

<p>Title: NWIFCA Byelaw 4 Potting Permit Byelaw 2019</p> <p>Lead department or agency: North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NWIFCA)</p> <p>Other departments or agencies: MMO, Natural England, Defra</p>	Impact Assessment (IA)
	Date: 18/09/2019
	Stage: Development/Options
	Source of intervention: Domestic
	Type of measure: Secondary legislation
	Contact for enquiries: Mandy Knott. Senior Scientist. NWIFCA. 1 Preston Street, Camforth, Lancashire. LA5 9BY m.knott@nw-ifca.gov.uk
Summary: Intervention and Options	RPC Opinion: N/A

Cost of Preferred (or more likely) Option				
Total Net Present Value	Business Net Present Value	Net cost to business per year (EANCB on 2017 prices)	In scope of One-In, Three-Out	Business Impact Target Status
£	£	£	Not in scope	Qualifying provision

What is the problem under consideration?

- 1) NWIFCA inherited two different sets of byelaws with differing regulation for potting in the north and south of its District (North West SFC and Cumbria SFC byelaws). Some byelaws apply to all, some only to non-commercial potting. There are no byelaws covering potting in some estuaries. The Authority has an objective to amalgamate best practice into a single district-wide byelaw creating consistent and fair regulations with industry support.
- 2) Historical potting data such as fishing effort, pot numbers and distribution, numbers of fishers and catch records is limited having not been collected under the current byelaws. The NWIFCA needs much more data to promote sustainability of the fisheries. This permit scheme will require detailed catch return data including landings, effort, fishing locations and other data to improve management of the fisheries.
- 3) This byelaw closes enforcement loopholes which have allowed significant illegal fishing which current regulation has been too weak to counter.
- 4) A number of fished species are unregulated, some are prohibited in some areas (whelk) and others may be targeted in future. Management should a) permit and regulate all activity at appropriate levels b) ensure fishery sustainability. This byelaw is 'future-proofed' to achieve those objectives.
- 5) The inherited Cumbria SFC Byelaw 25 requires an escape gap in all pots, creels and traps to protect immature crab and lobster. It unintentionally prevents whelk potting in Cumbria area. This requires urgent remedy so that whelk potting is permitted in Cumbria.
- 6) But whelk fisheries are under increasing pressure to supply new Far East markets. Therefore management is needed to control exploitation and promote sustainability.
- 7) Adaptive flexible management is needed to promote sustainable exploitation in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), to address stock pressures, and set gear restrictions to adapt to gear developments. The lengthy byelaw making is reduced by incorporating flexible permit conditions which allow changes to be made more quickly following consultations with stakeholders.
- 8) This is an enabling byelaw that supports sustainable fishing practices and improves current management. It enhances enforcement to protect legitimate fishers and fishery resources.

Why is government intervention necessary?

There is a market failure in many fisheries because increased fishing is causing stock depletion in many species in many areas. Whelk stocks are facing a particular challenge. UK and Isle of Man whelk fishery regulators recognise the need to act swiftly to prevent over-fishing and stock depletion. A national Whelk Working Group has been set up. NWIFCA is a member. Research suggests the current minimum landing size of 45mm is too low, allowing immature whelk to be taken.

Crabs, lobsters and Norwegian lobsters are important commercial and recreational fisheries in this District. Without enhanced management these stocks could be overfished.

Legislation to impose appropriate fisheries management is essential in MPA where there is no other effective means of putting management in place to promote sustainable exploitation.

Management intervention is required to redress this market failure, conserve features and to ensure negative externalities are reduced or suitably mitigated. Implementing this byelaw will support continued provision of public goods in the marine environment. NWIFCA has a duty under section 153(1) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MaCAA) to manage the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in the district. Section 153(2) of MaCAA, sets out what steps it must take when carrying out its management duty.

What are the policy objectives and intended effects

1. Promote sustainable use of fishery stocks.
2. Enhance protection of MPAs through adaptive management.
3. Apply experience developed over recent decades to improve and expand on the successful permit schemes for non-commercial potting.
4. Improve clarity of regulation and fairness for permit holders.
5. Consolidate management District-wide into one byelaw and revoke five and amend three inherited byelaws.

