



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# **Cumulative effects assessment: Achieving practical solutions to implementation**

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# Cumulative effects assessment

- Why the fuss?
- The answer must be a working group!
- A working group must have a work programme!
- Because we can be heroes just for one day [extendable to 12 months or more]



# When do we need cumulative effects assessment?

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive
- Habitats & Birds Directives
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)
- Water Framework Directive (WFD)
- Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) Directive
- Marine and Coastal Access Act/Marine Scotland Act

# Time for a non-definitive definition

- “Cumulative effects assessment is a systematic procedure for identifying and evaluating the significance of effects from multiple sources / activities and for providing an estimate of the overall expected impact in order to inform management. The analysis of the causes (source of pressures), pathways and consequences of these effects on receptors is an essential and integral part of the process.”
- [OSPAR and others]

# Cross-govt working group

- UK Gov: Defra, DECC, Dft
- Devolved administrations: Marine Scotland, Welsh Govt, NRW, DOENI
- Other regulators/advisors: PINS, MMO, EA, NE, JNCC, Historic England, Cefas
- The Crown Estate



# Purpose of the WG

- The working group will examine the opportunities for improving the **efficiency and effectiveness** of cumulative effects assessment, including its application through management measures eg. licensing conditions, at a variety of scales in line with policy and regulatory drivers. It will develop and implement a **strategic work programme** to deliver or promote those improvements, with a focus on creating a **more consistent and predictable assessment and management process.**

# Main steps

- **Initial scoping – baseline doc**
- **Review – issues of concern**
- **Development of options**
- Development of work programme
- Implementation
- Evaluation and review



# Issues of concern

- What goes in (scoping)
- How you do CEA (methodologies)
- Who is responsible (mitigation)
- How we learn and improve (monitoring and feedback)
- How you get data (other projects)



# Options for work programme

- (i) Develop guidance for regulators, advisors and applicants to help increase consistency in application of CEA
- (ii) Develop and/or promote tools to strengthen comparability of data
- (iii) Strengthen governance arrangements to improve coordination of assessments, share good practice and lessons learnt
- (iv) Identify medium to long term evidence needs for CEA

# Finalising and implementing the work programme

- Will need to have task leaders with support from practitioners including outside of the working group
- Make best use of existing products (marine, terrestrial, international)
- Aim for consistency but one size won't fit all
- Application to plans as well as projects
- Constrained resources – timing uncertain