



# Berwickshire & Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership

## **PARTNERSHIP UPDATE No.9 October 2019**

Welcome to the latest of our regular news digests from the Berwickshire and Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership. Please feel free to forward this update to any colleagues who you think might find it of interest. If you have any news items or details of events to include in future updates then please send the details to [nick.brodin@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:nick.brodin@northumberland.gov.uk)

### **DESIGNATIONS**

#### **Draft Consultation Advice for the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC**

Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage have produced draft Conservation Advice for the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC, which extends between Fast Castle Head in Scotland and Alnmouth in Northumberland. The draft advice can be downloaded [HERE](#)

Formal Conservation Advice packages have also been published for the [Lindisfarne SPA](#) , the [Aln Estuary MCZ](#) and the [Coquet to St Mary's MCZ](#). Previously only draft guidance was available for these sites.

### **CONSULTATIONS**

#### **NIFCA Byelaw consultations**

Northumberland IFCA are currently consulting on a change to their Byelaw 2 (dredges). Details of this consultation can be found [HERE](#)

The deadline for responses is 14th October 2019

#### **Highly Protected Marine Protected Areas - a call for evidence**

A four-week call for evidence has been launched as part of [the current review into Highly Protected Marine Protected Areas](#). Comments are being sought on introducing tougher measures to help stop the impacts of human activity from damaging the marine environment.

Views are also sought on which areas would benefit most from these extra protections. The consultation can be accessed [HERE](#)

The deadline for responses is 31st October 2019.

### **Responsible Fishing Vessel Standard**

Seafish (a Non-Departmental Public Body set up to support the UK seafood industry) are holding a public consultation on the draft standard criteria for the next iteration of the Responsible Fishing Scheme (RFS). The Consultation can be viewed [HERE](#)

The closing date for responses is 14th October 2019.

### **Recent Publications**

#### **Major Strandings Report (2011-2017)**

A report on seven years of data on strandings investigation carried out in the UK by the Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP) between 2011 and 2017 has been published and can be viewed [HERE](#)

The largest number of cetacean reports was received in England (n=2363), with smaller numbers in Scotland (n=1616), Wales (n=774), Northern Ireland (n=76), the Isle of Man (n=42) and the Channel Islands (n=25). The most commonly reported UK stranded cetacean species during the period of this report was the harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*). The total number of cetacean strandings reported to the CSIP during 2011-2017 increased by approximately 15%, relative to the preceding seven-year period. This was largely driven by a recent increase in reported strandings of harbour porpoises in most regions of the UK (primarily on the northwest coast of England and in Scotland) and by a recent increase in reported strandings of short-beaked common dolphins in southwest UK. The potential driver/s of these increases are unclear.

#### **Stakeholder report on non-lethal seal deterrents**

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has published a report on non-lethal deterrents suitable for control of seals from fishing vessels. The report can be viewed [HERE](#)

## Seal Disturbance Report from the Seal Alliance

The Seal Alliance have published a report entitled *Please Do Not Disturb. The growing threat of seal disturbance in the United Kingdom: Case studies from around the British coast*. This includes a case study from St Mary's Island. The report can be downloaded [HERE](#)

## The State of the British Coast: Observable Changes Through Art Imagery 1770-Present Day

This study looks at physical, environmental and cultural heritage changes within coastal zones over the last 250 years through review of sequences of artworks across 32 case study sites (15 in England, 4 in Wales and 13 in Scotland). The extent of change is illustrated through over 700 images of paintings, watercolours and prints alongside present day photographs. The study ranked over 200 artists in terms of their topographical accuracy and identified a shortlist of 80 who produced the most reliable and detailed views of the coast.

The report and annexes can be viewed [HERE](#)

Case studies have also been produced for the [north east of England](#) and for the [east coast of Scotland](#)

## FUNDING

The following grant schemes are currently open for applications. If you are aware of other funding opportunities that we should know of then please [contact us](#):

[Sea-Changers](#) - awards grants to a range of UK-based, marine conservation charities and not-for-profit organisations. They are particularly interested in grassroots projects which galvanise community action and projects which increase the number of people taking action for marine conservation. Next deadline for applications is 31st March 2020

[Northumbrian Water's Branch Out fund](#) - covers the Northumbrian Water area. Next closing date is 28 February 2020

[Northumberland Coast AONB Sustainable Development Fund](#) - funding for projects which help achieve the purposes of the AONB. Applications accepted on a rolling basis.

[Local Environment Action Fund \(LEAF\)](#) - grants of up to £2,000 for work that has a positive impact on the environment and quality of life in communities in Tyne & Wear and Northumberland.

[Scottish Landfill Communities Fund \(SLCF\)](#) - The SLCF is a tax credit scheme, linked to Scottish Landfill Tax that encourages landfill site operators to contribute tax credits to benefit community and environmental projects.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Protection of Undersized Fish and Shellfish in the NIFCA District**

Northumberland IFCA, in conjunction with North Eastern, Eastern and Kent & Essex IFCAs, has made an emergency byelaw in relation to the minimum conservation reference size for certain marine organisms. The emergency byelaw came into force on 13th August 2019. Further details can be found [HERE](#)

### **Request for Berwickshire wolffish sightings**

The Berwickshire Marine Reserve are asking divers to submit records of any sightings of wolffish from within the reserve. The information received will be used to build up an understanding of the numbers and distribution of the species. Records can be submitted via the epicollect5 app for Android or iPhone. More information can be found [HERE](#)

### **Pacific Pink Salmon**

Pacific pink salmon were originally introduced to a number of Russian rivers in the 1960s and have slowly spread westwards colonising additional rivers in northern Norway. During 2017 an unprecedented number of this species were reported within inshore coastal waters and rivers in Scotland and England. This included sighting in the Tyne and the Coquet. Owing to the two year life cycle of Pacific pink salmon, 2019 will be the first year that we can expect to see these fish return in numbers.

The Environment Agency is interested in hearing from any anglers or commercial netmen who catch a Pacific pink salmon. The information will be used in monitoring their numbers and distribution at a regional and national scale. For more information [follow this link](#)

Fisheries Management Scotland have also produced guidance about what to do if you capture or observe a Pacific pink salmon in Scotland. This can be downloaded [HERE](#)

### **Berwickshire Snorkeling Trail**

A new snorkeling trail was launched by the Berwickshire Marine Reserve and the Scottish Wildlife Trust this July. The self-led trail identifies areas for beginner and advanced snorkelers

to explore within the Berwickshire Marine Reserve. The five sites featured include Eyemouth Beach and Coldingham Bay. Further information can be found [HERE](#)

## **Events**

### **Coastal Partnership Network Annual Forum 2019 -9th October 2019**

The annual meeting of the UK Coastal Partnerships Network is being held on 9th October in Southampton. Places can be booked [HERE](#)

### **Coastal Futures Conference - 15th and 16th January 2020**

The annual Coastal Futures conference will take place at the Royal Geographical Society in London this January. Further details can be found [HERE](#)

### **ERIC North East Recorders Conference - 16th November 2019**

The annual ERIC North East Recorders Conference will be held on Saturday 16th November at the Hancock Museum in Newcastle. [Contact ERIC North East](#) for further details

### **Monitoring and Data Needs meeting - 11th October 2019**

The Marine Nature Partnership will be holding a meeting for our members on Friday 11th October to discuss monitoring and data needs and key research questions. This will be a follow up to our workshop of 2nd May this year. For further details of the meeting please [contact us](#)

If you have any events or activities that you would like to see included in future updates then please [contact us](#) with the details.