



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

# Cynllun Morol Cenedlaethol Cymru Welsh National Marine Plan

North West Coastal Forum Workshop  
September 2019

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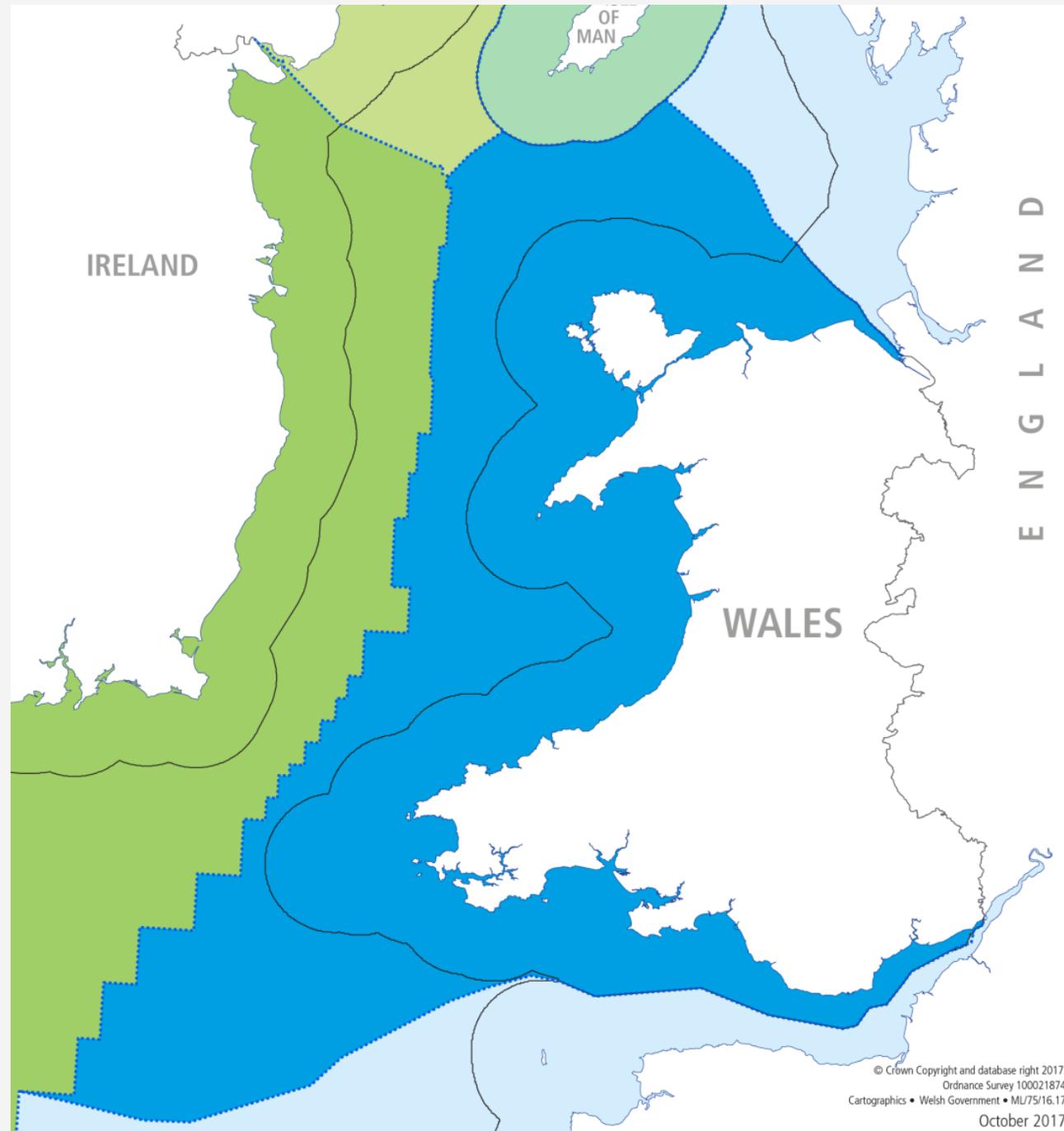
# WNMP Area

Lots of borders!

