



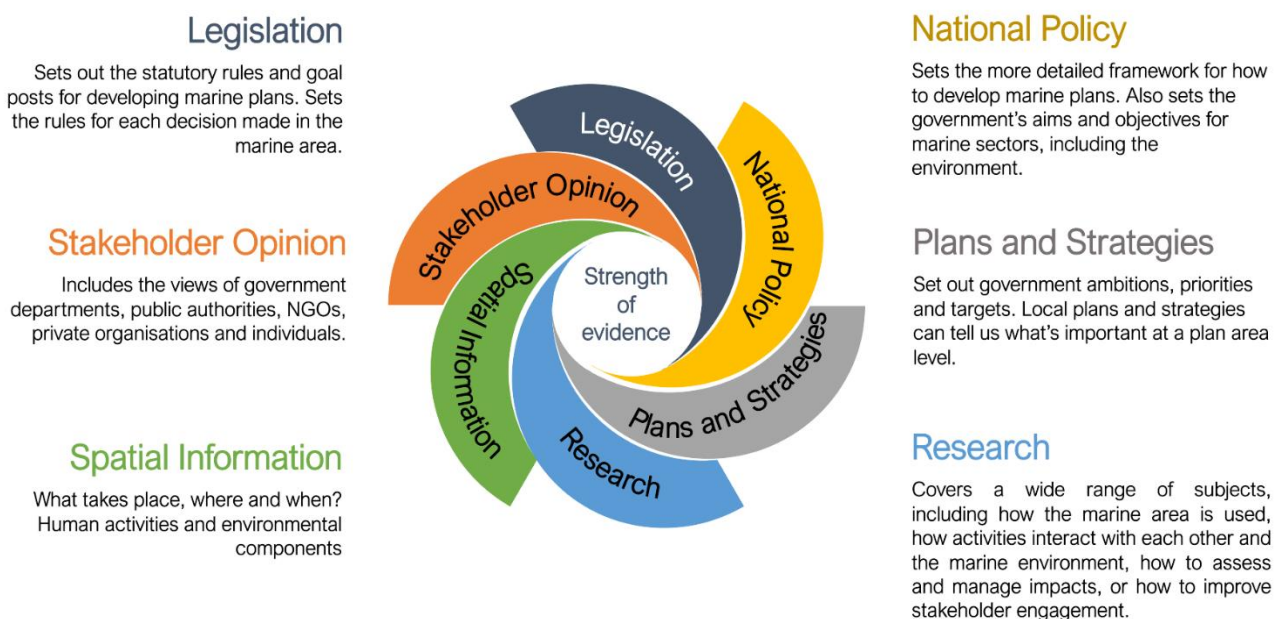
## What is evidence?

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 opinion. Evidence underpins all stages of the marine planning cycle, from initial stakeholder engagement to policy development and finally plan monitoring. The types of evidence are summarised in figure 1.

Marine plans are built upon a strong evidence base, and a thorough understanding of the activities and resources in a plan area. This is the foundation on which a marine plan is developed.

When collecting evidence for a marine plan, MMO focuses on the priorities identified in the [Marine Policy Statement \(MPS\)](#). These activities will be assessed against economic, social and environmental considerations. MMO prefers data in a geographic information system (GIS) format where possible. If you cannot provide your data in GIS format, it can still be considered, but it may take longer to incorporate into the marine evidence base.

We already hold a significant level of data and evidence on the English marine area, gathered from a number of existing sources to support marine planning. This information can be viewed on [Explore Marine Plans](#) which displays the appropriate marine policy documents for all of England's marine plan areas in an accessible online, quick reference format. You can find and zoom in on certain areas or activities of interest, from wind farm developments to conservation.



## **What evidence does the MMO collect?**

We continuously gather and evaluate evidence from several existing sources to support marine planning as well as commission new projects. A summary of our current projects can be viewed online via our [Evidence project register](#).

## **What evidence does the MMO need?**

We are focusing on the priorities identified in the [Marine Policy Statement](#). This includes assessing the following sector activities to look at their interaction with each other as well as their effect on the marine area:

- 3.1 Marine Protected Areas
- 3.2 Defence and National Security
- 3.3 Energy production and infrastructure development
- 3.4 Ports and shipping
- 3.5 Marine aggregates
- 3.6 Marine dredging and disposal
- 3.7 Telecommunications cabling
- 3.8 Fisheries
- 3.9 Aquaculture
- 3.10 Surface water management and water treatment and disposal
- 3.11 Tourism and recreation

This list is not exhaustive, and we welcome any evidence you can provide us with to support your highlighted issues. Further topics to consider include, evidence relating to co-existence, cumulative effects and climate change are also welcomed.

These activities will be assessed against economic, social and environmental considerations including:

- benefits and adverse effects in marine planning Economic, social and environmental considerations
- Marine ecology and biodiversity
- Air quality
- Noise
- Ecological and chemical water quality and resources
- Seascape
- Historic environment
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Coastal change and flooding
- Economy and society
- Cumulative impacts

There are a few key areas where we are specifically seeking further evidence, and these are:

- Local level data and information on activities and resources in the east inshore and offshore plan areas. The MMO currently holds significant data at a national

level but particularly welcomes input from local authorities and organisations who can assist us in building up a more detailed local picture of the East Inshore and Offshore plan areas

- Projections of where activities will be carried out in the future. The vast majority of our data shows the location of current activities. The plan will need to consider a 20-year horizon and we welcome insight into future uses
- Spatial data on international activities and resources from nations bordering the east marine plan areas
- Information on recreational interests and their locations, including (- but not limited to) - surfing, kayaking, kite surfing, wind surfing and sailing.

We welcome any new evidence to support marine planning in the East Inshore and Offshore plan areas. The deadline for submission is 11:59pm on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025.