

SPATIAL PLANNING IN THE COASTAL AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Key elements and future prospects

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THREE PROJECTS

MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING

Client	Topic	Timing
RTPI / RSPB Scotland	Making the case for marine spatial planning system	9/03 - 1/04
English Nature	How land use planning could influence	10/03 - 12/03
JNCC Irish Sea Pilot Project	Developing a possible framework	11/03- 1/04

DEFINITION OF MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING

3 ongoing processes

- Plan making – one or more integrated plans or policy frameworks
- Implementation – programmes of works, enabling change, through regulation, management and enforcement
- Monitoring and reviewing – assessing effectiveness of system.

LESSONS FROM LAND USE PLANNING SYSTEM

Some **benefits** of LUP system:

- Consider all material considerations
- Plan led, presume in favour of plan
- Deterrent effect of strong policies
- Ensuring compatible mixed and adjacent uses
- Enables and facilitates more sustainable development
- Consistency thro' policy hierarchy
- Openness, transparency, inclusion.

LESSONS FROM LAND USE PLANNING SYSTEM

Some **limitations** –

- No statutory purpose
- Agriculture and forestry excluded
- Slow evolution and uncertain linkages to other plans / strategies
- Synchronising policy hierarchy
- Limited powers to achieve new benefits
- Excludes ongoing activities and management
- Resources not matched demands.

LESSONS FROM LAND USE PLANNING SYSTEM

Inherent tensions:

- Speed – or – engagement, thoroughness and quality
- Clear and detailed – to some – rigid and prescriptive
- Flexible – to some - vague
- Certainty and confidence – stifles – innovation and the unforeseen
- Local decision making – or – consistency and compliance with Government policy.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LAND AND SEA LIKELY TO REQUIRE DIFFERENT APPROACH

- **Ownership, rights and interests**
- **Communities and stakeholders**
- **Uses, activities, movement and infrastructure**
- **Physical characteristics and dynamics**
- **Environmental processes, eco system fragility and vulnerability**
- **Spatial variations.**

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LAND AND SEA LIKELY TO REQUIRE DIFFERENT APPROACH

Some elements would transfer well -

- Plan led within a policy hierarchy to give national consistency but local flexibility to respond and adapt**
- Consultation engagement influence of stakeholders**
- Control of form, scale, pattern, intensity of change so more sustainable and mutually compatible**
- Flexibility for local initiatives.**

PRINCIPLES OF MARINE AND COASTAL PLANNING

Planning for Sustainable Development

1. Sustainable use and dev of resources
2. Comprehensive, integrated, coordinated spatial planning, management and regulation
3. Plan led
4. Precautionary principle
5. Short medium and longer timescales
6. Resource efficiency.

PRINCIPLES OF MARINE AND COASTAL PLANNING

Nature and heritage conservation –

7. Ecosystem approach
8. Biodiversity conservation
9. Conservation of amenity
10. Conservation of cultural heritage
11. Shared responsibility to restore, conserve & sustainably manage ecosystems
12. Better use of robust science
13. Environmental capacity and limits
14. Monitoring of natural as well as man-made influences and change.

