interests in their region, to undertake regional marine planning activities, encouraging more local ownership and decision-making about specific issues within their respective areas. Marine Planning Partnerships are currently developing regional marine plans in three out of eleven marine regions<sup>2</sup> set out in [the Scottish Marine Regions Order 2015](#) – Orkney, Clyde and Shetland. A map showing the eleven marine regions is provided in the Statement of Public Participation (Annex A).

1 Marine planning in Scotland’s inshore waters (out to 12nm) and offshore waters (12 to 200nm) is governed respectively by the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, an Act of the Scottish Parliament and by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, an Act of the UK Parliament.

2 To guide marine planning at the regional scale, section 1(5) of the Marine Scotland Act (2010) provides the Scottish Ministers with powers to identify boundaries for Scottish marine regions. Following extensive consultation, eleven Scottish Marine Regions have been defined, covering sea areas extending from the coastline out to 12nm.



**Figure 1:** Summary of the marine planning process in Scotland, with key legislation and policies guiding planning activities shown in blue, statutory marine plans in light blue, and other marine plans in purple. Regional and sectoral marine plans must be in compliance with the current National Marine Plan.

## 2.2 Why are we updating the National Marine Plan?

Scottish Ministers are required under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 (MSA) to prepare and adopt a national marine plan for the Scottish marine area, as well as keep the plan under review. The first National Marine Plan, adopted in 2015, sets out strategic policies to guide the sustainable development of Scotland's marine resources from Mean High Water Springs<sup>3</sup> out to 200nm. The 2015 plan contains general policies for the sustainable development and use of Scotland's marine area, as well as sector-specific policies for sectors such as sea fisheries, aquaculture, defence, aggregates, offshore wind and other marine renewables.

Since its adoption, the National Marine Plan (2015) has been reviewed twice, in line with statutory requirements to monitor and report on: the effects of the plan's policies, the effectiveness of those policies in securing the plan's objectives, its progress in securing its objectives, and other relevant matters.

- The first review, published in 2018, found the plan to be effective but pointed to EU Exit as one reason that might justify future revisions.

<sup>3</sup> Marine Scotland, on behalf of Scottish Ministers, has the primary responsibility for marine planning, conservation and licensing from Mean High Water Springs out to 200nm. In the intertidal zone, between low and high water springs, terrestrial planning authority overlaps with Marine Scotland Directorate's responsibilities for the marine area. For more information, see: Planning Circular 1/2015, 'The relationship between the statutory land use planning system and marine planning and licensing'.

- The second review, published in 2021, suggested that the urgent need to tackle the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, amongst other factors, had become core drivers for a new plan.

The 2021 review found that there was a clear need to update NMP1 to reflect the significant changes in the wider policy and legislative landscape, rapid developments in technology, the need to deliver a green recovery from COVID-19, as well as to reflect our improved understanding of the marine environment, including the socio-economic benefits of marine development. The review highlighted that the Scottish Government’s commitment to delivery of a Blue Economy Approach, to establish and grow “blue” as a natural capital asset in Scotland, would be an important policy development and that the policies in the National Marine Plan would need to reflect and be aligned with the ambitions within the Blue Economy Vision.



**Figure 2:** New policy drivers for Scotland’s second National Marine Plan.

In March 2022, we published the Blue Economy Vision for Scotland, outlining its long-term ambition for shared stewardship of our marine environment by 2045<sup>4</sup>. The vision sets out a new approach that puts environmental and societal issues on a more equal footing with economic interests. As identified by the 2021 review of NMP1, the updated National Marine Plan will act as a key delivery mechanism for the outcomes in the Blue Economy Vision.

The Blue Economy Vision makes clear that there are difficult choices ahead to deliver the aspirations for the sustainable management of Scotland's seas and coasts by 2045, which will require consideration of co-dependencies, synergies or trade-offs between different interests and any cumulative impacts. Applying a 'blue economy' approach to the national marine planning process will help us to reconcile these difficulties and differences in a manner which is right for Scotland's people and seas.

In September 2022, Scottish Ministers announced their intention to update the National Marine Plan (2015), in line with these findings and feedback from stakeholders.

### **2.3 Why is Marine Scotland Directorate engaging stakeholders on the development of NMP2?**

Securing the involvement of our stakeholders from the beginning of the planning process is essential to the creation of a national marine plan that will benefit not only individual sectors, but also people living and relying on, as well as visiting, Scotland's marine environment.

