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Dear Stakeholder

Consultation on the Marine Strategy Part 1: UK Updated Assessment and Good Environmental Status

Updated assessment of progress towards achieving Good Environmental Status (GES) and proposals for new objectives, targets and indicators for the next 6 years

Defra, the Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government are seeking views on the UK's updated assessment of the progress made towards achieving GES for UK Seas and the proposed objectives, targets and indicators that will be used for the next 6 year cycle.

The consultation covers the assessment of progress made towards achieving the targets set for GES in the Marine Strategy Part 1 in 2012. These relate to biological diversity, non-indigenous species, commercially exploited fish and shellfish, food webs, human-induced eutrophication, sea floor integrity, hydrographical conditions, contaminants, contaminants in fish and other seafood, marine litter and introduction of energy (including underwater noise).

It also sets out proposals for updated high level objectives, targets and operational targets to be used for 2018 to 2024. These build on those set in 2012 and take account of the assessment findings and developments toward achieving coordinated targets, indicators and thresholds nationally, in the European Union and in the OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the North East Atlantic.

This consultation covers the updated UK Marine Strategy Part 1 only. It does not cover the UK's marine monitoring programme set out in the Marine Strategy Part Two, or the UK's programme of measures set out in the Marine Strategy Part 3. Updates to these will be made in 2020 and 2021 respectively.

The consultation document can be found on Defra's website:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/marine/updated-marine-strategy-part-one>. You can find more information on the MSFD at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/protecting-and-sustainably-using-the-marine-environment/supporting-pages/implementing-the-marine-strategy-framework-directive>



Responses

We welcome your views and comments on the proposals. Please send responses online - June 2019 via the consultation page at <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/marine/updated-marine-strategy-part-one>

Alternatively

Email: marine.strategy@defra.gov.uk

Post: Marine Strategy Implementation Team

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If you wish to obtain a hard copy of this consultation please use the contact details above.

Consultation Criteria

This consultation is in line with the government's Consultation Principles. This can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance.

Copies of responses will be made available to the public on request. If you do not want your response – including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, that won't count as a confidentiality request.

Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for this information under freedom of information legislation. But, because of the law, we cannot promise that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

We will summarise all responses and place this summary on our website at: www.gov.uk/defra.

This summary will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details.

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to Defra Consultation Co-ordinator: email consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk.

Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any queries please contact us as above.

Yours sincerely,

Marine Strategy Implementation team

Defra