

# Welsh Government



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

**Marine & Fisheries**  
**Patrick Cowdy: Marine Policy Branch**

[www.cymru.gov.uk](http://www.cymru.gov.uk)

## Marine Planning in the Severn Estuary

**Severn Estuary Forum**  
**5<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

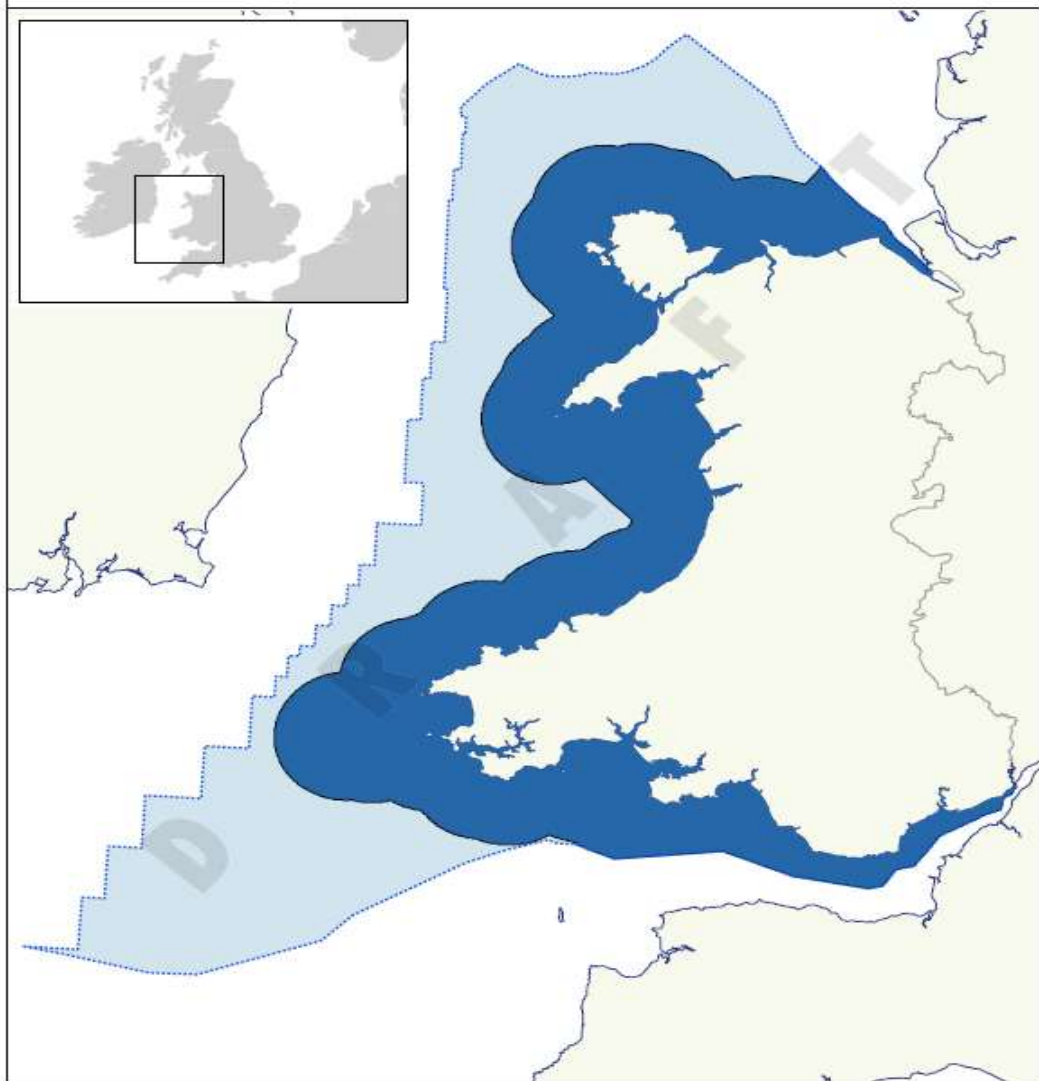
# Welsh National Marine Plan (WNMP)

