

# Managing our marine resources: the Marine Management Organisation



**defra**

Department for Environment  
Food and Rural Affairs

**The Government's vision is for:  
clean, healthy, safe, productive  
and biologically diverse oceans  
and seas**



# Foreword



Our seas are a valuable resource. They provide us with food, jobs, recreation and renewable energy, help to regulate our climate and much more. Our seas need effective management to ensure that we can all benefit from their resources whilst protecting our marine environment.

The Marine and Coastal Access Bill proposes setting up the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) as the UK Government's principal delivery body in the marine area.

The Government's vision for the MMO is of a professional and proactive marine manager, trusted by all stakeholders to make a significant contribution to the sustainable development of the marine area. The MMO will set the standard in the UK and internationally for planning in the marine and coastal environment, so delivering the Government's commitment to introduce a new framework for the seas that balances conservation, energy and other resource needs.

The MMO will make decisions on the majority of marine developments and, where it is not the decision-making body, will be a key adviser on marine issues, bringing consistency to the decision-making process. As the Government's principal regulator, as well as its delivery body, for English territorial waters and offshore marine areas (for those matters that are not devolved), the MMO will deliver functions on behalf of a number of Government Departments. It will also take forward the policy interests of a wide range of Government Departments through its role in developing marine plans.

By bringing together marine management activities within a single organisation the MMO will be able to forge strong links between activities. The combination of marine functions the MMO will be delivering, together with the knowledge and expertise it will build up, will enable integrated implementation of Government policy for the marine area.

Following a rigorous process to decide which of many excellent coastal locations should be the home of the MMO headquarters, we've selected Tyneside. We chose Tyneside because of its broad range and good balance of marine interests including a working port, a busy local fishing industry, and offshore renewable energy development – all linking to the MMO's role. The MMO will also have local offices around the coast.

There will be many opportunities for organisations and individuals with marine interests to work with the MMO. I hope that you will take these opportunities and help to make the MMO a really effective manager of our marine environment.

## **Huw Irranca-Davies MP**

Minister for the Natural and Marine Environment,  
Wildlife and Rural Affairs

# About the MMO

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is being established by the Marine and Coastal Access Bill to deliver marine functions in the waters around England and in the UK offshore area (for matters that are not devolved). It will acquire its responsibilities through the Marine and Coastal Access Bill and will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in the marine area.

The MMO will be the marine planning authority on behalf of the UK Government and its regulator of most activities, including sea fisheries, in those parts of the UK marine area where MMO functions are exercisable. It will make decisions according to the Marine Policy Statement and marine plans for most marine developments, with some exceptions such as 'nationally significant' developments (see page 31 on the Infrastructure Planning Commission).

The MMO will have a range of marine licensing responsibilities, including licensing fishing activity under the European Common Fisheries Policy. It will continue the fisheries management activities currently delivered by the Marine and Fisheries Agency and will also have responsibilities relating to marine nature conservation. It will make use of modernised powers provided in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill to enforce marine legislation, working with other marine enforcement bodies. It will be involved in responding to marine emergencies. It will carry out a key co-ordinating role on behalf of the UK

when acting as competent authority, for example on EU marine issues. It will use the best available scientific evidence and need to make effective use of data, information and knowledge across the full range of its activities.

In addition to working with the Devolved Administrations, the MMO will work with other partners including regulatory, delivery, enforcement and scientific organisations. Some arrangements for governance, accountability, sponsorship, funding and resources for the MMO are already in place, others are being developed.

This brochure sets out the broad structure and functions of the MMO. More details will be made available later this year as we continue to work on the transition from existing systems to the new body.



Marilyn Rawson

# How will the MMO acquire its responsibilities?

There are a number of ways, flowing from the Marine and Coastal Access Bill, in which the MMO will acquire its responsibilities.

Some new responsibilities will be conferred on the MMO in the Bill such as the power to make nature conservation byelaws and making certain appointments to Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (which will replace the current Sea Fisheries Committees).

Other functions currently performed by the Secretary of State<sup>1</sup>, such as the licensing of fishing vessels, will be transferred directly to the MMO in the Bill.

The Bill will make it possible for the Secretary of State to delegate further functions to the MMO, such as marine planning (by direction) and marine licensing (by order).

Finally, flexible administrative arrangements in the Bill (Part 1, chapter 3) will enable the Secretary of State to enter into arrangements with the MMO to carry out functions on his behalf. These include fisheries management activities largely relating to the Common Fisheries Policy.



Marilyn Rawson

<sup>1</sup> References to 'the Secretary of State' are not restricted to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

# The MMO and sustainable development in the marine area

Under the Marine and Coastal Access Bill published in December 2008, the MMO will have a duty to exercise its functions in a consistent and co-ordinated manner with the objective of making a contribution to the achievement of sustainable development. We have used the word 'contribution' because the MMO on its own cannot achieve sustainable development in our seas. This will also depend on the actions of others including the Secretary of State, Devolved Administrations, other delivery bodies and users of the sea and its resources.

The Government has already set out the five guiding principles of sustainable development in *'Securing the Future – UK Government sustainable development strategy'*, published in 2005.

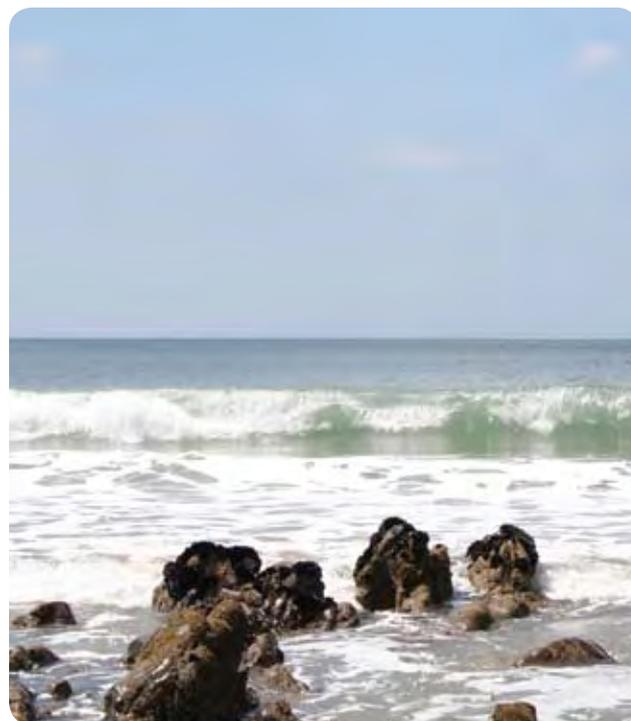
The MMO will also be operating in accordance with the new Marine Policy Statement. This will set out policies and priorities for the marine area and how it should be managed to achieve sustainable development.

In addition, the MMO will be given guidance by the Secretary of State on the contribution the Government expects the MMO to make to achieving sustainable development, and how it is to make it. The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will be advised by a cross-Government sponsorship group which includes senior officials from all Departments with policy interests in the marine area and will consult with Cabinet colleagues as appropriate. This will mean that the guidance represents a cross-Departmental view of what sustainable development in the marine area should look like.

We have not included a definition of sustainable development in the Bill, as the meaning of sustainable development evolves over time to reflect advances in scientific and economic understanding.

To assist the MMO in achieving its objectives relating to sustainable development, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will be seeking MMO Board members with experience and expertise across all three 'pillars' of sustainable development:

- economic, e.g. aggregate extraction, renewable energy, fishing ports/harbours and shipping;
- environmental, e.g. habitats, fish stocks and water quality; and
- social, e.g. heritage, recreation and defence.



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# Marine planning

A key element of the Marine and Coastal Access Bill is the creation of a new system of marine planning that will clarify our policies and priorities for the future, and direct decision-makers and users towards more efficient and sustainable use and protection of our marine resources. Marine planning will be one of the major functions of the new MMO, as the Secretary of State will delegate to it responsibility for the preparation and delivery of marine plans for the waters around England, in accordance with the policies and objectives set out by the UK Government.

## The MMO's planning functions

The Marine and Coastal Access Bill (Part 3, clause 48) provides that the marine plan authority responsible for marine planning in waters around England is the Secretary of State. However, clause 53 of the Bill enables the marine plan authority to delegate the majority of its marine planning functions to any public body (with that body's consent) – for the waters around England this will be the MMO. Certain functions, such as the adoption of, or decision to withdraw, a marine plan cannot be delegated and will remain with the Secretary of State.

### Plan creation

The MMO will be given responsibility for creating a series of marine plans to apply the Marine Policy Statement in more detail to particular parts of the UK marine area.

When the MMO starts to develop marine plans it will draw on spatial information about the relevant marine area and its uses. It will also be under a duty (clause 52) to keep under review matters relating to marine planning functions. This will help to form the evidence base for planning.

The evidence base will involve an assessment of the characteristics of the area; what data are already available and what will be needed; the interaction between activities, taking account of the current situation as well as emerging and future uses; and future development scenarios. This type of spatial analysis will include identifying known or



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common conflicts between activities and then providing options to manage them through the plans. The MMO will be able to devise the most appropriate options for consideration in the plans, taking account of the availability and quantity of data.

### Sustainability appraisal

Whilst preparing marine plan options, the MMO will carry out a sustainability appraisal of the options and their likely environmental, social and economic effects. This process will meet EU requirements such as those of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, and (where relevant) an application of the Appropriate Assessment requirement under the Birds and Habitats Directives. The sustainability appraisal will steer the way in which options are progressed into proposals for consultation. A report of the appraisal will be published alongside the consultation draft of each marine plan.

### Stakeholder engagement

It is vital that regulators, coastal communities and a range of individual organisations with an interest in the marine and coastal environment are all able to be involved in developing plans. So the MMO will need to build good stakeholder relations throughout the planning process. It is particularly important that those organisations which already hold planning and regulatory roles in coastal areas and waters – such as regional planning bodies, local authorities, the

Environment Agency and The Crown Estate – are all able to play a full and effective role.

To facilitate this process and make it transparent, the MMO will publish a Statement of Public Participation at the beginning of the development of each plan setting out how it will involve stakeholders at each stage. This work will also include considering the nature of the coastal community and marine users affected in each plan area. The Statement will be a living document, kept updated throughout the planning process to enable stakeholders to plan ahead for their involvement.

The MMO will be responsible for publishing each draft marine plan for full public consultation, as well as co-ordinating responses; publishing a summary of those responses; considering the responses received; and making any necessary amendments to the plan.

### Keeping matters under review

Once plans have been adopted, the MMO will continue to monitor their effects, including reviewing each plan every three years and amending or replacing the plan altogether if necessary. If amendment or replacement is required, the MMO will follow exactly the same procedures as for initial plan preparation – i.e. scoping, developing options, preparation and appraisal, consultation, amendment and adoption.

## **The Marine Policy Statement**

The planning process starts with the development of the Marine Policy Statement. The Statement will articulate the Government's shared vision and detailed policies and objectives for the marine environment, including how these relate to our international obligations and national marine-related policies, as well as explaining how marine policies should be tackled alongside a range of other land and coastal issues. The Marine Policy Statement will provide a clear steer to all decision-makers and users of the marine area.

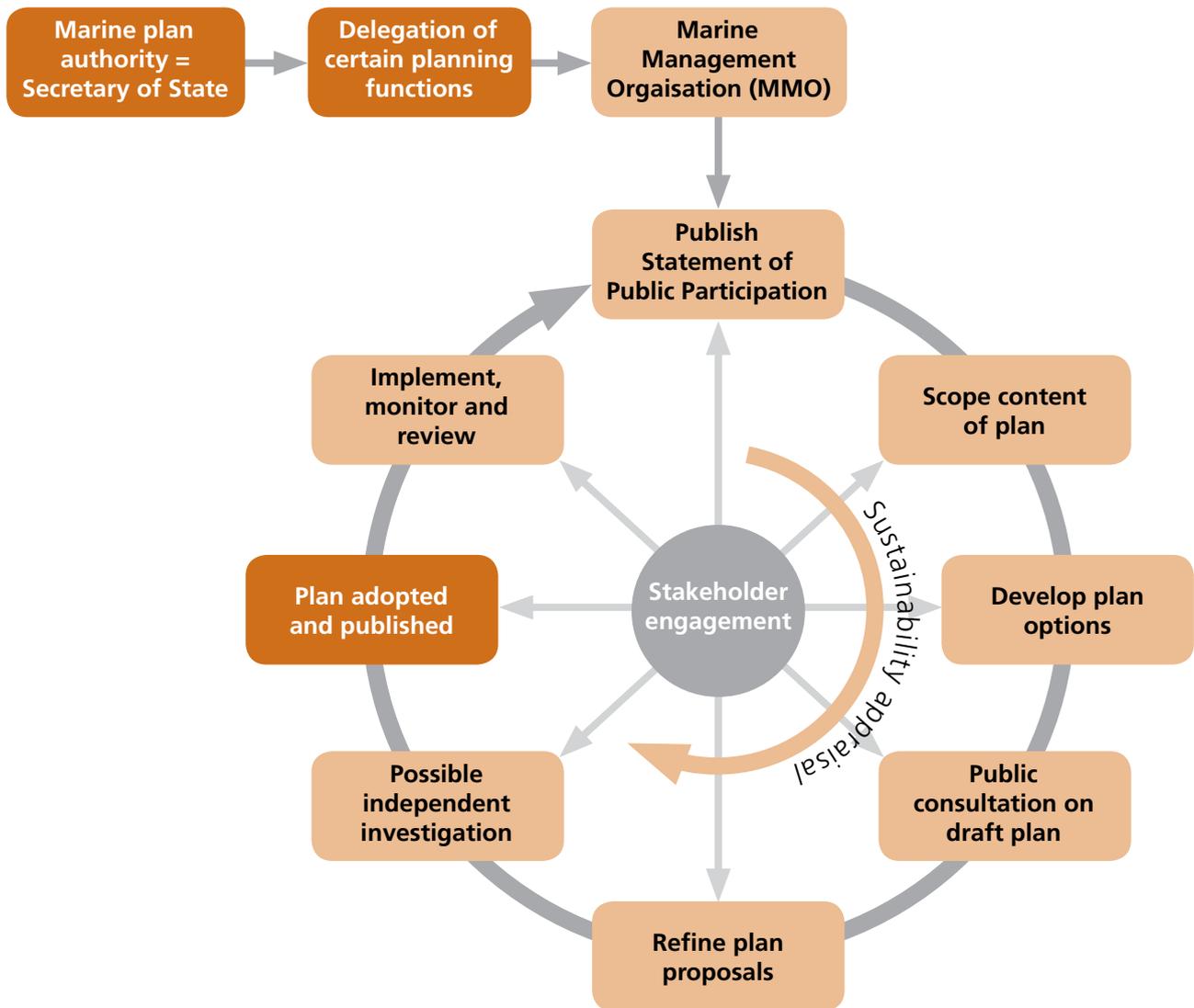
## **Effect of the Marine Policy Statement and marine plans**

The Marine Policy Statement and marine plans will set out clearly the policies which marine regulators will need to deliver through their decisions. Developers too will know that their decisions are based on sound evidence, clearly thought-out policy and stakeholder consensus. The Marine Policy Statement and marine plans will guide and direct decisions in the marine environment to ensure a strong link between national policy and individual developments. The Marine and Coastal Access Bill places an obligation on all public authorities, except the Infrastructure Planning Commission, to have regard to these documents and to act in accordance with them when making licensing and enforcement decisions. However, the Commission has a duty to have regard to the Marine Policy Statement and marine plans when making decisions on Planning Act consents.



Gillian Tuson

## The MMO's role in the marine planning process



- Secretary of State function
- MMO function

# Marine licensing and licensing enforcement

The licensing and licensing enforcement provisions in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill (Part 4) combine existing regulatory regimes from the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985, the Coast Protection Act 1949, and Telecommunications Act 1984 (Schedule 2 Electronic Communications Code). Secondary legislation under this Part will further consolidate powers by incorporating the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007, and the Marine Minerals Permissions under the Environmental Impact Assessment and Natural Habitats (Extraction of Minerals by Marine Dredging) (England and Northern Ireland) Regulations 2007.

The MMO will regulate these activities as the licensing authority for the new regime. It will control the environmental, navigational, human health and other impacts of constructions, deposits and removals in the marine area. Examples of activities the licensing regime will cover are port developments; tidal and wave power projects; jetties; moorings; coastal dredging; aggregate extraction; and the laying of submarine cables.

The type of licensing activities the MMO will carry out are:

- managing applications and inquiries;
- determining and granting licences;
- undertaking inspections to ensure compliance with licences and licence conditions;

- varying, revoking, suspending and transferring licences;
- issuing stop and emergency safety notices;
- identifying and carrying out or ordering remediation works as necessary;
- issuing compliance and remediation notices;
- issuing (and reviewing issue of) notices of intent/monetary penalties; and
- maintaining a register of licensing activities.

The Secretary of State will delegate these licensing and licensing enforcement functions to the MMO using the order making power in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill (Part 4).

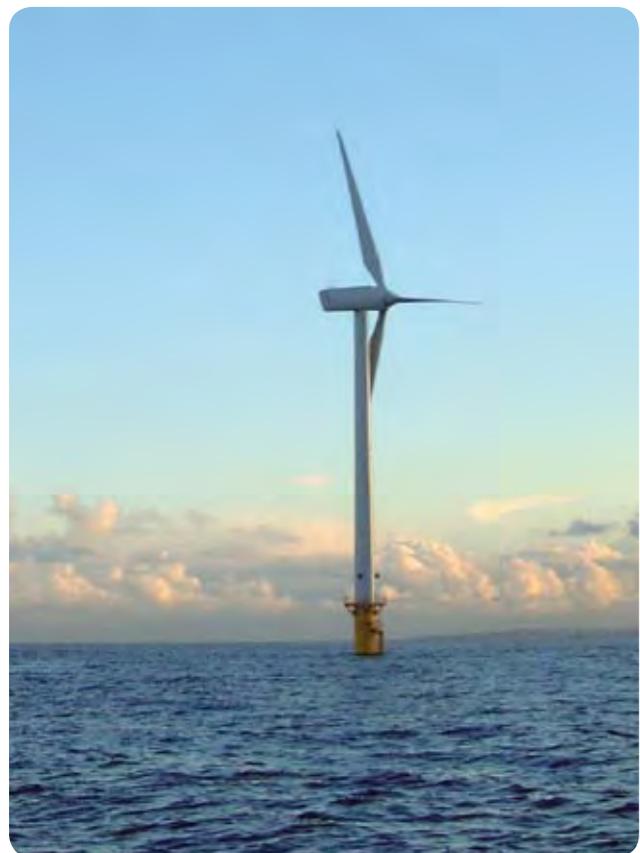


Photo courtesy of Amec Wind

In addition to operating the reformed marine licensing system, the MMO will take on licensing functions currently exercised by the Secretary of State under other Acts. In England and Wales, it will issue Harbour Orders under the Harbours Act 1964 (except for fisheries harbours in Wales which will remain the function of Welsh Ministers).

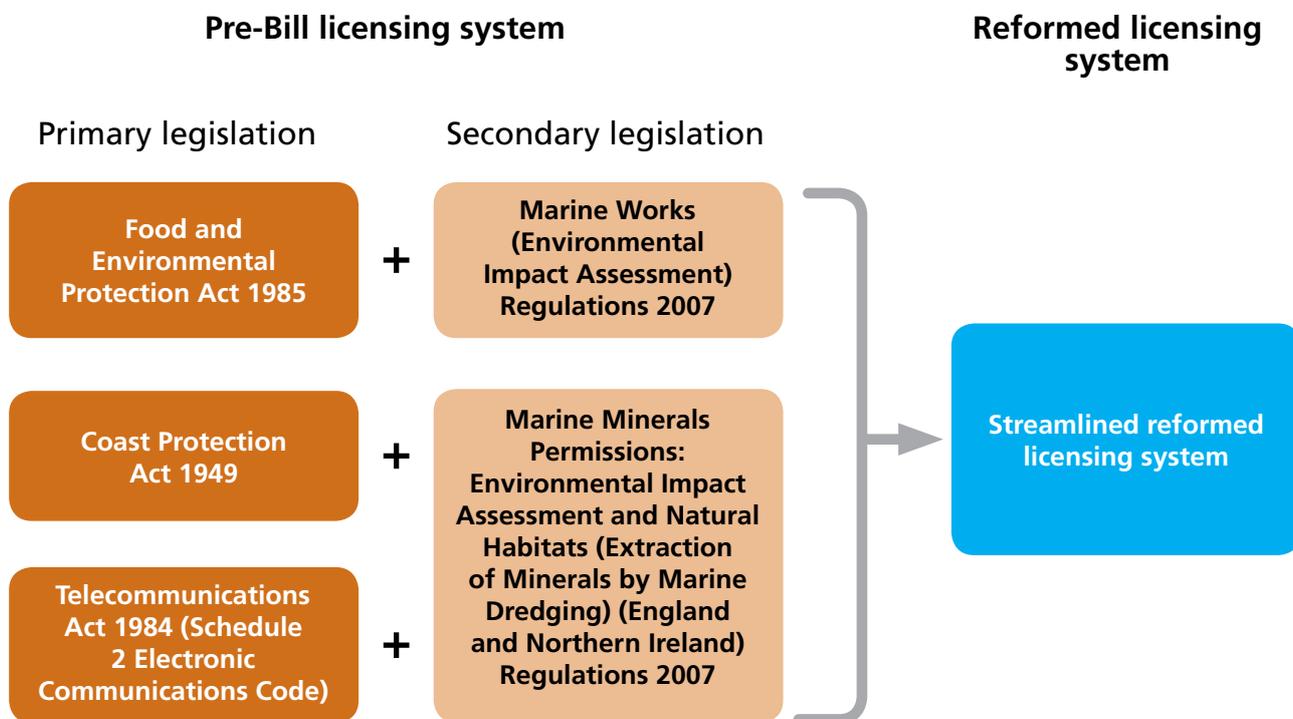
The MMO will license offshore energy installations with a generating power of 100 megawatts or below under the Electricity Act 1989 (section 36) and declare safety zones around those installations using powers in the Energy Act 2004 (section 95). These functions

are transferred directly to the MMO in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill (Part 1).

The MMO will follow the marine plans when making licensing decisions, and it will draw on expertise and advice from a range of sources such as Cefas (the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science), Natural England, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

The MMO will also be responsible for the licensing of fishing vessels (see pages 13-15).

**Diagram showing licensing system<sup>2</sup> before and after the Marine and Coastal Access Bill**



<sup>2</sup> This is a high level summary. More detail is in the publication *Managing our marine resources – licensing under the Marine Bill* (see page 38).

# Fisheries management

Fisheries management activities relating to the Common Fisheries Policy, currently carried out by the Marine and Fisheries Agency, will be transferred to the MMO by the flexible administrative arrangements provided in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill (Part 1).

## The MMO and the Common Fisheries Policy

The Common Fisheries Policy is the EU instrument for the management of fisheries and aquaculture. It is the responsibility of EU Member States to make sure that the rules agreed under the Common Fisheries Policy are respected. Marine and Fisheries Agency responsibilities under the Common Fisheries Policy will transfer to the MMO when the Marine and Fisheries Agency is subsumed within the MMO. Where the Common Fisheries Policy requires the UK to have a single competent authority, the MMO will fulfil that role.

The main areas of the Common Fisheries Policy for which the MMO will be responsible are:

### 1) Licensing of fishing vessels

The MMO will issue licences for English vessels in the inshore and offshore fleets. This includes creating and transferring licence entitlements and issuing variations to licences. The MMO will need to examine and report to Defra Ministers on compliance by UK fishing vessels with the economic link requirement (which ensures that vessels contribute to the UK economy).

### 2) Managing fleet capacity

The MMO, working with other fisheries administrations, will monitor boats entering and leaving the fleet and will produce an annual report for the European Commission. It will also issue entitlements to fish in restricted areas (such as under the EU cod recovery and Western Channel sole management arrangements), and will process transfers between vessels of entitlements to days at sea.



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### 3) Managing fisheries quotas

The MMO will prepare and distribute quota management rules. It will manage international quota swaps; issue annual quota allocations to Producer Organisations and other groups; monitor quota uptake, manage quota allocations for the non-sector and inshore fleets; and set catch limits for those fleets where necessary. The MMO will also close fisheries to individual groups, or to the industry as a whole, to prevent overfishing of quotas.

### 4) Managing European grants scheme

The MMO will process grant applications and claims in England from the European Fisheries Fund. It will also report on behalf of the UK to the EU on the implementation of the European Fisheries Fund.

### 5) Collecting, co-ordinating and providing information

To fulfil our data collection obligations under the Common Fisheries Policy, the MMO will co-ordinate national programmes of work and prepare financial and technical reports. It will provide fleet capacity, effort and economic data to the European Commission, and will co-ordinate UK responses to requests for data from the European Commission, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation and relevant regional fisheries management organisations, such as the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission, the International Commission

for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna and the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation. The MMO will also issue payments from the EU to UK fisheries laboratories.

The MMO will co-ordinate information required under the Common Fisheries Policy. It will monitor information on catches and fishing activity from fish markets, merchants, fishing logbooks, landing declarations and sales notes. It will also provide analysis, as required, as an input into the development of policy in the fishing sector. It will record information on a Fishing Activity Database and will co-ordinate access to UK fishing data for scientists working for fishing laboratories in the UK. It will quality control (by weekly port by port analysis) the timeliness of inputting catch data and will provide obligatory reports on the UK to the EU. The MMO will register buyers and sellers of fish at their initial point of sale as required by EU rules. It will also provide responses to any requests by other EU Member States on its recording of landings of their vessels into the UK.

### 6) Enforcing rules

The MMO will ensure compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy. It will also ensure compliance with quota management rules. In particular, the MMO will implement the EU marketing regime by inspecting and verifying withdrawal of fish from the market, and ensuring compliance with marketing standards through routine checks.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> The MMO will lead on negotiating EU proposals for support prices to operate the following year, however Defra will lead on the negotiation of wider policy issues.

## Further fisheries management responsibilities

In addition to its Common Fisheries Policy responsibilities, the MMO will carry out other activities to manage fisheries, including:

- implementing Appeal Tribunal decisions for restrictions on time spent at sea;
- granting licences for vessels involved in the transhipment of fish (including varying, revoking or suspending licences);
- granting exemptions from certain restrictions relating to sea fishing;
- granting exemptions from offences for taking edible crabs and lobsters for scientific purposes allowed under the Marine and Coastal Access Bill (Part 7,

chapter 2) which amends section 17 of the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967;

- enforcing national fisheries legislation;
- running the Fisheries Challenge Fund on behalf of Defra and monitoring the progress of approved projects; and
- appointing certain members of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities in England.

The MMO will build up a significant amount of expertise through the delivery of these fisheries management activities. It will therefore provide advice to Defra as requested to support the formulation of fisheries policy and will also support the UK Government in Europe on fisheries issues as required.



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# Marine nature conservation

Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) are the Government's statutory nature conservation advisers in the English and UK offshore marine area. The Countryside Council for Wales is the Government's statutory nature conservation adviser in Wales and will, in certain circumstances, also have a role in advising and working with the MMO. However, the MMO, as the Government's key marine regulator, will itself have functions that contribute to nature conservation. These are detailed below.

## The MMO and Marine Conservation Zones

Natural England and the JNCC are establishing a programme of work, with involvement of stakeholders, to identify and recommend

suitable areas for designation by the Secretary of State as Marine Conservation Zones. The MMO will work with Natural England, the JNCC and others by providing information on socio-economic and enforcement issues acquired through its planning, licensing, enforcement and fisheries management roles, which will contribute to the site selection process.

Once Marine Conservation Zones have been designated, all public bodies operating in the marine area will have a duty to exercise their functions in a way which promotes, or where that is not possible, at least does not hinder, a Zone's conservation objectives. The MMO will contribute to the achievement of site objectives through its planning, licensing and domestic fisheries management responsibilities. In addition, the Marine and



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Coastal Access Bill allows the MMO to make byelaws, including urgent byelaws, and interim byelaws, where they are needed to protect Marine Conservation Zones (or potential Marine Conservation Zones), against otherwise unregulated activities in England.

The MMO will also be able to grant and revoke permits for exemption from the terms of byelaws where appropriate. These responsibilities are given to the MMO by the Marine and Coastal Access Bill (Part 5, clauses 125-129).

The MMO will also have similar functions for European marine sites, for example by contributing information for inclusion in any Impact Assessments prepared for proposed sites, and by being given powers under the Bill (clause 142), to make byelaws to protect European marine sites from unregulated activities in England.

### **Other marine conservation activities**

As the MMO will be the Government's main regulator in the marine environment, the following marine regulatory functions will be transferred to the MMO from Natural England.

The Conservation of Seals Act 1970 provides for the protection and conservation of seals in Great Britain and the adjacent territorial waters. This Act makes it an offence to kill or take seals during the close season or in an

area specified in a conservation order without a licence granted by the Secretary of State (currently exercised in England by Natural England). The Marine and Coastal Access Bill (Part 1) transfers this responsibility to the MMO in the English inshore region. In a small number of cases each year it may be necessary to issue licences to take or kill seals in freshwaters; these applications will be dealt with by Natural England and the function will, therefore, need to be delegated by the MMO to Natural England using the flexible arrangements provided for in the Bill (clause 15).

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 protects wild birds, animals and plants. It includes offences relating to killing or injuring wild birds; killing or injuring any wild animal or destroying any place of shelter of any wild animal; intentionally picking or selling any wild plant specified in the Act; introducing new species into the wild; and selling invasive non-native species. Currently, the Secretary of State and Natural England issue licences to authorise these activities in certain circumstances (for example if, in the case of some of the activities, they are done for scientific, research or educational purposes). Where a licence has been granted and the activity is carried out in accordance with the terms of the licence, no offence is committed. The power to grant licences in certain circumstances is transferred to the MMO by the Marine and Coastal Access Bill (Part 1, chapter 2, clause 10).

The MMO will issue licences under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations 1994 and Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations 2007, which implement the EU Habitats and Birds Directives. These licences are issued for certain restricted activities and mean that offences do not apply where a licence has been granted and the activity has been carried out in accordance with the licence. The MMO will also permit the taking or keeping of certain specimens and the introduction of new species in the UK marine area. These functions will be transferred

through amendments to the relevant Regulations.

In addition to these responsibilities which the MMO is taking on from Natural England, the Marine and Coastal Access Bill (Part 1, chapter 2, clause 11) places the MMO under the same duty that the Sea Fisheries (Wildlife Conservation) Act 1992 currently places on the Secretary of State, in discharging any sea fisheries functions, to have regard to 'the conservation of marine flora and fauna' and to balance this with any other considerations.



Steve Knell (rspb-images.com)

# Enforcement and prosecutions

The Marine and Coastal Access Bill streamlines and modernises enforcement powers and introduces a set of flexible and proportionate enforcement tools.

The Bill (Part 8) will enable the MMO to appoint Marine Enforcement Officers and makes common enforcement powers available to them to enforce marine licensing, nature conservation and sea fisheries legislation. British Sea Fisheries Officers, who transfer to the MMO, are expected to be appointed as Marine Enforcement Officers because they already have many appropriate skills. This will also ensure a smooth transition when the new legislation comes into force, as the British Sea Fisheries Officers will receive training to enable them to carry out Bill functions effectively.

Marine Enforcement Officers will have access to a core set of enforcement powers to carry out routine inspections and follow-up investigations in relevant enforcement areas. These include powers to board and inspect vessels; enter and inspect premises, dwellings and vehicles, and require the production of documents. Although the Officers' powers to inspect and examine will be wide-ranging, they are mostly not new. The bulk of the powers in the Bill (Part 8, chapter 2) have been taken from existing legislation and modernised where appropriate.

In addition to the core powers, Marine Enforcement Officers will be given new powers to inspect fishing gear in the sea, and their powers to seize fish and gear and to detain fishing boats will be clarified and strengthened. The MMO will have the power to release seized fish and gear or a detained boat on payment of a bond.

The Marine Enforcement Officers will be able to issue monetary penalties for fisheries offences, as well as notices of intent to issue monetary penalties for breaches of nature conservation byelaws and of licensing conditions. The Officers will also issue statutory notices for licensing, including stop, emergency safety and compliance notices.

The Marine Enforcement Officers will enforce offences against marine nature conservation byelaws and the general offence of damaging a Marine Conservation Zone through prosecutions or the use of a civil sanctions scheme and will issue (and review on request) notices of intent and monetary penalties (except in the inshore area where much nature conservation enforcement will be carried out by Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities (IFCAs)). The MMO will also be able to receive representations from people issued with a notice of intent to impose a monetary penalty for a nature conservation or licensing offence.

The Bill (Part 1, chapter 4, clause 28) provides the MMO with a power to institute criminal and civil proceedings when necessary. A person authorised by the MMO can appear in specified criminal and civil cases.

Marine Enforcement Officers can, where appropriate, also be cross-warranted to enforce Environment Agency and IFCA byelaws, as well as statutory legislation covering migratory and freshwater fish. The MMO will provide training for Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers as well as for its own Marine Enforcement Officers, the intention being to share best practice.

# Marine emergencies

The MMO will have a key role to play in the response to marine pollution emergencies, taking over this function from the Marine and Fisheries Agency. The Agency currently implements, on behalf of Defra, a Marine Pollution Contingency Plan which provides a mechanism to co-ordinate the Defra/Marine and Fisheries Agency role in major marine

pollution incidents where the Maritime and Coastguard Agency leads in the response.

The MMO will also take over from the Marine and Fisheries Agency its licensing authority role for oil spill treatment products (e.g. dispersants, sorbents, surface cleaners and bioremediation products), which may only be used in UK waters if they have been formally approved for this purpose.



Julian Wardlaw, Environment Agency

# Implementation of EU Directives

The MMO will be involved in implementing the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, but at this stage it has not been decided exactly what form its role will take, or whether the MMO will act as competent authority for the Directive. This will be considered in more detail as part of the transposition process.

Similarly, the MMO may take on a competent authority role in the marine area for the

Environmental Liability Directive but the nature of this role has yet to be decided.

Any competent authority roles would be conferred through the regulations transposing these EU Directives in the UK, rather than through the Marine and Coastal Access Bill.



Marilyn Rawson

# Marine science

Marine research and science will be extremely important to the MMO and we want to ensure it operates on the basis of the best available scientific evidence. Where, in the course of its role as regulator, the MMO is taking advice from a variety of scientific institutions across the UK with marine expertise, it will need to be able to critically examine and evaluate that advice. The MMO will also need to build its own evidence base to support its planning and licensing roles in order to reach decisions on issues such as the environmental impact of planning proposals, fisheries and the potential impact of oil or chemical spillages.

The Marine and Fisheries Agency already has staff with substantial skills in marine and fisheries science. The MMO will build on this expertise by recruiting new staff with

complementary skills in marine science and data so that the MMO can maintain a strong science base to support its range of responsibilities and the decisions it makes. It will also be important that the MMO's Board has access to independent scientific advice when needed. The Marine and Coastal Access Bill (Schedule 1) gives the Board the flexibility to decide whether to establish a specific scientific advisory group and/or to include external scientific advisers on any committee(s) it might set up.

In addition, the MMO will be a member of the new cross-Government high level Marine Science Co-ordination Committee (see page 33). It will also need to forge good and active relations with many of the centres of scientific excellence across the country and we are working towards this.



Cefas Photo Library

# Data and information

The MMO will need access to a large range of data and information to carry out its functions. It will need to implement and administer a system for managing data, information and knowledge, both data generated 'in house' and that collected by third parties, although this is not a specific statutory requirement.

To ensure that the MMO's knowledge and expertise is available to those who need it, the Bill (Part 1, chapter 4) requires the MMO to provide advice and assistance related to its work to the Secretary of State and to public bodies. It may also provide advice and assistance to the public. It must specifically provide information to the Secretary of State relating to the performance of its functions/responsibilities, and must provide advice to Government and others on the sustainable development of the marine area.

The MMO will also provide advice in specific cases. These include:

- responding to Department for Transport requests for comments on any environmental impacts of proposed works under the Transport and Works Act 1992;
- providing advice on the impact of nationally significant developments in the marine area before their approval by the Infrastructure Planning Commission; and

- ensuring a supply of information to fulfil the requirements of international conventions (e.g. OSPAR and the London Convention and Protocol).

In common with other public bodies, the MMO will also need to respond to requests under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and Freedom of Information Act 2000.

## **The MMO and the UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy**

It is expected that the MMO will participate in the UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy (UKMMAS) Group to ensure that data, assessments and information collected by UKMMAS and its evidence groups inform the various functions of the MMO. This will also involve providing relevant information collected by the MMO that could be used in the assessments of the state of the marine environment carried out under UKMMAS.

# Relationship with the Devolved Administrations

The MMO will be responsible for delivering existing and proposed marine functions of the UK Government wherever they apply. It will also, where appropriate, carry out a co-ordination function as competent authority to ensure reporting and other obligations are met on behalf of the UK. The Northern Ireland Executive, Scottish Executive and Welsh Assembly Government are currently considering the arrangements for the delivery of their devolved marine functions that will work best for them, and it may be that in future the MMO could deliver certain functions on their behalf if so requested. Provisions to enable this to happen already exist in the Northern Ireland Act and in the Government of Wales Act, which allow those administrations to enter into an agreement with any public body.

It is widely recognised that there needs to be close co-operation and strong integration between the MMO and the relevant administrative bodies in Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland, particularly in relation to cross-border issues. The UK Government and the Devolved Administrations are committed to working together constructively to ensure that there is an integrated and joined-up approach to new marine legislation and its implementation. All agree the importance of ensuring that UK seas are managed in a co-ordinated manner for the benefit of stakeholders throughout the UK seas.

## Northern Ireland

The Northern Ireland Executive is in the initial stages of policy development for its delivery

mechanism, and a number of options are being worked up with the intention of going out to consultation on the policy options in 2009.

## Scotland

Scottish Ministers announced, in February 2009, that a new marine management body is being created to help Scotland make the most of its seas for future generations.

Marine Scotland, which will be up and running by 1 April 2009, will play a key role in managing Scotland's seas, with direct responsibility for marine science, planning, policy development, management and compliance monitoring measures.

It will work with other partners with marine interests to deliver economic prosperity, including in developing areas such as marine renewables, and environmental sustainability.

Marine Scotland will offer better protection to Scotland's marine environment and will help streamline existing support services. It will deliver a simplified management and regulating system for all marine activities in Scotland.

The current functions of Fisheries Research Services, the Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency and the Scottish Executive's Marine Directorate will be brought together in the new organisation, which will work with others to ensure sustainable economic growth from our marine and coastal environments. It will build on the success of these organisations to deliver a strategic approach to managing

Scotland's seas. A Marine Strategy Board, led by Marine Scotland and involving key partners with marine management interests, will be established to deliver a coherent and focused approach. Marine Scotland will become a Directorate of the Scottish Executive.

## Wales

There are a number of current or possible delivery agents in Wales (e.g. fishery officers,

the Environment Agency) and opportunities for them to work together with the Welsh Assembly Government to deliver fisheries, nature conservation, licensing and enforcement in Wales. The Welsh Assembly Government is currently investigating these opportunities and will continue to do so over the coming months.



Marilyn Rawson

# The MMO's key partners

To be effective, the MMO will need to work with other organisations carrying out activities in the marine area, including other regulatory and delivery bodies, those carrying out enforcement activities, science and data providers, and customers.

Although the delivery landscape in the marine area may seem complex, the existing organisations are used to working together well and see the bringing together of functions within the MMO as providing a real focus and opportunity for further development.

A variety of agreements, ranging from formal Memoranda of Understanding, Service Level Agreements or contracts, to other more informal types of agreement or arrangement will support and facilitate the MMO's business operations and stakeholder relationships.

A Framework Document will set out the new body's remit, governance and accountability arrangements. These will cover its operations, financing, accountability and control, and the conditions under which any Government funds are provided.

## **The MMO and the Environment Agency**

The principal aim of the Environment Agency is to protect and enhance the environment across England and Wales. It has a key role in the sustainable management of estuaries and coastal waters, including controlling polluting discharges from land-based sources, strategic overview of flood risk management and coastal erosion, management of migratory fisheries (to 6 nautical miles), protecting and enhancing biodiversity and acting as competent authority for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive.



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Defra and the Environment Agency have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on pollution incidents, covering pollution on land and from land into the sea. This Memorandum will have to be signed on behalf of the MMO once it has been established.

In inshore areas (0-6 nautical miles) and in estuaries the MMO, Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities and the Environment Agency will have defined responsibilities for the management and enforcement of fisheries and nature conservation legislation.

The Environment Agency will not have any direct marine planning responsibilities. However, it has a key interest and role in

managing coastal waters and we therefore intend that the MMO will involve the Environment Agency closely throughout the development of marine plans.

The Environment Agency and the MMO will also need to work together on certain marine licensing activities in the coastal zone, for example on dredging and infill activities that could require consent from both the Environment Agency and the MMO.

It is likely that there will need to be an Memorandum of Understanding between the MMO and the Environment Agency to cement their working relationship.



Gary Owen, MFA

## The MMO and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee

The MMO will take advice from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) in discharging its functions. In offshore waters (beyond 12 nautical miles) off England and Wales, the JNCC and the MMO will need to agree how to work together on data sharing, the environmental impact of Marine and Coastal Access Act licensing decisions, and the socio-economic criteria for the selection of Marine Conservation Zones. They will also discuss responses to marine pollution incidents (where the role of the JNCC under the National Plan is as direct advisers to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency).

There will need to be a formal agreement (with regular reviews) between the MMO and JNCC to articulate their working relationship.

## The MMO and Natural England

The MMO will take advice from Natural England in discharging its functions and it will also take on some responsibilities from Natural England (see pages 17-18).

Natural England and the MMO will need to agree how to work together on species licensing at the land-sea boundary and, as with JNCC, on data sharing arrangements, responses to marine pollution incidents, the environmental impact of Marine and Coastal Access Act licensing decisions, socio-economic considerations for the selection of Marine Conservation Zones, and the management of Marine Conservation Zones.

There will need to be a formal agreement (with regular reviews) between the MMO and Natural England to set out their working relationship.



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## The MMO and the Countryside Council for Wales

The MMO and the Countryside Council for Wales are likely to need to co-operate on transboundary issues (such as marine planning, licensing and nature conservation enforcement) and in relation to the MMO's role in monitoring and enforcement of Infrastructure Planning Commission decisions in Welsh waters where there are nature conservation implications.

The MMO and the Council will also need to agree how to work together in responding to marine pollution incidents, as with the JNCC and Natural England. Approval to use dispersants in a marine pollution incident is delegated to the Welsh Assembly Government, however the Marine and Fisheries Agency has an agreement with the Welsh Assembly Government to carry out this function on its behalf, and this will need to be formally signed by the MMO.

The Agency also currently consults with the Countryside Council for Wales about the use of dispersants before giving approval and this will need to continue with the MMO.

## The MMO and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency is an executive agency of the Department for Transport, responsible throughout the UK for implementing the Government's maritime safety policy, including the co-ordination of search and rescue at sea, ensuring that ships meet UK and international safety rules, and the environmental control of shipping in UK waters.

The MMO and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency will need to work closely together on a number of activities. The MMO will consult and work with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency whenever its activities are likely to impinge on issues of maritime safety, including the preparation of marine plans,



MCA – Digital Image Library

marine licensing decisions that have a potential impact on navigation, the designation of Marine Conservation Zones, and the exercise of enforcement powers.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency is the lead organisation in responding to major marine pollution incidents and the MMO will take over the current role of the Marine and Fisheries Agency in any such responses. The Marine and Fisheries Agency is a signatory to the National Contingency Plan for Marine Pollution from Shipping and Offshore Installations, and in future the MMO will need to sign this in place of the Marine and Fisheries Agency.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency is also expected to involve the MMO, as it currently involves the Marine and Fisheries Agency, in any of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's activities which might have implications for the

MMO's responsibilities. For example, the MMO will (as the Marine and Fisheries Agency does currently), attend the Fishing Industry Safety Group which advises the Department for Transport, through the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, on the development and implementation of safety standards for fishing vessels and crew to prevent accidents and environmental damage and promote a safety culture that reduces risks to fishermen in their work.

The most appropriate way to define the working relationship between the MMO and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in more detail is likely to be a Memorandum of Understanding. This will clarify respective roles and responsibilities and govern joint working arrangements to ensure effective two-way co-operation. It will also build on existing working relationships with the Marine and Fisheries Agency.



MCA – Digital Image Library

## **The MMO and the Infrastructure Planning Commission**

The MMO will license most developments in the relevant marine areas with some exceptions, including 'nationally significant' infrastructure projects such as renewable energy projects able to generate over 100 megawatts and the largest port developments. These very large works will be handled by the Infrastructure Planning Commission, which is being established under the Planning Act 2008. The Marine and Coastal Access Bill and the Planning Act 2008 have been developed in parallel and, like the MMO, the Infrastructure Planning Commission will operate a simplified licensing regime, with developers obtaining consent from a single body.

The MMO and the Infrastructure Planning Commission will work very closely together on marine projects. The Commission will make decisions in accordance with National Policy Statements and will have regard to the Marine Policy Statement, and marine plans. The Commission will draw on the experience and expertise of the MMO in making its decisions in the marine area. The MMO will have a particular role in advising the Infrastructure Planning Commission on conditions that should be imposed to mitigate any adverse impact a development may have on the marine environment or other uses of the sea.

## **The MMO and The Crown Estate**

The Crown Estate owns most of the seabed out to the 12 nautical mile territorial limit, including the rights to explore and use the natural resources of the UK Continental Shelf (excluding oil, gas and coal). The Energy Act 2004 gave rights to The Crown Estate to license the generation of renewable energy on the Continental Shelf within the Renewable Energy Zone out to 200 nautical miles. The Crown Estate also owns around 55% of the foreshore, the area between mean high and mean low water and about half of the beds of estuaries and tidal rivers in the UK.

The Crown Estate issues licences and leases for uses of the seabed, therefore the MMO will need to work closely with The Crown Estate which will have an interest in the preparation of marine plans and licensing decisions in the marine area. As the MMO and The Crown Estate will need to work together on a number of activities, the need for a Memorandum of Understanding or similar arrangement between the two bodies will be explored.

## **The MMO and the Food Standards Agency**

If a fishery needs to be closed because of a marine pollution incident, the Food Standards Agency will implement its closure and will

arrange for the posting of notices by the Environmental Health Department of the affected local authority. The MMO will therefore need to agree appropriate working arrangements with the Food Standards Agency for these incidents.



Cefas Photo Library

### **The MMO and English Heritage**

The MMO will work with English Heritage as the Government's statutory adviser on the historic environment, on licensing and marine planning activities. The MMO will need to take account of both the marine heritage landscape and historic sites in developing marine plans and when determining licences.

The MMO will look to English Heritage for advice on the historic environment, for example wrecks, in the UK territorial sea adjacent to England. It is likely that a Memorandum of Understanding will be helpful in formalising the relationship between the two bodies to cover issues such as data sharing (in particular access to English Heritage's National Monuments Record) and the relationship between Marine and Coastal Access Act licences and the system of licensing under the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973.

### **The MMO and Cefas**

Cefas (the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science) is an executive agency of Defra. Cefas works alongside Government and other agencies to deliver advice and services based on its expertise in applied marine and freshwater science, and drawing on collaborative relationships with the EU, non-governmental organisations, research centres and industry. It provides scientific and technical advice, and key information technology systems, to the Marine and Fisheries Agency.

Cefas will play an important role in providing a broad range of marine science and advisory services to the MMO. We aim to put in place partnership agreements that build on the extensive current interactions between Cefas and the Marine and Fisheries Agency and other UK Government Departments. This will enable long-term continuity of services and advisory support as responsibilities move into the MMO.

## The MMO and the Marine Science Co-ordination Committee

The Committee will have two main responsibilities: to develop and implement the UK Marine Science Strategy, which will help deliver the evidence needed to fulfil the UK's Marine Policy Statement and other policy drivers; and to improve UK marine science co-ordination in order to achieve effective delivery of the UK Marine Science Strategy.

The MMO will be a member of the Marine Science Co-ordination Committee and will need to draw heavily on evidence emerging from research and monitoring programmes. The MMO may also become a funder of marine science.

## The MMO and Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities

The Marine and Coastal Access Bill provides for the creation of new Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) to replace the current Sea Fisheries Committees.

IFCAs will make byelaws in the inshore area (0-6 nautical miles) and must consult the MMO when making and proposing these. In this area and in estuaries the MMO, the Environment Agency and IFCAs will have defined responsibilities for the management and enforcement of fisheries and nature conservation legislation. IFCAs will lead in the inshore area where local measures are required to ensure that fisheries activity is carried out sustainably and to

protect the marine environment. The MMO will take action in the inshore area where national measures are required and in cases where nature conservation is at risk from non-fisheries threats.

The MMO will appoint certain members of IFCAs. It will also have a seat on each IFCA so that close working links between the two bodies can be made. This relationship will need to be sufficiently broad to allow for an open exchange of data and to incorporate IFCAs effectively into the marine planning process.



Cefas Photo Library

## The MMO and local authorities

The MMO will work with local authorities through the Local Government Association and with specific coastal local authorities.

As well as working with Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs), the MMO will work closely with local authorities which are Harbour Authorities and other coastal local authorities to integrate management of the seas with land at the coast. This joined-up approach will be particularly important for licensing developments such as ports and cable routes which affect both the sea and land. The MMO will work closely with coastal local authorities on the development of marine plans under the new system of marine planning introduced by the Marine and Coastal Access Bill.

The MMO may wish to enter into agreements with certain local authorities to allow them to deliver functions on behalf of the MMO. The Marine and Coastal Access Bill (Part 1, clause 15) enables the MMO, with the approval of the Secretary of State, to enter into an agreement with local authorities which are members of IFCAs or which act as Harbour Authorities. We have also expanded this list since the publication of the draft Bill to include Sea Fisheries Committees, because these may still exist when the Marine and Coastal Access Act comes into effect and the MMO may need to enter into agreements with these Committees until IFCAs are established.

### **Example of how the MMO will work with other organisations: fisheries management**

The Environment Agency will be responsible for freshwater fisheries and salmon, trout and eels out to six nautical miles, as it is now, together with lamprey, smelt and any further species specified by an Order under the Marine and Coastal Access Bill.

Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities will be responsible for marine species management out to six nautical miles – as Sea Fisheries Committees are now – with the addition of estuaries as far as the tide flows.

The MMO will be responsible for enforcing marine nature conservation and national and EU fisheries regulations out to 200 nautical miles and for British vessels on the high seas. The MMO will also take action in the inshore area where national measures are required, and in cases where nature conservation is at risk from non-fisheries threats. The MMO may wish to delegate certain functions in the inshore area to the Environment Agency and/or Sea Fisheries Committees (and to Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities when these are established).

# Governance, accountability, sponsorship, funding and resources

## **Governance**

The MMO will be an executive Non Departmental Public Body. Such bodies have a separate legal identity and are established by statute (in this case, the Marine and Coastal Access Bill) to carry out administrative, regulatory and commercial functions. They employ their own staff, are allocated their own budgets and are subject to external audit by the National Audit Office.

The MMO will be directed by a Chair and a Board of up to eight members. They will be appointed by the Secretary of State, with the members being appointed after consultation with the Chair. In making appointments, the Secretary of State will have regard to the desirability of appointing individuals with experience relevant to the MMO's functions and ensuring a diverse range of skills amongst board members, including expertise drawn from the three 'pillars' of sustainable development. These Ministerial appointments will be made in line with the Commissioner for Public Appointments' Code of Practice.

The Board will not include sectoral representation or nomination rights. The broad range of marine uses, industries and specialisms would otherwise mean an unnecessarily large and unworkable Board. However, we envisage that the Board will be advised by a stakeholder advisory group representing a wide range of interests and expertise.

The MMO will have a Chief Executive who will be appointed by the Chair and Board, with

the approval of the Secretary of State. The Chief Executive will act as Accounting Officer for the MMO under delegated authority from Defra's Permanent Secretary. The Chief Executive will in turn appoint the Financial Director and other senior management officers. The Chief Executive must establish an Audit and Risk Committee, and may also set up other committees to cover issues thought to be strategically important, for example science or data/information or regulation.

## **Accountability and sponsorship**

The MMO Board will be responsible for ensuring that the MMO fulfils the aims and objectives set by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and promoting efficient and effective use of resources within the MMO.

For executive Non Departmental Public Bodies, recent practice has been for Defra's Management Board to meet on a six monthly cycle to discuss performance with the relevant Chief Executive. A similar arrangement could operate for the MMO.

