



Marine Planning Issues with Supporting Evidence

Overview

In 2023, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs agreed with the Marine Management Organisation's recommendation to replace the East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plans. The adopted East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plans will be replaced with a new 'East Marine Plan' which will be the first of a second generation of plans for English waters. The new document will be referred to as the 'East Marine Plan'.

Following the publication of the East Marine Plan Statement of Public Participation, the next stage within marine plan development involves gathering issues with supporting evidence. The call for issues is the start of our conversation with stakeholders about what the opportunities, challenges and needs are for the east marine plan areas over the next 20 years. The call is also looking to gather evidence to support these issues.

Why your views matter

It is important that all those with an interest in the UK's marine environment can have their say in the process to replace the East Marine Plans and contribute to shaping the east marine plan areas' seas and coast. Find out more about Issues with Supporting Evidence [here](#).

This survey is an opportunity for you to input into plan development by providing your perspective on the issues in the east marine plan areas, along with any supporting evidence. The issues and evidence collated will be vital in developing a relevant and useful Marine Plan.

How to respond

Once you have submitted your response, you will be sent a receipt and a link to a PDF copy of your response.

Responses should be received by 23:59 on 10th January 2025. If you are unable to use Citizen Space, you can download the consultation documents from the 'related documents' section below and return your response by email to planning@marinemanagement.org.uk or in writing to: Marine Planning Team, Lancaster House, Hampshire Court, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE4 7YH.

Contents

Within this survey, you will be asked to input your ideas to ascertain whether the issues identified have been addressed by the current East Marine Plans, and if the current and future issues identified by the marine planning team are accurate. You will further be asked to input your own issues and supporting evidence.

If you are looking for a specific marine sector, the table below highlights where you will find the proposed survey questions. Please use these groupings as an aid to navigation:

Economy	Social	Environment	Overlapping Themes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aggregates• Aquaculture• Cables• Carbon capture usage & storage (CCUS)• Dredge and disposal• Infrastructure• Oil and gas• Ports, Harbours and shipping• Renewables• Hydrogen• Nuclear	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access• Cross-border co-operation• Defence• Employment• Fisheries• Heritage assets• Knowledge, understanding, appreciation and enjoyment• Seascape and landscape• Tourism and recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Air quality• Biodiversity / Habitat• Disturbance• Invasive species• Marine litter• Marine protected areas• Net gain and natural capital• Underwater noise• Water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climate change• Co-existence• Cumulative effects

Each theme group has three sections:

- **Past issues** – Previously identified during plan development between 2012 and 2014.
- **Current issues** – Current issues identified by the marine planning team.
- **Future issues** – Potential future issues identified by the marine planning team with a 20 year horizon.

Please note: The questions in this survey are not compulsory. If you do not wish to comment, then please leave the question blank.

Definitions

The Marine Planning team would like you to provide your perspective on what you see as the opportunities, challenges and needs for the east marine plan areas over the next 20 years.

Issue: An issue is an opportunity or challenge to the marine plan areas which is likely to drive or be affected by change, and that can be addressed, at least in part, by marine planning.

Evidence: In terms of marine planning, evidence is any type of information that can be used to inform the development, implementation, and monitoring of marine plans. Evidence is a broad term and includes scientific research, government legislation, plans & strategies, other national policy, spatial information, and expert stakeholder views and opinions.

Why does it matter?

A key example of why your views matter is highlighted within the South Marine Plans. During plan development, stakeholders identified a key issue along with corresponding evidence to identify the need for a specific marine plan policy.

Issue: A significant number of herring spawning grounds faced adverse effects due to other activities in the marine area.

Evidence: Predominantly sourced from a report on 'herring spawning potential' by the East Channel Association (linked here) the MMO further supplemented evidence from the initial data held with a specific evidence project (linked here).

Outcome: The evidence identified highlighted the need for policy intervention to address this issue, culminating in the development of the S-FISH-4-HER policy. This is why your views matter.

What is evidence?

You can download a copy of this explanatory document by clicking [here](#).

If you wish to provide any supporting evidence, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

Further definitions that may be useful:

Cause: A cause precedes an effect. The logic model is cause-issue-effect. A cause is the catalyst, motive, or action which impacts on the issue and creates an effect.

Effect: An effect is the result of the cause (or causes) interacting with the issue and generating a change/impact.

Opportunity: An opportunity is a favourable circumstance, or chance to advance or progress marine planning.

Challenge: A challenge is a roadblock, difficulty or obstacle that requires effort to overcome.

About You

By completing the section below, you will be helping us to understand your issues in the east marine plan areas. Your information will be used to contact you should we require further clarification on a point or comment made during this engagement.

We will be looking to publish the comments made within this engagement as an 'Issues with Supporting Evidence Database' on our [government webpages](#).

Information Disclosure Statement

“As a public authority, we may be required to disclose information provided by you to a third party to comply with information disclosure obligations, for example under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and/or where relevant the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs) or in the case of an Independent Investigation.

However, where we are required to disclose such information we will ordinarily notify you as soon as possible to allow any representations to be made on the potential impact of disclosure.”

Our processes for requesting or storing personal information under The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) can be found [here](#).

1. Would you like your response to be confidential?

Yes No

If yes, please give your reason:

Information Disclosure Statement

1. *A summary of responses to this consultation will be published on the Government website at: www.gov.uk/defra. An annex to the consultation summary will list all organisations that responded but will not include personal names, addresses or other contact details.*
- 1.1 *Defra may publish the content of your response to this consultation to make it available to the public without your personal name and private contact details (e.g. home address).*
- 1.2 *If you click on ‘Yes’ in response to the question asking if you would like anything in your response to be kept confidential, you are asked to state clearly what information you would like to be kept as confidential and explain your reasons for confidentiality. The reason for this is that information in responses to this consultation may be subject to release to the public or other parties in accordance with the access to information law (these are primarily the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs), the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)). We have obligations, mainly under the EIRs, FOIA and DPA, to disclose information to particular recipients or to the public in certain circumstances. In view of this, your explanation of your reasons for requesting confidentiality for all or part of your response would help us balance these obligations for disclosure against any obligation of confidentiality. If we receive a request for the information that you have provided in your response to this consultation, we will take full account of your reasons for requesting confidentiality of your response, but we cannot guarantee that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.*
- 1.3 *If you click on ‘No’ in response to the question asking if you would like anything in your*

response to be kept confidential, we will be able to release the content of your response to the public, but we won't make your personal name and private contact details publicly available.

