

Coastal Futures - 2018



Brexit – An SUDG perspective

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www.sudg.org.uk

**UK marine industries deliver
sustainable growth and support over
900,000 jobs**



**Seabed User
& DEVELOPER GROUP**



SUDG members play a significant role in the development of Marine Protected Areas, providing data, information and support to the organisations delivering the work



 **Seabed User
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SUDG members are committed to a healthy future for our seas based on working with the environment to ensure sustainable development



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Current situation



- Environment needs protecting and improving
- Current regulatory system is complex
 - EU and domestic
- Extensive experience of working with legislation and regulators
- Uncertainty - during and after Brexit

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

The implications of Brexit?

- No change
 - Unlikely
- Rewrite legislation
 - Unlikely
- Retain existing legislation
 - Most likely and industry preference

**An opportunity to improve
regulation?**

Future Targets for environment and economy



- Will targets stay the same?
 - 25 year Environment Plan, ecosystem services and natural capital
 - Need for economic growth to meet UK targets for energy, climate change etc
 - Better alignment of socio-economic targets to parallel environmental targets?

Opportunities for industry

Paper to Government



- Greater clarity for environmental objectives
 - Still too much uncertainty about what developers need to do to comply with law
- Greater UK focus on compliance with legislation
 - Link compliance to UK policies eg IROPI
- Continue to improve links with marine planning
 - Provide greater certainty for industries to plan

Opportunities for industry Paper to Government



- Better ways to manage the marine environment
 - less driven by over prescriptive regulation
 - linking ecosystem services valuation and the socio-economic benefits that derive from development.
- Streamline the number of assessments for EU legislation
 - EIA, WFD, MSFD and Habitats and Birds Directives

Current approaches from SUDG



- Working with Government
 - Better regulation
- Working with conservation NGOs
 - Shared objectives
 - Development of agreed good practices
 - Joint statement
- Better ways to comply with legislation
 - Link compensation to site management and objectives
 - Ecosystem and natural capital

Summary

SUDG view on Brexit

- The environment needs protecting
- We are used to existing legislation
- We continue to work with regulators to make regulation more cost effective and proportionate
- We will continue to work closely with others
- There needs to be lots of consultation with industry and conservation NGOs to define what we want and how to achieve it

If it isn't broken – don't mend it