**What policy options have been considered, including any alternatives to regulation?
Please justify preferred option (further details in Evidence Base)**

The following policy options have been considered through this IA:

Option 0. Do nothing - Retain existing byelaws unchanged

Option 1. Switch to voluntary agreements with code of conduct

Option 2. Implement byelaw to meet problem and achieve objectives as above.

All options are compared to option 0. Option 2 is preferred.

Option 0 retains two sets of byelaws with inconsistent management across the District. These byelaws are inadequate to regulate fisheries sustainably. The whelk fishing prohibition in the Cumbria area would continue. This option is discounted.

Option 1 is discounted because there needs to be legal regulation with sanctions for non-compliance to achieve effective sustainable management. A voluntary agreement would not give adequate protection from illegal activity. The whelk fishing prohibition in the Cumbria area would continue.

Option 2 uses the latest developments in byelaw measures including flexible permit conditions which will allow the maximum possible sustainable regulated fishing. The byelaw contains the potential to make use of technology as it develops creating benefits for permit holders and regulator.

Will the policy be reviewed? It will be reviewed. If applicable, set review date:

September/2022

Does implementation go beyond minimum EU requirements? No					
Are any of these organisations in scope? If Micros not exempted set out reason in Evidence Base.	Micro No	< 20 No	Small No	Medium No	Large No
What is the CO ₂ equivalent change in greenhouse gas emissions? (Million tonnes CO ₂ equivalent)	Traded: N/A		Non-traded: N/A		

I have read the impact assessment and I am satisfied that, given the available evidence, it represents a reasonable view of the likely costs, benefits and impact of the leading options.

Signed by the responsible:

Date:



27-9-18

CEO NWIFCA

Price Base Year 2019	PV Base Year	Time Period Years	Net Benefit (Present Value (PV) (£))		
			Low: Optional	High: Optional	Best Estimate:

COSTS (£)	Total Transition (Constant Price) Years		Average Annual (excluding transition) (Constant Price)	Total Cost (Present Value)
Low	Optional		Optional	Optional
High	Optional		Optional	Optional
Best Estimate			0	0

Description and scale of key monetised costs by 'main affected groups'
 Currently 100% of management and administration costs of these fisheries are paid from public funds via the NWIFCA budget. Under the byelaw a high proportion of cost recovery will be achieved via permit fees. The exact numbers of Category One permits which will be issued for whelks is unpredictable. The number of permits is not capped. Effort is restricted through flexible permit conditions. There will be a change to pot fishers who have either not had to have a permit previously (Category One permits) or have not had to pay for permits (Category Two permits). There will be an annual cost of £200 per Category One permit for licensed fishers. There will be an annual cost of £20 per Category Two permit for unlicensed fishers.

Other key non-monetised costs by 'main affected groups'
 A high proportion of the costs of pot fisheries including administration, compliance, science research, collating returns and pot tags supplied with the permit is recovered through permit fees. The rest is paid from public funds through NWIFCA levy on Local Councils.
 Costs of protecting the environment and damage resulting from the fisheries are non-monetised.

BENEFITS (£)	Total Transition (Constant Price) Years		Average Annual (excl. Transition) (Constant Price)	Total Benefit (Present Value)
Low	Optional		Optional	Optional
High	Optional		Optional	Optional
Best Estimate		0	0	0

Description and scale of key monetised benefits by 'main affected groups'
 Recovery of a proportion of costs of the fishery through permit fees. NWIFCA has 22 staff, all contribute to management of all the fisheries in the District.

Other key non-monetised benefits by 'main affected groups'
 Fair and equitable compliance and regulation. Environmental protection and compliance with environmental legislation (UK and EU). Regulation will enable better protection of designated features within MPAs. Reputational benefit to NWIFCA for sustainable management of potting fisheries.

Key assumptions/sensitivities/risks	Discount rate (%)	3.5
The byelaw can be effectively enforced by NWIFCA resources and partner assistance; Fisheries will continue to be available subject to continued growth and replenishment of stocks; Fishers will see their interest to be in purchasing a permit.		