- 1.4 *There may be occasions when Defra will share the information you provide in response to the consultation, including any personal data with external analysts. This*
- 1.5 *This consultation is being conducted in line with the Cabinet Office "Consultation Principles" and be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cons>*
- 1.6 *Please find our latest privacy notice uploaded as a related document alongside our consultation document.*
- 1.7 *If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please email them to: consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk*

2 What is your name?

Surname *(Required)*

First name *(Required)*

3 How can we get in touch with you?

Email

Telephone

4 Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Please select only one item

- Individual
- Organisation

Name of organization (if applicable)

5 What sector do you work in?

Please select all that apply

- Bordering nations and administrations Coastal partnerships
- Delivery partners General public
- Government departments Industry representative groups
- Local authorities and other public authorities
- Non-governmental organisation
- Registered charity Other

If other, please specify

6 Which interest group do you work in? Please tick all that apply

Please select all that apply

- Academic institutes
- Aquaculture
- Bordering nations and administrations
- Cabling
- Coastal change, flood and coastal erosion risk management
- Defence and national security
- Ecology and biodiversity
- Energy production Fisheries
- Government departments
- Historic environment
- Infrastructure development
- Land and seabed owners and managers
- Local communities and elected members
- Local councils and other public authorities
- Marine aggregates
- Marine conservation
- Marine dredging and disposal

- Non-governmental organisation
- Partnerships and interest groups
- Ports and shipping
- Seascape and landscape
- Telecommunications and cabling
- Tourism and recreation
- Waste water treatment and disposal
- Other

If other, please specify

Past Economy

Within this section, we are referring to the issues identified during plan development for the first [East Inshore and Offshore Marine Plans](#) published in 2014. These were developed between 2012 and 2014 by collaborating with interested stakeholders, informed by national policy, technical data collation and sub-national plans and policies. We are keen to understand if these issues remain of significance within the marine environment, or if there have been notable contextual changes since then.

The report for the issues and evidence identified in 2014, can be found on our government webpage [here](#). The past issues identified for the economy theme group have been summarised in the survey questions below.

Please note: the questions are not compulsory, if you do not wish to respond please leave them blank.

If you have any queries, please email: planning@marinemanagement.org.uk

1 Aggregates: do you think the statement below is still an issue in the east marine plan areas?

Issue: The safeguarding of existing aggregate license areas, extraction and storage sites was identified as a key priority given the competing need for space with other marine sectors and increasing demand for aggregates in developments.

Please select only one item

Yes

No

If this is no longer an issue, please explain why:

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

2 Aquaculture: do you think the statement below is still an issue in the east marine plan areas?

Issue: The potential growth of the industry creates a number of opportunities and benefits, however with the increasing need for space the potential to co-exist with other sectors is unknown.

Please select only one item

Yes

No

If this is no longer an issue, please explain why:

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

3. Cables: do you think the statement below is still an issue in the east marine plan areas?

Issue: The potential impacts of increasing cable deployment on both the environment and other marine sectors needs a strategic approach to assess the cumulative impact.

Please select only one item

Yes

No

If this is no longer an issue, please explain why:

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

4 Carbon Capture and Storage: do you think the statement below is still an issue in the east marine plan areas?

Issue: The development of the carbon capture, usage and storage (CCUS) industry presents an opportunity, however the current infrastructure in place may not be suitable for expansion.

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No

If this is no longer an issue, please explain why:

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

5. Dredging and Disposal: do you think the statement below is still an issue in the east marine plan areas?

Issue: Increased levels of dredging and disposal can create challenges for other marine sectors as well as the marine ecosystem.

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No

If this is no longer an issue, please explain why:

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

6 Nuclear: do you think the statement below is still an issue in the east marine plan areas?

Issue: The National Policy Statement highlights a number of factors that should be considered when choosing sites for new nuclear power infrastructure. These can present both challenges (e.g. flood risk, effects on water quality) and opportunities (e.g. socioeconomic impacts of increased employment).

Please select only one item

Yes

No

If this is no longer an issue, please explain why:

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

7. Oil and Gas: do you think the statement below is still an issue in the east marine plan areas?

Issue: The expansion of gas infrastructure required to exploit new fields may cause spatial conflict with other marine activities and have implications for the environment.

Please select only one item

Yes

No

If this is no longer an issue, please explain why:

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

8 Ports and Shipping: do you think the statement below is still an issue in the east marine plan areas?

Issue: A balance is needed between the current shipping activity levels and the proposed growth with the requirements of existing and future marine industries.

Please select only one item

Yes

No

If this is no longer an issue, please explain why:

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

9. **Renewables:** do you think the statement below is still an issue in the east marine plan areas?

Issue: The increasing deployment of renewable energy infrastructure must be strategically planned to minimise the impacts on existing marine industries and the marine environment.

Please select only one item

Yes

No

If this is no longer an issue, please explain why:

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

10 Wave and Tidal: do you think the statement below is still an issue in the east marine plan areas?

Issue: It is anticipated that the amount of wave and tidal energy being generated will increase markedly up to and beyond 2020.

Please select only one item

Yes

No

If this is no longer an issue, please explain why:

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

Current Economy

The marine planning team have identified key issues for each marine planning sector within the economy theme group. The identification has been conducted through continuous policy monitoring since plan adoption (2014) and a horizon scanning exercise conducted earlier in the year. The issues have been provided below and are supported by the evidence sources found here.

We are keen to understand if these issues are of key significance within the marine environment, and if there are any other further issues attaining to these sectors.

Please note: the questions are not compulsory, if you do not wish to respond please leave them blank.

If you have any queries, please email: planning@marinemanagement.org.uk

1. **Aggregates:** do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. Areas which are currently subject to an Exploration and Option Agreement are protected through current aggregates policies. However, these areas may come under pressure from the increasing expansion of energy infrastructure to support energy security, and there is a continued need to safeguard such areas.
2. In light of weakened language in the National Planning Policy Framework, more support is needed for minerals and waste plans to protect existing and future safeguarded aggregates landing/processing sites, and to enhance marine and terrestrial integration.
3. The updated mapping of Key Resource Area is vital to the effectiveness of marine plan aggregates policies. The outputs from recent surveying in the region from the Humber to the English Channel are due to be published in 2024.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

2. **Aquaculture:** do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. The aquaculture licensing process is complex, which may present a barrier to new aquaculture developments. Additionally, the current marine licensing exemption on shellfish farming poses difficulties for monitoring the efficacy of marine plan policies.
2. Access to ports and harbours in the east inshore marine plan area may present a challenge to the aquaculture industry. Specific challenges include the size of some ports and harbours, a potential lack of integration with other industries (e.g. fisheries) and an absence of data on port infrastructure.
3. Water quality poses significant challenges for the aquaculture industry. For example, it can affect whether there are the right conditions for growth of various species, as well as limiting the export of shellfish (e.g. to the EU).

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

Please attach a copy of any documents you wish to include to this printout.

Please upload any supporting evidence you may have to support the issues you have identified above.

