



Vision, Aims and Guiding Principles

Our 20 year Vision

The marine and coastal environment of the Clyde Marine Region is clean, healthy, safe, productive, biologically diverse and accessible for all. It is managed sustainably to support productive and thriving coastal communities and to allow nature to flourish.

Aims

- Provide a framework that supports opportunities for sustainable development and attracts investment.
- Guide marine developers in early identification of localities of most and least constraint and potential impact.
- Underpin the regeneration of urban coastal areas and support the economy in rural coastal areas.
- Maintain, and where appropriate, enhance the health of the Clyde Marine Region, including the biodiversity, landscape and seascape, by protecting and improving its natural resources.
- Ensure that the Marine Protected Area network contributes to the protection and enhancement of the Region, and identify opportunities for environmental enhancement.
- Ensure that activities and development do not significantly impact Priority Marine Features.
- Promote sustainable and socially inclusive development and use of marine and coastal resources.
- Encourage the reconnection of people with the sea through cultural heritage, work opportunities, educational initiatives and recreational pursuits.
- Contribute to the wellbeing and cultural diversity of coastal communities.
- Contribute to Scotland's transition to a low-carbon economy.
- Ensure that decisions in the Clyde Marine Region are taken in a way that maximise opportunities to mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change, thus creating resilient local communities.



Guiding Principles

The Plan's objectives and policies have been developed in accordance with a set of overarching Guiding Principles (GPs) which act as a top level filter for policy development. GP1, GP2 and GP3 represent fundamental aspects of marine planning as already set out in global agreements and EU, UK and Scottish strategies and plans. GP4 and GP5 establish the tone of the Plan.

GP1: Sustainable Development¹

Five principles form the basis for sustainable development: **achieving a sustainable economy, promoting good governance and using sound science responsibly** are essential to the creation and maintenance of a **strong, healthy and just society** capable of **living within environmental limits**. The Clyde Marine Region can make a contribution to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals which aim to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all and include SDG14 relating to 'Life Below Water'. The precautionary principle² is applied consistently in accordance with the Scottish Government's sustainable development policy.

GP2: Support delivery of Good Environmental Status

The Marine Strategy Regulations 2010 require the UK to take measures to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) of the marine environment by 2020. An initial assessment of the marine environment was followed by development of GES targets and indicators for various aspects of the marine environment. Whilst the assessment is done at a much wider scale than the Clyde Marine Region, this Plan can help support delivery of GES. Further information can be found at <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine/seamanagement/msfd>.

GP3: Ecosystem Approach

The Ecosystem Approach is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in an equitable way. It recognises that humans, with their cultural diversity, are an integral component of ecosystems. The 12 principles of the Ecosystem Approach can be found at <https://www.cbd.int/ecosystem/principles.shtml>. In simple terms, it means that we should understand how nature works, take account of the benefits that nature provides to people, and involve people in decision-making.

GP4: Adding value, not complexity

The Plan identifies factors and issues that need to be taken into account by developments and activities in the Plan area, and spatially considered where possible. It interprets and supports the National Marine Plan in a local context, so aims to reduce duplication, increase efficiency and enable the most sustainable social, economic and environmental outcomes for the Clyde Marine Region.

GP5: Multiple responsible use of marine space

The Plan will support the coexistence of marine development and activities where this can be achieved sustainably, as well as promoting responsible multiple use within and between sectors.

¹ Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. See also the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>.

² The precautionary principle relates to risk management whereby decision-making authorities must act cautiously to avoid serious or irreversible damage to the environment or human health in situations where the scientific evidence is not certain. Application must be proportionate to the level of protection required and the risk posed and should be based on a process that is transparent and accountable to stakeholders.