As the MMO will be a Non Departmental Public Body, the Secretary of State will be formally accountable to Parliament for the activities and performance of the MMO and public money spent by the MMO. The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will fulfil this role on behalf of the Secretaries of State for all the Departments with an interest in the MMO. He will be advised on the discharge of his responsibilities

in relation to the MMO by a cross-Government MMO sponsorship group, which will enable the interests of UK Government Departments to be represented without compromising the clear lines of responsibility necessary to ensure proper accountability. This group will advise the Secretary of State on matters such as the appropriate objectives and targets for the MMO, how well the MMO is achieving its strategic objectives and whether it is delivering value for money.

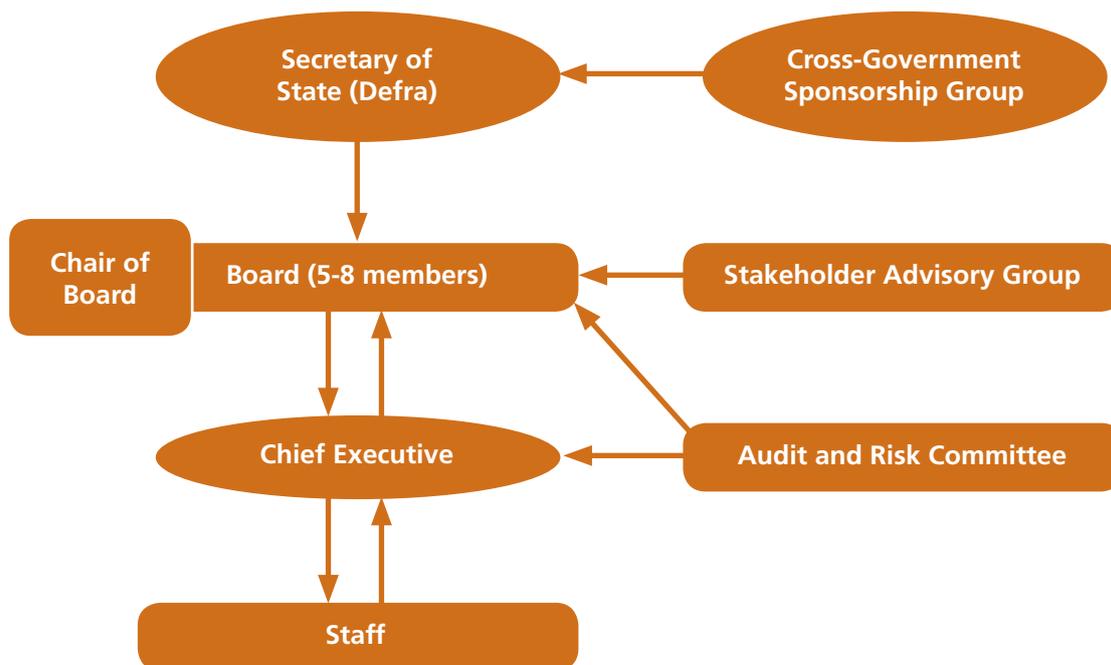
In addition to the cross-Government sponsorship group, a further safeguard to ensure the MMO's independence will be provided by guidance agreed jointly across all relevant Government Departments. The MMO will be required to take this guidance into account and it will be reviewed as necessary.

## Funding

The MMO will be funded through a combination of Grant-in-Aid and costs recovered from the fees charged for licensing activities. Its funding will be agreed through the corporate planning process of its sponsor Department, Defra.

Establishing the MMO will incur one-off set-up costs to create the new organisation, and there will also be annual running costs, which are the costs to Government of delivering the MMO's functions. Indicative one-off setup costs for the MMO have been estimated in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill Impact Assessment at £2.9m.

## Organisational structure of the Marine Management Organisation



## Resources

The MMO will incorporate the Marine and Fisheries Agency, an Executive Agency of Defra, whose posts will transfer to the MMO at the time of vesting. The Marine and Fisheries Agency currently has around 200 staff, located in a London headquarters and 18 coastal offices.

The MMO will also take on functions currently delivered by the Department for Transport, Department for Energy and Climate Change, and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and resources will be transferred to the MMO accordingly.

The MMO will have new functions set out in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill for which it will need new posts. As an executive Non Departmental Public Body, it will need a strengthened corporate function and access to independent legal advice. The Impact Assessment published alongside the Bill outlines the anticipated additional staffing requirements for the MMO at about 45 new posts. Therefore on current estimates the MMO will have about 240-250 staff, of which we envisage around 140-150 will be based in a headquarters office, although overall numbers will be decided in line with the resources the MMO needs to deliver its functions.

We intend the MMO to evolve, growing into its role, and have provided flexible provisions in the Bill to enable the Secretary of State to confer more functions on the MMO, for

example because of new requirements agreed at EU level. As and when the MMO takes on more functions we will review the resources needed to deliver them.

The MMO will retain the Marine and Fisheries Agency's network of 18 coastal offices (subject to any changes required by the business) and the new body will also have a headquarters in Tyneside from which corporate services are provided and which is likely to be the base for marine planning, marine licensing and strategic functions.



Dae Sasitorn/www.lastrifuge.co.uk

# Next steps

The timetable for getting the Marine and Coastal Access Bill on to the statute book depends on Parliamentary approval. The earliest possible opportunity to establish the MMO is April 2010, however this depends on Parliamentary progress. We are planning to be ready for establishment at the earliest opportunity but are aware of the lessons from establishing previous bodies that we need to allow sufficient time. April is the most straightforward time of year, from an administrative point of view, for setting up a new organisation.

To support the establishment of the MMO we envisage the creation of a 'skeleton body' in advance of formal vesting of the MMO. This will not have any functions, but will consist of the Chair, Board and senior management of the MMO, supported by a small implementation team, which will consider the structure, processes and procedures of the new organisation and work with the Secretary of State to draw up documents including the

objectives and corporate plan for the MMO.

We want to ensure a smooth transition from the Marine and Fisheries Agency to the MMO so we have transferred certain functions to the Agency in advance of the MMO being set up to enable links to be made as early as possible. In April 2007 the Marine and Fisheries Agency took on new environmental responsibilities from the former Marine Consents and Environment Unit in Defra and work on marine minerals extraction from the Department for Communities and Local Government. This brought together in one place all Government's delivery functions covering the control of coastal and marine developments (including coast defences, wind farms, wave and tidal power, disposal of marine dredging at sea, contingency planning for oil spills and other marine pollution, and marine sand and gravel extraction). The Marine and Fisheries Agency will continue to deliver its existing functions until the MMO is established.

## Where you can find more information:

You can find more information on the Marine and Coastal Access Bill at:

[www.defra.gov.uk/marine/legislation/index.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/marine/legislation/index.htm) or by contacting the Marine and Coastal Access Bill team: [MarineBillTeam@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:MarineBillTeam@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

You can read the Marine and Coastal Access Bill and Impact Assessment, as published for introduction to Parliament on 4th December 2008, at:

[www.defra.gov.uk/marine/legislation/index.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/marine/legislation/index.htm)

You can find out more information:

- about licensing under the Marine and Coastal Access Bill at: [www.defra.gov.uk/marine/pdf/legislation/marine-licensing.pdf](http://www.defra.gov.uk/marine/pdf/legislation/marine-licensing.pdf)
- about protecting our marine environment at: [www.defra.gov.uk/marine/pdf/legislation/protect-marine-env-leaflet.pdf](http://www.defra.gov.uk/marine/pdf/legislation/protect-marine-env-leaflet.pdf)
- about Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and how the MMO will contribute to the national vision for coastal management at: [www.defra.gov.uk/marine/pdf/environment/iczm/iczm-strategy-england.pdf](http://www.defra.gov.uk/marine/pdf/environment/iczm/iczm-strategy-england.pdf)
- about implementation of the MMO at: [www.mfa.gov.uk/mmo/index.htm](http://www.mfa.gov.uk/mmo/index.htm)





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