

# **Development of UK Marine Objectives**

**Marine Bill Conference - 3 July 2007**

# UK Marine Vision

‘Clean, safe, healthy, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas’



# What are we trying to achieve?

The Objectives aim to:

- be strategic and provide clarity of the UK marine vision
- enable users and regulators to achieve sustainable marine development
- existing strategic goals need to become outcome based to ensure we can measure progress towards achieving the vision
- act as an umbrella for marine as a whole and provide a coherent direction for all policy initiatives e.g. biodiversity objectives, fisheries objectives etc

# Sustainable Marine Development

- Following the sustainable development principles within the marine environment
  - Living within environmental limits
  - Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
  - Achieving a sustainable economy
  - Using sound science responsibly
  - Promoting good governance

# Selection of Other Related Work

- OSPAR's Ecological Quality Objectives (EcoQO)
- Ecosystem objectives
- Fisheries 2027
- Parallel process to determine the Contributory Objectives through the UKMMAS evidence groups, development of indicators at various levels of detail

# Drivers and Mechanisms for Using the Marine Objectives

- UK Marine Policy Statement
- Marine Bill
- European Marine Strategy Directive
- European Maritime Green Paper
- UKMMAS
- Infrastructure Planning Commission
- Government Policy Process

# Marine Policy Statement

- Described in MB White Paper
- Will drive decision making on licensing applications
- Marine Objectives work will contribute to its development, help set the framework
- Need to start work now in parallel with National Policy Statement development

# National policy statements

- development led by relevant government department
- establish the national case for infrastructure development
- set the policy framework for infrastructure planning commission decisions
  - vary in detailed content from sector to sector
  - integrate strategic economic, social and environmental policy objectives to deliver sustainable development
  - show how capacity and demand are to be taken into account & consider relevant issues in relation to safety or technology

# Timeframe for national policy statements

- national policy statements would have a time frame of 10-25 years
- consider whether policy statements remain up to date, or require review, at least every five years
- consider significant new evidence and any changes in circumstances where they arise
- existing statements, perhaps with modification, which meet standards would be adopted as national policy statements

# European Marine Strategy Directive

## Good Environmental Status

- All Member States required to achieve or aim to achieve good environmental status by 2021 at the latest
- Member States also need to provide an initial assessment of the environmental status of their marine environment in 2012
- Role of regional seas in implementation, use of OSPAR QSR 2010 and Charting Progress II

# Proposed Next Steps

## Summer

- Develop a “straw man” of end product
- Discuss with colleagues in OGDs, DAs and agencies to develop consensus on approach and content
- Produce draft product for consultation

## Autumn

- Refine product through informal discussions with stakeholders

## Early 2008

- Publish draft Marine Objectives for formal consultation