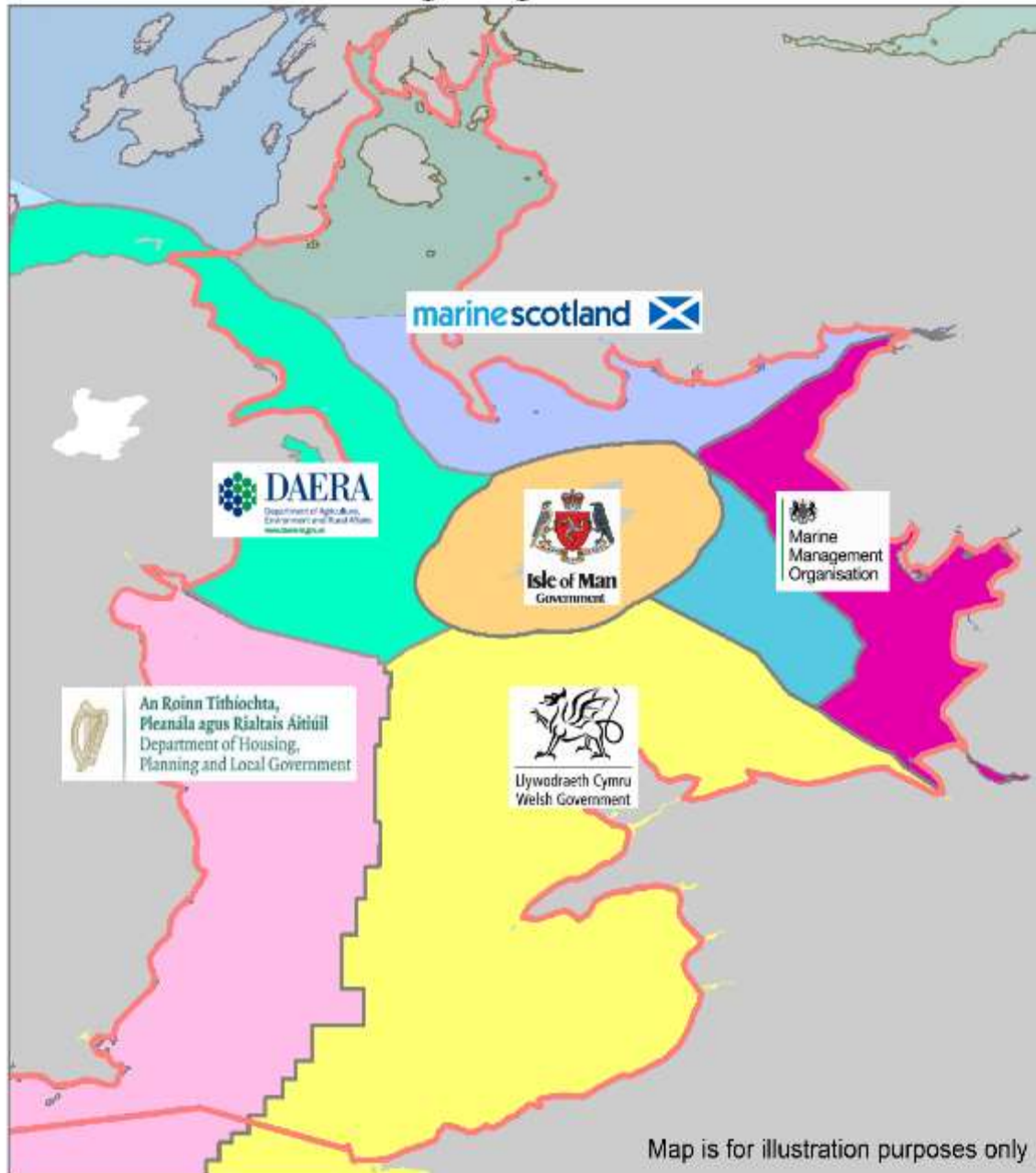




## Irish Sea Marine Planning Update

Dr Heather Ritchie  
Dr Linda McElduff  
University of Ulster

# Marine Planning Regions in the Irish Sea



## Marine Planning Region

-  Irish Sea
-  England North West inshore
-  England North West offshore
-  Isle of Man
-  Northern Ireland
-  Scotland Clyde
-  Scotland Solway Firth
-  Republic of Ireland
-  Wales

Reproduced with thanks to DAERA, DHPLG, IoM Government, Marine Scotland, MMO & Welsh Government

