

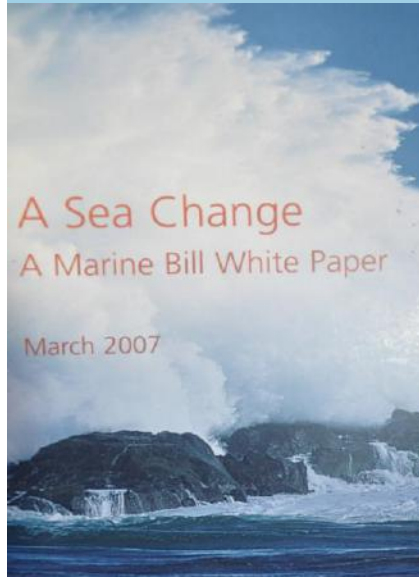
THE DRAFT EAST MARINE PLANS – A VIEW

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From there to here



UK Marine Policy Statement

HM Government



Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

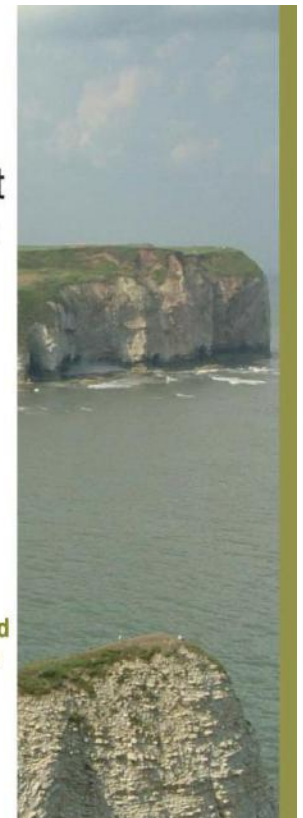


Marine
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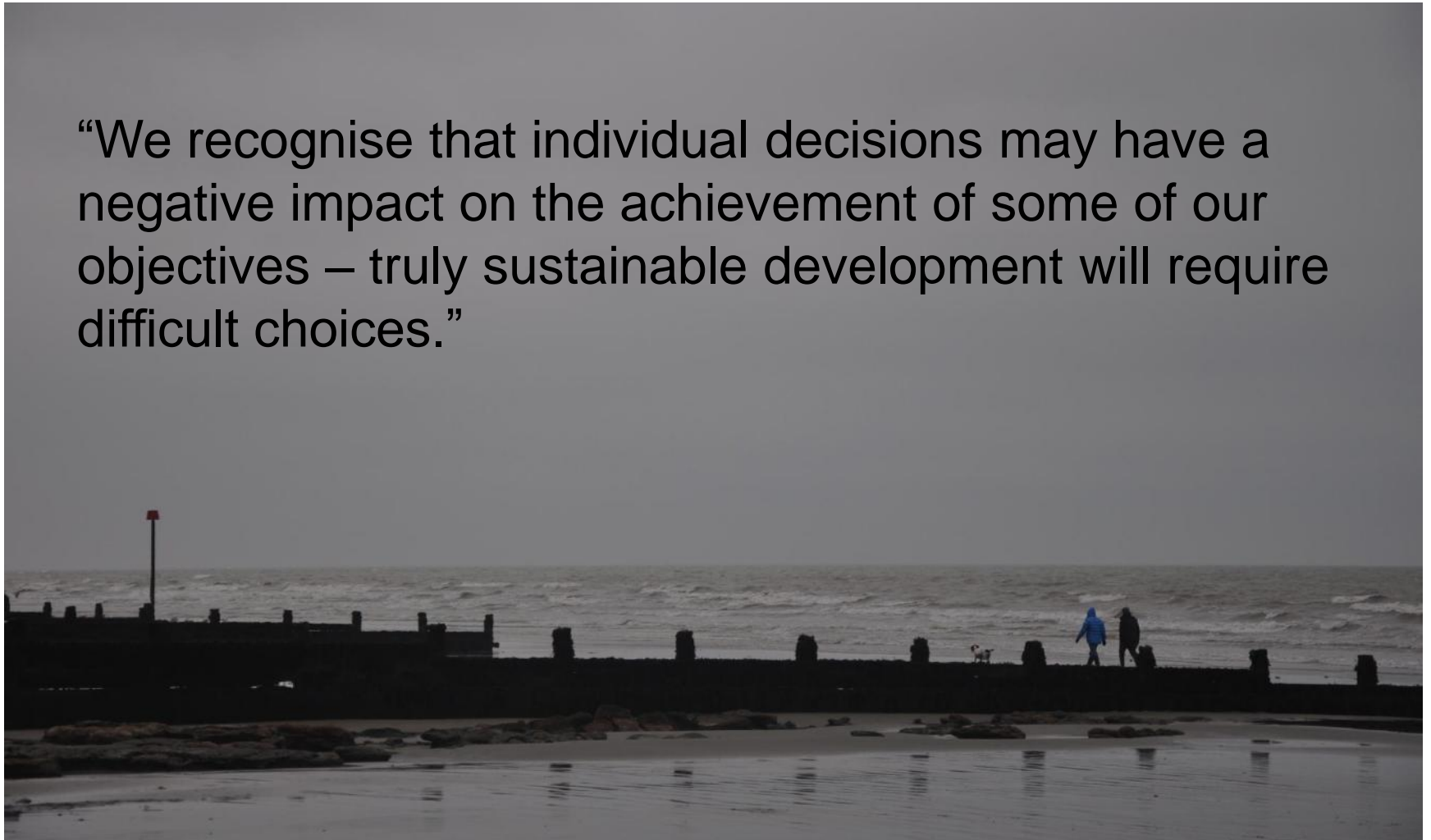
Draft East Inshore and
East Offshore marine
plans

