

South Coast Plan Update

Plan Responses

81 organisations responded to the consultation and 1570 comments have been addressed. The comments will not be published verbatim as some contain commercially confidential information. At the end of the consultation, the MMO analyses responses and produces a summary report. Those who submitted responses are notified of publication of the report.

Changes to the plan made during the review of comments will be made in the form of a Modifications Report, this will be published and available to stakeholders.

Future timeline

The consultation closed on the 27th January 2016 and now follows a formal published process. (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/marine-plans-development#final-plan-approved-and-adopted>).

If substantial unresolved issues remain after the consultation process, the Secretary of State will consider whether an independent investigation is required. If so, the Secretary of State will appoint an independent person, likely to be the Planning Inspectorate, to investigate the unresolved issues. It would aim to complete its report within 6 months.

The plan is reviewed and amended as necessary in response to comments and the investigation report (if applicable) and is then presented to the Secretary of State for approval and adoption.

Published Documents

MMO will produce and publish, once approved:

- adopted marine plan
- implementation plan and monitoring plan
- sustainability appraisal
- consultation summary report
- modification report

Final approval

Final approval is likely to be this summer. MMO must review and monitor the effectiveness of the plans and related policies every 3 and 6 years. If a review shows that changes are required, steps will be taken to do so, with further public consultation. MMO will produce and publish monitoring reports and plan reviews (if needed).

Implementation Phase

The end of the plan-making phase is the start of the implementation phase. Plan implementation should link closely with the licensing and enforcement roles of the MMO, so that Plans can be put into effect through licensing and enforcement action. Although it is for the MMO to decide the precise methodology for assembling information, the evidence base should be updated with logs of licensing decisions, monitoring and implementation reports and other relevant information.