PRINCIPLES OF MARINE AND COASTAL PLANNING

Equity –

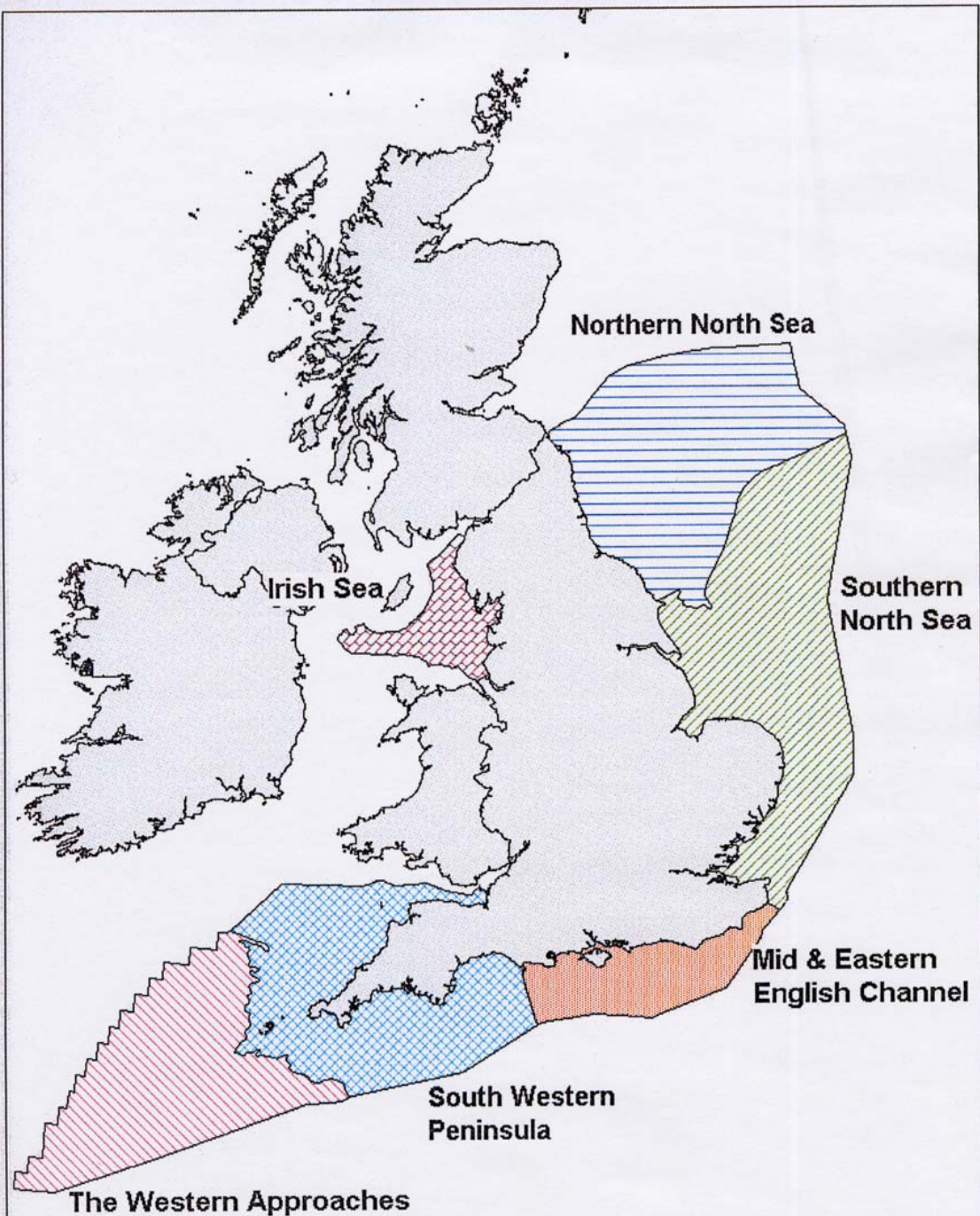
15. Polluter and user pays
16. Conflict resolution to enable planned change to deliver socio, economic and environmental benefits not trade-offs with winners and losers
17. Proportionality, measured intervention
18. Inclusion, equity, participation
19. Targeted & shared research to meet multiple needs and add value
20. Transparent, open, inclusive, accountable.

POSSIBLE FRAMEWORK

- **Statutory system, statutory purpose**
- **Duty to apply precaution and resolve conflict in favour of conserving natural physical and ecological systems**
- **Cover all physical and spatial development, changes of use and ongoing activities to 200nm**
- **Operate at UK, national and sea-region.**