3. **Cables:** do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. Growth of the sector due to increasing numbers of offshore wind developments planned in the east is leading to further opportunities for employment, but also challenges including environmental impacts and increasing competition for space.
2. There is spatial competition between the growing cables sector and other industries such as fishing and ports. For instance, cabling is not possible in areas close to ports due to the need for capital dredging and future development, while non-buried cables preclude the use of certain types of fishing gear.
3. Cable laying (either via the preferred method of burying or by laying and protecting such as with rock armour) can lead to environmental impacts including habitat loss, creating challenges, particularly where cable routes pass through Marine Protected Areas.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

4. **Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage (CCUS):** do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. Co-location with other sectors, primarily offshore wind, presents a significant challenge.
2. There is an opportunity for oil and gas infrastructure re-use in the east marine plan areas.
3. There is an opportunity for carbon capture and storage sites in the east marine plan areas.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

5. **Dredging and Disposal:** do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. There is a lack of strategic join up between sites where there is demand for sediments for beneficial use and supply created by dredging operations, acting as a barrier to the effective use of sediments.
2. Barriers to beneficial use of dredged material include increased licensing processing time (causing a disconnect between when dredging occurs and when sediment can be used), increased technical complexity and regulatory requirements (e.g. needing to complete Habitats Regulation Assessments) and increased costs relative to offshore disposal.
3. To use dredged material for beneficial purposes or to return material to its source area (e.g. in the case of sand levelling for cable burial), a full disposal site designation is required. This includes full sediment sampling requirements and creates a barrier to disposal of sediments at new sites.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

6. **Infrastructure:** do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. There are several proposals for interconnectors and offshore energy cable landing sites along the east coast, which poses environmental and socioeconomic challenges for the affected areas.
2. Coastal erosion and flooding are a major challenge for local councils and communities which border the east inshore marine plan area. Local authorities are improving flood defences as an immediate action across the entire coastline.
3. Safeguarding of landing sites and infrastructure was weakened in the new National Planning Policy Framework. More support is needed for minerals and waste plans to protect existing and future safeguarded landing sites.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

7. **Oil and Gas:** do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. Decommissioning oil and gas platforms pose both opportunities and challenges. Decommissioning strategies need to be adopted which ensure future co- location with industries such as carbon capture and storage is possible. Additionally, decommissioning should consider the biodiversity implications of different strategies.
2. New oil and gas developments (e.g. as per the 33rd round of licensing) may conflict spatially with other marine activities in the east marine plan areas and in particular offshore wind infrastructure. New developments may also cause significant underwater noise, posing environmental challenges.
3. Oil and gas platforms may be co-located with the hydrogen and carbon capture and storage sectors in the future, presenting an opportunity for the sector.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

8. **Ports, Harbours and Shipping:** do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. The ports and shipping industry is working towards decarbonisation to help meet net zero targets. This involves the adoption of alternative fuels (currently being investigated) and the adaptation of port infrastructure to support this.
2. There is competition for space with the growing need for offshore wind developments, with a number either applied for or consented in the east. This places pressures on shipping routes and has safety implications for vessels. Displacement of shipping lanes may occur.
3. The deployment and operation of offshore wind requires adaptation of port infrastructure, creating both challenges and opportunities for the sector (e.g. Great Yarmouth port).

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

9. **Renewables:** do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. Competition for space with other sectors, particularly fisheries, is an important challenge. Where possible, opportunities for co-existence with other sectors (e.g. for certain types of fisheries to exist within offshore wind developments) should be explored.
2. The development of wind energy projects in the east marine plan areas will present opportunities for regeneration of port facilities and the development of a skilled workforce.
3. Aspects of offshore wind developments (e.g. onshore substations) can have negative visual impacts on the seascape and/or landscape. In turn, this may present socioeconomic challenges to the affected area, such as impacts on tourism.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

10. **Hydrogen:** do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. Scaling up hydrogen production, transport and storage is expected to attract new employment and investment. In the east, this is planned to be delivered in clusters.
2. The development of this emerging sector is dynamic and regulation on the production, transport, storage and usage of hydrogen is still being developed creating uncertainty within the sector.
3. Both hydrogen technologies (blue and green) are in the early stages of development, with few projects currently engaged in the planning process. Growth of the hydrogen sector is somewhat dependent on developments in the carbon capture usage and storage CCUS and offshore wind sectors. The development of both hydrogen technologies is also dependent on policy decisions related to funding, regulation and government incentives.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

11. **Nuclear:** do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. UK government policy is to increase nuclear fission power generation capacity to 24 GW by 2050. This target aims to improve energy security and help the UK meet its net zero requirement. In the east of England, the construction of 2 new reactors at the Sizewell site (Sizewell C) creates a variety of opportunities and challenges.
2. Nuclear developments can create employment opportunities in rural, coastal areas. It is estimated that in 2023, ~ 83,000 people were employed in the nuclear industry (civil and defence) in the UK. In the east of England, substantial employment is, and will be, associated with the Sizewell site.
3. Although sited on land, coastal nuclear developments may include associated infrastructure such as harbours, jetties and water intake/outfall structures. The marine footprint of coastal nuclear power stations may create competition for space with other marine and coastal sectors.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

Future Economy

Marine Plans have a 20 year horizon and therefore need to have a forward look ahead. The marine planning team have identified some potential issues that marine sectors may face in the future. The identification has been conducted through continuous policy monitoring since plan adoption (2014) and a horizon scanning exercise conducted earlier in the year. The issues have been provided below and are supported by the evidence sources found [here](#).

We are keen to understand if these issues are of key significance for the future within the marine environment, and if there are any further potential future issues attaining to these sectors.

Please note: the questions are not compulsory, if you do not wish to respond please leave them blank.

If you have any queries, please email: planning@marinemanagement.org.uk

1. **Aggregates:** do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked.
 1. The government is seeking to streamline the planning process for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs), including offshore wind developments. Given that the aggregates and offshore wind industries may be in competition for space in the east marine plan areas, this may have associated impacts on the marine aggregates industry.
 2. Marine aggregates form an important part of the overall aggregates supply. There is a pressing need to balance a number of national priorities, including providing the raw aggregate materials for building (e.g. housing/major infrastructure projects), allowing space for the expansion of renewables and increasing levels of marine protection. The spatial priority of activities in the marine area will largely depend upon government strategy.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

2. **Aquaculture:** do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. Areas of potential for sustainable aquaculture have been identified, however there are currently no actively designated aquaculture zones, creating a challenge for growth of the sector.
2. The potential for co-existence with other marine activities (including offshore wind) in the future creates both opportunities (e.g. reducing spatial squeeze, contribution to biodiversity) and challenges (e.g. cooperation between industries and practical considerations such as location choice).

Please select all that apply

Issue 1

Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

3 Cables: do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. Continued growth of the offshore wind industry will lead to increasing need for subsea cables and thus increased competition for space.
2. The development of offshore hybrid assets (OHAs) may permit power from multiple offshore windfarms to make landfall via shared cables, presenting an opportunity to reduce the spatial footprint associated with offshore wind cables.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

4 Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage (CCUS): do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. Infrastructure decommissioning will increase in the future in the Southern North Sea and will need to be carried out in such a way as to facilitate the carbon capture, usage and storage industry re-using infrastructure (e.g. plugging wells sufficiently to avoid leakage).
2. Carbon removal is an emerging issue presenting both challenges and opportunities for the future.