We recognise that working with stakeholders often results in better information and evidence to inform policy decisions, such as the locations of certain activities in the marine space, or insight as to how certain stakeholder groups would be affected by or perceive a given policy. Through participating in the plan development, stakeholders also come away with a better understanding of policies and how they may apply in practice.

The Scottish Ministers have a statutory obligation to prepare and publish a Statement of Public Participation, outlining when and how they will engage with stakeholders during the preparation of a national marine plan (in accordance with paragraphs 5 and 6 of schedule 6 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 ("the 2009 Act", and paragraphs 4 and 5 of schedule 1 of the 2010 Act. There is also a statutory obligation under part 1 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 ("the 2005 Act") to consult relevant stakeholders on the draft plan and accompanying strategic environmental assessments. Further, the Marine Acts require that public authorities must take authorisation or enforcement decisions in accordance with the National Marine Plan, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise.

<sup>4</sup> The [Blue Economy Vision](#) for Scotland sets out the Scottish Government's long-term ambition for Scotland's blue economy to 2045. It promotes an approach that is consistent with Scotland's National Performance Framework and our international obligations.

To that end, this stakeholder engagement strategy, alongside the Statement of Public Participation provided in Annex A, will outline:

- what we want to achieve through engaging stakeholders on the development of NMP2;
- how we hope to achieve that, and;
- how stakeholders can be involved.

## **2.4 How does this tie in with other stakeholder engagement carried out by Marine Scotland Directorate?**

We recognise that the Marine Scotland Directorate already carries out extensive engagement with stakeholders as part of its day-to-day business, for example, in relation to specific policy or regulatory changes. We also recognise that our stakeholders put considerable time and effort into working with us on these issues.

Prior to developing this strategy, the Marine Scotland Directorate undertook an informal review of its own previous stakeholder engagement activities, as well as engagement activities run by other Scottish Government directorates, in order to identify best practices and lessons learnt. Relevant Scottish Government officials were asked a series of open-ended questions relating to their experience of stakeholder engagement, any challenges, risks and opportunities associated with working with stakeholders, and their expectations and objectives for engaging stakeholders through the national marine planning process. More than 30 officials from policy, delivery, communications and analytical teams participated in a series of sessions from November to December 2021, providing over 100 responses to each of the questions.

We have incorporated the findings of this internal review into the vision, outcomes and principles that shape this strategy. In particular, in order to avoid the risk of stakeholder fatigue and disinterest in the marine planning process, we will identify opportunities to use existing engagement mechanisms and engage our stakeholders and the public in a manner which is proportionate and effective. Examples include:

- working with existing stakeholder working groups;
- attendance at the regular Regional Inshore Fishery Groups' Chairs meeting to provide progress updates and collect feedback;
- attendance at the meetings of Regional Marine Planning Partnerships;
- sharing of evidence and views gathered through other consultation processes more broadly, where the necessary consent has been sought and granted, to inform policy development.



## 2.5 How to read this strategy

The main text of the strategy provides an overview of what we want to achieve through engaging stakeholders on the development of NMP2. We suggest reviewing the vision, outcomes, actions and principles – these will shape our stakeholder engagement during the development of NMP2. We will monitor progress against these outcomes and principles and adjust our engagement actions as required.

The statutory Statement of Public Participation (SPP) (Annex A), provides a chronological timetable of proposed stakeholder engagement activities, including target stakeholders and methods for engagement. The SPP should be read in conjunction with the main text of this strategy.

# 3. Vision for engagement and theory of change

## 3.1 Vision for engaging stakeholders on NMP2

Our vision for engaging stakeholders during the development of NMP2 reflects the lessons learnt and best practices on engagement across Marine Scotland Directorate and wider Scottish Government.

Our vision for engaging stakeholders during the development of NMP2 is:

**“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.”**

The vision is underpinned by outcomes for engaging stakeholders during the planning process, and the actions we will take to achieve those outcomes.

## 3.2 Outcomes for engaging stakeholders and actions we will take

The outcomes presented in the “Theory of Change”<sup>5</sup> in Table 1 outline what we want to achieve by engaging stakeholders on the development of NMP2, and shape the style and scope of the engagement activities we will undertake. Table 1 also includes example actions we will take to deliver on these outcomes.

The actions provided in Table 1 are not exhaustive, rather, they provide an indication of the types of engagement we will undertake with specific stakeholders and throughout the entire plan development process. A timetable of proposed stakeholder engagement activities, including target stakeholders and methods for engagement, is also provided in Annex A.

