



Marine Spatial Planning Pilot

MSP and Regulatory Impact Assessment

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What is Regulatory Impact Assessment ?

- **The Government requires all policy proposals which have an impact on business, charities or the voluntary sector to be subject to an RIA**
- **An RIA provides an assessment of the impacts in terms of costs, benefits and risks**
- **The aim is to ensure that proposals contribute to better policy making within the principles of better regulation**

Objectives of the RIA

- **Estimated benefits and costs of developing and implementing an actual marine spatial plan**
- **As far as possible, equivalent costs for developing marine spatial plans for all UK waters**
- **Focus on the impacts of MSPP, not of an ecosystem approach overall**

Potential Impacts of MSP

- **Integration of economic and social objectives and targets with environmental objectives and targets**
- **More explicit recognition of environmental limits in relation to economic and social development pressures**
- **Providing a clearer mechanism for monitoring of progress against objectives and adaptive management responses**

Benefit 'Streams' - 1

There are a number of different benefit 'streams'. For example:

- **better information on spatial extent and nature of activities...**
- **provides for better scoping of impacts...**
- **to assist in anticipating potential conflicts with existing and future uses...**

Benefit 'Streams' - 2

- **which contributes to reduced 'business risk' in applications/allocations...**
- **provides better focus for identifying and gathering further information necessary in support of an application...**
- **which eliminates unnecessary studies and focuses studies on risks of concern...**
- **enables better assessment of cumulative impacts...**

Benefit 'Streams'- 3

- **promotes more optimal allocation of resources...**
- **encourages 'better' developments, including appropriate measures to mitigate effects on other activities/resources...**
- **provides better protection, resource use and allocation for existing and future activities, including conservation.**

Options to be considered

- **Do nothing: the baseline (what would happen in the absence of MSPP, including commitments made but not yet implemented)**
- **Information system only (gathering and making available data on spatial resources and activities etc.)**
- **Non-statutory plan (full MSP but advisory only)**
- **Statutory Plan (with appropriate arrangements for implementation and monitoring)**

How Stakeholders Can Assist

- **Information on costs of the baseline (data gathering, delays, inconsistencies etc)**
- **Views on the relative advantages and drawbacks of the different options**
- **(Time) costs of participation in the MSPP process**

Please complete feedback questionnaire!