



Marine Governance & Conservation of Scotland's Seas – Policy Priorities

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Overview

- **Outline of key changes in governance**
 - Marine Acts and devolution
 - Marine Planning
 - Licensing
- **Conservation**
 - National and international priorities
 - Current and future work including MPAs

The Marine Acts - A new way to manage our seas

The Marine (Scotland) Act 2010

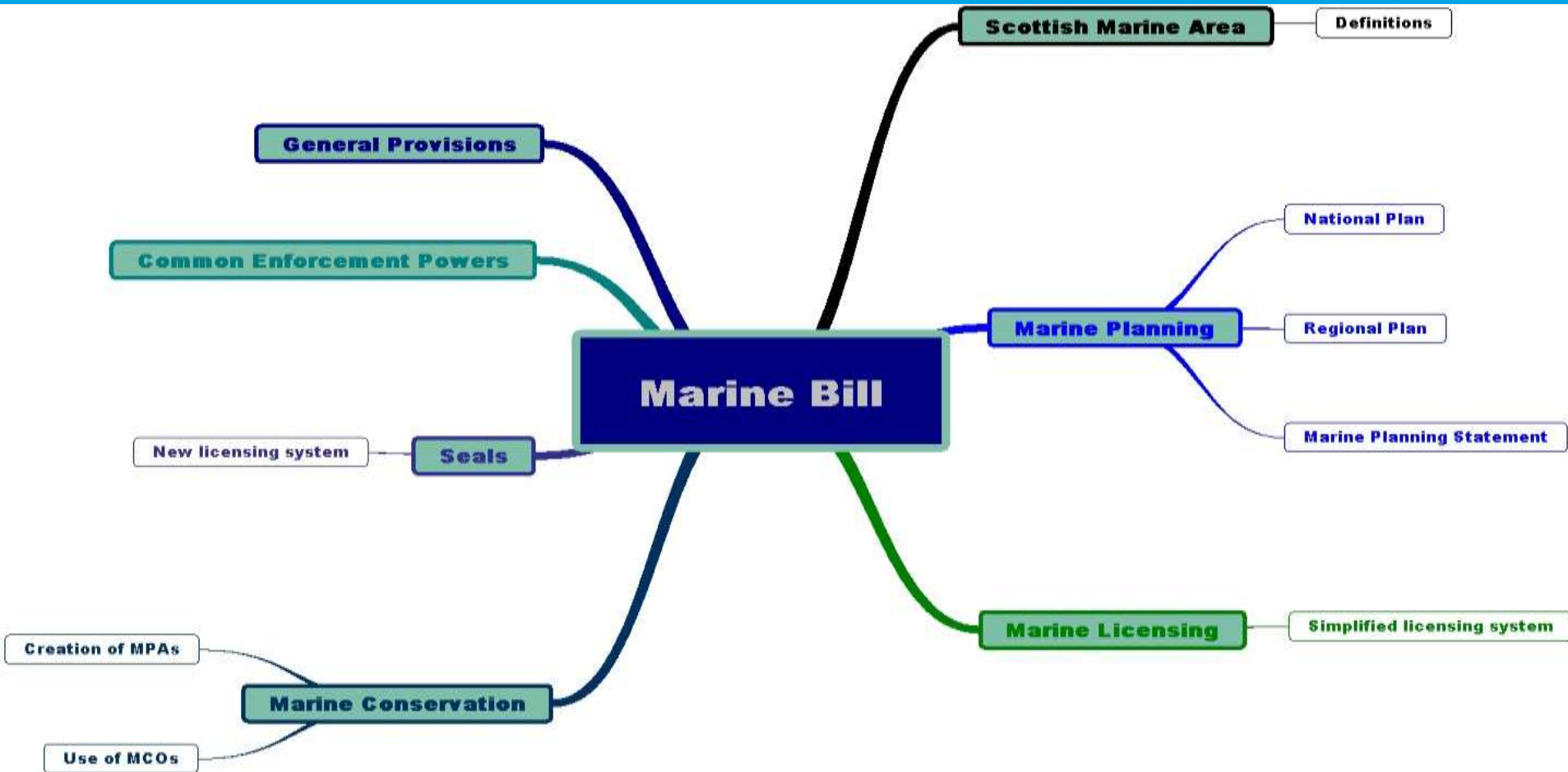
- sets out the legal basis for marine planning
- Objective is integrated and strategic decision making
- It is about policies, priorities, processes and people
- *How they are applied and work together will be key*