BUSINESS ASSESSMENT (Option 2)

Direct impact on business (Equivalent Annual) £:			In scope of OI30?	Score for Business Impact Target (qualifying provisions only) £:
Costs: 0	Benefits: 0	Net: 0	No	N/A

Evidence Base

Background

Pot and trap fisheries in the seas of northwest England (0-6miles) are regulated under North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NWIFCA) byelaws. Current regulations have developed over recent decades separately in two Sea Fisheries Committee areas and combined to form the NWIFCA in April 2011. These byelaws no longer reflect current fishery knowledge and understanding. Management needs updating to promote sustainable exploitation of fish stocks and protection of MPA designated features. Existing byelaws do not provide mechanisms for managing new fisheries sustainably should they appear and prevent over-exploitation.

Crab and Lobster Potting are the main pot fisheries in the District operated by registered and licensed fishing vessels (commercial) and unlicensed non-commercial vessels. There is no current requirement on licensed vessels to hold a NWIFCA permit. Vessels must have Shellfish Entitlement attached to their fishing licence issued by the MMO (Marine Management Organisation).

Unlicensed potting in both the old CSFC and NWSFC parts of the District requires operators to have annual free permits under byelaws and to comply with (different) daily limits on landings and numbers of pots. The Authority (public funds) has covered the monetary costs of administering and enforcing the permits. Under the CSFC byelaw individual pots had to be labelled to identify the owner; whereas under NWSFC byelaw this was not required. Loopholes in the regulations such as use of more pots than the number permitted have been identified allowing daily catch limits to be exceeded. Some of the catch may have been illegally sold.

Whelk Potting

Whelk stocks are under pressure across the UK and require careful management to ensure their sustainability. This is due to markets opening up in the Far East and fishers diversifying when other fisheries are displaced or stocks lacking. There is a risk of over-exploitation of whelks and depletion of stocks, and the consequent impacts on the marine ecosystem.

Whelk fisheries in the NWIFCA District could provide an important source of employment and an alternative fishery option. However, for the benefit of fishers and the environment it is crucial that the fisheries are carefully managed. An inherited escape gap measure byelaw in the north of the District effectively prohibited whelk potting in this area. This unintended consequence of the byelaw needs to be redressed but new regulation is essential to remove the possibility that large numbers of vessels could enter the fishery having a rapid detrimental impact on the stock. This risk is magnified by the absence of any vessel length or engine size restriction on fishing vessels within the 3 - 6nm belt. A detailed analysis of 2010-17 landings data from MMO statistics and MSARs reporting was completed. Information on current whelk fishing activity within and just beyond the NWIFCA District, describing the vessels used and information gained from industry consultation showed the importance of this fishery and that without precautionary management there is a risk that over-fishing could occur rapidly and stocks be irreversibly damaged.

This byelaw allows the NWIFCA to remove the hindrance to legitimate fishing using a fair method of assigning track record and implementing effort limitation through pot limits.

Officers have been working over the past two years to gain an in-depth understanding of whelk fisheries in the District. Contact has also been made with other regulators to determine methods of management and what issues they have identified and a multi-sectoral national Whelk Working Group including IFCA, Welsh Government, Isle of Man Government, States of Jersey, Cefas, and Defra has been convened. This is indicative of the perceived urgency to act and the risk of over-fishing in all UK whelk fisheries.

Research into size at maturity of whelks in the north east Irish Sea indicates that the current minimum landing size (MLS) of 45mm is too small, and will result in overfishing. Fishing pressure may already have driven down size at maturity in some areas of the UK. Although it is understood that due to whelk life history, populations are likely to be discrete and may be subject to quite distinct spatial variability in size at maturity, there is a body of evidence that suggests size at maturity may be related to temperature and that latitude could be influential. Current management measures implemented by regulators in Wales, the Isle of Man and Jersey States have increased whelk MLS.

Norwegian Lobster Potting

Nephrops or Norwegian lobster are mainly fished by bottom trawling in the Irish Sea mud belt within the NWIFCA District. Due to MPA designations and positioning of developments such as extensive windfarms, fishers are being displaced from traditional Norwegian lobster grounds. NWIFCA is keen to encourage diversification to other gears, providing management is in place to ensure sustainability and impacts on subtidal habitats have been considered. An opportunity exists for potting for Norwegian lobster to be undertaken and the IFCA needs appropriate management should these fisheries begin to ensure sustainability. This can be achieved through this byelaw.

Other fisheries

At the date when the byelaw was made it was envisaged that permits will be required for crab and lobster (one permit), whelk and possibly Norwegian lobster fisheries. However, built into the byelaw is provision for other specified species should fisheries using pots or traps develop for them in the future eg. through diversification or climate change driving species north as sea waters warm.

Each fishery requires particular management. Permit fees will assist funding. NWIFCA will implement research and stock assessment as capacity and demands allow with the aim of developing individual species management plans.

Daily limits the new byelaw sets reasonable daily limits per person for unlicensed fishing of lobster, crab (3 species), whelk and Norwegian lobster using pots or taking from the shore.

Permits – any person fishing with a pot (defined as “any folding or rigid cage device or structure with one or more openings or entrances capable of capturing any sea fisheries resources”) must have a valid permit. Permits are required to ensure that the management measures that are necessary for sustainability can be implemented successfully. Two categories of permit will be issued: Category One for licensed vessels, and Category Two for unlicensed vessels. Different fees apply to each category of permit, set proportionately following a costing exercise. The costs to NWIFCA of implementing the permit scheme and managing the fisheries were estimated for the costing exercise, including science, enforcement and administration.

Permit conditions - a range of ‘General Permit Conditions’ are implemented for both categories of permit. These include requirements for correct marking of gear to close existing loopholes whereby gear can be ‘hidden’ from enforcement officers, and illegal fishing ensue.

Landings returns are required under the General Permit Conditions for all permit holders with information as specified by the Authority. The reporting required under this byelaw goes over and above that which currently exists or is proposed for the future by other regulators. This is required in order to provide evidence of fisheries activities for all relevant species, for all vessels no matter what length or which sector, and to a finer spatial resolution (a minimum of ICES sub-rectangle and

belt scale) than other existing and proposed reporting requirements to enable NWIFCA to manage the fisheries adaptively, flexibly and appropriately.

- a) Current MSARs (Monthly Shellfish Activity Return) landings requirements are only required for licensed under 10m vessels with shellfish entitlement, and only apply for crab and lobster fisheries although there is space on the forms for voluntary recording of other species. Although recording is to ICES sub-rectangles and belt level as required by NWIFCA, this reporting leaves large data gaps for NWIFCA potting fisheries activity, particularly in relation to whelk fisheries and the unlicensed sector. Licensed fishing vessels of any size have the legal right to fish in the 3-6nm zone in the north part of the District and do prosecute the crab and lobster fisheries there.
- b) NWIFCA is aware of developments in improving requirements for licensed under 10m vessels reporting through the MMO under 10s Catch Reporting Project and welcomes this. However the new requirements under this scheme still do not go far enough to provide sufficient data to a resolution that will enable the reactive and flexible management NWIFCA require to be confident of managing the fisheries sustainably, nor on a spatial scale that provides the evidence needed to ensure that risk to designated features is prevented. The new scheme:
- will only apply to English and Welsh boats, so excludes Scottish, Northern Irish and Isle of Man vessels that do and could prosecute NWIFCA fisheries;
 - records location of catch to ICES statistical sub-rectangle level not to belt level, which the NWIFCA reporting requirements under this byelaw will enable, and is therefore to a much finer spatial scale. Under this byelaw should the need be identified that resolution and spatial scale still need to be refined further there is the facility to do so;
 - is likely to continue to have issues for IFCA's in obtaining access to MMO data which results in severe delays and data gaps. It will be NWIFCA data and can be accessed and utilised as soon as reported, therefore providing for more immediate management and change in flexible permit conditions should the evidence show the need.
- c) Currently EU logbook reporting is compulsory for over 12m vessels. This not only leaves an obvious gap for vessels over 10m and under 12m in length, but the data from logbooks is not readily accessible to IFCA's, and is not to the spatial scale as described above.

Reporting under this byelaw will also assist NWIFCA Head of Enforcement target enforcement resources. Should national/EU reporting requirements change and catch data is required at a fine enough scale for NWIFCA purposes and there is a good data sharing agreement, the NWIFCA would consider revoking the catch return element of the byelaw.

Category One Permit Conditions - three conditions are implemented to ensure misuse of the permit is prevented.

Category Two Permit Conditions - restrict the number of pots that can be used and require each pot to be tagged with a NWIFCA issued tag. These measures are necessary to close an existing loophole whereby illegal activity is suspected.

