

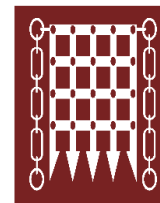
Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum policy conference:

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 Parliamentarian
- 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 **Marine recovery- priorities for governance, compliance, monitoring and transparency**
Dr Sally Rouse, Principal Scientific Advisor, Environmental Standards Scotland
- 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
Samuel Wróbel, Senior Marine Policy Officer, RSPB
Brendon Moorhouse, Barrister, Six Pump Court
Dr Zoë Frogbrook, Head, Environment and Sustainability, Northumbria Water
- 10.00 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 Parliamentarian
- 10.55 Break
- 11.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 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 **'What next for marine planning: ambition vs reality'**
Dr Paul Gilliland, Strategic Adviser and Deputy Director, 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
Sue Sayer, Founder and Director, Seal Research Trust
Senior representative, offshore wind
- 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 Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum