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# Summary of Roles and Responsibilities for MPA management in England

## Responsibilities of individual organisations

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| **Organisation** | **Responsibilities in MPA Management** |
| Defra | Provide the overall MPA management policy framework |
| Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) | Statutory conservation adviser to UK Government and the Devolved Administrations for **offshore** areas (12-200 nautical miles)Development of conservation objectives and advice on operations/activities in **offshore** MPAs. |
| Natural England | Development of conservation objectives and advice on operations/activities for inshore SACs, SPAs and MCZsManagement of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), including issuing of consent/assent for potentially damaging activitiesReporting on condition of SSSIs and inshore MPAsStatutory conservation adviser to Government for **inshore** areas (0- 12 nautical miles)Provide advice to relevant authorities regarding the scope of appropriate assessment needed for proposed plans or projects under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017Statutory consultee on local plans and planning applicationsIssue and enforce wildlife licences for the disturbance, taking or harm to Schedule 1 breeding birds and terrestrial protected species |
| Environment Agency | Management of migratory fisheries (e.g. salmon or trout) out to 6 nautical miles [**NB**: within the Tweed and Eye Fisheries district this is regulated by the River Tweed Commissions]Competent authority for WFD estuarine and coastal waters to 1 nautical mile for ecological status and 12 nautical miles for chemical status Issuing of permits for industrial processes and discharges to the environmentManaging the risk of flooding estuaries and the seaMonitoring of water quality and bathing watersStatutory Consultee on planning applications and local development plans |
| Marine Management Organisation | Licencing the deposition or removal of materials from the seabed (marine licences)Issue and enforce wildlife licences for the disturbance, taking or harm marine protected speciesPowers to make byelaws to control activities to protect MPAs (including fisheries and recreation). Note: Management of fishing activities is primarily between 6 and 12nm from the coast (but can implement measures in 0-6nm)Development of marine plansAdvice on the use of dispersal agents and chemicals in the event of marine pollution emergenciesFisheries management (6-12 nautical miles), including ensuring compliance with fisheries regulations (fishing vessel licences, time at sea and quotas for fish and seafood) |
| Local Authorities | Local Planning Authority dealing with Local Development Plan production and with Development Control down to Low Mean WaterLocal emergency response planning for oil and chemical spills Lead Local Flood AuthorityBeach management and maintenanceWaste management and waste collection |
| Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) | The sustainable management of inshore sea fisheries resources out to 6 nautical milesEnforcement of inshore fisheries legislationData and evidence gathering to support fisheries managementPowers to make byelaws to control fishing activities to protect MPAs (activities include commercial fisheries and recreational fishing activities such as sea angling and bait digging). |
| Water companies[Northumbrian Water] | Collection treatment and discharge of domestic sewageLicencing discharge of trade effluent to a sewer |
| Harbour Authorities [within the meaning of the Harbours Act 1964(2)] | Maintaining and conserving the harbour facilities and ensuring safe and efficient marine operationsMaintenance of lights and navigational markersDevelopment of Harbour Pollution Incident Contingency PlansProduction of Harbour Waste Management Plan and provision of waste disposal facilities  |
| General Lighthouse Authority (Trinity House) | Remit to provide aids to navigation and assist the safe passage of vessels |
| Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) | Production of ‘The National Contingency Plan - A Strategic Overview for Responses to Marine Pollution from Shipping and Offshore Installations’Coordination of national marine pollution responsesSign-off on Local Pollution Incident Contingency PlansInspection and certification of vessels and monitoring compliance with the MARPOL Convention |
| River Tweed Commission | Management of migratory fisheries (e.g. salmon or trout) in the Tweed and Eye Fisheries District (an area just north of Cocksburnspath in Berwickshire down to just north of Holy Island in Northumberland and out to 5km offshore) |

## General Duties on all Public Authorities

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| **Duty** | **Legislation** |
| General duty on Competent Authorities (any Minister of the Crown government department, statutory undertaker, public body of any description or person holding a public office) to have regard to the EC Habitats Directive and Wild Birds Directive in the exercise of any of their functions | The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulation 2017 |
| Statutory duty on Public Authorities to take reasonable steps to conserve and enhance the special features of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) | Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) |
| Statutory Duties on Public Authorities to exercise their functions in a way to further (or where this is not possible least hinder) the conservation objectives for MCZs | The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (Section125) |
| Statutory duty to consider the effect of proposed activities on MCZs before issuing any authorisation | The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (Section126) |
| Statutory duty on Public Authorities to have regard to the purpose conserving biodiversity while carrying out their functions | Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (section 40) |