Flexible Permit Conditions - enable the Authority to implement adaptive management including a range of measures that provide for each specific fishery if the need for them is identified to ensure sustainability. These conditions also give the NWIFCA the power to implement closures and / or restrictions for the protection of designated features within MPAs.

Rationale for intervention and Policy objectives

NWIFCA has a duty to:

1. Ensure sustainable use of fishery stocks.
2. Ensure protection of MPAs through adaptive management.
3. Improve on the successful permit schemes for hobby potting in the light of decades of experience under previous SFC regimes.
4. Improve clarity of regulation for the Authority and fairness for permit holders.
5. Consolidate management District-wide and revoke inherited byelaws.

The current byelaws were inherited from Cumbria and North Western Sea Fisheries Committees and are outdated, inconsistent and do little to manage the fisheries sustainably.

This byelaw makes use of new powers provided in MaCCA (Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009) and was developed from this Authority's extensive experience of these fisheries and informal consultation with fisher stakeholders.

The new byelaw will consolidate good practice management across the whole District - for example by specifying gear requirement such as escape gaps in crab and lobster pots, and prohibition of taking of 'V-notched' or berried lobsters. There are a number of provisions within the byelaw to close loopholes where illegal activity is suspected, such as requiring hobby pots to be tagged with NWIFCA issued sequentially numbered tags.

The NWIFCA has the opportunity under the new Potting Permit Byelaw to introduce a suite of flexible management measures and enable sustainable potting to proceed, thus benefitting stakeholders and the wider marine ecosystem. There is a knowledge gap about the District's whelk fisheries and population dynamics. To date whelk fishing has been limited by a number of factors. Analysis of current and potential whelk vessels illustrates the number of vessels wishing to fish whelks may increase. NWIFCA requires a suite of management tools to limit effort, increase minimum landing size and improve data acquisition.

Description of options considered (including status-quo)

Option 0. Retain existing byelaw unchanged

Option 1. Switch to voluntary agreement with code of conduct

Option 2. Implement byelaw to meet problem and achieve objectives as above. Preferred option.

Option 0: retains two sets of byelaws with inconsistent management across the District. These byelaws are inadequate to regulate fisheries sustainably. The whelk fishing prohibition in the Cumbria area would continue. This option is discounted.

Option 1: is discounted because there needs to be legal regulation with sanctions for non-compliance to achieve effective sustainable management. A voluntary agreement would not give adequate protection from illegal activity. The whelk fishing prohibition in the Cumbria area would continue.

Option 2: uses the latest developments in byelaw measures including flexible permit conditions which will allow the maximum possible sustainable regulated fishing. The byelaw contains the potential to make use of technology as it develops creating benefits for permit holders and regulator.

The main changes from the previous regulation are:

The byelaws with the following number, title or purpose made by the North West Sea Fisheries Committee (NWSFC) and Cumbria Sea Fisheries Committee (CSFC) in exercise of their power under sections 5 and 5A of the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966 (c.38) and in force immediately before the making of this byelaw are hereby revoked as no longer required as measures to be retained or changed are absorbed into the new byelaw:

- (a) NWSFC Byelaw 31 Protection of V-notched lobsters confirmed on 16th December 1997;
- (b) NWSFC Byelaw 30 Fishing for Lobster, Crawfish, Crab, Prawn and Whelk confirmed on 20th April 2007;
- (c) CSFC Byelaw 8 Berried Lobsters confirmed on 16th April 1993;
- (d) CSFC Byelaw 25 Requirement for escape Gaps in Pots, Creels and Traps confirmed on 20th October 1997;
- (e) CSFC Byelaw 26 Permit to Fish for Lobster, Crab and Whelks confirmed on 20th January 2007.

The byelaws with the following number, title or purpose made by the North West Sea Fisheries Committee (NWSFC) and Cumbria Sea Fisheries Committee (CSFC) in exercise of their power under sections 5 and 5A of the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966 (c.38) and in force immediately before the making of this byelaw are hereby amended as for (a) and (b) references to marking of potting gear are no longer required as measures to be retained or changed are absorbed into the new byelaw; and for (c) the MCRS for whelks is to be increased under the new byelaw.