Please select all that apply

Issue 1

Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

5 Dredging and Disposal: do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. Changing climatic conditions are likely to lead to more frequent and stronger storms, which is likely to result in changes to dredging and disposal requirements. For instance, additional dredging and disposal campaigns may be required to clear sediment deposited by storm events, or to support additional beach recharge for beaches depleted by storm erosion.
2. The shallow bathymetry throughout the east marine plan areas (including offshore) requires that deeper draft vessels are escorted. In the future, offshore dredging may be required to maintain safe navigational routes through the area in response to changing sediment movements and the possible presence of larger vessels.

Please select all that apply

Issue 1

Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

6 Infrastructure: do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. The government is currently working to streamline the planning process (both locally and nationally) in order to help achieve targets for levelling up. This includes measures to give more power to Local Authorities in decision-making, which presents a challenge to ensure that decisions are taken in a coordinated and sustainable manner.
2. There are several plans for desalination plants along the east coast. This will increase freshwater availability, but may also have environmental impacts, including in coastal and marine areas.

Please select all that apply

Issue 1

Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

7 Oil and Gas: do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. Electrification of oil and gas platforms creates an opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with oil and gas supply.
2. Market instability can discourage new oil and gas developments, with negative impacts on employment. However, future opportunities for workers to apply their skills in related industries, including those associated with the re-use of oil and gas infrastructure (e.g. hydrogen and carbon capture and storage), represents an employment opportunity.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
 Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

8 Ports, Harbours and Shipping: do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. The development of larger, longer and autonomous vessels may lead to increased spatial conflict with other marine uses (e.g. offshore wind developments) as a larger buffer zone may be required around shipping lanes for navigational safety. The use of autonomous vessels also creates regulatory challenges.
2. The development of larger vessels and increased shipping activity is likely to require deeper navigational dredging and an increase in sediment needing to be disposed of. The impacts will potentially increase the detrimental environmental impacts of dredging.

Please select all that apply

Issue 1

Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

9 Renewables: do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. Offshore wind developments contribute to cumulative pressures on marine life, for instance through the generation of underwater noise. These pressures may become more severe in the future, owing to increased offshore wind construction and other anthropogenic activities in the east marine plan areas, as well as increased stress due to climate change.
2. The increased rollout of offshore wind infrastructure may result in increased displacement of, and pressure on, fisheries. The displacement of fisheries may be compounded by climate change, which could result in changing abundance and distribution of fish species.

Please select all that apply

Issue 1

Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

10 Hydrogen: do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. Hydrogen is expected to play a vital role in decarbonising businesses and transport, helping the UK meet its net zero requirements. Hydrogen/carbon capture usage and storage clusters can contribute to decarbonise important industries.
2. As an emerging sector, many uncertainties remain regarding the up scaling of the industry (in particular technology and regulation). Whilst the government goal is to produce 10 GW of hydrogen by 2030, the sector is dependent on other industries and voluntary cooperations.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

11 Nuclear: do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. Government policy is to construct a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) for the long-term disposal of nuclear waste. The Theddlethorpe community is being considered as a location for a GDF, presenting possible employment opportunities but also significant challenges, including competition for space with other marine activities during site screening, construction and maintenance.
2. Current UK government policy is to increase nuclear generating capacity to 24 GW by 2050, using both traditional and new technologies. Should future new nuclear infrastructure be sited in coastal locations, this will create both challenges and opportunities for coastal communities and coastal/marine sectors.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

Past Social

Within this section, we are referring to the issues identified during plan development for the first East Inshore and Offshore Marine Plans, published in 2014. These were developed between 2012 and 2014 by collaborating with interested stakeholders, informed by national policy, technical data collation and sub-national plans and policies. We are keen to understand if these issues remain of significance within the marine environment, or if there have been notable contextual changes since then.

The report for the issues and evidence identified in 2014, can be found on our government webpage [here](#). The past issues identified for the social theme group have been summarised in the survey questions below.

Please note: the questions are not compulsory, if you do not wish to respond please leave them blank.

If you have any queries, please email: planning@marinemanagement.org.uk

1. **Defence:** do you think the statement below is still an issue in the east marine plan areas?

Issue: The Ministry of Defence ensures facilities are not compromised by any form of development, creating competition for space both on and offshore with existing and future marine industries.

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No

If this is no longer an issue, please explain why:

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

1 Fisheries: do you think the statement below is still an issue in the east marine plan areas?

Issue: The use of the east marine plan areas by a variety of sectors creates competition for space. Co-location and/or co-existence of some sectors with fisheries may be possible, however the spatial conflict on smaller industries must not be forgotten.

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No

If this is no longer an issue, please explain why:

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

2. Heritage Assets: do you think the statement below is still an issue in the east marine plan areas?

Issue: Heritage assets provide potential opportunities for coastal tourism, where existing and/or newly discovered coastal site protection. However, the UK's marine heritage is relatively unknown by comparison with that on land but is equally threatened by natural and human processes.

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No

If this is no longer an issue, please explain why:

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

3 Tourism and Recreation: do you think the statement below is still an issue in the east marine plan areas?

Issue: Tourism and recreation is an important part of the economy in the east marine plan areas and is a key employer. There is a socio-economic need to protect, maintain and develop current tourism and recreation opportunities.

Please select only one item

Yes

No

If this is no longer an issue, please explain why:

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

4. Seascape and Landscape: do you think the statement below is still an issue in the east marine plan areas?

Issue: The Southern North Sea is a prospective area for the development of energy production (offshore wind, oil and gas) which may have implications for seascape, due to both coastal and offshore infrastructure development.

Please select only one item

Yes

No

If this is no longer an issue, please explain why:

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

5 Social: do you think the statement below is still an issue in the east marine plan areas?

Issue: Coastal communities within the east marine plan areas include some of the most deprived communities, many of which have seen declines in primary industries. Industry investment in deprived areas may present opportunities to tackle social and health inequalities.

Please select only one item

Yes

No

If this is no longer an issue, please explain why:

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

Current Social

The marine planning team have identified key issues for each marine planning sector within the social theme group. The identification has been conducted through continuous policy monitoring since plan adoption (2014) and a horizon scanning exercise conducted earlier in the year. The issues have been provided below and are supported by the evidence sources found here.

We are keen to understand if these issues are of key significance within the marine environment, and if there are any other further issues attaining to these sectors.

Please note: the questions are not compulsory, if you do not wish to respond please leave them blank.

If you have any queries, please email: planning@marinemanagement.org.uk

1 Cross border: do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. There is currently a lack of marine plan alignment and policy join up across marine and terrestrial boundaries.
2. There is currently a lack of alignment and policy join up with the marine plans of bordering nations (France, Belgium and the Netherlands).
3. There is currently a lack of cumulative effects monitoring and data sharing across borders. In the future, improved collaboration could present an opportunity to help decision-makers take into account cross-border cumulative effects.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

2. **Employment:** do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. The decarbonisation of the UK's energy supply will mean significant investment in low carbon energy production. There are currently multiple proposals for offshore renewables in the east marine plan areas, which are likely to generate growth and employment in the industry.
2. Proposals for new nuclear developments (e.g. Sizewell C) could offer significant employment opportunities in the local area.
3. Variations in international trade associated with the development of legislation post-Brexit have the potential to impact international trade.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

3 Access: do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. Rates of coastal erosion (exacerbated by climate change) are faster in the east inshore marine plan area than in other marine plan areas. This creates challenges for the stability and quality of coastal access infrastructure.
2. There is currently a lack of policy direction once access infrastructure has been lost to erosion.
3. The east coast has high levels of coastal deprivation and associated health issues amongst the population. Access to marine and coastal (i.e. "blue") space can provide mental and physical health benefits, representing an opportunity to alleviate these issues.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

4 Defence: do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

- 1 The defence policy is extremely spatially defined and highly restrictive in those areas, requiring approval for most activities from the Ministry of Defence.
- 2 The Marine Spatial Prioritisation programme is currently undertaking a review of existing marine uses to explore whether spatial distribution can be further optimised. This includes a review of existing Ministry of Defence areas in UK waters.
- 3 Defence activities are routinely prioritised over other activities, and all activities within the policy area for defence require approval by the Ministry of Defence to proceed. This creates challenges regarding co-existence of marine activities.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

5 Fisheries: do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. Increasing competition for space in the east marine plan areas is reducing fishing grounds and access to them.
2. There is currently a lack of communication between the fishing industry and other activities/developments, particularly prior to, and throughout, decision- making processes.
3. There is an ongoing decrease in the fisheries workforce, due to an ageing workforce and a lack of recruitment into the industry. This creates socioeconomic challenges for local communities.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

6. **Tourism and Recreation:** do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. The tourism and recreation industry are increasingly competing for space with other marine activities (e.g. aquaculture, fisheries).
2. The rise of tourism abroad post-covid and after the cost of living crisis may have impacts on local tourism businesses in the east. The east area may be hit harder than most due to existing levels of coastal deprivation.
3. Tourism plans and an ongoing focus on improving coastal access presents an opportunity to boost tourism in the east inshore marine plan area. Some areas in the east already have tourism plans in place.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

7 Heritage Assets: do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

- 1 Coastal erosion, rising sea levels, increasing storm intensity and ocean acidification (all exacerbated by climate change), as well as pollution (e.g. marine litter), can lead to damage to, or loss of, archaeological sites and assets.
- 2 Activities including infrastructure construction (e.g. offshore windfarm and cable development), fishing (e.g. trawling) and dredging have the potential to destroy or disturb archaeological sites and assets.
- 3 Recreational activities including diving, unregulated salvage, and sailing (anchoring) have the potential to damage or disturb underwater sediment and result in the loss of artefacts.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

8 Knowledge, Understanding, Appreciation and Enjoyment: do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. Coastal communities in the east generally have older populations and higher levels of deprivation than non-coastal areas. For example, coastal communities may have fewer people in good physical and mental health, lower levels of employment and fewer people with higher educational qualifications.
2. Obtaining data to assess and monitor levels of knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the UK's coastline remains a challenge. For instance, the Adults' People and Nature Survey for England does not currently distinguish between coastal and non-coastal "green and natural" places.
3. The number of adults and children visiting green and natural places (including beaches and seaside areas) is increasing. This creates an opportunity to improve the population's knowledge, understanding and appreciation of our coastline, while also creating both opportunities (e.g. tourism-related employment) and challenges (e.g. the social and environmental effects of increasing business) for coastal communities.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

9. **Seascape and Landscape:** do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. Political sensitivities of seascape policy development associated with national policy delivery.
2. The effects of new activities such as infrastructure development on protected landscapes and world heritage sites.
3. The effects of new activities such as infrastructure development on the visual amenity or character of an area.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

Future Social

Marine Plans have a 20 year horizon and therefore need to have a forward look ahead. The marine planning team have identified some potential issues that marine sectors may face in the future. The identification has been conducted through continuous policy monitoring since plan adoption (2014) and a horizon scanning exercise conducted earlier in the year. The issues have been provided below and are supported by the evidence sources found [here](#).

We are keen to understand if these issues are of key significance for the future within the marine environment, and if there are any further potential future issues attaining to these sectors.

Please note: the questions are not compulsory, if you do not wish to respond please leave them blank.

If you have any queries, please email: planning@marinemanagement.org.uk

1. **Cross Border:** do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. There is a need for join-up and alignment for large cross-border developments which span multiple marine plan areas and/or jurisdictions. These may include offshore wind, cables and interconnector developments, as well as terrestrial cable landing sites.
2. Ongoing and future changes in national planning policies will present a challenge for the new East Marine Plan.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

2. **Employment:** do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. The changing distribution and level of fish stocks in the North Sea may alter fishing practices. It remains unclear as to whether the overall impact on employment in the fisheries sector will be positive or negative.
2. There is concern within the ports and shipping industry of a potential skills gap resulting from the decarbonisation of the sector.

Please select all that apply

Issue 1

Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

3. Access: do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. The acceleration of coastal erosion due to climate change is threatening key access infrastructure, including newly opened sections of King Charles footpath.
2. Increasing tourism is leading to associated environmental impacts from footfall on habitats and creates both challenges and opportunities for access infrastructure, which can be designed to mitigate against these effects.

Please select all that apply

Issue 1

Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

4. Defence: do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. In the future, there may be opportunities for increased co-existence between defence and other marine activities. Possible targets for increased co- existence could include less-frequently used or decommissioned Ministry of Defence sites.
2. Climate change may cause increased risk to military infrastructure from rising sea levels, increasing frequent/severe storms and coastal erosion.

Please select all that apply

Issue 1

Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

5. Fisheries: do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. In the future, the increasing impacts from the effects of climate change will create both challenges and opportunities (e.g. leading to more challenging fishing conditions and shifts in fish stocks/fishing grounds).
2. Fishing is important for food security. A further reduction in fishing grounds, due to increasing demand for space in the marine environment (spatial squeeze), is likely to impact future food security.

Please select all that apply

Issue 1

Issue 2

If you disagree with the above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issue identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

6. **Tourism and Recreation:** do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked

1.The development of coastal infrastructure and new marine activities (e.g. cable landfall sites, increased aquaculture) may cause the loss of areas for recreation and impact negatively on tourism.

2.Coastal nature recovery schemes, nature-based recovery and increasing levels of coastal defence/protection may impact availability of areas for recreation.

Please select all that apply

Issue 1

Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

7. **Heritage Assets:** do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. There is a need for future efforts to map and record heritage sites and artefacts creating an opportunity to assess their extent and monitor their condition.

2. There is a need to share expertise, collaborate and promote cooperation in order to safeguard underwater cultural heritage.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

8. Knowledge, Understanding, Appreciation and Enjoyment: do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. Climate change is likely to impact on access to and appreciation of the coast in the future. For example, increasing levels of coastal erosion in the east inshore marine plan area will present access challenges, while the biodiversity implications of climate change may impact on enjoyment and appreciation of coastal habitats.