The UK Marine & Coastal Access Act

- equivalent provisions and new powers for Scottish Ministers in offshore waters

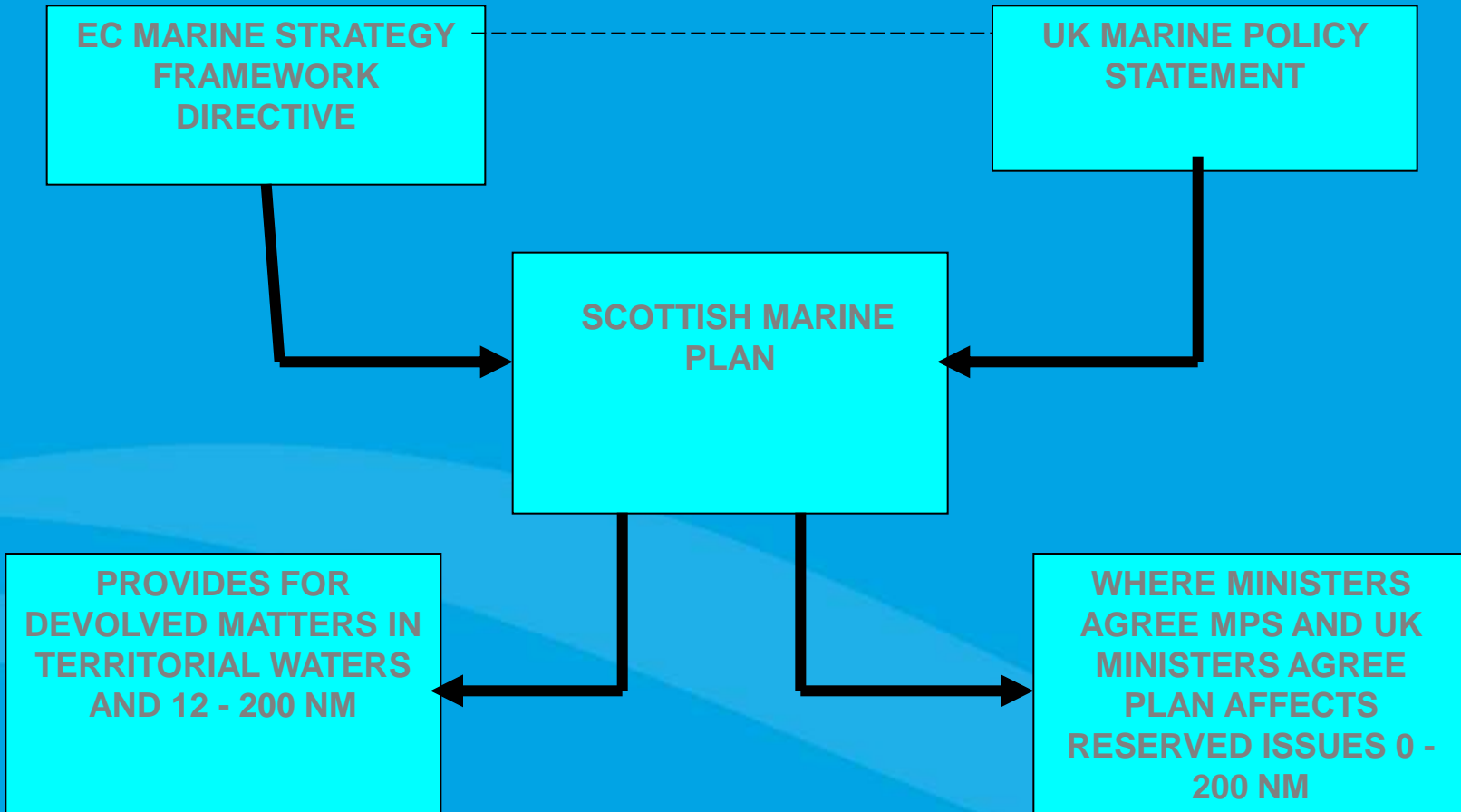


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NATIONAL PLAN CONTEXT



MPS Aims

- Ensure marine resources are used in sustainable way
- Promote sustainable economic development
- Enable the UK's move towards a low-carbon economy, in order to mitigate the effects of climate change and ocean acidification, and adapt to their effects
- Encourage a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning ecosystems and protects marine habitats, species and our most important heritage assets
- Recognise the social benefits of the marine area, including addressing local social and economic issues

Marine Plans will...