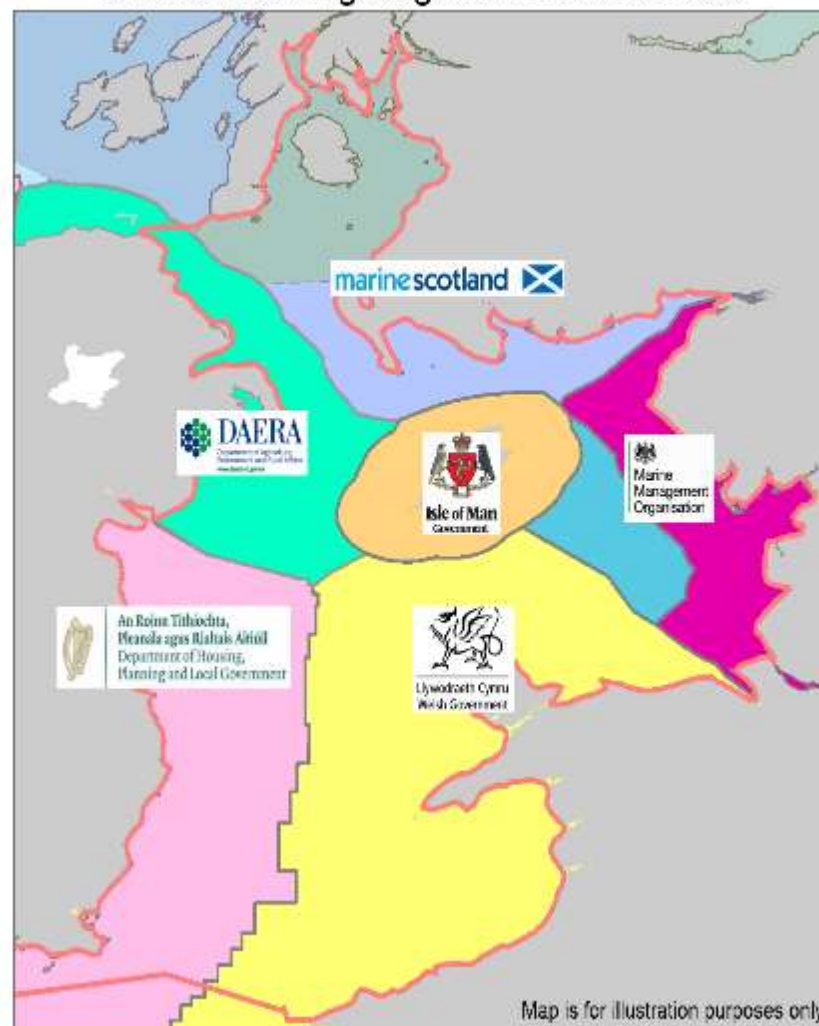


Map is for illustration purposes only

# Irish Sea Headlines for UK, Ireland and IoM

- Irish Sea governed by **4 pieces of primary legislation**, EU Directives and International Conventions
- **4 National Plan** approaches across the Irish Sea
- **5 Administrations** carrying out Marine Planning

Marine Planning Regions in the Irish Sea



# Irish Sea Marine Plan Overview

## Legislative and Policy Context for marine planning in inshore and offshore waters:

- *Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009* – **All UK**
  - *Marine (Scotland) Act 2010* - **Scotland only**
  - *Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013* – **N.Ireland only**
  - *SI No 352 2016 EU (Framework for MSP Regs 2016)* – and *Part 5 Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018* - **Ireland only**
  
  - *UK Marine Policy Statement 2011*– policy framework to prepare plans and reiterates UK Marine Vision and UK high level objectives – **All UK: Scottish, Welsh, NI governments**
  - *MSP Directive 2014/89/EU* establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning was adopted in July 2014. The Directive obliges all coastal Member States to establish maritime spatial plans by 2021 - **All UK and Ireland but not IoM**
  - *Annex I-V OSPAR Convention 1992* and– *Convention on Biological Diversity 2012* - **All UK, Ireland and Isle of Man**
- 
- **Complex location:** brings many jurisdictional challenges – reflective of devolution of powers and self-governing IoM
  - **Lots of legislation to consider** – International – EU – National – Regional - Local
  - **Different stages of marine plan development** - spatial scales, format and timescales

# Northern Ireland Marine Plan Update: Current Status



- The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) is lead organisation.
- Draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland 2018 published April 2018.
- Plan prepared under 2 pieces of legislation:

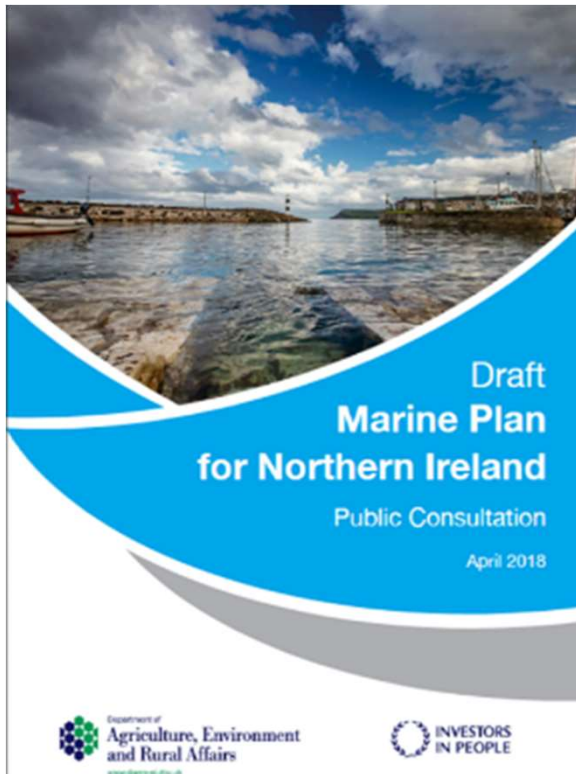
MCAA 2009 s 51 and sch 6

MA (NI) 2013 s 4 and sch 1

## **Marine Plan Vision for NI:**

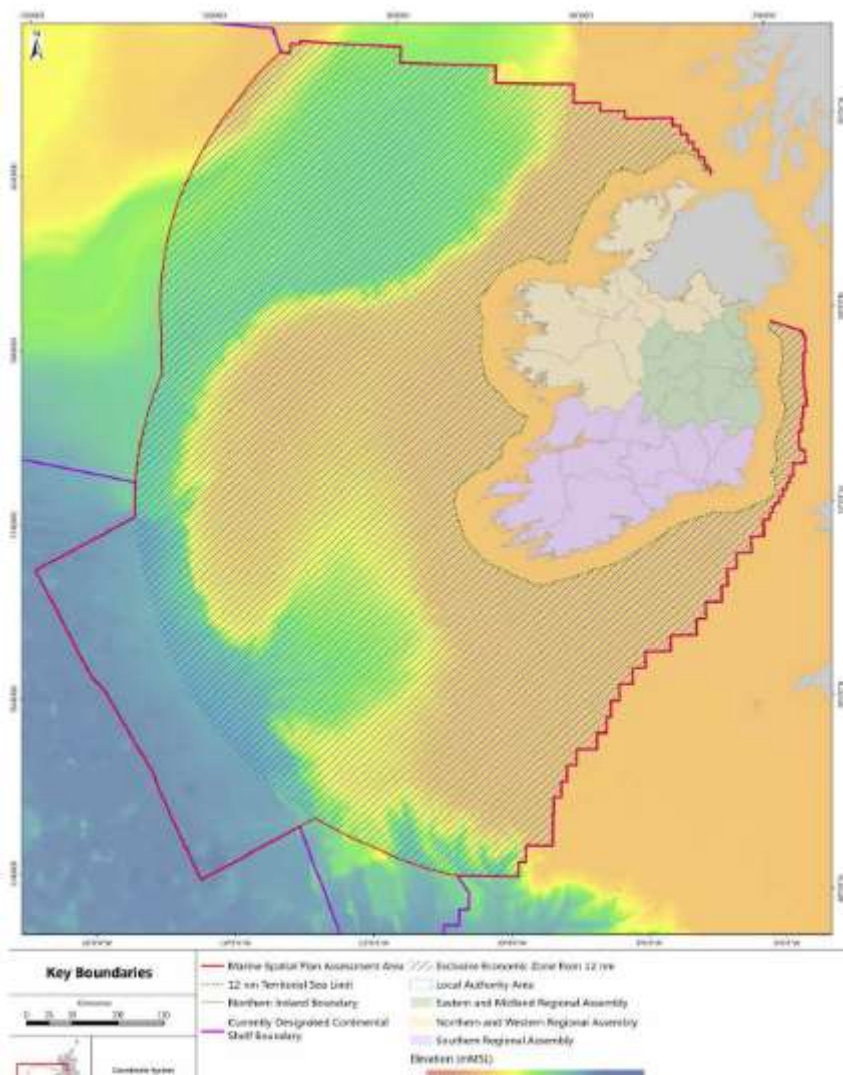
A healthy marine area which is managed sustainably for the economic, environmental and social prosperity of present and future generations.