Sea-sea

Land-sea

Estuary areas



# Marine plans - estuary borders

- Busy areas –higher concentration of developments and activities
- Can be environmentally complex and/or sensitive – range of habitats
- Convergence of planning regimes
- Key areas for society and the local economy
- Marine ecosystems don't keep to marine plan boundaries!



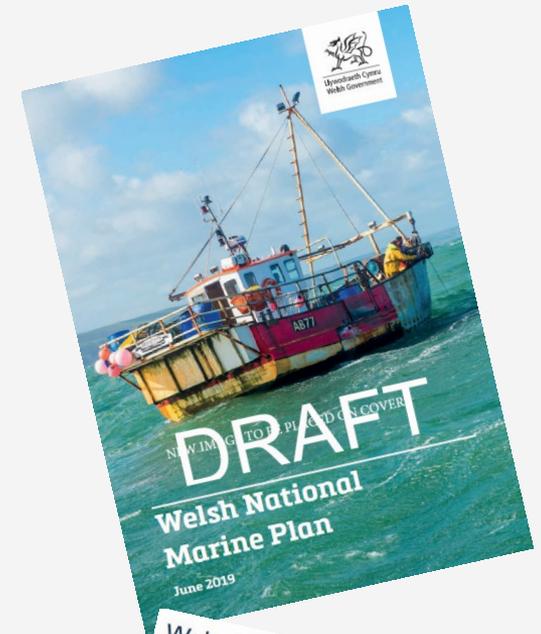
# WNMP - Timeline

- Consultation closed - April 2018
- Summary of Responses - July 2018
- Stakeholder workshops - July-Sept 2018
- Redrafting of plan – Oct 2018 – Mar 2019
- Further stakeholder and policy lead discussions and internal sign off process – Spring-Summer 2019
- Ministerial process – Summer-Autumn 2019
- Adoption - Autumn 2019?



# The WNMP content

- Introduction – setting the scene / context.
- Vision & objectives – for the Welsh Marine Area.
- Ways of doing - Environment Act; Wellbeing Future generations (also SD, Ecosystem based approach etc)
- General Policies - overarching – cross cutting policies
- Sector specific policies
- Supporting documents / Evidence / Guidance



# The WNMP – General Policies

- **GEN\_01:** Presumption in favour of the sustainable development of the plan area to contribute to Wales' well-being goals.
- **GEN\_02:** Relevant public authorities should take a proportionate, risk-based approach in decision making
- **Social** (coastal communities, access, historic assets, welsh language and culture, landscape, seascape, flooding, climate etc);
- **Environment** (marine ecosystems, MPAs, bio-security, litter, noise, air / water quality, fish species & habitats);
- **Governance** (cumulative effects and cross border compatibility);
- **Science** (sound evidence, risk based, adaptive management etc).

**General Policies will apply to all decisions (where relevant)**

# WNMP Cross border Policy

- Policy Gov 02

*Relevant public authorities, in making their decision, should have regard to:*

- *Any applicable policy in a relevant marine plan*
- *Any applicable policy in relevant terrestrial plans or related documents*
- *The Natural Resources Policy*
- *Any relevant local well-being plan(s) (including the local well-being assessment); and*
- *Evidence in any relevant Area Statement(s) produced by NRW.*

English NW & SW plans, adjacent LA plans, joint estuarine area plans / agreements

# The draft WNMP – Sector Policies

Sector Policies are set out for the diverse types of activity that occur in our seas, including:



Aggregates



Aquaculture



Defence



Dredging  
& disposal



Fisheries



Renewable  
energy



Oil & gas



Ports &  
shipping



Subsea  
cabling



Surface  
waste water



Tourism  
& recreation

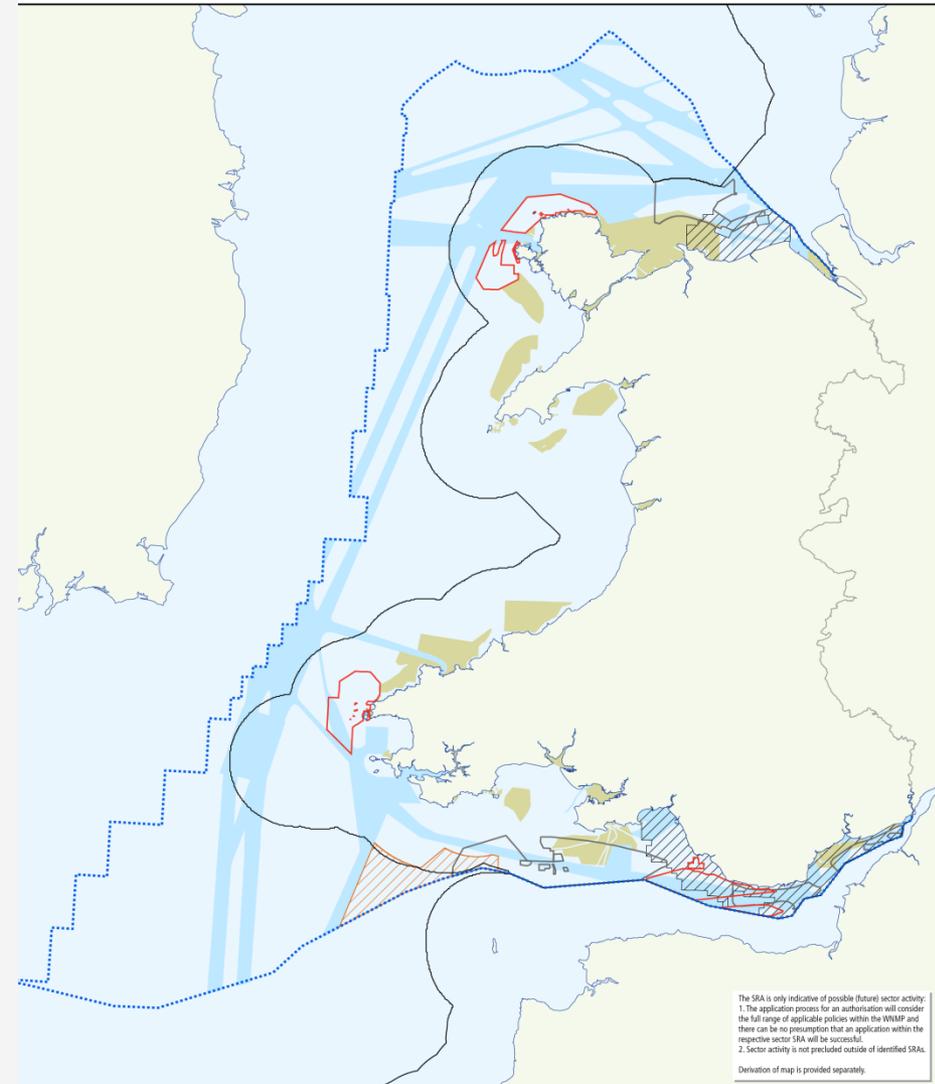
- **‘Safeguarding’** - to help ensure each sector considers each others needs and do not compromise areas of importance. Encourages co-existence etc
- **‘Supporting’** - to encourage sustainable growth via general support, or within areas with good potential for future activities

# Strategic Resource Areas

- Areas of sector resource availability are identified on Indicative maps as **Resource Areas**
- Further work being undertaken on refinement of **Strategic Resource Areas**
- **GIS Portal** has live information

POLICY MAP

## Strategic Resource Areas



The SRA is only indicative of possible (future) sector activity.  
1. The application process for an authorisation will consider the full range of applicable policies within the WNMP and there can be no presumption that an application within the respective sector SRA will be successful.  
2. Sector activity is not precluded outside of identified SRAs.  
Derivation of map is provided separately.

- Aggregates
- Aquaculture
- Ports and Shipping
- ▨ Tidal Lagoon Energy
- Tidal Stream Energy
- ▨ Wave Energy
- 12nm limit
- ⋯ WNMP Area

