

Promoting an integrated approach to management of the coastal zone (ICZM) in England

**A consultation document of the Department for Environment, Food and
Rural Affairs**

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CONSULTATION:

**PROMOTING AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO
COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT (ICZM) IN ENGLAND**

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 The coast is one of England's most valuable resources. It contains a wealth of important habitats, geological, archaeological and cultural features, and its diverse landscapes are among the most beautiful in the world. However the coastal zone also supports a range of industries on land and at sea, based anywhere from small rural villages to cities with large, thriving ports that are a gateway for a considerable amount of our international trade. One in three people in the UK lives within 10km of the coast, and a considerable number of others are drawn to visit it each year.
- 1.2 The arrangements for managing coastal areas in England are complex. On land there are well established planning mechanisms, managed largely by Local Authorities. Management of the marine area meanwhile falls mainly to central Government, and activities at sea have traditionally been managed following a more sectoral approach. A number of other organisations play key roles in managing certain aspects of the coast, and in helping Government fulfil our European commitments. The Environment Agency for example has permissive powers to undertake flood risk management works on the coast, and is carrying out River Basin Management Planning work as a result of the Water Framework Directive.
- 1.3 It has increasingly been thought that we should aim to improve co-ordination between these management systems, and communication between all those with an interest in coastal issues, if we are to be able to look at the coast in a more holistic and sustainable way.
- 1.4 The need for improved coastal management grows as the pressures on the area mount. The effects of climate change are particularly visible through coastal erosion. Changing patterns within industry and the growth of tourism bring further challenges. These pressures need to be addressed throughout the development of new policies for the coast.
- 1.5 In 2002, the European Community recognised the need for an improved approach in this area, and adopted a Recommendation¹ concerning the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). In the same year, the first marine stewardship report published jointly by UK Government and the Devolved Administrations outlined our intention to develop "a new, shared vision for the future of our coastal areas", which would be underpinned by ICZM. Adopting this integrated approach means we will aim for greater harmonisation of the different planning and management responsibilities and interests. This will encourage social and

¹ Council Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2002 concerning the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Europe (2002/413/EEC). 2002. Official Journal of the European Communities. http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2002/l_148/l_14820020606en00240027.pdf

economic interests to be pursued sustainably in coastal areas, alongside the protection of valuable resources.

- 1.6 We are already seeking to promote an integrated approach to coastal management in a number of ways. Most significantly, the UK Government is currently consulting on possible elements of a new Marine Bill. This new legislation will enable a new, strategic approach to marine management, that integrates effectively with what is already happening on land.
- 1.7 This consultation paper aims to generate discussion and debate about ICZM in more detail, to help us create the right approach towards achieving ICZM in England now and in the future.

2 Purpose of this consultation document

- 2.1 There has been much discussion in recent years, in a number of different fora, about how coastal management in England might be improved. This document aims to gather views from a range of individuals and organisations with an interest in the coast, in order that we can develop a sensible approach for central Government to adopt in this area. This document follows up our existing commitment to Integrated Coastal Zone Management by looking for practical solutions to taking our commitment forward.
- 2.2 There is often confusion surrounding what exactly ICZM means, and how it might apply to the numerous activities already taking place at the coast. Part of the problem is that coastal management is extremely complex. Each part of the coast is different, and therefore may require different solutions. As a result there is unlikely to be a single, clear way forward. However we can use this document to outline our broad vision for coastal management, and potential useful action.
- 2.3 Government is currently taking action in a number of areas, which have raised the profile of marine and coastal issues. This action includes the publication of new guidance on shoreline management planning, reviews of land use planning guidance and the marine historic environment, the development of River Basin Management Plans under the Water Framework Directive and consultation on initial proposals for a Marine Bill. Government is considering how an integrated approach to coastal management can be incorporated into all of these activities. This document looks not only at legislative action, but more broadly at coastal management in general.
- 2.4 The EU Recommendation on ICZM suggested that Member States develop strategies on this subject. The Devolved Administrations are taking forward their own strategies, to reflect the particular circumstances and needs of their own coastline. This document focuses on England, however Defra is working closely with the Devolved Administrations in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, to ensure a co-ordinated approach throughout the UK.

- 2.5 You are invited to comment on the proposed objectives and questions contained within this document, however please feel free to raise any further issues that may be relevant to achieving Integrated Coastal Zone Management in England.
- 2.6 We have also noted views expressed about ICZM in response to the 'Making Space for Water' consultation exercise in July 2004², and at the Coastal Partnerships Workshop in March 2005³, and will build on those ideas.

The comments received in response to this consultation paper will enable us to develop our strategy for promoting and implementing integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) in England.

² Making Space for Water: Consultation on Developing a new Government strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in England.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/enviro/fcd/policy/strategy.htm>

³ <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/iczm>

3 Background to ICZM

- 3.1 Discussion of the need for an integrated approach to coastal management has built up in recent years.

EU Demonstration Programme

- 3.2 Many of Europe's coastal areas are suffering deterioration of their environmental, socio-economic, historical and cultural resources. In a study conducted in 1999⁴, the European Commission suggested that intensive use of the coastal zone, whilst profitable in the short term, could undermine its long term potential and 'resilience'.
- 3.3 Since 1996, the European Commission has been working to identify and promote measures to remedy this deterioration and to improve the overall situation in coastal zones. In 1996, the Commission initiated a number of ICZM Demonstration Programmes⁵, which were based on 6 thematic studies around 35 local and regional projects. These projects, which ran until 1999, were designed to highlight the problems and issues which affected coastal areas and to identify any possible measures to halt further deterioration of Europe's coastal zones. Five of those projects took place in England; in Kent, the Isle of Wight, the Solent, Devon and Cornwall.
- 3.4 The programmes identified a wide range of environmental and social issues at the coast, such as habitat destruction, loss of fish stocks and biodiversity, pollution, economic decline and social deprivation. They also identified a number of underlying problems that had led to this situation⁶;
- a. a lack of vision related to management at the coast, based on a very limited understanding of coastal processes and dynamics and with scientific research and data collection isolated from end users;
 - b. inadequate involvement of stakeholders in formulating and implementing solutions to coastal problems;
 - c. inappropriate and uncoordinated sectoral legislation and policy often working against the long term interests of sustainable management of coastal zones;

⁴ Towards a European Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Strategy. General Principles and Policy Options. A reflection paper. 1999. European Commission.

⁵ Source: EUROPA – ICZM Demonstration projects
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/iczm/projects.htm>

⁶ Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on Integrated Coastal Zone Management: A Strategy for Europe. COM(2000) 547 final. 2000. Commission of the European Communities. http://europa.eu/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2000/com2000_0547en01.pdf

- d. rigid bureaucratic systems and the lack of coordination between relevant administrative bodies, limiting local creativity and adaptability; and
- e. local initiatives in sustainable coastal management lacking adequate resources and political support from high administrative levels.

EU Recommendation on ICZM

- 3.5 The Demonstration Programmes illustrated that in complex areas with multiple users such as coastal zones, uncoordinated policies could conflict or work at cross-purposes.
- 3.6 The EU Recommendation highlighted the environmental, economic, social and cultural importance and summarised its overall vision for managing Europe's coastal zones more sustainably and responsibly. It also suggested that in order to halt the degradation identified by the Demonstration programmes and research undertaken by the European Environment Agency⁷, the coastal zone had to be managed through concerted action at all levels, i.e. local and regional level decisions had to be guided by an appropriate national framework or context.
- 3.7 The European Community adopted the Recommendation concerning the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Europe⁸ in 2002. The Recommendation stated that it was essential that the management of the coastal zone should:
 - be environmentally sustainable, economically equitable, socially responsible and culturally sensitive; and
 - maintain the integrity of the coast as a valuable resource while considering local, traditional activities and customs which did not present a threat to either sensitive natural areas or the maintenance status of the wild species of the coastal fauna and flora

Safeguarding Our Seas: UK Government and Devolved Administrations' joint Marine Stewardship Report

⁷ State of the Coasts in Europe – Towards an EEA assessment report. A Background paper. Breton F. 2004

⁸ Council Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2002 concerning the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Europe (2002/413/EEC). 2002. Official Journal of the European Communities.

3.8 In 2002 the UK Government and Devolved Administrations made a joint commitment to adopting an integrated approach to coastal management, through our first marine stewardship report. The report stated that:

- the coastline of the United Kingdom is one of the most diverse in Europe. We must balance the conservation of this vital resource with the economic and social activities that take place there, and;
- we are encouraging local partnerships to deliver local solutions and develop opportunities within the Government's framework of national policies. Integrated coastal management is central to achieving this.

3.9 With that in mind, this document considers a number of aspects of coastal management, from the national policy framework, through to local solutions.

4 What is Integrated Coastal Zone Management?

- 4.1 It is useful firstly to explain how we interpret 'the coast' or the 'coastal zone'. There is no single, overall piece of coastal legislation or management mechanism in the UK, therefore no single definition of this area. The diverse nature of the coastline means that different activities on land and at sea will have varying effects on each other, and in different parts of the country. Creating an official 'coastal zone' would suggest the need for a separate management approach to those generally in place on land and at sea at present, whereas what is desired is in fact effective integration between the two. In any case, it would be difficult to create a definition for an area so dynamic in nature.
- 4.2 Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) means the adoption of an integrated or joined up approach towards the many different interests in both the land and marine components of the coast. It is the process of harmonising the different policies and decision making structures, and bringing together coastal stakeholders, to encourage concerted action towards achieving common goals. Integrating the many different activities effectively means we can look at the coast in a holistic way.
- 4.3 The EU Recommendation set out 8 key principles of ICZM to ensure good coastal management. These principles took account of the good examples identified in the demonstration programmes, and, broadly interpreted, suggested that coastal management should be based on:

a. A broad holistic approach

The objective of a holistic approach is to forego piecemeal management and decision making in favour of a more strategic approach which looks at the 'bigger picture', including cumulative causes and effects. This means considering the conservation value of natural systems alongside the human activities which take place on land and coastal waters.

Taking a holistic approach will also involve looking at the problems and issues on the coast in the widest possible context, including looking at the marine and terrestrial components of the coastal zone and considering how different issues conflict or interact together.

- b. Taking a long term perspective
Successful coastal management must consider the needs of present and future generations. Therefore, administrative structures and policies required to manage the environmental, social and economic impacts now, must also be adaptable to take account of, and acknowledge uncertainties in the future.
- c. Adaptive management
The English coastline has been subject to constant physical and economic changes over the years, and management of such a dynamic environment requires measures which are able to adapt and evolve accordingly. Successful management should reflect this principle by working towards solutions which can be monitored effectively.
- d. Specific solutions and flexible measures
Coastal management measures for each stretch of coast must reflect and accommodate the many variations in the topography, biodiversity and local decision-making structures. Integrated management should therefore be rooted in a thorough understanding of the specific characteristics of an area i.e. its local specificity.
- e. Working with natural processes
The natural processes of coastal systems are continual, so it becomes necessary in some instances to adopt a different approach which works with natural processes rather than against them. By recognising the physical impacts and the limits imposed by natural processes, decisions regarding the human impact on the coastal zone are made in a more responsible manner and are more likely to respond to environmental change.
- f. Participatory planning
In the past stakeholders may not have had sufficient opportunity to contribute towards the development and implementation of coastal management measures or programmes. Participatory planning incorporates the views of all of the relevant stakeholders (including maritime interests, recreational users, and fishing communities) into the planning process. It can also help to promote a real sense of shared responsibility and coastal stewardship by reducing conflict as real issues, information and activities which affect the coast can be aired more openly.
- g. Support and involvement of all relevant administrative bodies
Administrative policies, programmes and plans (land use spatial, energy, tourism and regional development for example) set the context for the management of coastal areas and their natural and historical

resources. Addressing the problems faced by England's coastal zones will therefore require the support and involvement of all relevant administrative bodies at all levels of government to ensure cooperation, coordination and that common goals are achieved. It is therefore essential to engage key bodies from the start so that decisions are consistent and firmly based on local circumstances.

h. Use of a combination of instruments

Managing the different activities which take place on the coast requires the use of a number of different policies, laws and voluntary agreements. While each of these approaches is important, achieving the right combination is key to resolving conflicts, as these instruments should work together to achieve coherent objectives for the planning and sustainable management of coastal areas.

5 The English coast and issues faced

- 5.1 Adopting a holistic and sustainable approach to coastal management means we can take into account the pressures that are faced at the coast, and bring together the different policy, planning and management structures to address them.
- 5.2 The English coastline is 5496⁹ km long and every part of it is very different. Any approach to managing the coast needs to recognise its changing nature and the pressures it is facing. These pressures are not only as a result of physical processes, but also changing economic and social trends. There is an increasing likelihood that some coastal activities will result in effects on others, or on coastal ecosystems and heritage sites. These effects cannot always be anticipated or measured. For example, during a significant ecological disaster such as a chemical spill into the sea, the immediate and apparent impact to the sea, shoreline and marine wildlife can be treated, but the effects can last for many years, affect the wider community and add to the cumulative impact of other sources of pollution.

Climate change

- 5.3 The effects of climate change will have significant impacts on the coastal zone, as it will affect the predicted rise in sea levels and will also change the physical, biological and biochemical characteristics of our seas.
- 5.4 For the coastal community, the impacts may be more apparent and may include increased flooding from storm surges, accelerated coastal erosion, loss of intertidal or wetland habitats, loss of archaeological sites and seawater intrusion into freshwater sources. Physical changes to the coast are of concern everywhere, but are particularly evident in the low lying areas of the South and the South East, and the coasts along the East and North East of England which are particularly susceptible to flooding or erosion.
- 5.5 The UK Climate Change Programme¹⁰ is examining the likely impacts of climate change on the UK and is considering how central and local government, businesses and other organisations, might adapt to the pressures of climate change.

