

A nighttime photograph of Plymouth Sound. The water is dark with reflections of city lights. In the background, a row of white buildings with lit windows sits atop a cliff. A stone wall runs along the top of the cliff. In the foreground, a rocky coastline with a set of stone steps leads down to the water. Two people are standing on a small platform in the water. The sky is a mix of orange and blue.

# A National Marine Park for Plymouth Sound

[www.plymouth.gov.uk/marinepark](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/marinepark)

#MarineParkPlym

# Why should we create the Plymouth Sound National Marine Park?

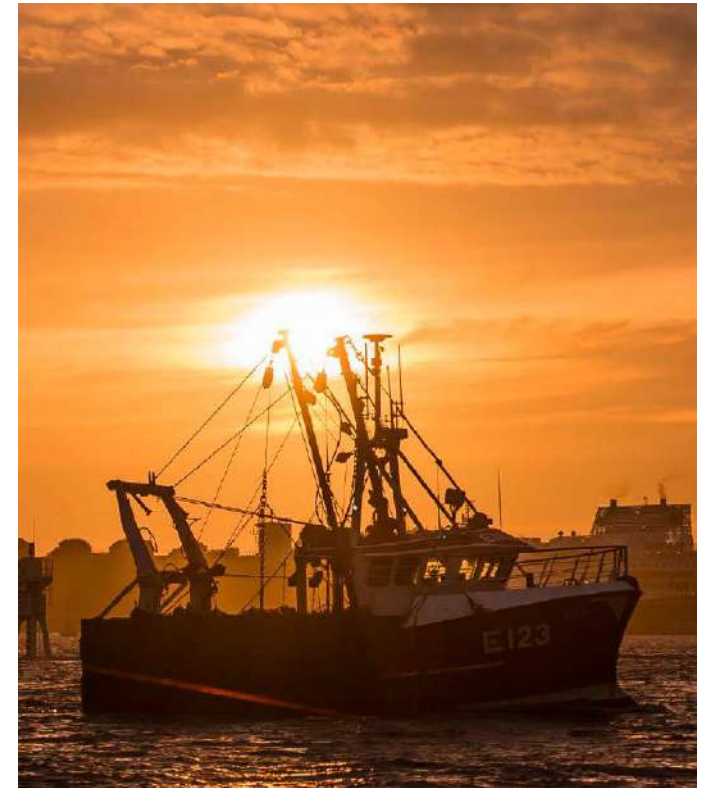
- Plymouth Sound and Tamar Estuaries Marine Protected Area covers 405 km<sup>2</sup> - over five times the size of the city
- Plymouth is home to one of the largest fish markets in the UK and an incredibly important asset for the UK fishing industry
- The waters are currently collaboratively managed by the Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum that brings together the 18 organisations with statutory responsibilities for the waters
- HMNB Devonport, the largest naval base in Western Europe is located off Plymouth Sound
- The marine sector in Plymouth employs over 7,100 people
- Like National Parks on land, there is a huge level of support for and interest in the marine environment with 116 million day trips to the UK coast recorded in 2017



Pic: Hazel Mansell-Greenwood



“Plymouth Sound is a beautiful and unique natural environment that is integral to what makes Plymouth special, it is a place where people and nature coexist.” **Sue Dann, Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene, Plymouth City Council**