<sup>5</sup> A Theory of Change is a way of explaining how a given intervention or set of interventions (the actions we take to engage stakeholders throughout the marine planning process) will lead to a specific change, and ultimately our long-term aspirations (our vision for NMP2 stakeholder engagement).

**Vision for engaging stakeholders during the development of 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.

**Outcomes – the long-term changes we want to see as a result of our actions**

Stakeholders understand the planning process and the effect and practical implications of NMP2.

There is sustained and proportionate engagement from stakeholders throughout the planning process.

There is a shared understanding of interests and priorities among stakeholders and officials.

Stakeholders feel that their voices have been heard in the process of developing NMP2.

Stakeholders have all of the information they need to participate, in an appropriate form.

A wide variety of stakeholders are engaged on the development of NMP2.

Power dynamics among stakeholder groups are managed so that there is appropriate and proportionate participation from all users of Scotland's seas.

**Outputs – what we hope to deliver as a result of our actions**

The NMP2 Stakeholder Engagement Strategy meets statutory requirements for consultation applicable to the NMP and outlines our expectations for stakeholder engagement.

The new NMP2 online hub is a 'one-stop-shop' for all updates on the planning process.

There is a record of stakeholder feedback on the plan development, including how feedback has been taken into account, for each stage of the planning process.

There is a record of stakeholder feedback on the engagement process, including how feedback has been taken into account.

There are surveys at stakeholder engagement meetings, workshops and events to keep track of who is participating and whether they perceive the engagement to be effective.

**Actions – an indication of what we will do to achieve our intended vision**

We will identify existing fora for marine stakeholders and stay informed of the feedback shared therein.

We will provide updates at each stage of the planning process.

We will design and tailor engagement activities based on stakeholder groups and interests.

We will be active in responding to stakeholder enquiries, and balance this alongside our proactive engagement plans.

We will keep track of who participates in stakeholder engagement meetings, workshops and events.

Officials working on the plan will take training and development on conflict resolution and engagement.

**Table 1:** Theory of change highlighting key outcomes and associated actions for stakeholder engagement throughout the development of NMP2.

The theory of change outlined in Table 1 is based on the assumption that all stakeholders invited to take part in the development of NMP2 have the capacity and resources to participate in the activities we have proposed.

We also acknowledge that there may be factors beyond our control that do not allow for our proposed planning timelines to be met, and that we will do our best to adjust our stakeholder engagement activities as appropriate, and with advance notice to stakeholders.

### 3.3 Principles that will guide our engagement with stakeholders

In order to deliver the vision and outcomes for engaging stakeholders outlined in Sections 3.1 and 3.2, and reflect the lessons acquired from previous efforts, we commit to carrying out engagement that is:

- **inclusive;** ensuring that a broad and diverse range of stakeholder groups have the opportunity to share their views at various stages of plan development.
- **targeted;** carrying out effective and efficient engagement to avoid repetition and fatigue, but still gather valuable insight and knowledge from stakeholders.
- **transparent;** taking a strategic and consistent approach to engagement, by publishing updates at each stage of plan development and communicating how feedback has been taken into account.

We recognise that different stakeholder groups have distinct needs, interests and capacities, and have proposed a suite of engagement activities that reflect these differences. The precise level of stakeholder engagement will depend on the stage of NMP2 development. Engagement levels could range from basic informative updates to active cooperation.

We also understand that our engagement with stakeholders throughout the national marine planning process needs to stay flexible. Stakeholder interests may change or emerge throughout the planning process (e.g. due to new or emerging industries, innovation in existing practices). Therefore, the example actions listed in Table 1, as well as stakeholder engagement timetable outlined in the SPP in Annex A, are necessarily high-level. The Marine Scotland Directorate will provide more detailed information on specific activities and events in the coming months. We commit to the vision, outcomes and principles for stakeholder engagement outlined here as a guide, and will monitor progress towards these outcomes as we move through the plan development process.

### 3.4 How we will measure our progress against these outcomes during the national marine planning process

We plan to carry out light-touch monitoring of the outcomes outlined in Section 3.2 to ensure that our approach to stakeholder engagement is inclusive, targeted and transparent.