July 2013

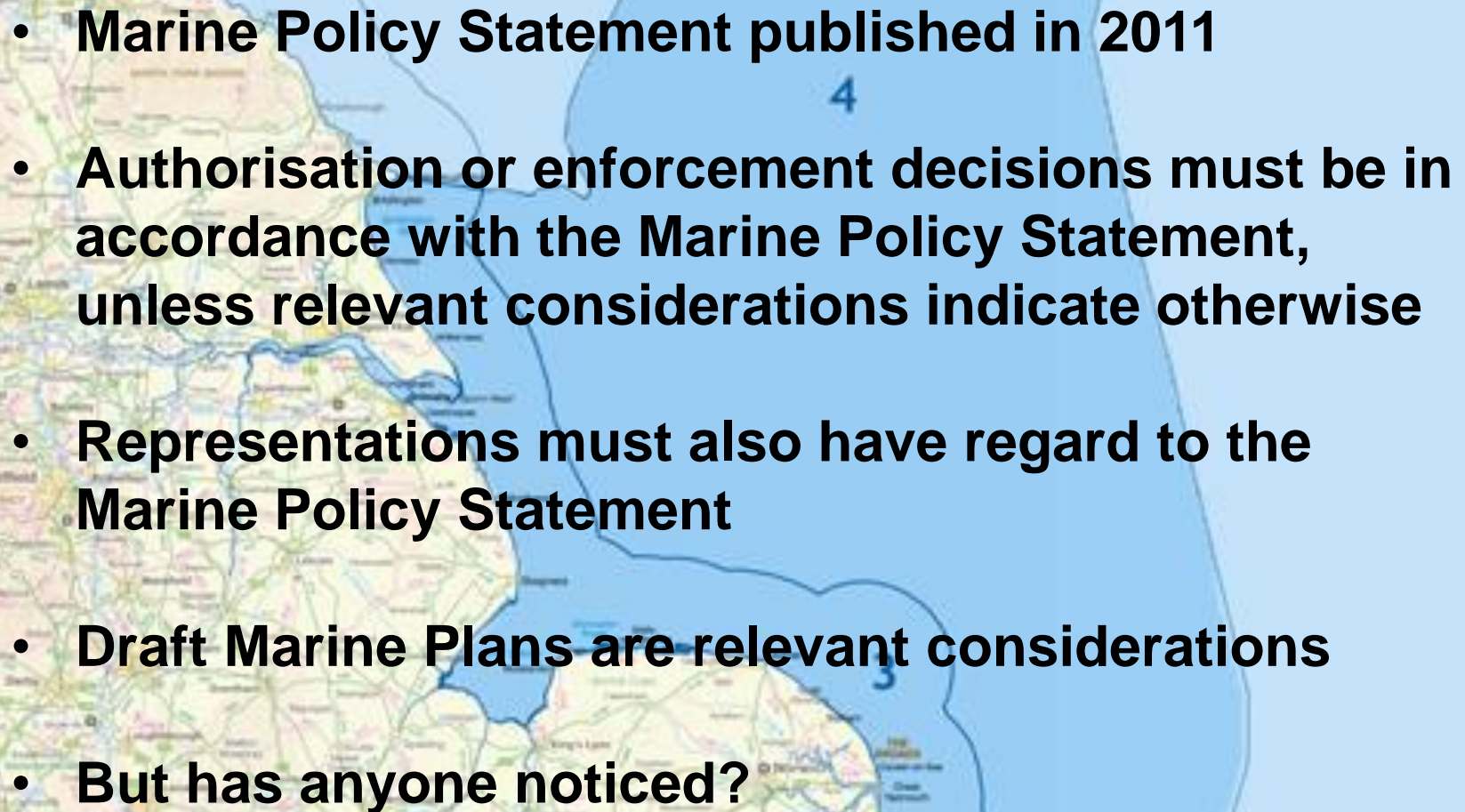


Hard choices

“We recognise that individual decisions may have a negative impact on the achievement of some of our objectives – truly sustainable development will require difficult choices.”



We have marine planning now

- **Marine Policy Statement published in 2011**
 - **Authorisation or enforcement decisions must be in accordance with the Marine Policy Statement, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise**
 - **Representations must also have regard to the Marine Policy Statement**
 - **Draft Marine Plans are relevant considerations**
 - **But has anyone noticed?**
- 