0 25 50 km

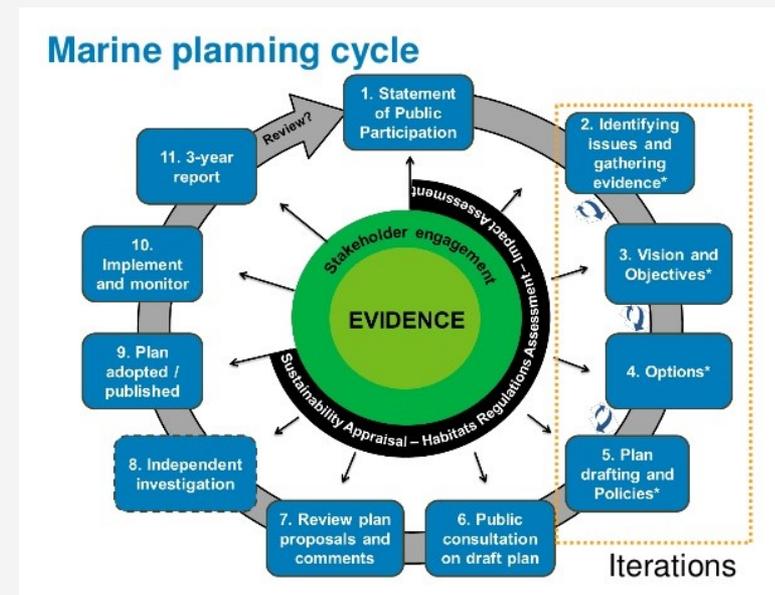
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Ordnance Survey 1000216374  
Cartographics • Welsh Government • MU/75/16.17  
Data source: ABPmer, Natural Resources Wales, The Crown Estate  
October 2017

# Amendments from draft WNMP

- Condensed plan
- Separation of guidance from policy
- Additional references to cross-border implications in sector chapters
- Further identification of neighbouring plan areas & expansion of references in relevant policies
- Discuss advice and guidance with terrestrial policy leads to update existing land planning guidance with marine considerations
- Consult with other relevant plan authorities - Is our current and proposed level of cross-border engagement sufficient? What more can we do in the future to improve coordination?

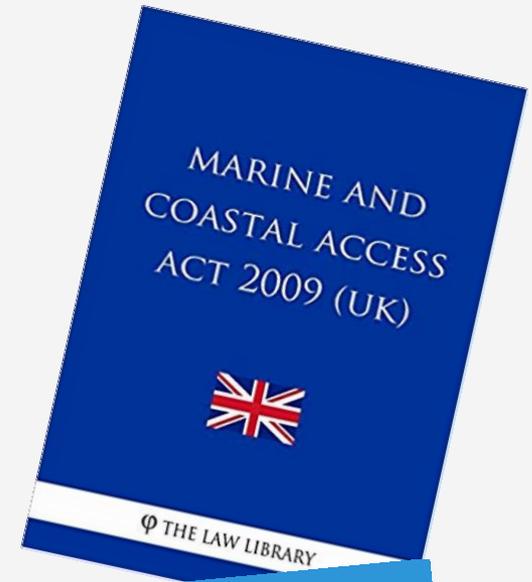
# Going forward - Implementation

- Supporting decision making by:
  - Working with Relevant Public Authorities
  - Advice from M Planning Stakeholder Reference group
  - Considering lessons learnt elsewhere, test and refine
  - Developing supporting information / guidance
  - Considering training needs for RPAs
  - Developing approach to monitoring and reporting
  - And more (*..... cross border delivery , inform evidence needs, provide expert advice on the plan*)



# Going forward - cross-border planning

- “a marine plan authority must take all reasonable steps to secure that the plan is compatible with the marine plan for any marine plan area” – MCAA Sch 6
- “Co-ordination will include planning for activities which extend across national or Marine Plan area boundaries” – UK MPS
- Planning authorities are committed to “the co-ordination of marine planning across administrative boundaries” – UK MPS



# Going forward - cross-border planning

In order to ensure compatibility of planning across the Dee and Severn areas, WG and the MMO have:

- Put in place a 'ways of working' agreement to facilitate collaboration
- Collaborated throughout the plan development processes including through the provision of advice, feedback, and comments on developing proposals
- Attended each others stakeholder engagement events during the plan development process
- Held stakeholder workshops on cross-border planning focussing on the Severn Estuary and evidence as a case study
- Held a stakeholder workshop on cross-border marine planning for the Dee Estuary
- Jointly attended several tidal partnership and coastal forum meetings
- Hold regular meetings to discuss plan policy, stakeholder events, implementation and training