# Northern Ireland Marine Plan Update: Next Steps



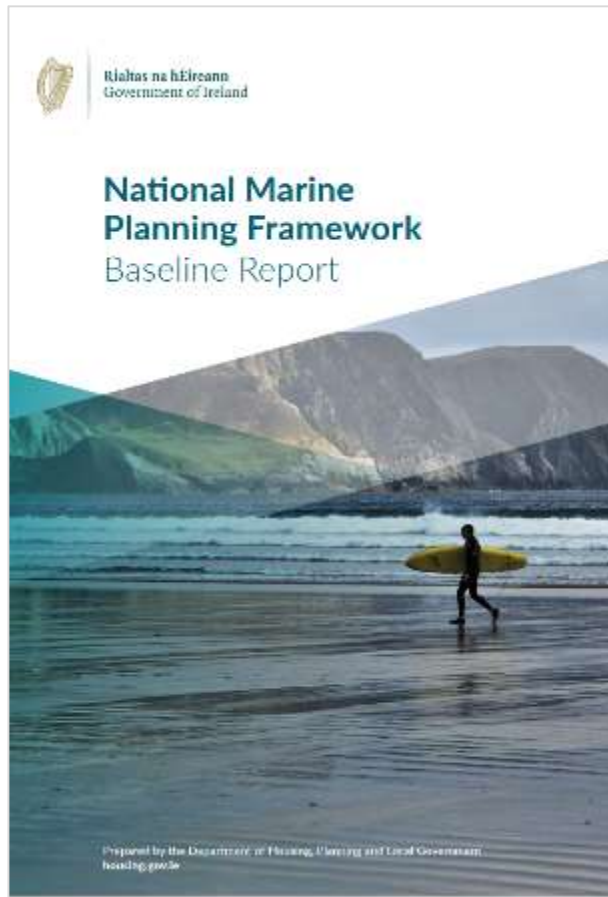
- Consultation closed 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018 - stakeholder Workshops and Seminars during consultation period
- DEARA currently at **consideration stage**: consultee responses – independent investigation?
- **No indication** of when plan will be adopted as no Stormont Executive since January 2017.
- Marine plan is a cross-cutting policy, not a straightforward decision, so limited by powers delegated by Secretary of State - time bound March 2019 (Ext?)
- Marine Plan Team have been meeting Local Council Planners (reform of planning in NI –local planning powers devolved) and feeding into new suite of Local Development Plans – actively trying to influence land sea interaction.
- **Legislative wording** places an **onus** on marine planning to integrate with the terrestrial planning system – no reciprocal duty on terrestrial planning system to do same.

# Ireland Marine Plan Update: Current Status



- **Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government** is lead organisation.
- Ireland working towards the production of a **single plan** for Irish waters.
- **Harnessing Our Ocean's Wealth – an Integrated Marine Plan** adopted in 2012 – sets out Government's vision, high level goals, and key enabling actions to enable Ireland's marine potential to be realised.
- **MSP Roadmap**: Towards a MSP for Ireland – published 2017 - general arrangements and timeline for development of plan by end of 2020.
- **The National Marine Planning Framework** published Sept 2018 – a description of the 'as is' situation for existing sectoral development and marine activities and includes an identification of opportunities and constraints.
- Public consultation closed 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

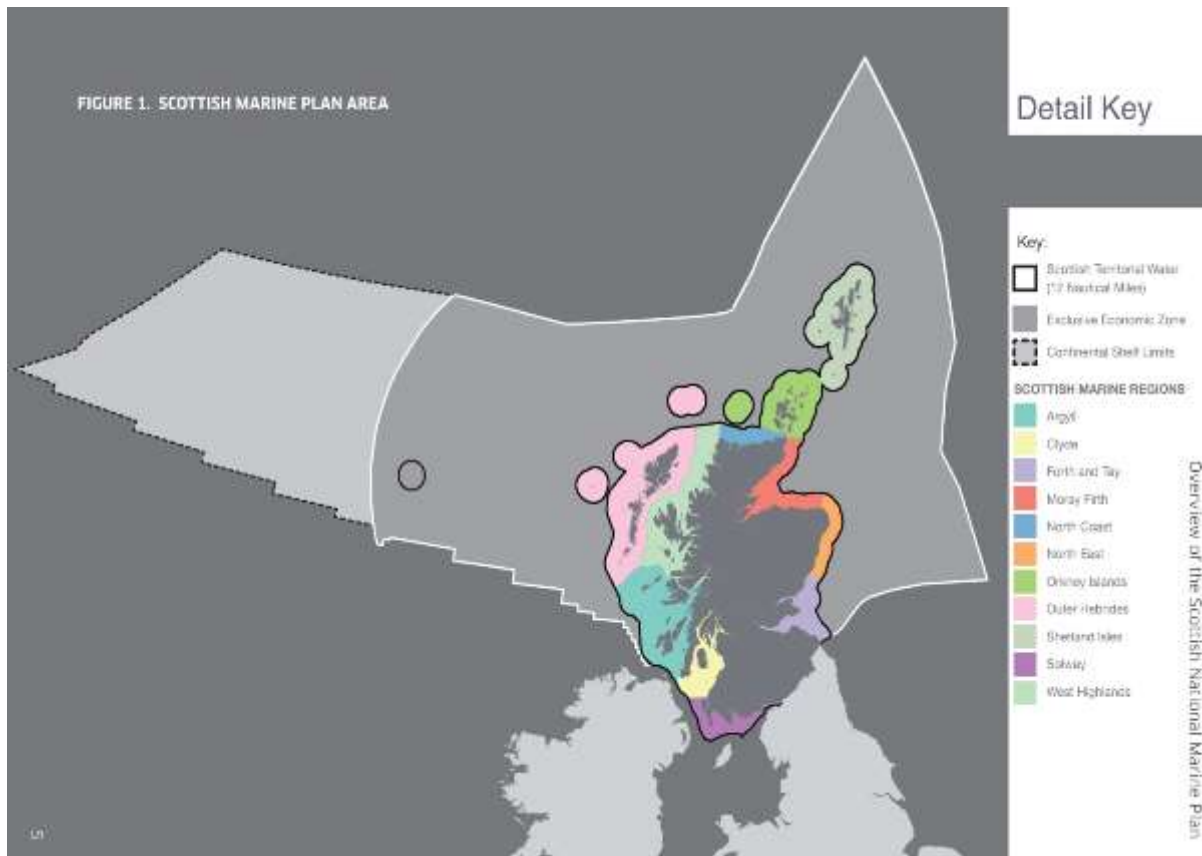
# Ireland Marine Plan Update: Next Steps