- A map of the United Kingdom coastline is shown in the background. The map is partially overlaid with a light blue color. Two blue numbers, '3' and '4', are visible on the map. Number '3' is located in the southern part of the map, near the English Channel, and number '4' is located in the northern part of the map, near the North Sea. The map shows the coastline of England, Wales, and Scotland, with various geographical features like rivers and coastlines.

Draft East Marine Plans

Useful progress:

- A considerable amount of national and regional data assembled
- Policy drivers identified
- Broad support for concept
- Groundwork put in place for the preparation of future plans around the English coast.
- But prospect that East coast left with plans not up to the job – until the first review.

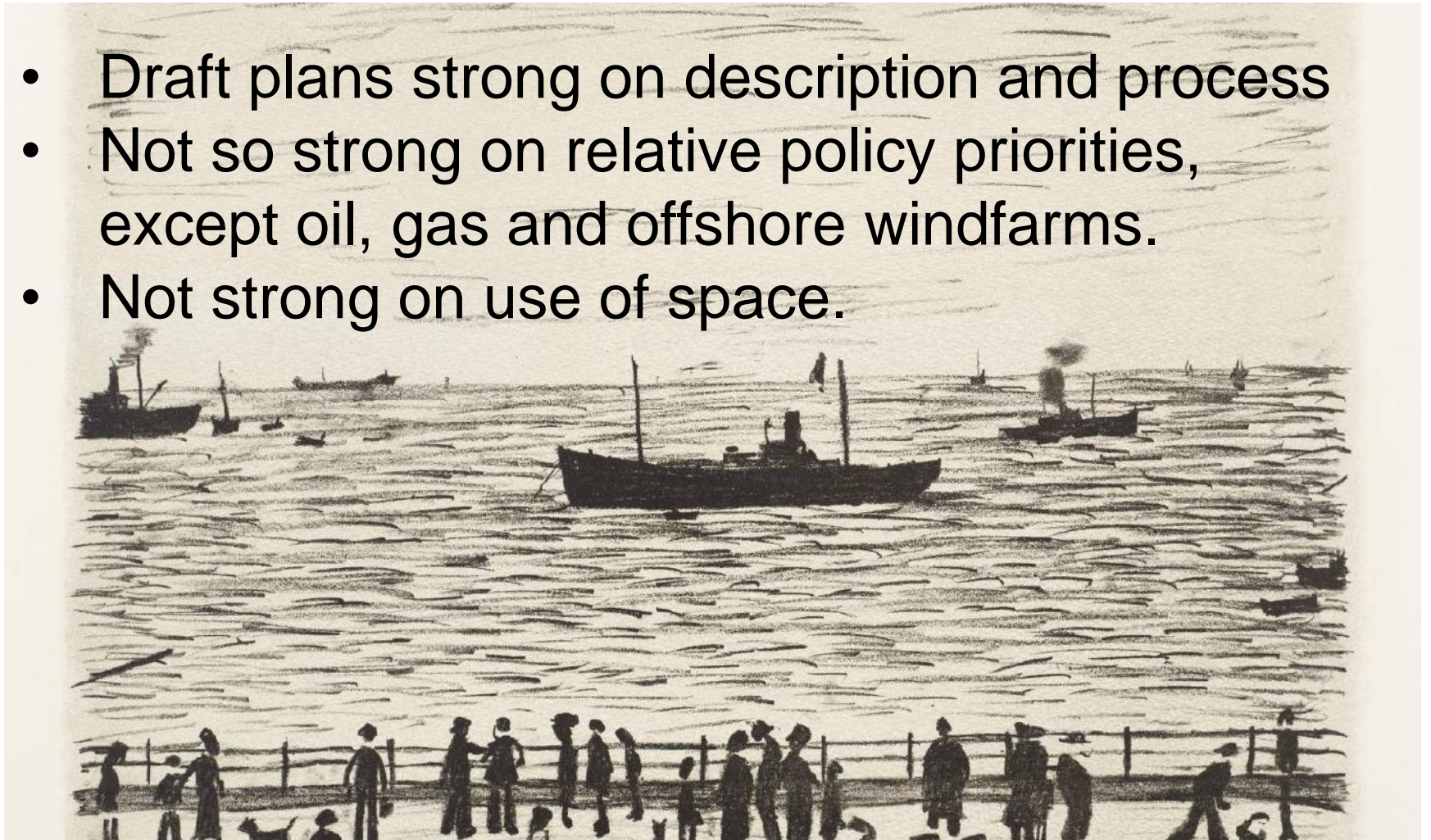
Policy coherence?

