

Coastal Futures - 2020



SUDG – a perspective on net gain

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Value of key sectors

Sector	GVA (£m) ⁱ	Number of jobs ⁱ
Minerals	247	1791
Oil and gas	23516	280000
Offshore wind	3411	30500
Wave and tidal	267	3242
Ports	23810	690000
Recreational boating	4720	142824

3.2% of total GVA UK



Current situation

- SUDG industries make a significant contribution to the UK economy
- Environment needs protecting, but it also needs improving
- Extensive experience of working with legislation and regulators to protect the environment
- Little or no experience on net gain

Future goals for environment and economy

- Need for economic growth to meet UK targets for energy, climate change etc
- Better alignment of socio-economic targets to parallel environmental targets?
- 25 year Environment Plan, ecosystem services and natural capital
- Need to restore increasingly stated as an industry objective eg SSEN



Current approaches from Marine industries/SUDG:

- Scale of growth and more strategic approaches
 - Offshore wind/cables
- Working with conservation NGOs
 - Shared objectives, joint statements
 - Development of agreed good practices
 - Exploring net gain
- Working with regulators
 - Better regulation
 - Balancing precautionary principle with proportionate approach
 - Exploring net gain



SUDG and net gain



- Many developments impact on marine, intertidal and terrestrial habitats: eg subsea cables
 - Terrestrial and intertidal
 - Town and Country Planning Act
 - Marine
 - No policy or legislation yet.

A piecemeal approach or something better?

Current position

NE and EA working on net gain

- Principles
 - Eg can trade offs apply
 - Possible funding approaches
- Metrics
 - terrestrial
 - intertidal
- National register and challenge maps
- Some work linking actions to values/natural capital



SUDG and net gain

- We need to act on climate change
- We need to act on coastal and marine environments
- We need to restore and improve
- We need to avoid 'greenwash'
- Are there goals for net gain which we can all agree?



Where do we go from here?

- Can we make net gain an opportunity or does it have to be a burden
- Can we make net gain part of restoration programmes with clear targets
- Does current legislation assist
- Do we need new legislation

Will the Environment Bill change things?



SUDG and net gain

- Legislation protects the environment
 - Mitigation hierarchy remains critical
 - But - little or none to improve or restore
- We are all wary of ‘trade offs’ but:
 - Could net gain build on mitigation hierarchy – ‘ecosystem enhancement’
 - Could this create opportunities for industry to assist in restoration
- Strategic targets
 - MSFD/GES targets
 - MPA objectives and improvement/restoration
 - Ecosystem enhancement

What we need

- Targets
- Consistency
- Simplicity
- Guidance
- Avoiding paralysis through analysis
- Innovation not bureaucracy



Emphasis on delivery of environmental action

What actions are we taking: workshop outcomes



- what are the priorities in the marine environment to focus net gain effort on?
 - **SNCBs, NGOs**
- create appetite for NG that can be taken to Boards etc to get buy in - develop a business case for doing NG
 - **Industry, SUDG**
- What can we learn from terrestrial action
 - **Natural England**
- Development of guidance for collaborative approach
 - **Everyone**
- Examine the potential for NG as ecosystem enhancement to assist in reducing the risk of environmental impact and therefore the scope of EIA, HRA etc.
 - **SUDG, SNCBS, NGOs**

Conclusions or where do we go from here?



- Do we work within Mike Elliot's horrendogram

OR:-

- Are we a community committed to improving the environment through
 - Working together
 - Making net gain an opportunity not a burden
 - Making net gain a mechanism for delivering agreed goals
 - Avoiding green wash



And if that is all agreed do we need to wait for legislation or can we just get on with it