- An **interdepartmental group** has been established to lead and oversee the plan development – reps from Government and the Marine Institute.
- An **advisory group** has also been established and is chaired by Minister of State Damien English – to ensure effective participation in the process of economic, environment and social pillars.
- The **Marine Plan Team** has carried out extensive **stakeholder engagement** raising awareness of the plan – in excess of 100 engagement events with public and stakeholders.
- **Change in legislation** from *SI to the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018* – means that the plan becomes embedded as a key input to the work of all marine regulatory bodies – ie it becomes a determining factor in consenting decisions and developments of plans and policies.



# Scotland Marine Plan Update: Current Status



- **Marine Scotland** is lead organisation
- **Scotland National Marine Plan (2015)** provides single framework for managing Scotland's seas – sustainable development of resources 12 to 200nm
- National Plan gone through first **review process** – presented to Scottish Ministers in March 2018
- National plan to be supplemented by **11 Regional Marine Plans** prepared by **Marine Planning Partnerships**
- More detailed guidance for inshore waters (0 to 12nm)

## Marine Plan Vision for Scotland:

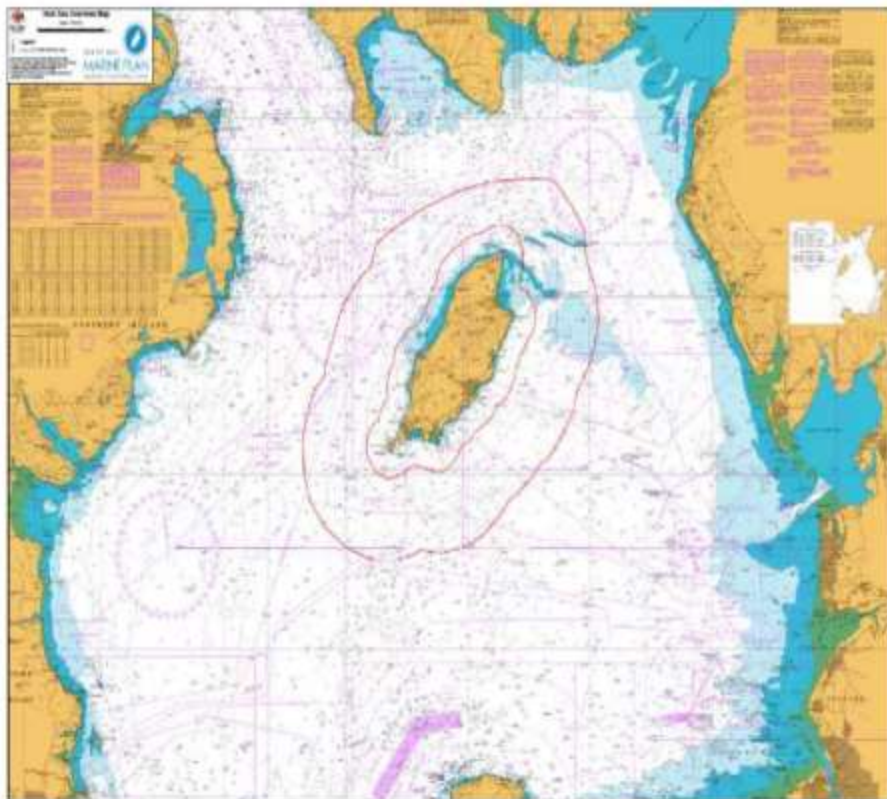
Clean, healthy, safe, productive and diverse seas; managed to meet the long term needs of nature and people.