- **Marine development, environmental protection and fisheries management remain largely in siloes**
- **Structure of plans reflects this.**
- **Signposting could quickly become outdated.**
- **System of case-by-case judgments.**



Manage competing demands

- Draft plans strong on description and process
- Not so strong on relative policy priorities, except oil, gas and offshore windfarms.
- Not strong on use of space.



Increase certainty?

- Increased regulatory risks
- Weak and fragile evidence base
- “responsibility for ensuring that decisions take appropriate account of the plan policies lies with the public authorities”
- Draft plans a labyrinth of policies, guidance and direction
- Increase obligations on those preparing proposals including environmental proposals



Delivery matters

- Consenting and enforcement are the instruments of implementation
- Many public bodies involved. MMO needs to hold the ring.
- System of case-by-case judgments
- Language of marine planning and consenting not user friendly
- Marine licensing system streamlined in 2011 but last year only 57% of users were satisfied with the service.
- Where is the guidance for MPS and marine plans?

Cost/benefit?

“We will carry out an impact assessment of each marine plan to establish the costs and benefits of the plan to stakeholders.”

“It is not our intention to publish a further impact assessment..... the assumptions required to quantify the benefit and costs directly attributable to marine plans make it hard to derive accurate or meaningful figures.”

“We estimate that marine plans will lead to an average annual benefit of £50 million once all plans are in place.”

MMO Position



Way to go

- Bring ecosystem approach back to centre stage
- Introduce policy coherence
- Rely on more than hope to plug data gaps
- Start systematic seabed mapping
- Tie policies to data availability
- Redouble efforts on implementation – business and the environment can't wait
- Independent investigation
- Ensure plans remain relevant



But needs resources

- Successful marine planning will be dependent on adequate funding and resources.
- To date the MMO has been spared the staff cuts seen elsewhere in the public sector. But other agencies and bodies have taken a big hit.
- And, what of the future? Will the necessary resources be found to plug evidence gaps? Will there be the capacity to develop planning and bridge the policy/operational gap?

A final thought

“Marine spatial planning (MSP) is an idea whose time has come.”

Charles Ehler and Fanny Douvere, 2009

Or

“We are taking on the enemies of enterprise.... The bureaucrats in government departments who concoct those ridiculous rules and regulations that make life impossible..... officials who take forever with those planning decisions that can be make or break for a business - and the investment and jobs that go with it.”

6th March 2011, The Rt Hon David Cameron