⁹ <http://www.coastalguide.org/england/engrcol.html>

¹⁰ UK Climate Change Programme
www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/ukccp/index.htm

Coastal Erosion and Flooding

- 5.6 The impact of long-term erosion is of particular concern to coastal communities and in some areas the rates of erosion may increase with climate change. Coastal erosion can threaten commercial and residential properties, livelihoods and coastal habitats. There are clear links between rates of coastal erosion (and deposition) and wider coastal processes so a well co-ordinated approach to coastal defence management is required. Some communities also face the risk of coastal flooding and the possible increase in risk caused by climate change. It will never be possible to totally prevent flooding but with a coordinated approach we can manage the likelihood of it happening and the impact when it does.

Nature conservation

- 5.7 More than a third of the diverse coast is designated for its scenic or natural beauty and it supports a wide range of species and habitats which are of local, national and international importance.
- 5.8 The Marine Stewardship report outlined a number of measures for delivering the Government's vision for clean, safe, healthy, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas, including a commitment to produce an integrated assessment of UK waters. This commitment was taken forward through a report, *Charting Progress - An Integrated Assessment of the State of UK Seas*, which was a step towards adopting an ecosystem approach to managing the impact of human activities on the marine and coastal environment.
- 5.9 There are a number of policies, initiatives and legislation which aim to protect the natural environment, but the key legislative instruments which protect the wildlife and landscape of England's coastal habitats include the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, and the Habitats Directive. These provisions protect the countryside through the designation of protected areas such as sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), marine nature reserves, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and National Nature Reserves (NNRs). The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW) principally extends the public's ability to enjoy the countryside but also provides local authorities to restrict access for nature conservation.

Changing industries and communities

- 5.10 Approximately 35 cities and large towns are located on the English coast, a number of which house major ports that are vital for our international trade. The coast is home to important agriculture, civil defence activities, and also the generation of power. Some of the largest power facilities,

such as Sellafield and Dungeness are located on the coast, and more recently, newer structures have been constructed to harness renewable sources of power such as offshore wind energy.

- 5.11 Coastal communities have had to adapt as the predominant uses of the coast have changed. Over the years, the number of coastal towns associated with specific activities such as ship building has fallen. Coastal communities have had to look for other economic opportunities whilst also trying to preserve the unique identities of local areas and support traditional industries such as shellfish farming. Social and economic deprivation, unemployment and the destruction of the social and cultural heritage of coastal communities has become a matter of concern in recent years, and many areas suffer levels of deprivation equivalent to the worst areas of inner cities.¹¹

The Historic Environment

- 5.12 The English coastline is built on a historic and cultural legacy with much dating back to prehistoric times. Historic villages, towns and cities have been the launching points for many of England's greatest achievements including military, engineering, industrial and shipping.
- 5.13 However, much of our historic infrastructure was built for activities which have greatly declined in recent generations leading to natural decay. For example the Royal Naval presence at the great naval ports and dockyards such as Plymouth and Portsmouth has diminished. Most coastal areas have had to adapt with the changing times to survive but development pressures can threaten our heritage while failure to adapt, threatens the communities.
- 5.14 The historic heritage of the English coastline extends beyond the built environment with many areas having significant archaeological importance. The worldwide significance of the 'Jurassic coastline', a 95 mile stretch of the Dorset and East Devon coast, was recognised when it was declared England's first natural World Heritage Site in December 2001. The marine environment contains several submerged sites of human activity and many designated and other historic wreck sites, while the coast contains a number of archaeological, and internationally important fossil sites.

Tourism and recreation

- 5.15 Many businesses in coastal areas depend in whole or part on tourism, ranging from hotels and accommodation providers through to restaurants,

¹¹ Source: *ICZM in the UK: A Stocktake*. 2004. Atkins.
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/water/marine/uk/iczm/stocktake/index.htm>

shops, theatres, transport businesses and a range of visitor attractions from art galleries to zoos. The impact of all this activity is significant, both on individual communities and on national self-image. It also makes a significant contribution to UK economic activity.

- 5.16 The coast has always provided important opportunities for leisure and tourism, seaside holiday towns such as Bournemouth, Blackpool, Bognor Regis, Skegness, Scarborough, Southend and Torquay have grown in popularity especially since Victorian times. As the towns grew in popularity, coastal communities have had to adapt quickly to accommodate the changing needs of tourists, e.g. the provision of more hotels or housing, recreational facilities or infrastructure for waste management. Tourism has also replaced other declining industries to the extent that in many coastal areas tourism and recreation have become the core industry. However, in some places even this industry is now in decline.
- 5.17 Conflict can sometimes occur between different tourist or recreational activities, or between those activities and the need for nature conservation for example, and it is important to create an appropriate balance. Local management plans can sometimes help to achieve this. If needed, Local authorities also have powers to govern access to the foreshore for recreation by creating byelaws to regulate certain activities such as boating, motorbike scrambling or kite surfing. Following on from the introduction of the CROW right of access to open country, the government is looking at how to improve access to the English coast, primarily for walkers. This is being looked at in an integrated way which seeks to deliver wildlife, landscape and quality of enjoyment benefits.

Pollution Control and Water Quality

- 5.18 Pollution is a global problem, but there is a continual threat to coastal communities from land and marine based sources such as nitrate pollution, dumping of ship's waste or oil spills. Pollution from industry, farming practices and households not only contaminate coastal habitats, but may also affect local industries which depend on good water quality such as tourism, inshore fisheries and shellfish farming.
- 5.19 The dumping of most waste materials at sea has largely been phased out, but the remainder is strictly controlled. For example, the UK imposes national regulations on deposits at sea under the Food and Environmental Protection Act 1985 (FEPA)¹². There are also Conventions and measures to protect marine and coastal environments, including those established under the 1974 Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from

¹² http://www.mceu.gov.uk/MCEU_LOCAL/FEPA/FEPA-Legal-controls.htm

Land-Based Sources¹³ and the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Waste and other Matter (also called the 'London Convention')¹⁴, and the 1992 OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic¹⁵.

- 5.20 The waters around the English coast and elsewhere in the UK will also receive greater protection through the Water Framework Directive which establishes a strategic framework for protecting waters, including those in English estuaries (transitional waters) and coastal waters. Other relevant Directives; The Nitrates Directive¹⁶, Bathing Water Quality Directive¹⁷ and Shellfish Waters Directive¹⁸ also set stringent targets for the improvement of water quality in coastal environments. The ENCAMS Blue Flag award¹⁹ is used to maintain bathing water quality, beach cleanliness and sound environmental management of our beaches.