# Scotland Marine Plan Update: Next Steps



- The **Committee of Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform** raised interesting issues on the timings of the **plan review cycles** and **progress and resources** for **Marine Planning Partnerships**
- 2 different pieces of primary legislation require different times of reporting cycles:
  - Marine Act (Scotland) 2010 is for inshore waters 0-12nm – requires review every 5 years
  - Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 is for offshore waters 12-200nm (management has been devolved to Scottish Ministers) requires review every 3 years
- 2018 Review outcome Scottish Ministers decided **not to replace** or amend at an early stage – further review required within 3 years 2021 offshore and 2023 for inshore
- It was stressed that a *different set of financial circumstances* exist now than at the time of Marine Act (Scotland) adopted so need to be prudent about the use of resources to establish Marine Planning Partnerships
- Recommended to follow best practice from **Clyde Marine Planning Partnership** and **Shetland Isles Marine Planning Partnership**

# Isle of Man Marine Plan Update: Current Status



- Not having a Marine Plan as such!  
**Manx Marine Environmental Assessment (MMEA) Report** – updated 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018.

The MMEA Report is designed to be a technical **compilation of information** on Manx Territorial waters.

The MMEA is not a policy document and is solely a statement of technical facts that were available and correct at the time of publication – **‘as is’** document.

No public consultation – relied on experts  
Opportunities for future coastal and offshore developments in Manx territorial waters

Government Priorities:

- *An Island of enterprise and opportunity*
- *Financially responsible government*
- *An inclusive and caring society*

# Isle of Man Marine Plan Update: Current Status



- Biosphere Isle of Man awarded March 2016
- 1<sup>st</sup> Island Nation in the world to receive UNESCO biosphere endorsement
- *“It is about keeping the Isle of Man a special place to live, work and visit”*

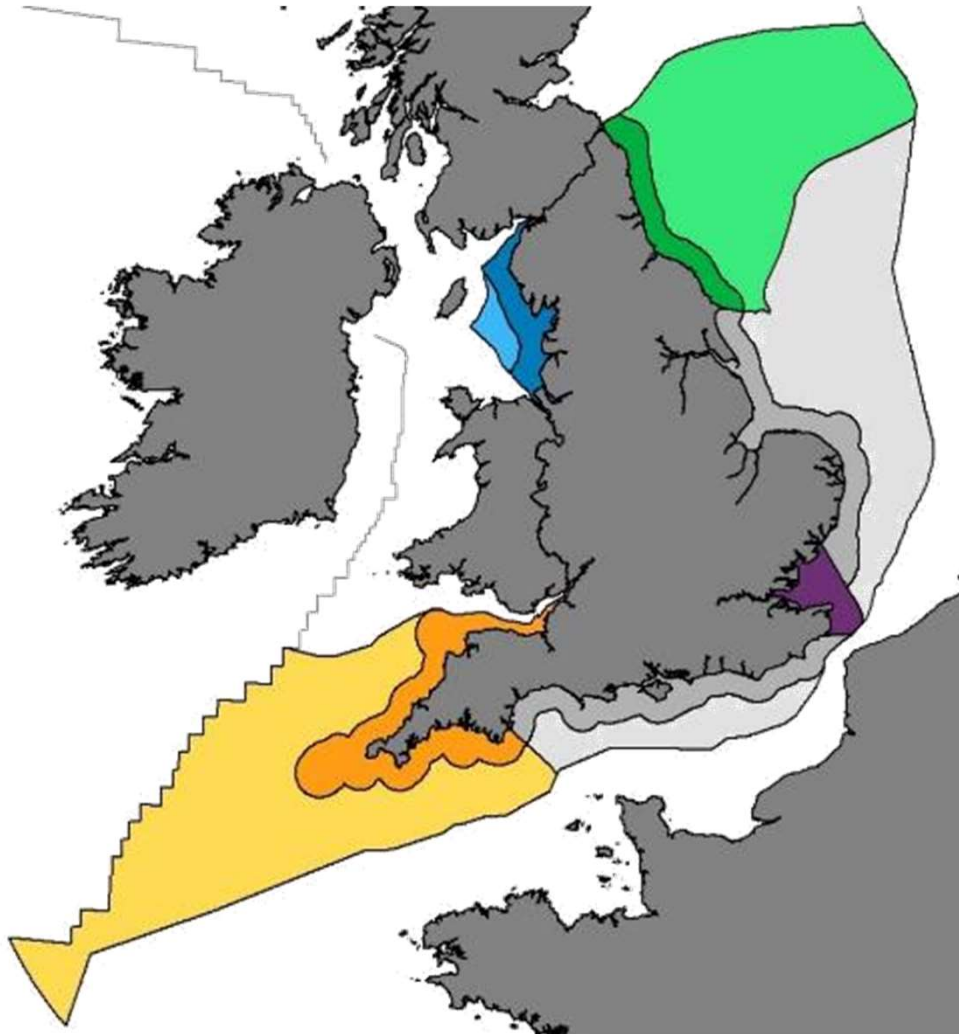


## WHERE...

Locations on the Isle of Man map apply right across our island and the marine environment surrounding it.

