

Strengthening the Science Underpin of the South West Marine Planning



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WITH
PLYMOUTH
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PML | Plymouth Marine Laboratory

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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.

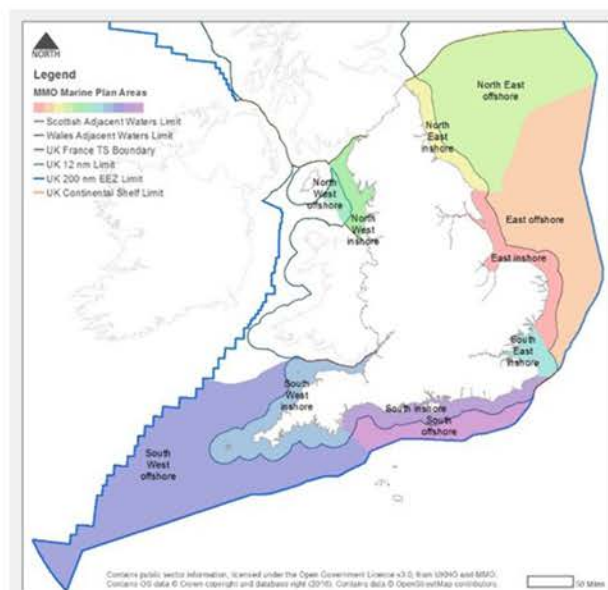
Funded by the Natural Environment Research Council, SWEEP will bring experts and stakeholders together to solve some of the key challenges faced when working with natural resources. Through the application of science, SWEEP will help ensure the region's natural capital is protected for future generations.

NERC SCIENCE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

www.sweep.ac.uk

Prof. Mel Austen from Plymouth Marine Laboratory and Prof. Martin Attrill from Plymouth University's Marine Institute will be working with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), and its broader stakeholder group, to identify and map the science needs of the South West Marine Plans.

The MMO is currently preparing Marine Plans for inshore and offshore areas around England. These Plans indicate what activities should be prioritised in a specific area, providing a context in which businesses can confidently plan their activity for the future. To date, the potential for natural capital approaches has not featured strongly in this process.



This project will work with the MMO to embed the best environmental science into the South West Marine Plan. A strong evidence base will give more confidence to business seeking to invest in marine related development in the South West, by de-risking business decisions.

The impact of this project will be to enhance the process of marine planning in general, and in particular to strengthen the South West Marine Plan by providing a strong scientific basis that in turn increases confidence that the plan will deliver sustainable solutions. In the long-term, a strong marine plan will provide economic, environmental and social benefits to the region.