¹³ http://www.unep.org/dpdl/Law/Programme_work/Devt_international_law/devt_meas.asp

¹⁴ http://www.imo.org/Conventions/contents.asp?topic_id=258&doc_id=681

¹⁵ <http://www.ospar.org/eng/html/welcome.html>

¹⁶ Directive 91/676/EEC

¹⁷ Directive 76/160/EEC

¹⁸ Directive 79/923/EEC

¹⁹ ENCAMS seaside awards <http://www.seasideawards.org.uk/default.asp>

6 The current policy and management framework

- 6.1 The policy and management framework for England's coastal areas is complex, because there are a number of different planning and decision making structures in place, taken forward by a number of different bodies. This presents a challenge to achieving effective co-ordination of coastal management overall.
- 6.2 The role of developing national coastal policy, along with responsibility for implementing international obligations and European commitments with coastal implications, is held by several Government Departments. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) leads on co-ordinated marine and coastal policy, such as that for the proposed Marine Bill and ICZM. Defra also leads on natural resource protection, sustainable development, flood and coastal erosion risk management, conservation and biodiversity, and ensuring good water quality. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) meanwhile leads on local government issues and spatial planning on land, the Department for Transport (DfT) on shipping, port and harbour matters, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), on energy matters, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) on protection of marine and coastal heritage, and the Ministry of Defence (MoD), on defence matters, including responsibility for Naval dockyards, naval vessels and general defence issues.
- 6.3 The coastal management framework was reviewed in a stocktake of ICZM in the UK, published in March 2004 by Atkins²⁰. The stocktake contained considerable detail about coastal management in England, and whilst we do not wish to replicate that detail here, the summary below of some of the key management processes gives some reflection of the different systems in place.

Planning and management on land

- 6.4 The key role in managing activities on land rests with Local Authorities. A mix of County, District, Borough, Island and Unitary Authorities have responsibility for the planning and control of development, normally as far as the mean low water mark, through the Town and Country Planning system, along with a number of other statutory and non-statutory obligations on matters such as coastal erosion, housing, waste etc.
- 6.5 The main pieces of legislation governing plan making and the control of development on land are the Planning Acts, including the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Local authorities are assisted in this area by national policy

²⁰ <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/water/marine/uk/iczm/stocktake/index.htm>

planning guidance (PPGs), including those for Coastal Planning (PPG20) and Development and Food Risk (PPG25), and new style Planning Policy Statements, including PPS1 on Sustainable Development, PPS 7 on Sustainable Rural Development, PPS9 on Biodiversity and Geological Conservation, PPS11 on Regional Spatial Strategies, PPS12 on Local Development Frameworks (plans) and PPS22 on Renewable Energy. These documents inform the preparation of statutory regional and local plans and the consideration of applications for permission to undertake development.

- 6.6 The 2004 Act brought significant changes to the land based planning system, including requirements for new planning frameworks; Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) and Local Development Frameworks (LDF), to ensure that planning decisions collectively deliver a coherent spatial planning strategy and contribute towards the sustainable development of the region and the local planning authority areas within it. It also introduced a requirement for Sustainability Appraisals to be undertaken of RSS and Local Development Documents, which aims to integrate social, environmental and economic considerations into the preparation of spatial plans. SA also incorporates the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC "on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment" (the Strategic Environmental Assessment or 'SEA Directive').
- 6.7 Local Authorities are also responsible for managing and regulating the increasing number of recreational activities taking place at the coast. The Authorities have powers to manage access to the foreshore, or to create byelaws to regulate certain activities such as boating, motorbike scrambling or kite surfing. Ideally these activities are regulated through either legislation or voluntary management schemes, but local byelaws can be used, normally only when all other avenues have been exhausted. Guidance on coastal zone byelaws was produced by Defra in 2004²¹. And provides guidance for local authorities on regulation activities and promoting good practice among all users of the coast.

Marine Management

- 6.8 There is at present no overall, strategic management framework for the marine environment. Most commercial activities are instead managed and regulated by a number of different pieces of legislation that are predominantly the responsibility of central Government Departments. Some of this legislation is used to license specific sectoral types of activities, for example renewable energy (Electricity Act 1989) and the

21 Managing coastal activities: a guide for local authorities. 2004. Defra.
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/issues/coastal/coastal-guidance.pdf>

exploitation of oil and gas (Petroleum Act 1998). There are also two more cross-cutting systems - environmental aspects of deposits in the sea, on or under the seabed as a result of a range of activities are considered under the Food and Environmental Protection Act 1985, and the potential impact of various activities on navigation is considered under the Coast Protection Act 1949. Proposals to improve these regulatory mechanisms, and to introduce a new system of marine spatial planning, are currently being considered through for inclusion in a Marine Bill.²²

Port and Harbour Management

- 6.9 Local Port and Harbour Authorities are responsible for the infrastructure and operation of each port and harbour. Overarching statutory authority is provided through the Harbours Act 1964 which enables the local Port and Harbour Authority to create local legislation and define the limits of their jurisdiction, tailored to meet the needs of each port and harbour. Under these local acts and regulations, the port and harbour authority is responsible for providing related facilities to the shipping industry and the local community. Port and Harbour authorities are also responsible administering the waters within their jurisdiction for navigation and the safety of vessels using them.

River Basin Management Planning

- 6.10 The Water Framework Directive is the most substantial piece of European water legislation to date and central to the Directive is that water bodies should aim to reach good ecological and chemical status by 2015. This will be achieved through a holistic river basin planning process focused at the river basin district level, which will include specific objectives for each water body, and a programme of measures designed to meet those objectives.
- 6.11 There are 6 River Basin Districts (RBD) in England and 4 cross border districts, 2 with Scotland and 2 with Wales. In England the Environment Agency is the competent authority and it is responsible for producing a draft River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for each River Basin District (RBD) by December 2008, which must then be submitted for ministerial approval in order to be published by December 2009. This is a cyclical process with plans being reviewed every six years.
- 6.12 The principles of ICZM are embedded into the Water Framework Directive, in that it aims to look strategically at the whole of a river basin, it aims to integrate and harmonise policies which relate to land and water use, it takes a holistic approach to coastal management, and it looks at

²² <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/water/marine/uk/policy/marine-bill/index.htm>

identifying pressures at both a local and regional scale and then developing solutions to address them.

Shoreline Management Planning

- 6.13 Shoreline Management Plans consider large-scale assessments of the risks associated with coastal processes along a length of coastline, and help to reduce these risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment applying the principles of sustainable development. They should take account of development planning policies that might influence the pattern, intensity and type of future development and land use within areas at risk. Recently published guidance from Defra sets out the options available to shoreline managers in preparing a forward looking and affordable plan together with advice on how to involve stakeholders and people. Defra intends to have all existing SMPs revised by 2010²³.

