

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

LAUNCH OF THE TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE MARINE MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION

The Triennial Review of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) launched on 10 September 2013.

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) was established on 1 April 2010 with a remit to make a significant contribution to sustainable development in the marine area, and to promote the UK government's vision for clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas. It is responsible for the delivery of a number of marine management and regulation activities, including fisheries management, marine planning and licensing, aspects of nature conservation and the delivery and administration of European grants for fishing industries and coastal communities.

Like other Non-Departmental Public Bodies, the MMO will be subject to the requirement for a Triennial Review, in accordance with Cabinet Office guidance.¹ This will review the functions of the body, its governance arrangements and whether other delivery models would be more appropriate and in keeping with the Government's reform commitments.

The Review will be led by Defra as the lead sponsoring Department for the MMO, with input from the cross-government sponsoring departments of the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Department for Transport. Input will also be sought from the Devolved Administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to reflect the UK-wide and EU-facing roles that the MMO has for certain marine management activities.

The Review will be proportionate to the scale of the MMO, and recognise both that it is a comparatively new organisation in its current form, and that aspects of the MMO have been subject to a number of reviews since 2010. This Review will take into account the conclusions drawn from relevant recent reviews, such as the Red Tape Challenge,² the Focus on Enforcement Review,³ and the marine considerations taken into account in the recent Triennial Reviews of the Environment Agency and Natural England, and of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

Defra is keen to hear from the MMO's customers, stakeholders and delivery partners to understand their views of the organisation's current performance, and the scope and benefits of any potential changes. We are inviting responses through a short questionnaire, published alongside this launch, as well as through direct engagement with interested parties.

We aim to publish the conclusions of the Review in early 2014.

¹ http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/triennial-reviews-guidance-2011_tcm6-38900.pdf

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/red-tape-challenge-water-and-marine-theme-marine-proposals>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coastal-projects-and-investments-focus-on-enforcement-review>
<http://discuss.bis.gov.uk/focusonenforcement/files/2013/02/Defra-Response-to-Coastal-Projects-Review.pdf>

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

September 2013

The purpose of Triennial Reviews is to ensure that non-Departmental Public Bodies are still needed and comply with principles of good corporate governance.

The Review will follow two stages:

Stage 1: The Review will assess the functions and form of the MMO to confirm that they remain appropriate. It will take a proportionate approach to examine:

- the MMO's main objectives and how the organisation structures its functions, people and resources to deliver them;
- the nature of the functions and whether they are appropriate;
- alternative models to assess whether delivery of MMO's functions through an NDPB continues to be the most appropriate delivery model;

In reaching conclusions on Stage 1, the Review will take into account the conclusions drawn from relevant recent reviews, such as the Red Tape Challenge, the Focus on Enforcement Review, and the marine considerations taken into account in the recent Triennial Reviews of the Environment Agency and Natural England, and of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

Stage 2: If it is agreed that the MMO should remain as an NDPB, the Review will assess the control and governance arrangements in place to ensure that the public body is complying with recognised principles of good corporate governance.

The Review will be undertaken by Defra Civil Servants. It will be conducted in an open and inclusive way, working closely with the MMO, other Government Departments, and Parliament, and will take into account views from the full range of the MMO's customers. Anyone with an interest will be able to contribute.

The Review was launched on 10 September 2013 and is expected to publish conclusions early in 2014.