

# Coastal Futures - 2017

**Brexit – An SUDG perspective**

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Developer Group**

**[www.sudg.org.uk](http://www.sudg.org.uk)**

# Seabed User & Developer Group



- Loose affiliation of common interests
- Participants all pursuing sustainable development
- 7 Sectors:-



**Oil & Gas**

**Ports**

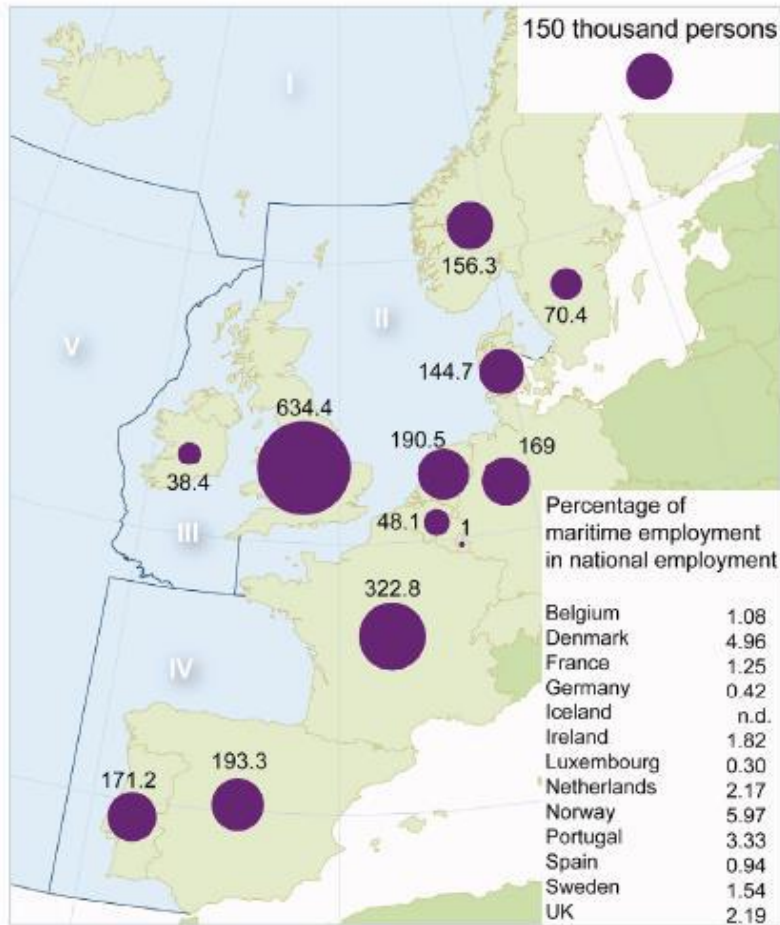
**Recreational boating**

**Carbon capture**

**Renewable energy**

**Aggregates**

**Submarine cables**



OSPAR: Draft  
QSR 2010, Ch2

**Figure 2.1:** Employment in all sea-related areas for the EU and Norway. Source: Policy Research Corporation, EU maritime clusters study 2008.

- 890,000 jobs
- 2.9% of total
- 4.2% GDP
- £46bn
- Direct + Indirect  
6.0% - 6.8%  
contribution to UK  
economy

\* Pugh 2008



**Having no marine industry is not an option**

- **What will Brexit mean?**
  - Environmental Legislation
  - Future Targets
  - Working Together
  - Opportunities

# Shared UK Principles of Sustainable Development



- Living within Environmental Limits
- Ensuring a strong, just and healthy society
- Promoting good governance
- Using sound science responsibly
- Achieving a sustainable economy

**Shared goals for  
legislation and industry**



# Environmental Legislation



- Environment needs protecting and improving
- Current regulatory system is complex
  - EU and domestic
- Extensive experience of working with legislation and regulators
  - Interpretation
  - Implementation

# Environmental Legislation:



- No legislation is not an option
- We are still interpreting EU Directives and M and CAA
- Defra's 25 year environment programme
  - Does existing legislation meet the objectives
- New legislation would be challenging and time consuming
  - Is it high on UK Government's agenda?

# Future Targets



- Will targets stay the same?
  - Defra Secretary Of State – committed to improving the environment
  - Would change continue to deliver sustainable development
  - Are there better socio-economic targets to parallel environmental targets?



# The Way Ahead



- New legislation takes a long time
  - Expensive
  - Extensive consultation
  - Not high on UK Government agenda
- Existing legislation
  - Greater certainty based on experience
  - EU law may need adapting to UK needs

# Opportunities



- Clarify those aspects still unclear
  - Socio-economic
  - Cumulative impact
- UK context for Habitats and Birds Directives
  - Alternatives and IROPI may need to reflect UK policy objectives

# Conclusion



**There are opportunities to improve, but...**

**If it ain't broke – don't mend it**