Fisheries Management

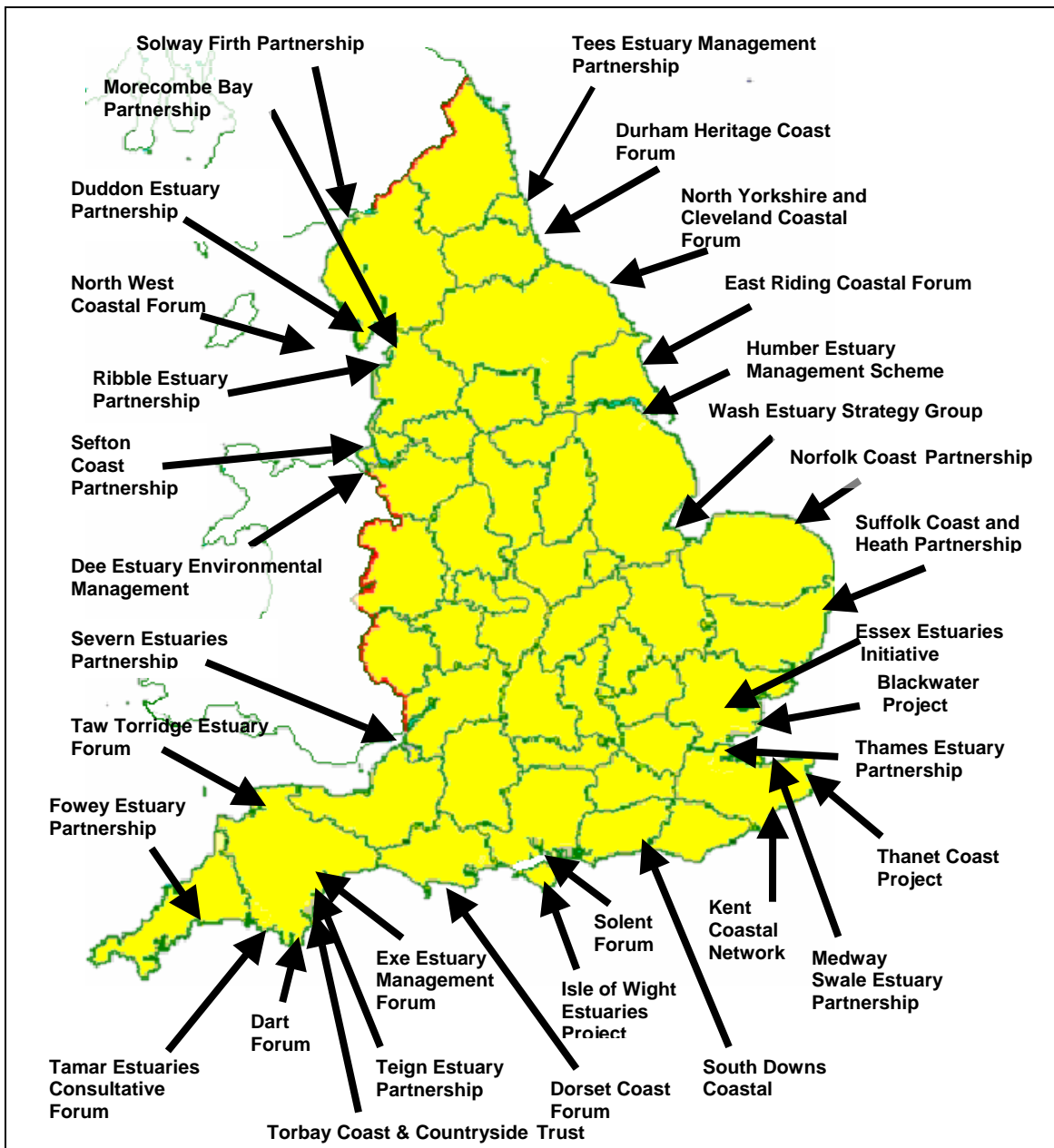
- 6.14 Sea Fisheries Committees (SFCs) were established by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and/or the Secretary of State for Wales under the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966. There are 12 SFCs in England, and their role is to regulate local sea fisheries for the entire coast of England out to 6 nautical miles. As local authority committees, they are wholly funded by levy by their constituent local councils but they may also receive European Community grants for fisheries enforcement.
- 6.15 SFCs are empowered to make byelaws for the management and conservation of their districts' fisheries, by regulating or controlling fishing for environmental purposes. SFC powers were widened in 1995 to include the control of fisheries in their districts for environmental reasons.

²³ <http://www.defra.gov.uk/enviro/fcd/policy/smp.htm>

7 Local Co-operation: Coastal partnerships and fora

7.1 Around the coast, there are at least 33 coastal forums, groups and partnerships which have been set up to bring together those with a role in coastal management, or other stakeholders with an interest in local coastal issues. The exact remit of each of these groups vary, but they broadly aim to achieve a more integrated approach to coastal issues by facilitating co-operation between different organisations, raising awareness of local issues, collecting and distributing information, and discussing issues of local concern.

English Coastal and Estuary Partnerships, Management Groups and Forums



- 7.2 Membership of these groups may include local authorities, conservation groups, local businesses, recreation groups, statutory advisory bodies, and members of the public. Partnerships have played an important role in raising awareness of relevant local coastal issues, and have assisted in the development of other coastal plans and strategies²⁴.
- 7.3 Coastal partnerships are generally established voluntarily in areas where there is felt to be a particular need. Often they are led by local authorities, which are seen as having a fairly neutral role in local issues, and can provide a certain degree of administrative support. Local Authorities sometimes provide a certain amount of funding, but it can be difficult for them to give priority to this activity over other competing issues such as crime, waste, housing and regeneration. Other partnership members may not contribute any, or sufficient funding. Often therefore these initiatives may operate on a short term basis, or with limited scope as to what they can achieve.
- 7.4 Such partnerships are not formal decision making structures. They do not remove management powers from the various competent authorities with responsibilities in the coast. However they provide a forum through which different organisations can come together to try and develop common solutions to problems or potential scenarios, and to communicate information about current issues. As such they are an excellent example facilitating an integrated approach.

²⁴ ICZM in the UK: A stocktake. Final Report. March 2004. Atkins

7.5 Examples of an integrated approach to the management of activities in the coastal zone

Conflict Resolution

The Personal Water Craft (PWC) Working Group²⁵

At a workshop held by Kent Coastal Network and following incidents involving irresponsible riding of Personal Water Craft (PWC), PWC management was identified as an issue for the coastal authorities and one which could effectively be addressed by working in partnership on a county basis. Management schemes in specific areas existed, however riders tended to move to areas where there were no schemes in place.

The Personal Water Craft (PWC) Working Group was established in October 2004 to share experiences and knowledge, to learn from others and to work together to address the issue. The group is made up of a wide breadth of coastal sectors involved in or affected by the management of PWCs, including Local Authorities, NGOs, coastal partnerships, environmental bodies, PWC clubs, other water-based recreational clubs, regulatory and safety bodies, national PWC and sports bodies.