2. Volunteer time spent on the natural environment in England is increasing, while surveys show that protecting the environment is important to most adults and children. This may create an opportunity to tackle important environmental issues such as water quality, plastic pollution and biodiversity loss.

Please select all that apply

Issue 1

Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

9. Seascape and Landscape: do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector?
If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. Currently, separate frameworks for landscape and seascape methodology / assessment creates difficulties for users, especially in the intertidal area. Future revision of methodologies could present an opportunity to reduce these difficulties.
2. Future outputs from the East Seascape Assessment will provide opportunities for plan and policy development at a more spatial level.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

Past Environment

Within this section, we are referring to the issues identified during plan development for the first East Inshore and Offshore Marine Plans, published in 2014. These were developed between 2012 and 2014 by collaborating with interested stakeholders, informed by national policy, technical data collation and sub-national plans and policies. We are keen to understand if these issues remain of significance within the marine environment, or if there have been notable contextual changes since then.

The report for the issues and evidence identified in 2014, can be found on our government webpage [here](#). The past issues identified for the environment theme group have been summarised in the survey questions below.

Please note: the questions are not compulsory, if you do not wish to respond please leave them blank.

If you have any queries, please email: planning@marinemanagement.org.uk

1. **Air Quality:** do you think the statement below is still an issue in the east marine plan areas?

Issue: The east marine plan areas contain some of the world's busiest shipping regions, creating air quality challenges, owing to the significant emissions of both particulate matter and gases.

Please select only one item

- Yes
 No

If this is no longer an issue, please explain why:

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

2. **Climate Change:** do you think the statement below is still an issue in the east marine plan areas?

Issue: There is an opportunity to identify, promote and plan for more low carbon industry, such as production of low carbon goods or services. This may also provide new jobs and businesses.

Please select only one item

- Yes
 No

If this is no longer an issue, please explain why:

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

3. Disturbance: do you think the statement below is still an issue in the east marine plan areas?

Issue: The increasing level of marine activities (offshore developments, commercial fishing and recreation) can cause habitat disturbance and have negative impacts on marine ecosystems and benthic habitats.

Please select only one item

Yes

No

If this is no longer an issue, please explain why:

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

4. Invasive Non-Native Species: do you think the statement below is still an issue in the east marine plan areas?

Issue: The spread of non-native species may be accentuated by climate change, which will result in impacts on the marine ecosystem (both positive and negative).

Please select only one item

Yes

No

If this is no longer an issue, please explain why:

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

5. Underwater Noise: do you think the statement below is still an issue in the east marine plan areas?

Issue: A number of activities generate marine noise, including shipping, oil and gas exploration and production, and offshore wind development. Underwater noise can have negative impacts on marine organisms, especially marine mammals.

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No

If this is no longer an issue, please explain why:

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

6. Marine Protected Areas: do you think the statement below is still an issue in the east marine plan areas?

Issue: The designation of new conservation sites is likely to result in spatial competition and displacement with existing marine activities. The implications of this are likely to be a key issue for marine planning.

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No

If this is no longer an issue, please explain why:

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

7. Water Quality: do you think the statement below is still an issue in the east marine plan areas?

Issue: Water quality is below the UK Environmental Quality Standards across the east marine plan areas due to increasing anthropogenic pressures. The inshore, coastal and estuarine areas are at particular risk of being exposed to pollution in the future.

Please select only one item

Yes

No

If this is no longer an issue, please explain why:

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

Current Environment

The marine planning team have identified key issues for each marine planning sector within the environment theme group. The identification has been conducted through continuous policy monitoring since plan adoption (2014) and a horizon scanning exercise conducted earlier in the year. The issues have been provided below and are supported by the evidence sources found here.

We are keen to understand if these issues are of key significance within the marine environment, and if there are any other further issues attaining to these sectors.

Please note: the questions are not compulsory, if you do not wish to respond please leave them blank.

If you have any queries, please email: planning@marinemanagement.org.uk

1. **Air Quality:** do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.
 1. A number of marine sectors produce emissions (both gases and particulates) which can negatively impact air quality, with implications for human health and the environment. Of relevance are the ports and shipping industries.
 2. The ongoing increase in the amount of short-sea shipping represents a move toward a more environmentally friendly method of haulage compared to other types of transport. However, short sea shipping also produces air pollution, which needs to be considered.
 3. The adoption of Port Air Quality Strategies (in addition to measures including Air Quality Management Areas and Emissions Control Areas) creates an opportunity to reduce the negative impacts of marine sectors on UK air quality.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

2. **Biodiversity:** do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. There is an existing evidence gap in the east marine plan areas regarding sites where nature recovery can be undertaken, as well as challenges associated with providing space for biodiversity recovery in the context of other marine pressures and activities. There is an opportunity to use new data and evidence to develop robust spatial approaches to marine habitat restoration.
2. Regulatory barriers currently represent a primary challenge for the restoration of marine habitats. Current issues include the technical requirements and time-burden associated with licence applications, the requirement to not impact other priority habitats with the creation of another, and supply chain limitations which can impact, for example, the development of Native Oyster Spatt sites.
3. Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) applies to all developments above the Mean Low Water Springs mark and creates a variety of opportunities and challenges. Intertidal developments (e.g. flood defence works) will need to consider BNG, and there is an opportunity to promote increases in intertidal biodiversity through preferred methodologies for developing coastal infrastructure. However, strategic terrestrial, coastal and marine planning will be required to ensure that intertidal BNG is achieved and is not undermined by other developments and activities.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

3. **Disturbance:** do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. Offshore wind developments are increasing in the east, which can cause disturbance to marine life. Specific challenges include underwater noise altering behaviour, increased vessel strikes and change in habitat and migration patterns.
2. Increasing residential development is likely to result in significant impacts on marine and coastal species. For example, East Suffolk Council have identified a "Zone of Influence" in which increased development is likely to result in significant impacts on resident species in designated sites, due to recreational disturbance.
3. Coastal erosion and flooding, made worse by climate change, are reducing habitat for beach nesting birds.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

4. **Marine litter:** do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. There is currently no baseline or target for Good Environmental Status for marine litter. Without this, progress cannot be measured effectively, targets cannot be set, and monitoring cannot adequately inform policy or provide the evidence required to do so.
2. Monitoring marine litter is challenging. Marine litter includes a range of sources (e.g. household litter, fishing gear, macro, micro and nanoplastics), exists in variety of areas (along the coast, on beaches, on the ocean surface, in the water column and on the seafloor) and also moves due to currents, tides and storms. These factors make it challenging to monitor marine litter (for instance, it can be difficult to identify the sources of marine litter).
3. Abandoned, Lost, Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) makes up 10 % of marine litter globally and creates environmental challenges (e.g. ingestion by marine organisms, entanglement of marine organisms and providing a vessel for the spread of invasive species). However, ALDFG is easier to track compared with other types of marine litter, creating an opportunity to spotlight the issue and develop reduce, reuse and recycle initiatives.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