- a(i) NWSFC byelaw 11 confirmed on 22nd August 2003 title be amended from 'Marking of fishing gear and keep pots' to 'Marking of nets and lines'.
- a(ii) The first paragraph is amended to: 'No person shall use in fishing for seafish any set or stake net or line except in accordance with the following regulations;'
- a(iii) Paragraph (a) is amended to: 'The site of the stakes, nets or lines shall be marked by substantial buoys, non-metallic poles or perches visible above the surface at any state of the tide and such buoys, poles or perches shall be maintained as long as the stakes or nets are in position'.
- b(i) CSFC byelaw 4 confirmed 16th April 1993 title be amended from 'Marking and siting of fixed nets, traps, pots and lines' to 'Marking and siting of fixed nets and lines'.
- b(ii) Paragraph (a) is amended to: 'the site of the nets or lines shall be marked at each end by a flag on a pole, perch or buoy the flag to be at least one metre above the surface of the sea and to be maintained so long as the nets remain in position. The pole, perch or buoy shall be legibly marked with the name and address of the owner of such net or lines or the registered number of the vessel from which the nets or lines were set'.
- c. NWSFC byelaw 19 Specified Fish Sizes confirmed on 24th July 2009 be amended to remove Whelk (*Buccinum undatum*) from the list of specified Shellfish Species.

Analysis of Costs and Benefits:

Permit fees are introduced for both categories of permit to recoup a proportion of the costs associated with managing potting fisheries sustainably which are currently wholly financed through public funds.

Consultation

The byelaw has been developed over a number of years. During its development it has undergone lengthy and detailed internal discussion with Officers and Members of the NWIFCA Technical Science and Byelaws Sub-Committee. It was submitted for informal consultation with potting fishers, both from the licensed and the unlicensed sectors, whereby a written questionnaire was distributed and two Drop-In days were held (Whitehaven and Preston). Individual meetings were also offered and taken up by some fishermen / producer companies. Management of the whelk fishery within the flexible permit conditions was also subject to an additional informal consultation with whelk potters via a written questionnaire. The track record for whelk fisheries was also subject to this informal consultation with stakeholders. Further correspondence has been welcomed and received as the byelaw drafting progressed. The responses to this informal consultation have helped shape the byelaw.

The byelaw has undergone a formal consultation during which the opportunity to discuss it with the drafting officers was provided through meetings, or by phone, letter or email.

Conclusion

Option 2 is the chosen option. A new flexible permitting byelaw for all fisheries using pots and traps, future proofed to enable new fisheries to be regulated, will provide a suite of appropriate management tools to enable sustainable fishing.

Key benefits include:

- consolidation of good practice across the District;
- improved acquisition of fisheries data;
- flexible management that can be adapted should technology or understanding change;
- increase in minimum landings size for whelks to prevent damage to whelk populations;
- flexible management to prevent over-exploitation of fisheries resources;
- revocation of five and amendments of three inherited and outdated byelaws;
- flexibility to implement spatial and temporal closures for protection of MPA features;
- clearer more transparent regulation.

Costs include:

- a change to pot fishers who have either not had to have a permit previously (Category One permits) or have not had to pay for permits (Category Two permits);
- an annual cost of £200 per Category One permit for licensed vessels;
- an annual cost of £20 per Category Two permit for unlicensed vessels;
- a requirement for NWIFCA issued pots tags on all whelk pots;
- a requirement for NWIFCA issued pot tags for all pots set under a Category Two permit;
- cost of first set of tags and replacement set included in permit fee.

Annex A: Policy and Planning

Which marine plan area is the MPA and management measure in?

At present, there is no a Marine Plan in place in the IFCA District. The North West Marine Plan is under development.

Have you assessed whether the decision on this MPA management measure is in accordance with the Marine Policy Statement and any relevant marine plan?

- Yes, see below

When assessing this byelaw due regard was given to the UK Marine Policy Statement, the byelaws contribute to the following;

- The achievement of sustainable development of marine areas.
- Promote sustainable economic development.
- Ensure a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning marine ecosystems and protects marine habitats, species and our heritage assets.
- Contribute to the societal benefits of the marine area, including the sustainable use of marine resources to address local social and economic issues.
- Achieve integration between different objectives.
- Recognise that the demand for use of our seas and the resulting pressures on them will continue to increase.
- Manage competing demands on the marine area, taking an ecosystem-based approach.
- Enable the co-existence of compatible activities wherever possible.