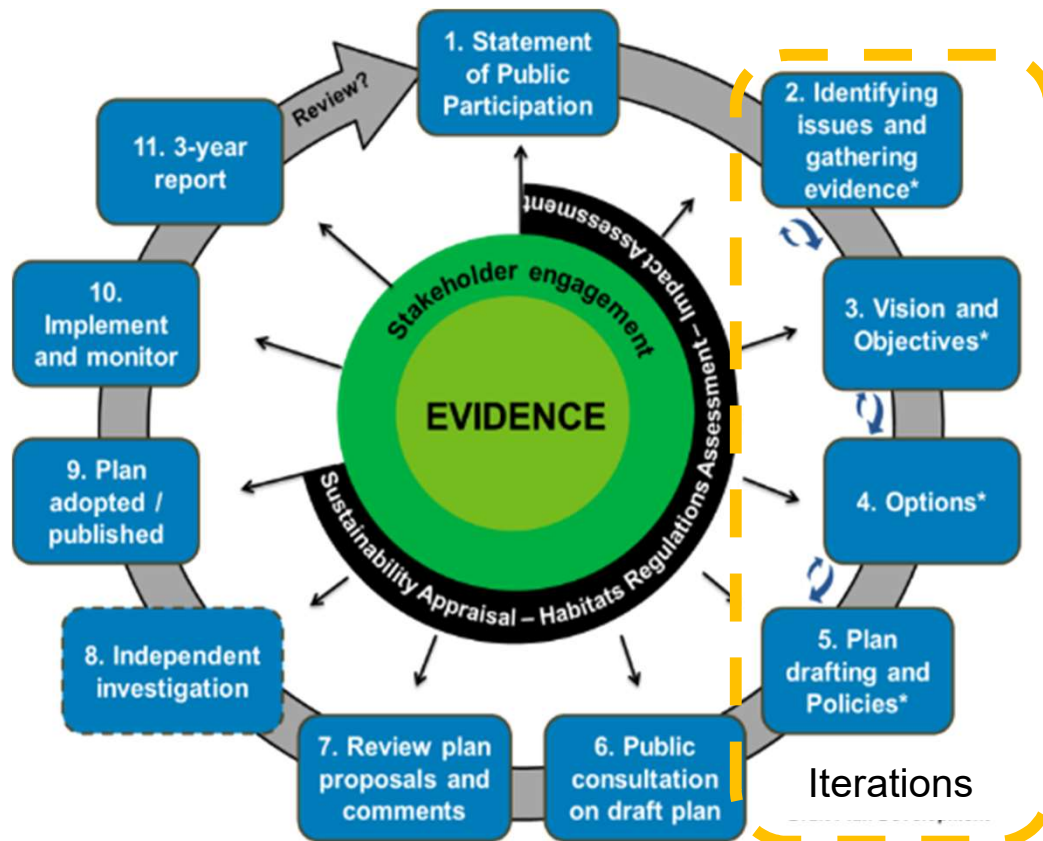
- ✦ **Coast and Sea**  
Seafaces, cliffs, outcrops and underwater.
- ✦ **Towns**  
Habitats, structures and developments.
- ✦ **Glens**  
Our glenning 'nature gardens', unique places by the mountains.
- ✦ **Harbour and coastal fresh**  
Most likely a corner stone of how we are doing business.
- ✦ **Hillsland**  
Areas that support often rare plants, animals and habitats, for example, the fells.
- ✦ **Farmland**  
The rolling landscape of broadland with flat areas and sub-drained farmland.
- ✦ **Uplands and moorland**  
The diverse, wild and open moorland.

# SW & NW Marine Plan Update: Current Status



- **Marine Management Organisation** is lead organisation
- **4** marine plans being developed concurrently – NW, NE, SW & SE.
- It is expected that all plans will be **published by 2021**, with the aim being June 2020 but allowing contingency for any independent investigation (if required).
- **Early stages of plan**, texts on policy are continuing to be developed.
- **Iteration 1** - Spring 2017 - consulted on first products of the process.
- **Iteration 2** - Spring 2018 - marine plan area vision, and options to address remaining issues.