5. **Invasive Non-Native Species:** do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. There are areas in the east which are considered hotspots for invasive and non-native species introduction, yet do not have marine biosecurity plans in place (e.g. Immingham and Felixstowe).
2. There is a lack of enforcement and monitoring of biosecurity measures, particularly with regards to recreational activities and boating.
3. There is a lack of up-to-date evidence and data concerning non-native species in the UK, particularly in the marine realm. This hampers efforts to monitor, manage and prevent the introduction of invasive and non-native species into UK waters.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

6. **Underwater Noise:** do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. The growth in wind farm expansion in the east marine plan areas is leading to significant underwater noise from unexploded ordnance clearance, surveying and piling activities.
2. Underwater noise can affect the behaviour, distribution and health of harbour porpoises in the east marine plan areas. Managing noise levels within the Southern North Sea Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in the future, particularly during busy summer months where weather windows are best for development, is a key challenge.
3. There is a lack of knowledge surrounding the effect of ambient/continuous noise and underwater radiated noise from vessels on the marine environment, and how this contributes towards the underwater soundscape in the east and other marine plan areas.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

7. **Net Gain and Natural Capital:** do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. There are challenges associated with the application of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) in the intertidal area. Concerns have been raised regarding the BNG intertidal metric tool, the costs of the UK government's BNG credits, and how BNG will deliver meaningful biodiversity improvements without a lengthy regulatory process.
2. There are possible links between Biodiversity Net Gain and the strategic compensation measures required for offshore wind development. This opportunity could be facilitated via Marine Recovery Funds.
3. Spatial squeeze represents a challenge for Biodiversity Net Gain. Developers will need marine space to deliver their net gain obligations, however there is increasing demand for space in the east marine plan areas from various sectors. Although the process is still being developed, areas that deliver marine net gain will likely require protection in the future.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

8. **Marine Protected Areas:** do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. Offshore windfarm development is increasing in the east marine plan areas. Guidance is currently being developed regarding designation of new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to compensate for the impacts of developments on benthic habitats. This creates both opportunities (e.g. for greater, more coherent, levels of marine protection) and challenges (e.g. increasing competition for space with other sectors).
2. Monitoring the condition of features within MPAs is challenging. This creates a number of challenges, for instance hindering our understanding of whether MPAs are contributing to reaching Good Environmental Status.
3. The Southern North Sea Special Area of Conservation aims to protect harbour porpoise, which may suffer adverse impacts from underwater noise. At the same time, expansion of offshore wind (and other industries, such as carbon capture and storage) is increasing levels of underwater noise in the east marine plan areas. Meeting conservation objectives while facilitating sustainable development will require coordinated assessment and management of the cumulative effects of underwater noise.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

9. **Water Quality:** do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. Run-off can result in eutrophication and pollution of rivers and coastal areas causing poor water quality. Extensive agriculture in the eastern region creates high potential for agricultural run-off.
2. Combined sewage outflows from treatment works can let raw sewage into both rivers and the sea. Not only does this have detrimental environmental impacts, it also causes socioeconomic challenges for affected areas (e.g. impacts on marine access and tourism).
3. Harmful algal blooms can occur as a result of pollution/eutrophication. These blooms can have negative impacts not only on the marine environment, but also on industries such as aquaculture.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

Future Environment

Marine Plans have a 20 year horizon and therefore need to have a forward look ahead. The marine planning team have identified some potential issues that marine sectors may face in the future. The identification has been conducted through continuous policy monitoring since plan adoption (2014) and a horizon scanning exercise conducted earlier in the year. The issues have been provided below and are supported by the evidence sources found [here](#).

We are keen to understand if these issues are of key significance for the future within the marine environment, and if there are any further potential future issues attaining to these sectors.

Please note: the questions are not compulsory, if you do not wish to respond please leave them blank.

If you have any queries, please email: planning@marinemanagement.org.uk

1 Air Quality: do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. Ongoing and future changes in the ports and shipping industry will have implications for air quality. For example, the adoption of alternative fuels creates both challenges and opportunities for efforts to improve air quality, while any expansion of shipping (e.g. short-sea shipping) and port infrastructure may also have impacts on air quality.
2. In the future, biodiversity net gain policy and natural capital approaches may help to address and mitigate against air quality issues.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
 Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

2 Biodiversity: do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. The impacts of climate change represent a key future challenge for marine biodiversity. There will likely be significant changes in the extents of key marine habitats and species, with associated implications for other marine functions in English waters.
2. Shoreline Management Plans in the east inshore marine plan area are increasingly adopting coastal adaptation (managed realignment) and no active intervention strategies. The future East Marine Plan will need to consider the implications of coastal habitats transitioning from freshwater to marine, the ecosystem services provided by habitat creation during coastal adaptation, and the implications of coastal erosion for terrestrial sites used to achieve Biodiversity Net Gain.

Please select all that apply

Issue 1

Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

3 Disturbance: do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. Predictions for the development of Sizewell C indicates a risk of disturbance to marine mammals in the area if impact piling is carried out for extended periods, particularly harbour porpoise and seals.
2. The potential impacts from National Grid's proposed development in the east marine plan areas on marine mammals include underwater noise, vessel collisions and the potential for indirect effects through impacts to prey species.

Please select all that apply

Issue 1

Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

4 Invasive Non-Native Species: do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. There is currently an evidence gap regarding how marine dredging operations may impact on the spread of invasive and non-native species. This currently inhibits assessment of risk and development of guidance.
2. Non-native species may adapt more quickly to the effects of climate change, thus becoming invasive. Additionally, climate change and the associated effects (e.g. sea temperature rise) may result in changing species distributions and migratory patterns. It is unclear whether species which are introduced to an area due to climate change will be classified as non-native and potentially invasive.

Please select all that apply

Issue 1

Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

5 Marine Litter: do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. The amount of marine litter is increasing over time, resulting in future unknown impacts.
2. The United Nations Plastic Treaty has not been signed yet, but has potential to lead to new plastic policy, legislation and regulation. In turn, this could create new opportunities to tackle an important component of marine litter.

Please select all that apply

Issue 1

Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

6 Underwater Noise: do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. Underwater noise from offshore wind farm development is likely to increase in the east marine plan areas and this could lead to future changes in noise regulation.
2. As new technologies emerge (e.g. carbon capture and storage) and older technologies are decommissioned (e.g oil and gas installations and, in the future, offshore wind farms) there will be a need to account for overlapping noise implications of future developments and novel procedures that may occur within the east marine plan areas.

Please select all that apply

Issue 1

Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

7 Net Gain and Natural Capital: do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. There is currently uncertainty in how Marine Net Gain (MNG) will be regulated and delivered. There will need to be a legislative/policy update to make MNG statutory. Pilot studies may be undertaken in the east marine plan areas to inform on what this might look like.
2. There is uncertainty regarding how Marine Net Gain (MNG) could be incorporated into the marine plans (e.g. with a new policy focusing on marine net gain, or by including MNG in current policies), as well as how any MNG policy would be monitored.

