

Natural Capital Assessment Tools for the North Devon Marine Pioneer (Phase 1)



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About SWEEP

The South West Partnership for Environment & Economic Prosperity (SWEEP) is a partnership of three research institutions; University of Exeter, Plymouth University and Plymouth Marine Laboratory.

Funded by the Natural Environment Research Council, SWEEP will bring experts and stakeholders together to solve some of the key challenges faced when working with natural resources. Through the application of science, SWEEP will help ensure the region's natural capital is protected for future generations.

NERC SCIENCE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

www.sweep.ac.uk

The North Devon Marine Pioneer project was launched in 2016 by Defra 'to ensure Britain has one of the best environments anywhere'. It aims to explore how a specific geographical area can be best managed for the benefit of the environment, economy and people.

Working closely with partners, stakeholders and end-users such as Defra, Marine Management Organisation, Natural England, WWF, Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, Devon Local Nature Partnership and the North Devon Biosphere Reserve, SWEEP will develop natural capital assessment tools and approaches to support the management of the Marine Pioneer.

The interdisciplinary project team delivering this work is jointly led by Prof. Martin Attrill from Plymouth University's Marine Institute and Prof. Mel Austen from Plymouth Marine Laboratory's Sea and Society Group. Phase I of the project will run until August 2018, and aims to develop natural capital assessment tools and approaches for integrated decision-making. Outputs of this work will:

- embed natural capital approaches into marine policy
- ensure that managers and decision-makers are able to take a strategic approach that safeguards ecosystem services and maximise the benefits they provide across multiple sectors (including fisheries, aquaculture, renewable energy and tourism)
- showcase North Devon as a pioneer in natural capital approaches, fostering a sense of local pride and belonging.

Crucially, this work also provides a unique opportunity to link with the activities of the North Devon Landscape Pioneer.

If you would like further information you can follow project updates at www.sweep.ac.uk, or get in touch with the team:

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