The group has facilitated the interaction between PWC clubs and other water users, reducing conflict and improving understanding. This interaction has led to the affiliation of a Kent PWC club with a Royal Yachting Association (RYA) club which is assisting in the establishment of new clubs and the education of riders. Group members also took part in a Kent Police led waterborne operation to educate and inform marine craft users on responsible and safe use of the Kent coast. In addition the group has produced literature which offers advice on areas where riders may or may not ride PWCs in Kent, advice on reducing impact on environment and wildlife and also promotes a voluntary code of conduct which was developed by the group, including users of PWCs. Further achievements of the group are detailed in the PWC Working Group Progress Report October 2005 available at <http://www.coastalkent.net/news.php?id=110>

²⁵ Taken from material supplied by Elizabeth Holliday, Coastal Officer Kent County Council
www.coastalkent.net

Education and Awareness

Wash Week and The Wash Calendar²⁶

For one week in August the Wash Estuary Strategy Group (WESG) annually commits itself to co-ordinating and promoting 30-50 events which aim to raise awareness of The Wash, by encouraging local people to become involved in local initiatives and welcoming visitors.

This raises local pride and thus local ownership which is one of the strongest tools for ensuring sustainable management of natural, cultural and historic heritage assets. As part of Wash Week 2005, a photographic competition was undertaken to encourage self-exploration by the local community of the heritage assets around The Wash. The winning images were then placed in a calendar, which was sponsored by local industry and organisations, and distributed to local wildlife and heritage sites around The Wash for raising funds for the protection and enhancement of those sites.

²⁶ Supplied by Tammy Smalley Wash Estuary Strategy Group
www.washestuary.org.uk

Working Together

The Dredging Liaison Group²⁷

The Thames Estuary Partnership runs 8 issue-based Action Groups which work in partnership with a range of organisations from a variety of sectors. The Dredging Liaison Group (DLG) is one of the most successful.

Maintenance dredging is carried out in the Thames Estuary to ensure safe operational water depths for navigation and to facilitate continued access to many of the 70 plus berths, docks, wharves and jetties.

The DLG was set up in January 2001 not as a response to a specific, proven (or suspected) impact of maintenance dredging on the environment of the Thames, but rather as an opportunity to improve mutual understanding, and to facilitate discussion of concerns and the exchange of information. DLG is comprised of a number of members including the Central Dredging Association, Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), Defra, Department for Transport, the Port of London Authority, RSPB, the Thames Estuary Partnership (secretariat) and the Westminster Dredging Company Ltd.

Since setting up the DLG, consultation has improved considerably and the group has provided the route for better understanding of each others' issues and concerns. This has led to considerable effort now being made by those controlling dredging operations to undertake works at times of the year that will have the least impact on marine species.

To further improve the effectiveness of the DLG, the Thames Estuary Partnership has also worked with the Port of London Authority and others to produce an Information Exchange System. The objective of this system is to improve the process of considering environmental information when making decisions on dredging.

²⁷ Taken from material supplied by the Thames Estuary Partnership
<http://www.thamesweb.com>

Environmental Management

The Durham Coast²⁸

At the height of production, the Durham coastal coalfield employed 25,000 people, but also dumped 2.4 million tonnes of waste onto the shores of the County each year. The result was 12 kilometres of spoil-choked beaches, which in places was up to 10 metres in depth, with a national image of neglect and decline.

Following the final closure of the coalfield in 1993 a partnership of local authorities, statutory agencies and local landowners came together with a joint vision to restore the coast in an initiative called 'Turning the Tide'.

The vision was;

- To restore, enhance and conserve the environmental quality of the Durham Coast.
- To encourage sustainable use and enjoyment of the Durham coast.
- To rekindle local pride and a sense of ownership of the Durham coast.

The Partnership attracted a total of £10.5 million including £4.5 million of National Lottery funded Millennium Commission funding. The programme ran from 1996 to 2002 with over 100 separate environmental improvement projects delivered.

Turning the Tide succeeded in transforming the Durham coast and the programme attracted prestigious national and international awards and most notably achieving Heritage Coast status. The partnership has since expanded to include wider local community interests, and as the Durham Heritage Coast Partnership continues to deliver physical improvements, assists in addressing local issues such as mine water disposal and coastal landfill sites as well as raising awareness and increasing participation in the management of a very special piece of coastline.

²⁸ Material supplied by Niall Benson, Niall Benson, Durham Heritage Coast Partnership
www.durhamheritagecoast.org

8 ICZM Stocktake: Summary of findings

- 8.1 In 2002, the UK Government and Devolved Administrations commissioned Atkins Consultants to carry out a stocktake of the current framework for management of the coastal zone in the UK. The final report of this project was published in March 2004²⁹ and reviewed both the formal management structures in the coastal zone, along with a range of informal initiatives and actions that have been undertaken.
- 8.2 The stocktake revealed good examples of attempts to simplify and improve the management framework. For example, policy has been developed through improved coastal planning guidance; attempts have been made to resolve conflicts of interest through local estuary plans; more cost-effective options such as management realignment have tried to deliver a more holistic approach on the ground; and wider ownership and appreciation of coastal issues has been sought through much greater consultation at all levels.
- 8.3 However, it also pointed out a number of challenges that need to be addressed or considered when promoting an ICZM approach. We have noted these carefully as we will wish to evaluate progress in the future against these findings.
- 8.4 The broad areas which the stocktake suggested presented challenges were:
 - a. Decision-makers concerned with the planning and management of the coastal zone have to reconcile potentially competing activities and interests such as facilitating economic development, meeting the demands of tourism, protecting areas of environmental and historical importance and protecting vulnerable communities against the effects of erosion and flooding in a cost-effective manner, and avoiding the building of any new inappropriate development;

²⁹ ICZM in the UK: A Stocktake. 2004. Atkins

- b. elements of the current policy and decision making framework reflect the sectoral nature of managing coastal issues in the UK and are not representative of true ICZM principles as set out by the European Commission;
- c. local non-regulatory actions are much closer to the principles and aspirations of ICZM but despite the opportunities created for greater stakeholder involvement, some sectoral interests are not as likely to get involved;
- d. there may be 'consultation fatigue' because of the large number of initiatives taking place in the coast, and a limited number of people with the relevant expertise and time to engage in them;
- e. there is uncertainty about the role that local partnership and coastal fora might play in the decision making process, and concern that partnerships should demonstrate a more transparent and democratic selection of organisations and individuals to truly represent the needs of their coastal area.
- f. the ability of a partnership to deliver action was affected by the lack of long term core funding as opposed to project funding to support their work and to support staff;
- g. long term planning at the coastal zone is not standard practice (unlike the planning of some sectoral marine activities) and most, if not all of the ICZM initiatives tended to be short term, rather than being an integral part of the decision making and delivery process;
- h. ICZM needs to be articulated clearly and communicating how ICZM fits in with other policies and requirements, should also be part of this task.
- i. engaging business in integrated coastal management activities was also said to be a challenge as it was difficult to demonstrate an immediate economic return. The stocktake suggested that ICZM needed to be incentive based and tangible benefits (social, environmental and economic) needed to be communicated clearly; and
- j. The stocktake also identified actions at national level which could influence future action on ICZM, including the development of regional spatial strategies; the possible updating of policy planning guidance for the coast and the study by the Inter-Agency Committee on Marine Science and Technology (IACMST) into integrating marine and coastal data.

