



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

1st Floor
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
SW1P 4DF

T: 03459 335577
helpline@defra.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

Dear Stakeholder

Consultation on the Marine Strategy Part Three: UK updated Programme of Measures

Updated programme of measures we propose to use to achieve Good Environmental Status across indicators of biodiversity, productivity, and pressures in UK seas.

Defra, the Northern Ireland Executive, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government are seeking views on the UK's updated Programme of Measures to use to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) in UK seas over the next 6 years.

The consultation document sets out the updated Programme of Measures we propose to use to help us to achieve Good Environmental Status across biodiversity, productivity, and pressures in UK seas; it notes the progress we have made since Part Three was originally published in 2015; and identifies measures which will be implemented before the next assessment in 2024.

The consultation does not cover the assessment of the state of the UK's seas and GES characteristics, targets and indicators. These were covered in a previous consultation, this is documented in Marine Strategy Part One published October 2019 ([Marine Strategy Part One: UK updated assessment and Good Environmental Status \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)).

This consultation does not cover the marine monitoring programmes. This was covered in Marine Strategy Part Two published March 2021 ([updated UK Marine Strategy Part Two \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)).

Our target audiences are groups or individuals who use the sea for whatever purpose, or have an interest in it, business users of the sea, national and local interest groups, and governments in other OSPAR contracting parties.

The aims of the Strategy are consistent with the UK government and devolved administrations' vision of "clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans



and seas". This requirement to monitor and assess the state of the UK seas is enshrined in UK legislation and demonstrates the combined commitments of the four UK Administrations to work together to monitor and protect what are some of the most biologically diverse and productive seas in Europe. We will also continue to collaborate internationally with those countries that share our seas, particularly through OSPAR, our regional seas convention, to protect and conserve the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic.

How to respond:

To submit your consultation response, please complete the consultation questionnaire provided through Citizen Space: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/uk-marine-strategy-programme-of-measures-3/uk-marine-strategy-part-3>

If you require a copy of the consultation, please contact us at marine.strategy@defra.gov.uk

Alternatively, written responses can be submitted to:

UK Marine Strategy

Team Defra

2 Marsham Street

Seacole Building

1st Floor

SW1P 4DF

Or via email: marine.strategy@defra.gov.uk

Confidentiality and data protection

Please find the Consultations Privacy Notice uploaded alongside this consultation. This consultation document and consultation process have been planned to adhere to the Consultation Principles issued by the Cabinet Office.

Representative groups are asked to give a summary of the people and organisations they represent and where relevant who else they have consulted in reaching their conclusions when they respond.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal data, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes 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.

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, as a public authority, the Department is bound by the Freedom of Information Act and may therefore be obliged to disclose all or some of the information you provide.

In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential.

If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

Consultation Criteria

This consultation is in line with the government's Consultation Principles. These can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance. If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to:

Consultation Coordinator
2nd floor
Foss House
Kings Pool
1-2 Peasholme Green
York
YO1 7PX
Or email: consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk

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

At the end of the consultation period we will summarise the responses and place this summary on gov.uk.

Copies of responses will be made available to the public on request. If you do not want your response – including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation.

Yours sincerely,

Marine Strategy Team

Defra