Cynllun Morol Cenedlaethol Cymru





- Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009) Provides legislative basis for a marine planning system
- Marine Policy Statement (2011) is the framework for marine plans and taking decisions
- The Welsh National Marine Plan will translate the MPS into detailed policy and spatial guidance for the Welsh Marine Plan area to guide and direct decision-making
- Public authorities must take account of the plans (in various ways, with exceptions) when making decisions (MaCAA s58)

# Welsh Marine Planning Area



## WELSH NATIONAL MARINE PLAN AREA

-  Inshore Region
-  Offshore Region

0 25 50 km

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Ordnance Survey 100021874  
Cartographics • Welsh Government • ML/75/16.17

January 2017

# Wales: Policy Context

For Wales this is set within the context of our wider reform policies and the development of an integrated approach to governance includes:

- Taking Wales Forwards 2016-2021
- Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015)
- Green and Blue Growth Agenda
- The Environment (Wales) Act (2016)
- The Planning (Wales) Act (2015)
- Historic Environment (Wales) Act (2016)
- Wales Act (2017)

# WNMP General Policies (Draft)

- **General policies** cover topics including nature conservation, water quality, sustainable use, seascapes, coastal communities and economic growth, cumulative growth, heritage etc.
- **General policies** are organised under the themes of the shared UK High Level Marine Objectives (MPS):



Achieving a sustainable marine economy



Promoting good governance



Ensuring a strong and just society



Using sound science responsibly



Living within environmental limits

# WNMP Sector Policies (Draft)

Sector Policies are set out for the diverse types of activity that occur in our seas, including:



Aggregates



Aquaculture



Defence



Dredging  
& disposal



Fisheries



Renewable  
energy



Oil & gas



Ports &  
shipping



Subsea  
cabling



Surface  
waste water



Tourism  
& recreation

- Sector policies may include ‘supporting’ and/or ‘safeguarding’ policies to help ensure each sector can develop in a sustainable way
- Supporting policy can encourage sustainable growth via general support, or within areas with good potential for future activities
- These areas are identified on maps as Strategic Resource Areas (SRAs)

# WNMP - Where are we now?

- Draft WNMP has been developed in accordance with requirements set out in MCAA Schedule 6
- Takes account of best possible evidence – Strategic Scoping Exercise and Wales Marine Evidence Report
- Inputs from wide range of stakeholders across UK and sign off from policy leads
- Sustainability Appraisal & Habitats Regulations Assessment
- Next steps will be sign off from Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs and Secretary of State for Defra
- Consultation for a period of 12 weeks planned for autumn
- Stakeholder engagement during consultation with 5 public events around the Welsh coast plus national stakeholder seminar/workshop

# WNMP Implementation

- Responses to the public consultation
- Final sign off of the WNMP
- Developing training and implementation guidance
- Planning pilot projects to 'test drive' policies
- Public authorities group
- Monitoring & reporting





# Cross Border Working

- Sharing plans and policies
- WG/MMO Way of Working document
- Bespoke meetings
- ICZM
- NDF



# Evidence

- WNMP Evidence Strategy
- Marine Portal(s)
- EMFF project
- Research contract for Subnational Marine Planning
- Wider research/liaison – EU MSP, UK MP group, sector meetings



# Conclusions

- WNMP is an integrated planning and policy delivery mechanism.
- Policies are to be interpreted in a broad based, precautionary manner (SD, WfG, SMNR etc)
- Full stakeholder involvement in the process (See SPP – Statement of Public Participation)
- Start of 12 week consultation on the WNMP planned for this autumn

**\*\* All of the above concepts / drivers will be in the WNMP document\*\***


More at :

Marine Planning website

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/marineandfisheries/marine-planning/?lang=en>

Evidence Portal

<http://lle.gov.wales/apps/marineportal/>

A photograph of a beach with waves crashing onto the sand. The text "Any questions?" is overlaid in the center.

**Any questions?**