Question 1: Using specific examples where possible, are there any other areas of the current coastal management framework where you believe an integrated approach is not sufficiently being achieved?

9 Our vision for coastal management

9.1 Throughout our 2002 Marine Stewardship Report, we made a number of broad statements about our aims for coastal management. Bringing these statements together, we can explain clearly the vision of coastal management that we have already committed to. We are aiming for:

- a. Sustainable coastal management which addresses competing pressures and balances human activities with the need for conservation of the historic and natural environment.
- b. A clear policy and regulatory framework into which an integrated approach is embedded.
- c. A new, strategic management approach in the marine environment, where there is most need for an improved approach.
- d. More consistent application of the principles of good, integrated management around the coast.
- e. A management approach that builds on existing structures, so that local authorities, agencies and other bodies retain their statutory responsibilities, but work together at the most appropriate level.
- f. A flexible, discretionary approach to how this application is achieved, which encourages local initiative and solutions to suit local circumstances.
- g. Appropriate stakeholder involvement in management processes.

Question 2: Are there additional elements we should incorporate into our vision for coastal management?

10 Proposed action to implement an ICZM approach

- 10.1 Whilst some elements of the current coastal management framework demonstrate an ICZM approach, we intend to explore what further action could be taken to ensure the approach is embedded into practice to a greater degree, and more consistently around the English coast. We want to ensure our vision for coastal management is achieved, and that the principles of ICZM as laid out in the EU Recommendation on ICZM are adopted as far as possible.
- 10.2 We have considered existing examples of good practice we can build on, but also the shortcomings and challenges described in the UK stocktake report, in developing the proposals which are laid out in this section. Because the management arrangements, communities, geography and other features vary around the English coast, it is unlikely that there will be a single solution for achieving ICZM. Rather a number of different measures may be required, as suggested by the EU Recommendation, where it states the need for a 'combination of instruments'. For this reason a number of different proposals are put forward in this section.
- 10.3 We are seeking your views about whether the following proposals are sensible, but also to obtain as much detail as possible about how they might be taken forward.

POLICY AND STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Because of the considerable number of issues that have implications in coastal areas, it is inevitable that relevant policy development and work in Government will be taken forward in a number of different areas. We are committed to taking a holistic view of the coast wherever possible, and therefore will seek to integrate policy responsibilities with relevance to the coast as far as possible, and to provide a clear strategic direction for coastal management. We will also aim for as effective communication of central Government policy and activity as possible. We propose that we will:

- (a) Ensure effective harmonisation of coastal policies and management between England and the Devolved Administrations of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, whilst recognising the need for a unique approach by each to suit their own circumstances.
- (b) Make particular commitment to a co-ordinated approach in border areas and estuaries which fall within more than one administration.
- (c) Continue to build on the co-ordination and effective working that have been established between the UK administrations and Ireland, through the British Irish Council's work on ICZM.

- (d) Improve, wherever possible, the process for co-ordinating the development of government policy relating to the coast, both within Government Departments, and between them
- (e) Continue to build on the effective relationships between central Government Departments and other competent authorities with responsibilities in coastal areas, such as the Environment Agency
- (f) Improve the communication of coastal policy from central Government to external stakeholders, through our websites and other useful media, such as newsletters

Question 3: Do you have any views on the proposals in points (a) to (f), and on how we can provide a clear, strategic direction for coastal management?

PLANNING AND DECISION MAKING

We are aiming wherever possible to ensure greater integration between the different planning and decision making structures at the coast, and all activities undertaken by competent bodies with relevant responsibilities. We need to ensure a consistent, practical approach to coastal management, which recognises the relationships between different activities, the conflicts that may arise, and the effects that activities on land may have on the marine environment, and vice versa.

There is a scope for creating a more strategic and streamlined approach to the way in which the marine environment is managed, since management of this area has traditionally followed a sectoral approach

We propose that we will:

- (g) Explore and identify ways to create harmonisation between the activities of different competent bodies in the coastal zone, wherever feasible and sensible
- (h) Consider the need, when resources permit, to update planning guidance on the management of coastal processes, in particular PPG20 Coastal Planning Guidance, to better reflect an integrated approach to coastal management, and to ensure a reflection of ICZM principles within the development of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks.
- (i) Ensure that the future direction of planning activity to address flood and coastal protection takes place in a way which integrates effectively with other planning and management mechanisms
- (j) Ensure that ICZM processes are used to the benefit of River Basin Planning under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The WFD requires the join-up of planning and management mechanisms, including integration of objectives such as those for Natura 2000 sites, focusing holistically on a River Basin District. It also requires proactive stakeholder engagement

and partnership working which are currently being developed. We will endeavour to align ICZM and WFD processes to reduce and remove repetition and therefore confusion and stakeholder fatigue.

- (k) Explore the scope and format of marine spatial planning, through a Marine Bill, to create better integration in the planning of different activities at sea. We will aim to ensure that any new system of marine spatial planning is developed in a way that integrates effectively with existing mechanisms on land, in particular that for planning and development control, River Basin Management Planning and Shoreline Management Planning. We will also ensure that any new system allows for appropriate involvement of local stakeholders and competent bodies with responsibilities in the coastal zone. (This is currently addressed in the public consultation on a Marine Bill).³⁰
- (l) Explore the need to streamline the complex marine licensing legislation, through a proposed Marine Bill, and consider how the consenting of activities and developments in the coastal zone might be made more efficient. (This is currently addressed in the public consultation on a Marine Bill).³¹

Question 4: Do you have any views on the proposals in points (g) to (l), and on how we can improve the integration of planning and decision making processes in the coastal zone?

Question 5: To what extent does current planning guidance, including PPG20 reflect the principles of integrated coastal zone management?

Question 6: We are aware that some stakeholders feel there is a need to amend or create legislation, to ensure ICZM is achieved effectively.

i) what specific action do you feel is necessary?

ii) how would any new or amended legislative provisions ensure a management approach that “builds on existing structures, so that competent bodies retain their statutory responsibilities at the coast, but work together at the most appropriate level”, as laid out in our commitments in section 9 of this consultation paper

³⁰ Public consultation on a Marine Bill. See <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/water/marine/uk/policy/marine-bill/index.htm>

³¹ Public consultation on a Marine Bill. See <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/water/marine/uk/policy/marine-bill/index.htm>

COASTAL PARTNERSHIPS AND FORUMS

Coastal partnerships and other local initiatives undertake valuable work in bringing together different organisations and individuals with an interest in the coast, in forums where they can discuss solutions to coastal issues. Many of these initiatives are indicating that they are struggling, due to the ad hoc way in which they are established or supported, difficulties in securing adequate resources and in some cases engagement from certain bodies. We want to support these partnerships as far as we are able to do so and propose that we will:

- (m) Provide support for an annual partnership meeting aimed at bringing together coastal partnerships in England, to allow the communication of national policies, exchange of ideas and feedback to central government.
- (n) Explore ways in which we can support the need for improved co-ordination between coastal partnerships, to enable the sharing of best practice and experience
- (o) Undertake a review of existing coastal forums, drawing on existing review material. This should address examples of current effectiveness and good practice, current funding sources, challenges faced by partnerships, and ways in which partnerships can operate with more stability.
- (p) Produce guidance on ICZM, based on the outcome of the above review.