**POSSIBLE
FRAMEWORK**

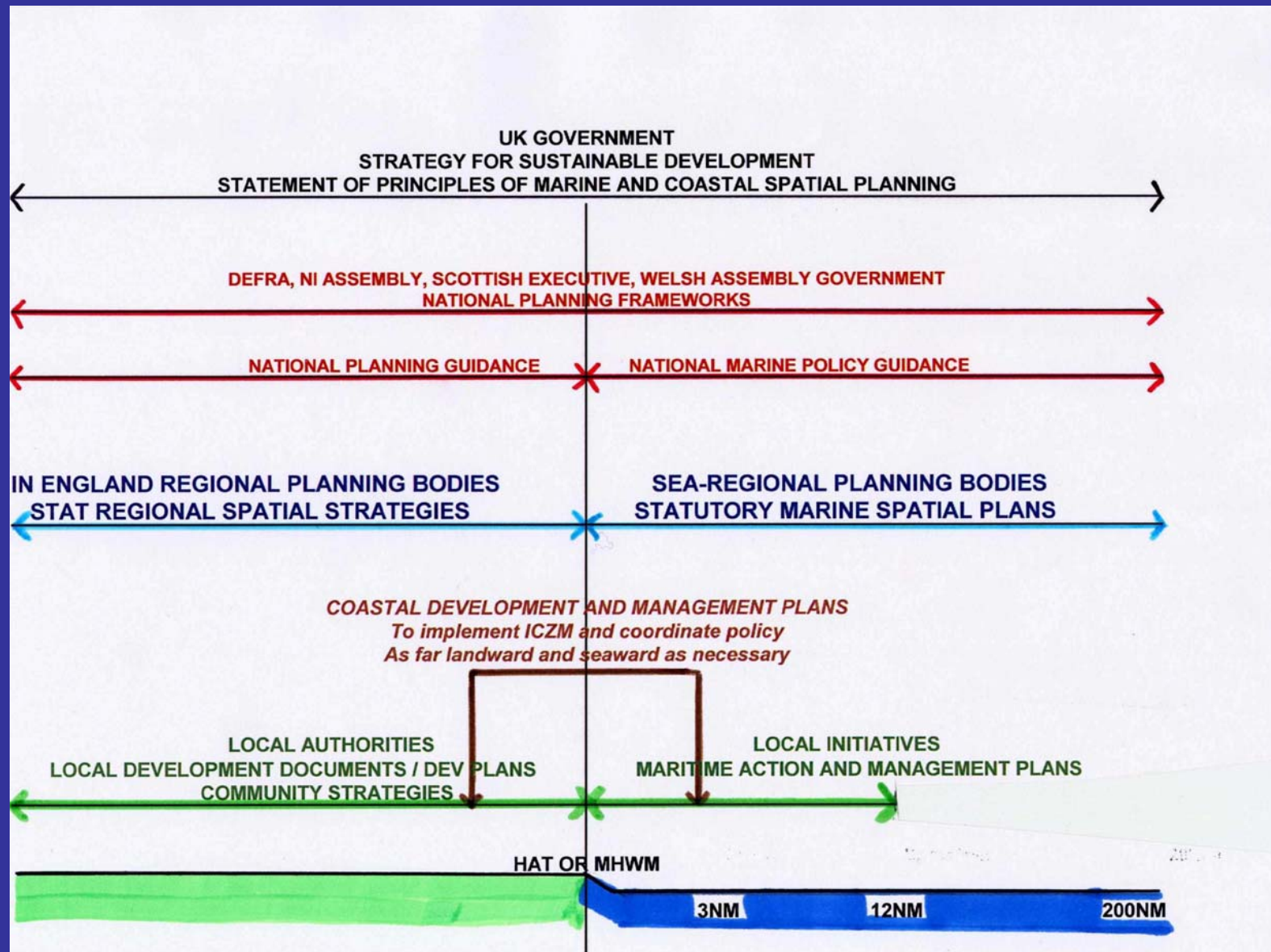
**Six English Sea-
Regions based
on Natural
Areas**



POSSIBLE FRAMEWORK

- **Flexible – treat different areas differently, proportionate level of intervention according to need**
- **Single plan-making body at sea-region level, drawn from or including regulators**
- **But complicated by boundary issues, UK – EU Member States**
- **Devolved Govnts – English Regions**
- **Premature to change regulators or statutory advisers more than may be planned – may need to change remits.**

POSSIBLE FRAMEWORK



**MANY CHOICES
MUCH TO CONSIDER
BUT NO INSURMOUNTABLE OBSTACLES**

Need

- **Careful definition of options and forecast of implications**
- **Widest possible debate**
- **More research especially on experience of other countries**
- **Pilots and trials**
- **Consider how to mesh existing initiatives**
- **How to mesh with Water Framework Directive RBMPs, Habitats Directive (Euro Marine Sites) & ICZM.**