We intend to monitor:

| Indicator   | Monitoring mechanism  |
|---|---|
| Level of stakeholder understanding of the planning process and NMP2   | Pre- and post-meeting/workshop/event surveys  |
| Level of participation across stakeholder groups, interests and diversity indicators (e.g. age, gender, etc.) | Meeting/workshop/event attendance lists, analysis of existing stakeholder databases                   |
| Stakeholder validation of engagement findings and feedback  | Citizen Space consultation feedback   |
| Level of satisfaction in the planning process   | Pre- and post-meeting/workshop/event surveys; Citizen Space consultation feedback                     |
| Level of understanding and use of NMP2 by relevant authorities  | Post adoption: number of times NMP2 is accurately referenced in licensing and consenting applications |

# Annex A

## Statement of Public Participation (SPP)

The key aim of this SPP is to set out:

- how and when we will engage people in the preparation of Scotland's new National Marine Plan ("NMP2");
- indicate the associated timeframe for the development of NMP2, and;
- invite comment as to the matters to be included in NMP2.

### 1.1 Background

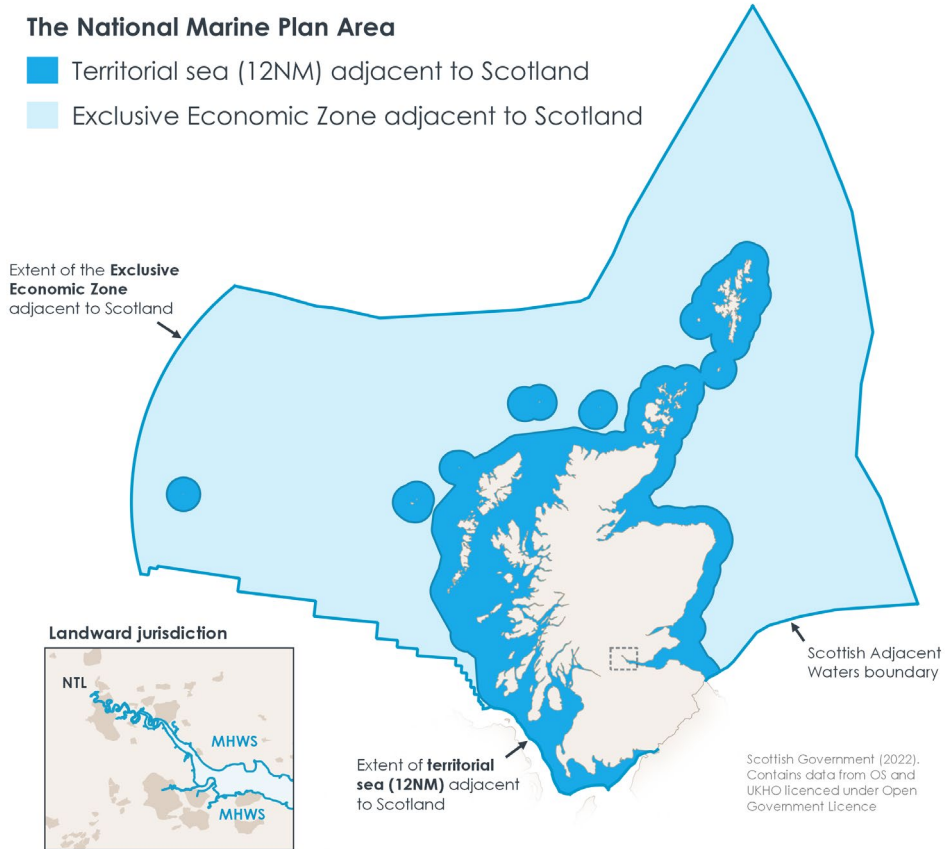
This SPP sets out how and when we will engage with stakeholders during the preparation of the updated NMP2. The SPP will be kept under review by Scottish Ministers throughout the development process and amended as necessary to address key issues and feedback.

This SPP has been prepared in accordance with schedule 6 to the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 ("the 2009 Act") and schedule 1 to the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 ("the 2010 Act").

The SPP provides a statement of the policies settled by the Scottish Ministers for or in connection with the involvement of interested persons in the preparation of the proposed NMP2. This SPP should also be read in correlation with the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy prepared to support the development of NMP2.

The publication of a SPP formally commences the start of the planning process.

## Nautical Limits Around Scotland



**Figure 3:** Map of area which will be covered by NMP2.

### 1.2 Stakeholders we will engage with during the planning process

Marine plans guide decision-making in our marine regions and are therefore important resources for everyone who uses, relies on, or has an interest in the marine environment and plan area. Marine plans are also important tools for those who make regulatory or development decisions that affect the marine environment and marine space.

