

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

**18 AUGUST 2015**

**THE NATIONAL MARINE PLAN**

**BACKGROUND**

The National Marine Plan was adopted on 25 March 2015 and has been prepared in accordance with the EU Directive 2014/89/EU which came into force in July 2014. The Directive introduces a framework for maritime spatial planning and aims to promote the sustainable development of marine areas and the sustainable use of marine resources.

**FUTURE DIRECTION**

(i) The plan has statutory effect for any public authority taking decisions which can affect the marine environment.

(ii) To support the implementation of the National Marine Plan, the Scottish Government will continue to develop online information and guidance to support regional planners, decision makers and other stakeholders. This will be hosted at National Marine Plan Online - [www.gov.scot/MarinePlanOnline](http://www.gov.scot/MarinePlanOnline) it will also include revised detailed licensing guidance both for applications for offshore renewables projects and for applications more generally.

(iii) Marine planning will be implemented at a local level within Scottish Marine Regions, extending out to 12 nautical miles. The boundaries of these regions are required to be set by secondary legislation – Angus will sit in the Forth and Tay Marine Region.

(iiii) Within these regions, regional marine plans will be developed by Marine Planning Partnerships to take account of local circumstances and smaller ecosystem units. Regional marine plans must be in conformity with the National Marine Plan, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise.

(iv) The National Marine Plan included objectives for Shipping, Ports, Harbours and Ferries, which support the safeguarding of access to harbours and navigational safety. Further, the sustainable growth of harbours and the support they give other sectors, most notably fishing and tourism in relation to Arbroath Harbour, for which Angus Council is the harbour authority, is noted. The need for maintenance, repair and sustainable development of Arbroath Harbour, especially to mitigate against the effects of climate change and for our harbour infrastructure to adapt is also noted. The ongoing operational management and governance through the Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee and Communities Committee are acknowledged as effectively managing the harbour, which will seek to meet the objectives set down in the National Marine Plan.

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