

Partnership working and examples of successful cross-border partnerships

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Coastal Partnerships

Set up for a range of different reasons / different formats / different scales to meet local needs (fit for purpose)

Common features:

- Multi-sector stakeholder involvement
- Integrated coastal management focus
- Good at bringing in project money to address issues
- Great at communication to raise awareness and understanding of issues
- Get involved in external projects / initiatives where relevant

Examples of successful cross-border coastal partnerships

- Solway Firth Partnership (Scotland)
- Severn Estuary Partnership (Wales)

Solway Firth Partnership

Charity, based in Dumfries

Works to support a vibrant and sustainable local economy while respecting, protecting and celebrating the distinctive character, heritage and natural features of our marine and coastal area.

Works with people on both sides of the Solway Firth and further afield on a wide range of projects.

Contributes to the development of policies for management of the coast and sea.

Aims to engage with as many people as possible to help ensure that local views shape the future of the area.

Solway Firth Partnership's SMILE

SMILE: Solway Marine Information, Learning and Environment

Aims to update the 1996 'State of the Solway Review' using innovative communication methods to:

- gather pan-estuary information
- learn from stakeholders
- promote a better understanding of the Solway Firth ecosystem.

The project was developed due to new demands made on the estuary's resources and in the context of marine planning and will provide some of the evidence by which a sustainable approach to planning and management may be achieved; helping to deliver the ecosystem based marine planning frameworks developed for the Solway.

Solway Firth Partnership Future?

The Marine Scotland Act enables the setting up of Marine Planning Partnerships to develop regional marine plans.

Presently only 2 exist – Clyde and Shetland, with Orkney in progress

These are statutory bodies but have no defined structure.

It has been mooted that Solway Firth – and other Scottish Coastal Partnerships – could become Marine Planning Partnerships

However there are possible tensions with the existing legal structures of some Coastal Partnerships e.g. how does charitable status sit with the new MPP statutory body status?

Severn Estuary Partnership

www.severnestuary.net

The Severn Estuary Partnership (SEP) was set up in 1995 as an independent initiative, hosted by Cardiff University, to work with local stakeholders in promoting a sustainable approach to the planning, management, and development of the estuary. It aims to:

- Facilitate effective communication across and between organisations and individuals
- Establish and embed a set of 'common principles' for sustainable estuary use via Partners' strategies, policies and action plans
- Act as a co-ordinating body to assist the effective & efficient delivery of agreed estuary-wide actions
- Promote & publicise the estuary at local, national and international level
- Add value and fill gaps in effective estuary management, providing extra capacity when required

Severn Estuary Partnership

Joint Estuary Group Initiative

- SEP hosts a biannual Joint Estuaries Day to bring together estuary wide groups under a common platform.
- SEP provides an estuary-wide perspective for Local Authority plans and project consultations
- SEP acts as a Severn Estuary umbrella body, providing a service to many other estuary-wide groups

Severn Estuary Strategy 2017-27

The 2017-2027 Severn Estuary Strategy has been developed with stakeholders to champion an integrated approach to the sustainable use and enjoyment of the Severn Estuary. The Strategy's 5 key principles support the UK High-Level Marine Objectives

Other Multi-Interest Partnerships

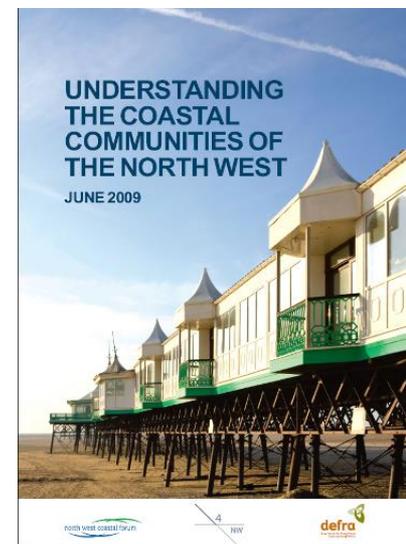
North West Coastal Forum

Already discussed – remit covers the Dee and Liverpool Bay, strong interest in and history of working on marine and coastal planning issues.

Irish Sea Maritime Forum www.irishseamaritimeforum.org

‘Working in Partnership for the Irish Sea’

- Voluntary secretariat (Liverpool University & North West Coastal Forum)
- Steering Group with all Irish Sea nations represented, currently chaired by an Irish Senator – Gerry Horkan.
- Launched in 2013 as a result of NERC-funded research/seminars on marine spatial planning – but has developed a wider focus



Other Partnerships – Single Interest

**North West & North Wales Coastal Group
and Liverpool Bay Coastal Subgroup:**
coastal flood and erosion risk management

Dee Estuary Conservation Group:
nature conservation

Tidal Dee Catchment Partnership:
water quality and river basin management planning

Turning Tides:
bathing water quality

Others...?



Looking ahead at cross-border stakeholder engagement in marine planning

Is what exists already enough?

If not:

Can any of the existing partnerships help with long term stakeholder engagement in marine planning?

Do they have the will / capacity to help?

Or is something new or additional needed?

And if so – what does it look like?

Over to you...