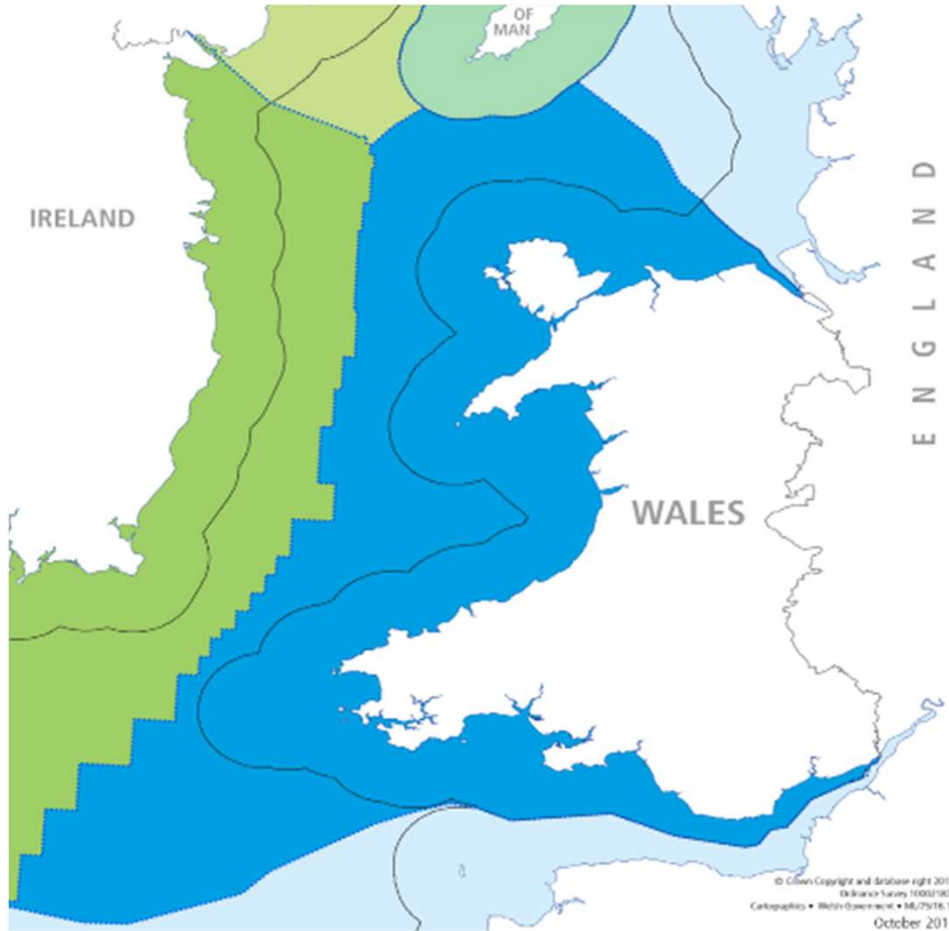
# SW & NW Marine Plan Update: Next Steps



## Iteration 3:

- preferred draft policies;
  - draft supporting text for policies including on implementation; and
  - the next steps in marine planning.
- Opportunities for stakeholders to contribute to the development of the preferred marine plan draft policies ahead of the **statutory consultation on the draft marine plans in late 2019**.
  - **Iteration 3 online engagement** – 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019 to 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019 - on the Iteration 3 products.
  - **Workshops** to be held between 29<sup>th</sup> January and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019 to support the online engagement and provide an opportunity to comment on the Iteration 3 products.

# Wales Marine Plan Update: Current Status



## Marine Plan Vision for Wales:

Welsh seas are clean, healthy, safe,  
productive & biologically diverse

- **Welsh Government** is lead organisation.
- **Draft Welsh National Marine Plan (WNMP)** published Dec 2017.
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015; Environment (Wales) Act 2016.
- **Consultation closed** - April 2018.
- **Summary of Responses** - July 2018. Key themes incl. Sustainable development; Strategic resource areas; Cross border management; Evidence for planning; Overall plan structure; Monitoring, evaluation & reporting; Maps & data; SA / HRA
- **Stakeholder workshops** - July-Sept 2018.

# Wales Marine Plan Update: Next Steps



- **Consultation responses - Issues for consideration** (cross border):
  - More clarity in certain sections of the plan
  - Consideration of cross-border matters in implementation guidance
  - Need for guidance & training, update of TANs
  - More transparent, joined-up approach – particularly in Severn & Dee Estuary areas
  - How to encourage / facilitate cross border working for future management?
- **Condense plan:**
  - Separation of guidance from policy
  - Additional references to cross-border implications in sector chapters
  - Further identification of neighbouring plan areas & expansion of references
  - Discuss TANs with terrestrial policy leads
  - Consult with other relevant plan authorities
- **Adoption** – Spring-Summer 2019?