Question 7: Do you have any views on the proposals in points (m) to (p), and on how we can support coastal partnerships?

Question 8: We understand from some coastal partnerships that guidance on ICZM would be useful; what should this guidance contain?

Question 9: Using examples, what are the key achievements of coastal partnerships that we could seeking to promote more consistently around the coast?

Question 10: Using examples, are there any difficulties or challenges faced by coastal partnerships, which have not already been raised in the findings of the Stocktake Report in section 8 of this document?

Question 11: If your organisation participates in, or provides financial support to a coastal partnership, what benefits do you consider there are from your involvement?

DATA AND INFORMATION

The availability and co-ordination of data and information is essential for facilitating evidence based policy and decision making. Ensuring the best information possible about the coastal zone will support the quality of coastal management decisions. We propose that we will:

- (q) Critically identify what data is available about the coastal zone, where the gaps are, and what further action might be needed to support an ICZM approach.
- (r) Aim to ensure individuals and groups working at a local level can input into the gathering of coastal data and information.
- (s) Liaise with existing co-ordination points for coastal data elsewhere in the UK, to learn more from their experiences of data collation, management and dissemination.

Question 12: Do you have any views about points (q) to (s) above, and ways in which we can improve the availability and co-ordination of data in the coastal zone?

PUBLIC AWARENESS, EDUCATION AND PARTICIPATION

It is important to promote awareness and understanding of the importance of the coastal zone, and public participation in coastal issues, in order to encourage a greater sense of coastal stewardship within communities. Many coastal inhabitants or visitors may not be fully aware of the complex issues operating within the coastal zone, or its value as an economic, social, historical and environmental resource. Improving knowledge of the coast's value, and awareness of possible increasing degradation of conditions or threats, will encourage a greater sense of stewardship within the wider community. If the public are given the opportunity to become involved in a project, it can assist the smooth implementation of coastal initiatives and create a greater chance of long term success. We propose that we will:

- (t) Identify ways in which local knowledge on the coastal zone can be disseminated more widely amongst relevant stakeholders and the coastal community, including local training / education and awareness schemes
- (u) Determine how appropriate national training and education programmes can support implementation of integrated management principles in the coastal zone.
- (v) Review ways in which Universities can support ICZM, following up on the outcome of existing research.

Question 13: Do you have any views about points (t) to (v) above, and ways in which we can improve public awareness and participation in coastal management?

MONITORING PROGRESS

We aim to ensure that the state of the English coast, issues affecting it, and progress in achieving an integrated approach to coastal management are effectively monitored. We propose that we will:

- (w) Undertake a 'State of the Coast' review.
- (x) Explore use of the ICZM progress indicator, and indicators of sustainable development at the coast, as drawn up by the EU Expert Group's working group on indicators. Further consideration will be needed as to their applicability to the English coast, how they can be used to evaluate the state of the coast, and how we might work with the Devolved Administrations in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to consider these indicators.
- (y) Measure our progress against the principles of the EU Recommendation and findings of the ICZM stocktake published in 2004.
- (z) Consider further action to monitor progress in achieving ICZM, once responses to this consultation have been evaluated, and followed up with the publication of a strategy for England.

Question 14: Do you have any views about points (w) to (z) above, and ways in which we can best monitor progress in achieving an integrated approach to coastal management in England?

GLOSSARY

Devolved Administrations	The Scottish Parliament, The National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Executive.
Dredging	The removal of material from the sea bed, for a variety of purposes, including the clearing of channels for navigation, or the extraction of minerals.
Ecosystem	A community of organisms interacting with one another and with the chemical and physical factors making up their environment.
Ecosystem-based Approach/Ecosystem	The integrated management of human activities based on knowledge of ecosystem dynamics to achieve sustainable use of ecosystem goods and services, and maintenance of ecosystem integrity.
Highly Protected Marine Reserve	An area of sea where all exploitative activities are removed and other significant disturbances minimised in order to recover marine wildlife, their habitats and benefits the seas can provide.
Local Development Document (LDD)	The collective term for <i>development plan documents</i> , <i>supplementary planning documents</i> and the <i>statement of community involvement</i>
Local Development Framework (LDF)	The name for the portfolio of local development documents and related documents. It consists of <i>development plan documents</i> , <i>supplementary planning documents</i> , a <i>statement of community involvement</i> , the <i>local development scheme</i> and <i>annual monitoring reports</i> . It may also include <i>local development orders</i> and <i>simplified planning zone schemes</i> . Together all these documents will provide the framework for delivering the spatial planning strategy for a local authority area.
Marine Spatial Planning	Proposed system for strategically managing activities in the marine area.
Marine Minerals	Minerals and aggregates such as sand and gravel extracted from sea bed.

Marine Nature Reserve	A UK conservation designation officially awarded by the government to a marine reserve of national significance under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 specifically concerned with a marine environment, including both the sea and seabed.
Marine Stewardship	Exercising responsibility for the management and well being of the marine environment.
Mean Low Water Mark	The average of all low water heights observed over a period.
Mean High Water Mark	The average of all high water heights observed over a period.
Natura 2000	The European network of protected sites which represent areas of the highest value for natural habitats and species of plants and animals which are rare, endangered or vulnerable in the European Community. The network is made up of Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protected Areas for birds.
Precautionary Principle	Where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost effective measures to prevent environmental degradation (as defined in the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development).
Regional Spatial Strategies	Terrestrial spatial strategies prepared at regional level, in line with national policy and guidance.
River Basin Management Plans	Plans for the integrated management of whole body water systems, from areas of surface run-off through to estuaries and the sea. It is designed to provide a detailed account of the objectives that have been set by water bodies within the river basin district, and explain how these are to be achieved. The Water Framework Directive places a duty on EU Member States to ensure that a comprehensive plan is produced, and updated every six years, for each river basin district.
Sea Fisheries	Local Authority Committees, having powers to

Committees	regulate fishing activity out to 6 miles from the shoreline. Defra appoints approximately half of the membership of each committee, which are made up of local fishermen, and persons with interests in wider fishing and marine environmental issues.
Shoreline Management Plan (SMP)	A large-scale planning document which identifies policies for coastal defence management for a specified length of coast, normally a self contained sediment cell or group of cells, taking account of natural processes and human and other environmental influences and needs.
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) features.	A site identified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 because it is of special interest by reason of the flora, fauna, geological or physiographical features.
Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)	A local development document which sets out the local planning authority's policy for involving the community in the preparation and revision of local development documents and planning applications.