Marine Scotland Directorate is committed to engaging with representatives from a wide range of interest groups. We hope to engage with stakeholders in the following groups, representing various interests:

| Stakeholder groups   |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Government</li> <li>• UK Government and other Devolved Administrations</li> <li>• Non-UK bordering nations and administrations</li> <li>• Public bodies</li> <li>• Marine Planning Partnerships and Local Coastal Partnerships</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representative bodies and charities</li> <li>• Private sector</li> <li>• Academic and research institutions</li> <li>• Other local community groups (e.g. youth)</li> <li>• Members of the general public</li> </ul>  |
| Stakeholder interests  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aquaculture (finfish, shellfish)</li> <li>• Coastal change, flood and coastal erosion risk management</li> <li>• Community development</li> <li>• Defence and national security</li> <li>• Ecology and biodiversity</li> <li>• Emerging marine industries</li> <li>• Energy production</li> <li>• Fisheries</li> <li>• Gas and electricity interconnectors and cable</li> <li>• Historic environment</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hydrogen and carbon capture and storage (CCUS)</li> <li>• Infrastructure development</li> <li>• Marine aggregates</li> <li>• Marine conservation and protection</li> <li>• Marine dredging and disposal</li> <li>• Navigation and safety</li> <li>• Ports and shipping</li> <li>• Rural and island communities</li> <li>• Seascape and landscape</li> <li>• Seaweed harvesting and cultivation</li> <li>• Telecommunications</li> <li>• Tourism and recreation</li> </ul> |

**Table 2:** Stakeholder groups and interests we will engage during the national marine planning process.

### 1.3 Methods of engagement

We are committed to carrying out engagement with stakeholders that is inclusive, targeted and transparent. We realise that not all stakeholders will have the resources or interest to participate in each stage of plan development. For this reason, we plan to provide a mix of active engagement opportunities – through collaboration and formal consultation – and regular communication and updates to keep stakeholders informed of the process.

| Plan stage / stakeholder group                               | UKG, devolved administrations, other administrations | Public bodies | Local Coastal Partnerships, Marine Planning Partnerships | Representative bodies, charities | Private sector | Academic and research | Other community groups | General public |
|--|--|---------------|--|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Vision and objective setting                                 | ▲  | ▲             | ▲  | ▲                                | ▲              | ▲                     | ▲                      | ▲              |
| Strategic appraisal of NMP (2015) and refining scope of NMP2 | ▲  | ■             | ▲  | ×                                | ●              | ▲                     | ●                      | ●              |
| Preparation of statutory assessments (SEA, BRIA, HRA, etc.)  | ■  | ■             | ■  | ■                                | ■              | ■                     | ●                      | ●              |
| Policy framework development                                 | ▲  | ▲             | ▲  | ▲                                | ▲              | ▲                     | ▲                      | ×              |
| Monitoring and evaluation framework development              | ▲  | ▲             | ×  | ×                                | ×              | ▲                     | ×                      | ×              |
| Draft plan and draft assessments                             | ▲  | ▲             | ▲  | ▲                                | ▲              | ▲                     | ▲                      | ▲              |

■ Collaborate    ▲ Consult    × Keep informed    ● Ad-hoc communication

**Table 3:** Stakeholder engagement matrix, showing the minimum level of engagement we hope to achieve at each stakeholder group at each stage of the planning process.

The following engagement matrix outlines the extent of stakeholder engagement we intend to undertake with each broad stakeholder group at each stage of the planning process.

The shapes/coding indicate the minimum level of engagement we commit to for each main stakeholder group.

As discussed in Section 3 of the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy, we will use a range of methods to engage and communicate with stakeholders at each stage of the planning process to achieve our intended outcomes. These will include, but are not limited to:

- face-to-face, hybrid and online workshops, webinars, meetings and events;
- the Scottish Government's online consultation hub – CitizenSpace;



- publication of information and data online at **gov.scot**;
- direct postal and email communication, and;
- social media, via the Scottish Government’s social media channels.

Full details of events, workshops, webinars and other meetings will be provided online in due course, at: <https://www.gov.scot/policies/marine-planning/national-marine-planning/>

