

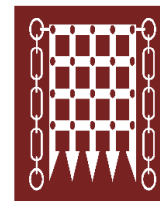
Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum policy conference:

Next steps for marine protection in the UK

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 21st October 2026

Taking Place Online

Draft agenda subject to change



WESTMINSTER ENERGY
ENVIRONMENT &
TRANSPORT FORUM

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
- 9.05 **Assessing the state of UK seas - progress towards Good Environmental Status**
Helen Venn, Chief Regulatory officer, Office for Environmental Protection
Elly Hill, Director, Marine Evidence and Monitoring, JNCC
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Priorities nature recovery in the marine environment**
Senior representative, marine management
- 9.40 **Assessing next steps for delivering Good Environmental Status in UK seas**
priorities and opportunities from the updated UK Marine Strategy | assessment, indicators and transparency in relation to GES | strengthening monitoring, reporting and evidence use and the application of emerging technologies | statutory targets and compliance with the Marine Strategy Regulations | delivery of the updated Programme of Measures | effective management of MPAs | expanding the HMPA network | outcomes and next steps from the MPA Stage 3 Consultation | 30by30 and protected-feature condition targets | whole-site and feature-based approaches to protected-area management | fisheries management measures, bottom-towed gear and byelaws | alignment with the EIP and implications of Water White Paper reforms for managing coastal pollution | habitat restoration and resilience to climate change and cumulative pressures | water and agricultural pollution, and links between catchment, coastal and marine policy
Max Bello, Global MPA Specialist, Blue Marine Foundation
Senior representative, water sector
Senior representative, coastal management
- 9.55 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 **Delivering marine recovery in practice - priorities, constraints and next steps**
Senior representative, stewardship
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.50 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
- 10.55 Break
- 11.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
- 11.10 **Governance and the marine environment - policy, strategy and co-ordination and international commitments**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.35 **Marine planning, use and development - priorities for second-generation marine plans**
Senior speaker confirmed from **Marine Management Organisation**
- 11.45 **Approaches to managing competing uses - marine spatial planning, development and environmental compensation**
Marine Spatial Prioritisation Programme | accounting for cumulative impacts and competing uses in spatial planning | interaction between offshore wind, fisheries, marine protection and coastal communities | updating marine plans, including the East Marine Plan and Scotland's National Marine Plan | links between land and marine planning systems | co-ordination across UK administrations and delivery bodies | aligning clean energy objectives with marine protection and recovery | Marine Recovery Fund and strategic compensation schemes | offshore wind compensation hierarchy and use of Tier 3 measures | maintaining coherent protected-site networks | additionality, evidential requirements and delivery timescales for compensatory measures | mitigating marine spatial squeeze | balancing economic, social and environmental priorities | strengthening engagement with stakeholders | preventing fragmentation between devolved marine plans
Chloe Sharkey, CEO, Western Fish Producers' Organisation
Senior representative, offshore wind
Senior representative, conservation
- 12.00 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Priorities for the UK Marine Strategy - delivery capacity, governance and future measures**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum