



Berwickshire & Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership

PARTNERSHIP UPDATE No.10 January 2020

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

CONSULTATIONS

January is proving to be a busy time for the launch of consultations covering the English section of the partnership area. The main current consultations are listed below:

North East Marine Plan

The Marine Management Organisation has launched its consultation on the Marine Plan for the North East. The Plan covers inshore and offshore areas between the Scottish border down to Flamborough Head and takes in a total of approximately 6,000 square kilometres of sea.

The consultation runs until **6th April 2020** and can be accessed [HERE](#)

As part of the consultation process, the Marine Management Organisation will be running a series of webinars about marine planning. These will last one hour and cover the following:

- An introduction to the MMO
- An introduction to Marine Planning and the journey so far
- The consultation and how to respond
- Implementation and how to use the plans
- Next steps

The webinar for North East stakeholders will be held on the 11th February between 10.30 and 11.30. Places can be booked through [Eventbrite](#)

River basin planning: Challenges and Choices

River Basin Management plans were published in February 2016 and must be reviewed and updated by the end of 2021. The Environment Agency has been undertaking a series of consultation to help shape the updated plans. The most recent of these is the Challenges and Choices consultation which asks for views on the significant water management issues (many of which affect coastal and estuarine waters) and how these should be addressed.

The consultation is open **until 24th April 2020** and can be accessed [HERE](#)

Potential Extension to the Yorkshire and North East coastal sea trout netting season

The Environment Agency is seeking views on the potential to extend the beach netting season for sea trout in Yorkshire and the North East. The closing date for this consultation is the **21st February 2020**. Details can be viewed [at this link](#)

England Coast Path from Bamburgh to the Scottish Border (including Holy Island)

Natural England submitted a collection of reports to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs setting out the proposals for improved access to the coast between Bamburgh and the Scottish Border (including Holy Island). Representations about the reports can be made to Natural England before midnight on **Wednesday 11 March 2020**.

For copies of the reports and details about how representations can be made please [follow this link](#)

Northumberland Coast AONB Management Plan

The Northumberland Coast AONB are inviting comments on their draft Management Plan for the period 2020-2024. The draft plan and details on how to comment [can be viewed at this link](#)

Recent Publications

Marine Climate Change Impacts: Report Card 2020

The [Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership](#) have published their 2020 Report Card. This summarises the latest evidence from 26 topics regarding the physical, ecological, and social and economic impacts of climate change on UK coasts and seas.

Key headlines from the report are:

- There is clear evidence that warming seas, reduced oxygen, ocean acidification and sea-level rise are already affecting UK coasts and seas.
- The upper range for the latest UK sea-level rise projections is higher than previous estimates, implying increased coastal-flood risk. The likelihood of compound effects from tidal flooding and extreme rainfall is increasing, which can greatly exacerbate flood impacts.
- Oxygen concentrations in UK seas are projected to decline more than the global average, especially in the North Sea.
- Fisheries productivity in some UK waters has been negatively impacted by ocean warming and historical overexploitation.

The Report Card can be viewed [HERE](#)

Great British Beach Clean 2019

The results of the Great British Beach Clean 2019 have been published by the Marine Conservation Society and can be viewed [HERE](#)

Plastic and polystyrene pieces the most common litter items found, cigarette stubs following in second place and glass pieces coming in third.

Non-licensable Activity Impacts on Marine Protected Areas

This MMO commissioned study has developed a GIS dataset of non-licensable activities and PDF factsheets for a number of Marine Protected Areas including the Aln Estuary MCZ, Coquet to St Mary's MCZ, Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC, Lindisfarne SPA and the Northumbria Coast SPA.

All the published outputs from the project can be found [HERE](#)

FUNDING

Plunge In! The Coasts and Waters Community Fund

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) has launched this new fund linked to the Year of Coasts and Water 2020 (#YCW2020). The fund offers grants (£2,000 – £10,000) to help community groups participate in and celebrate #YCW2020. Applications are invited for a wide range of imaginative projects relating to Scottish coasts and waters, for example, plans for restoring habitats, carrying out local surveys or promoting and celebrating your local environment or wildlife.

Nature Reserve Travel Grants of up to £500 are also available to allow groups of young people to connect with our coasts and waters by visiting one of Scotland's national or local nature reserves.

The fund will open for applications until **28 February 2020**. All projects must take place between April and December 2020.

For further information [follow this link](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

Year of Coasts and Waters 2020 (YCW2020)

2020 is the Scottish Year of Coasts and Waters. This themed year is being led by VisitScotland and aims to celebrate and promote opportunities to enjoy Scotland's coasts and waters, encouraging responsible engagement and participation.

Further details about YCW2020 can be [found at this link](#)

Scottish Natural Heritage have commissioned an animation to celebrate the year. This can be viewed [HERE](#)

Proposed Bass Measures for 2020

New regulations are expected to be published later in January 2020. In the meantime current regulations still apply. This means that in January 2020:

- commercial bass fisheries limits remain as outlined in 2019 bass authorisation letters
- for recreational bass fisheries it is catch and release only

The 2019 bass guidance can be viewed [here](#)

Highly Protected Marine Protected Areas

The [current review into Highly Protected Marine Protected Areas](#) is now expected to report to the Government in the spring of this year.

Coastal Futures Conference 2020

This year's Coastal Futures Conference was held in London earlier this month. A wide range of topics were covered including climate change, inshore fisheries, and coastal governance. The slides and delegate notes are available online in the conference archive which can be accessed [HERE](#)

Volunteer Rangers needed at the Berwickshire Marine Reserve

The Berwickshire Marine Reserve are looking for two new Volunteer Marine Reserve Rangers. Expenses and contributions to accommodation costs will be included.

The closing date is **Sunday 2nd February**. For further details contact the Marine Reserve at info@berwickshiramarinereserve.org.uk or on 01890 752509

Eider Aware North East

The Berwickshire and Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership are launching a new project called Eider Aware North East. The project aims to celebrate the importance of the Northumberland coast for eider duck and to raise awareness about the pressures that eider populations and was prompted by the designation last year of the Berwick to St Mary's Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ). The project outputs will include an information leaflet/online resources, an events programme, a short video and a public participation survey (run with ERIC North East). Funding for the project has come from Northumbrian Water's Branch Out Fund and from the Northumberland Coast AONB Sustainable Development Fund.

Events

Wholesale Approach to Marine Management (WAMM)

The Wholesale Approach to Marine Management (WAMM) project is led by Rivers Trust and the Coastal Partnerships Network and aims to support a more integrated and collaborative approach to the management of estuarine and coastal waters nationwide. As part of the

project a number of workshops are being held nationally, including one in York on the 29th January.

Places on the York workshop can be booked [HERE](#)

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