- Translate policies in the UK MPS into more detail at the local level and inform local priorities
- Apply policy spatially where appropriate
- Plans developed with open engagement, working closely with stakeholders throughout the process
- Guide and direct decision makers
- Ensure a strong link between national policy objectives and individual developments

MARINE OBJECTIVES

- **Scottish Government Purpose**
- **Vision for Scotland's seas**
- **Marine Policy Statement**
- **High Level Objectives**
- **Marine Strategy Framework Directive**

REGIONAL PLANNING

- **Consultation to begin in 2010**
- **Key choice between physical and administrative characteristics**
- **Outer boundary**

PLANNING DELIVERS BENEFIT...

- **By putting the right activities in the right place**
- **By providing information – reduces uncertainty**
- **By reducing unnecessary competition**

Streamlined Marine Licensing

- **Scottish Government responsible for licensing out to 200nm**
- **Brings together FEPA and CPA licenses**
- **Allows for joint licensing with renewables**
- **Allows for other types of licenses to be “Streamlined”**

Why conserve Scotland's marine biodiversity?

- To protect our seas for current and future generations
 - Important seabird and marine mammal populations
 - Other species e.g. sea fans
 - deep water and coastal habitats
- To safeguard ecosystem services that marine industries and society depend on

Key policy drivers for marine conservation

- Shared international goals
- EU co-ordinated action on the environment
- National policies and priorities

Shared international goals

- **WSSD goal of significantly reducing biodiversity loss by 2010**
- **CBD goals of halting biodiversity loss & conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity**
- **WSSD and CBD goals on representative systems of MPAs by 2012**
- **OSPAR – NE Atlantic Strategy 2010-20 including MPA network by 2012**

EU co-ordinated action on the environment

- **Commitment to halt biodiversity loss**
- **The “Nature Directives”**
- **EIA, SEA – to prevent irreparable & avoidable loss/damage**
- **Marine Strategy Framework Directive – GES 2020**

National policies & priorities

- ***Scotland Performs – National Outcome 12***

We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations

- ***Marine Scotland's vision:***

"to have clean, healthy, safe, productive, biologically diverse marine and coastal environments, managed to meet the long-term needs of people and nature"

- ***Legal duties – health of seas and MPA networks***

Marine Nature Conservation Strategy

- inshore and offshore waters
- 3 pillar approach
 - Site protection
 - Species protection – e.g. PMFs
 - Recognition of contribution made by wider policies and initiatives – e.g. CFP, marine plans
- Strategy sets context for MPA guidelines and network development

Principles

- **Science-based approach**
- **Sustainable use & development**
- **Precautionary principle**
- **Best science available**
- **Recognition of roles and expertise of partners**
- **Stakeholder engagement + consultation**

Guidelines on MPA selection

- Nature conservation MPAs + MPA network development
 - inshore and offshore waters
 - process for 3rd party proposals
- Demonstration & Research MPAs, including 3rd party proposals
- Management guidance will be produced separately
- Historic MPAs covered by separate guidance

What will the network of biodiversity MPAs include?

- Features of national importance – not just EU habitats and species
- Natura sites - which protect species and habitats of EU importance
- SSSIs – covering relevant intertidal features
- Nature Conservation MPAs in Marine (Scotland) Act and equivalent provisions of UK Act
- Other types of area-based management that deliver biodiversity protection?

What other area-based measures can contribute to biodiversity protection?

- Demonstration and Research MPAs
 - but would depend on their purpose
- Historic MPAs
 - but would depend on location etc
- Other area-based measures e.g. fisheries closures, safety exclusions around windfarms?
 - but would depend on policy agreement and contribution made.

Where are we now?

- UK Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009 and Marine (Scotland) Act 2010
- UK Marine Policy Statement, UK HLMOs, marine plan development and PMFs
- 49 SPAs with seabirds as a qualifying interest
- 34 inshore SACs designated for marine species and habitats e.g. seals, bottlenose dolphin, reefs
- 6 offshore SACs (Darwin Mounds, Stanton Banks, Braemar and Scanner Pockmarks, NW Rockall and Wyville Thomson Ridge).

Future work on marine conservation

- **Work with SNH, JNCC and MS Science to complete network:**
 - review of the contribution of Natura sites to MPA network and identify significant gaps
 - identify new proposals for inclusion in MPA network
 - Data mining, surveys etc
 - engagement including consideration of 3rd party proposals
- **National marine plan, PMFs + MPA management guidance etc**
- **Reports to parliament on MPA network by December 2012 and periodic review**



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What is a biodiversity MPA?

A protected area is defined by the IUCN as:

“A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.”

EC Birds and Habitats Directives

- Favourable conservation status
- Natura 2000 network – designation of marine sites by 2012
- Strict systems for species protection (Articles 12 and 15)
- Monitoring, surveillance and reporting