## 1.4 Proposed timetable for the development of NMP2 and engagement activities

| Stage of plan preparation   | Estimated timing           | Planned engagement activities   |
|---|----------------------------|---|
| <p><b>Vision and objective setting, and a strategic appraisal of the current National Marine Plan (NMP1)</b></p> <p>Description: developing the social, economic, ecosystem and climate mitigation and adaptation objectives underpinning NMP2 in consultation with stakeholders. Assessing NMP1 as well as other recent strategies and policies impacting marine industries, resources and the environment, against the new objectives to refine the scope of NMP2, in consultation with stakeholders.</p> | Autumn 2022 to Spring 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Webinar announcement outlining planning process and ways for stakeholders to be involved.</li> <li>• Workshops and discussions with stakeholders via existing fora.</li> <li>• Bespoke meetings with the purpose of agreeing new objectives for NMP2.</li> <li>• Workshops to assess NMP1 against these new objectives and using the findings to refine the scope of NMP2.</li> <li>• Communications summarising the process and outputs of this stage of plan development.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Statutory assessments</b></p> <p>Description: preparing the Sustainability Appraisal on the draft Plan (comprising the Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitats Regulations Appraisal, amongst other impact assessments). This stage takes place in parallel with other stages.</p>   | Autumn 2022 to Spring 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshops and detailed discussions to agree the assessment methodologies and evidence to inform the Sustainability Appraisal and other assessments; we will set up relevant advisory groups as necessary.</li> <li>• Communications summarising the process and outputs of this stage of plan development.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Policy framework development, policy drafting, monitoring and evaluation framework development, plan drafting</b></p> <p>Description: reviewing and developing the plan policy framework, in line with the new objectives and informed by the Strategic appraisal and statutory assessments.</p>  | Autumn 2022 to Spring 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshops, detailed discussions to develop draft policies for inclusion in NMP2 – informed by outputs of Sustainability Appraisal and other assessments.</li> <li>• Communications summarising the process and outputs of this stage of plan development.</li> </ul>   |

| Stage of plan preparation  | Estimated timing         | Planned engagement activities  |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| <p><b>12-week Public Consultation on the draft NMP2 and Sustainability Appraisal</b></p> <p>Description: publication and formal, public consultation on the draft plan and all relevant assessments. The plan will be revised based on consultation feedback. In the event that major changes are required to the draft plan as a result of the consultation, further assessment and/or consultation may be required. This will result in revised timescales for final adoption and publication.</p> | Spring / Summer 2024     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formal public consultation and engagement on the draft NMP2 and Sustainability Appraisal documents – which will be available online to view and respond to. Consultees will also be able to respond via the contact details below.</li> <li>As required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, the consultation period of the Sustainability Appraisal report will be advertised in relevant newspapers.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Consultation analysis, revision of draft NMP2</b></p> <p>Description: preparation of a consultation analysis report, which will be presented with the draft NMP2 for Parliamentary approval. A statement on inclusion of retained functions and conformity with the UK Marine Policy Statement will be prepared).</p>  | Autumn 2024              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NMP2 and consultation analysis report will be brought to Parliament.</li> <li>UK Ministerial approval of statement on inclusion of retained functions and conformity with UK Marine Policy Statement.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Independent investigation</b></p> <p>Description: dependent on outcome of consultation process. Scottish Ministers will determine if this is required for any unresolved issues.</p>   | Autumn/ Winter 2024      | No activities planned.   |
| <p>Lay draft NMP2 before Parliament for final approval (in accordance with paragraph 13 or schedule 1 of the 2010 Act).</p>  | Winter 2024/ Spring 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft NMP2 will be laid before Scottish Parliament for a period of 40 days and will be considered by relevant Parliamentary Committee(s).</li> <li>NMP2 will also be submitted to the Secretary of State for agreement.</li> </ul>  |
| <p>Final considerations, adoption and publication of NMP2.</p>   | Spring/ Summer 2025      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notification that NMP2 has been published.</li> </ul>   |

**Table 4:** Proposed timetable for the development of NMP2 and engagement activities.

## 1.5 Retained functions

The plan will also include provisions relating to retained functions and a statement on inclusion of retained functions and the conformity of NMP2 with the UK Marine Policy Statement<sup>6</sup> will be prepared following consultation on the draft NMP2.

We will collaborate with officials in the UK government and other devolved administrations to enable joined-up marine planning across borders.

## 1.6 Sharing your views

If you, or your organisation, would like further information or if you have any comments on our approach to stakeholder engagement, the SPP, the matters to be included in NMP2 or the national marine planning process more generally, please contact us using the details provided below.

### Write to:

Marine Planning and Strategy Team  
Marine Scotland  
Scottish Government  
Area GB North, Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6QQ

Email: [NationalMarinePlanning@gov.scot](mailto:NationalMarinePlanning@gov.scot)

Visit: <https://www.gov.scot/policies/marine-planning/national-marine-planning/>

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<sup>6</sup> The [UK Marine Policy Statement](#) (MPS) is the framework for preparing Marine Plans and taking decisions affecting the marine environment.



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