Please select all that apply

Issue 1

Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

8 Marine Protected Areas: do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. Climate change is continuing to alter ecosystem attributes in the east marine plan areas, including through ocean warming, acidification, deoxygenation and productivity changes. Future marine protection efforts may help mitigate against and adapt to the impacts of climate change but must also be robust to those changes (e.g. future changes in Marine Protected Area boundaries may be required).

2. Future development of legislation (e.g. Marine Net Gain) may present an opportunity to contribute positively to the Marine Protected Area (MPA) network. Effective policy development and coordination will be required to leverage legislative amendments to fortify the efficacy of MPA management strategies.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

9. **Water Quality:** do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. The increasing risk of coastal flooding is particularly a problem in the east due to low lying areas, creating challenges including erosion and flooding of coastal landfills. Additionally, rising sea temperature (combined with run-off and eutrophication) will increase the frequency and duration of harmful algal blooms.
2. Increasing population will put further stress on sewage infrastructure, with possible negative implications for water quality. Meanwhile, increasing marine development may result in cumulative impacts on marine water quality.

Please select all that apply

Issue 1

Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

Current Overlapping Themes

The marine planning team have identified key issues for each marine planning sector within the overlapping themes group. The identification has been conducted through continuous policy monitoring since plan adoption (2014) and a horizon scanning exercise conducted earlier in the year. The issues have been provided below and are supported by the evidence sources found [here](#)

We are keen to understand if these issues are of key significance within the marine environment, and if there are any other further issues attaining to these sectors.

Please note: the questions are not compulsory, if you do not wish to respond please leave them blank.

If you have any queries, please email: planning@marinemanagement.org.uk

1. **Climate Change:** do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.
 1. Climate change is causing sea level rise and increasing storminess and flooding in the east inshore marine plan area. The east inshore marine plan area has a low-lying coastline which is at risk from coastal erosion and flooding.
 2. Nature-based solutions in the east marine plan areas can both mitigate climate change and help adapt to the impacts of climate change. For example, the conservation and restoration of blue carbon habitats such as saltmarsh, seagrass and oyster reefs can sequester carbon, whilst also helping to prevent coastal erosion and flooding. Additionally, the beneficial use of dredge material can create habitats, contribute to beach nourishment and provide landfill remediation.
 3. The east of England is the driest region in the country. Climate change negatively impacts water security by increasing run off of pollutants and sediments, decreasing water availability (i.e. increasing drought) and saltwater intrusion. As a result, there is likely to be an increased need for desalination plants in the east inshore marine plan area.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

2 Co-Existence: do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. Increasing demand for the use of marine space highlights the importance for co-existence discussions to form part of decision-making. In the east, examples of co-existence pressures include the restraints of Marine Protected Areas, as well as industry-specific considerations (e.g. illustrated by oil and gas, carbon capture and storage and hydrogen in the Humber region).
2. The rapid expansion of the marine renewables sector is a driver for marine spatial prioritisation. Co-existence with other activities is currently led by developers, however marine planning could adopt a more strategic approach to co-existence, for instance through developing toolkits to aid decision- making.
3. Fisheries is a key strategic activity which currently reacts to development, rather than engaging on equal terms in prioritisation issues. Marine planning should continue to support limiting displacement and encourage co-existence discussions between fisheries, developers and decision-makers.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

3 Cumulative Effects: do you agree with the issues identified for this sector below? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. Increasing levels of development in the east marine plan areas (e.g. due to offshore wind expansion) leads to underwater noise disturbance to cetaceans (particularly harbour porpoise). There is also competition with other industries such as shipping and fishing. The introduction of noise thresholds may present an opportunity to mitigate these effects.
2. Fisheries pressure on sand eel populations can have associated impacts on bird populations (e.g. kittiwakes) and other populations which rely on sand eels as their main food source. Management measures to ban sand eel fishing have been introduced in 2024 and will promote recovery of sand eel populations. This presents opportunities for positive ecological impacts, but also creates socioeconomic challenges.
3. Offshore wind developments can cause bird disturbance through both collisions and displacement (e.g. red throated divers and Kittiwakes).

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2
- Issue 3

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

Future Overlapping Themes

Marine Plans have a 20 year horizon and therefore need to have a forward look ahead. The marine planning team have identified some potential issues that marine sectors may face in the future. The identification has been conducted through continuous policy monitoring since plan adoption (2014) and a horizon scanning exercise conducted earlier in the year. The issues have been provided below and are supported by the evidence sources found [here](#).

We are keen to understand if these issues are of key significance for the future within the marine environment, and if there are any further potential future issues attaining to these sectors.

Please note: the questions are not compulsory, if you do not wish to respond please leave them blank.

If you have any queries, please email: planning@marinemanagement.org.uk

1. **Climate Change:** do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. Climate change is, and continues to, change ecosystem attributes in the east marine plan areas and those adjacent. Effects include ocean warming, acidification, deoxygenation, and productivity changes. It is necessary to ensure that the new East Marine Plan is climate-smart, and that climate-related tools such as models are used to assess future spatio-temporal changes.
2. Over the next 20 years, climate change will continue to increase storminess and cause sea level rise, leading to coastal erosion and flooding. At the same time, climate change will also cause increased drought and high temperatures. Activities and development taking place in the east marine plan areas will need to be resilient to the future challenges that climate change will present.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

2. **Co-Existence:** do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. The development of the Marine Spatial Prioritisation Programme will need to be reflected in the new East Marine Plan. Co-existence policies require futureproofing, especially when considering potential trade-offs where co-existence is problematic or impractical.
2. Changes to the environment due to climate change may impact our current understanding of which activities can co-exist, which will also likely be impacted by future government policy (e.g. regarding energy, food security and climate). Therefore, our understanding of what, where and when activities can co-exist will need to be flexible.

Please select all that apply

- Issue 1
- Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

3. **Cumulative Effects:** do you agree with the issues identified below for this sector? If not, please leave the box unchecked.

1. The future expansion of offshore wind development will result in environmental challenges, including increasing levels of underwater noise and bird disturbance.
2. The impacts of climate change (e.g. increasing ocean temperatures, ocean acidification, deoxygenation and productivity changes) are likely to intensify in the future. This will increase the vulnerability of ecosystems, which may also experience intensified pressure from other activities.

Please select all that apply

Issue 1

Issue 2

If you disagree with any of the issues above, please state the issue number and provide a short explanation.

In addition to the issues identified above, are you aware of any further potential future issues (opportunities or challenges) that the east marine plan areas are facing? Please provide a short description.

If you have any evidence to support this issue or your comments, please attach it to the email response along with this survey.

Overall Comments and Feedback

1. Please state any further issues within the east marine plan areas that you would like to raise?

2. Overall, how satisfied are you with our online consultation tool?

Please select only one item

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Don't know

Please give us any comments you have on the tool, including suggestions on how we could improve it.

To sign up to receive our marine planning newsletter, where you can keep up to date on plan development please click [here](#).

Our processes for requesting or storing personal information under The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) can be found [here](#).