

Responsibilities

Organisational Roles and Responsibilities	Relevant legislation or policy	Existing Management
Production of the National Contingency Plan Coordination of national marine pollution responses	The Merchant Shipping Act 1995, as amended The UK National Contingency Plan	The UK National Contingency Plan was last updated in 2014 and sets out the roles and responsibilities of organisations in the event of a pollution incident
Sign-off on Local Pollution Incident Contingency Plans	The UK National Contingency Plan	Local Pollution Incident Contingency Plans require formal approval from the MCA
Inspection and certification of vessels and monitoring compliance with the MARPOL Convention	The Merchant Shipping Act 1995, as amended MARPOL Convention	UK vessels require certification
Produce and update the Port Marine Safety Code (together with the Department for Transport)	n/a	The Port Marine Safety Code sets out a national standard for port marine safety. It was last updated in 2016. An accompanying Port Marine Guide to Good Practice was produced in 2018
Competent Authority with a general duty, in the exercise of any of their functions, to have regard to the EC Habitats Directive and Wild Birds Directive	The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulation 2017	Potentially any activity. Any competent authority authorising a plan or project that may (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), have a significant effect on the protected site, must undertake an appropriate assessment of the implications for that site in view of that site's conservation objectives
Statutory duty as a public authority to take reasonable steps to conserve and enhance the special features of sites of special	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended	Section 28G of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981(as amended) imposes a duty on public bodies in exercising their functions to

<p>scientific interest (SSSIs)</p>		<p>take reasonable steps, consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to further conservation and enhancement of the special features on a SSSI. This applies where the public body is exercising its statutory functions on a SSSI or on land outside the SSSI where those functions affect a SSSI.</p>
<p>Statutory duty as a public authority to consider the effect of proposed activities on MCZs before issuing any authorisation</p>	<p>The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009</p>	<p>The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (Section 125) places a general duty on public authorities in regard to MCZs. Public authorities must exercise their functions (so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of the functions) in a manner which best furthers - or where that is not possible, least hinders - the conservation objectives for MCZs</p>
<p>Statutory duty as a public authority to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of decision making</p>	<p>Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006</p>	<p>Under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, there is a duty on all public authorities have regard, in exercising its functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity. The Act states that 'conserving biodiversity includes, in relation to a living organism or type of habitat, restoring or enhancing a population or habitat.'</p>