

NATIONAL MARINE PARKS NEWSLETTER

Blue Marine Foundation launched a vision for National Marine Parks in Britain in Spring 2021. Over the past year we have been investing in three activity streams to advance the vision to the next stage of its journey.

- 1** Establishing and running a Strategic Working Group to develop a national framework for National Marine Parks (NMP);
- 2** Working with location facilitators across the UK to host scoping visits and gain insights into what NMP status could mean in different parts of England and Wales. Inputting to the Scottish consultation for new National Park(s).
- 3** Gathering insights from interviews around Plymouth Sound National Marine Park to share with other locations.

STRATEGIC WORKING GROUP

We are thrilled that a new NMP Strategic Working Group is now established with 12 members representing different national perspectives from across Britain. So far, two meetings have agreed Terms of Reference and started to develop a national framework of guiding principles for National Marine Parks.

SCOPING VISITS

Blue Marine staff and Strategic Working Group members are visiting different locations to explore the appetite for National Marine Parks in different locations.

EVENTS

In November 2022, Blue Marine hosted an online workshop to enable location facilitators and Strategic Working Group members to learn more about Plymouth's experiences, reactions to the vision from across the country and provide a sounding board for the emerging national framework. During 2023 we will host another event to engage with a wider audience



**BLUE MARINE
FOUNDATION**

If you have any questions or would like more information, please get in touch via

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PEMBROKESHIRE, WALES

In May 2022, Blue Marine staff met with the team at Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum, senior members of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority and stakeholders who are pursuing marine-based sustainability initiatives. There was widespread interest in the concept of a marine park from across the county. Blue Marine are preparing a legal review of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949) and relevant Welsh laws to establish the scope of devolved legislation in relation to potential NMPs.



NORTH EAST ENGLAND

In July 2022, the SeaScapes project and Berwickshire and Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership co-hosted a workshop on the Durham coast, bringing together a range of interested parties to discuss the potential for a Marine Park in the NE of England. Given the already highly designated nature of the marine area in Northumberland and Berwickshire, there was a vision for a marine park which could provide an umbrella status over existing designations and better connect the whole marine region with coastal communities.



SCOTLAND

Since 2020 Blue Marine have been collaborating with Scottish NGOs to review the opportunities in the devolved legislation for National Parks to include the marine environment. The National Parks (Scotland) Act, 2000 includes provision for the sea and there are active campaigns for more National Parks which could extend to coastal and marine. We are engaging in the Scottish National Parks consultation to promote the opportunities around inclusion of the coast and sea.





SUSSEX BAY

Adur and Worthing Councils are pursuing ambitious plans for Sussex Bay. They aim to partner with The Crown Estate to help restore kelp forests, and develop many more projects which will help to tackle climate change and support communities to thrive, working towards a National Marine Park on the Sussex Coast.

CORNWALL

Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Cornwall Council and Environment Agency began conversations about the potential of the vision for Mounts Bay as part of a Championing Coastal Coordination project in 2022. An informal scoping visit with 1-1 meetings has initiated discussion in the Isles of Scilly.

THE WASH AND NORFOLK COAST

Norfolk Coast Partnership (NCP) and The Wash & North Norfolk Marine Partnership (WNNMP) have discussed the Vision with Blue Marine staff, and are supportive. Plans are currently underway to present and discuss the Vision with local stakeholders.

THE SEVERN SEA

Blue Marine presented the NMP vision to over 70 regional stakeholders at the annual Severn Estuary Forum and hosted an evening reception. Feedback was sought from attendees on the relevance of the National Marine Park Vision for the Severn Estuary and appetite for a further workshop to discuss the proposal, with the majority of responses in favour of exploring the concept further.



INSIGHTS AND BUILDING BLOCKS

Blue Marine have conducted research with 15 key stakeholders from Plymouth to understand how the park has been created and insights from the journey so far. The report aims to provide practical advice and building blocks for other locations, as well as inform the evolution of a national framework.

DORSET

Blue Marine presented the NMP vision to over 80 regional stakeholders at the annual Dorset Coast Forum.



NORTH WALES

North Wales Wildlife Trust hosted an online evening talk for Blue Marine to present the NMP vision to local and national participants.

JERSEY

A Marine Park has the opportunity to encompass Jersey's existing and proposed network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). This could complement the existing Coastal National Park to create a more holistic vision and understanding for environmental protection and cultural heritage. Blue Marine is actively working to build an evidence base to support the evolution of a Marine Park.

NEXT STEPS

In 2021, Blue Marine Foundation launched a conversation about National Marine Parks across Britain. During 2022, we explored the appetite across the country at the local and national level. During 2023, we will widen the conversation for National Marine Parks. Findings from the scoping of ten locations, learnings from Plymouth NMP and insights from the national strategic working group will be showcased. Connections will be made between the opportunities across England, Wales and Scotland where there is already a commitment to at least one new National Park and it could include the sea. The journey towards National Marine Parks has begun.



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