# A legacy we can create together



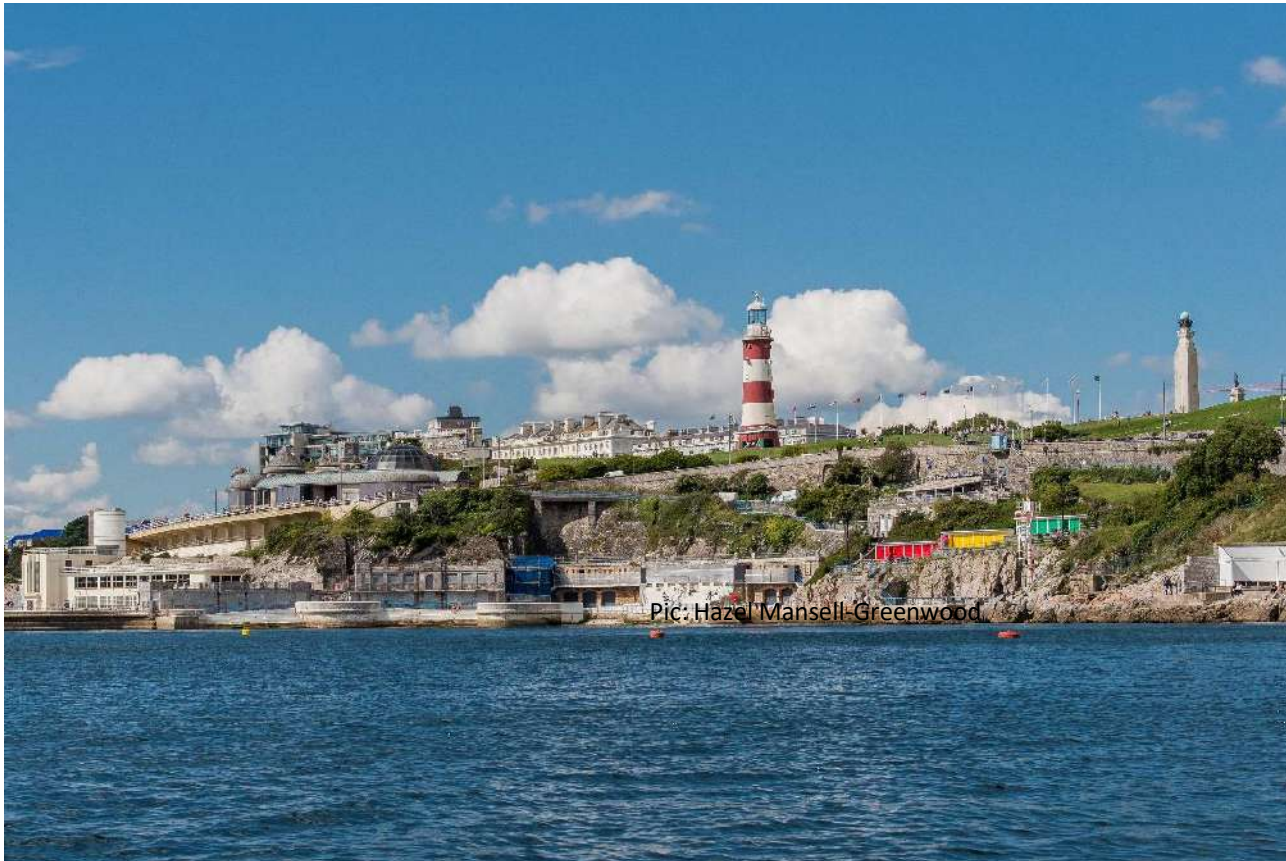
- 90% of people in England say National Parks are important to them
- 96% say they want every child to experience a National Park first hand

“A Marine Park is a specially recognised coastal or marine space important for its environment and community health and wellbeing. Marine Park status will encourage greater prosperity, responsible enjoyment, deeper knowledge and enhanced appreciation of the natural world and our place within it.” *MarCoPol/Blue Marine Foundation*

“There is also a belief that a National Marine Park could be more socially inclusive than inland National Parks. Comparably easier access to seaside towns, than for example to the Peak District, means that seaside visits are more likely to be taken by families and those in the less affluent social grades.” Prof Martin Attrill.

# What is the Ambition...

## Comments so far:



“If marine parks evolve from communities like Plymouth it shows we can govern well from a local level” **Natasha Bradshaw, University of the West of England**

“A Marine Park shouldn’t be a point in time, it should be able to flex and adapt as things change. Keep stakeholders involved the entire time, they will keep helping you do good things”  
**Paul Renfro, Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum**

“A multi-use platform, not a legal straightjacket but a new status, new legitimacy – legally and politically”  
**Tom Appleby, Blue Marine Foundation**



We want the National Marine  
Park to be inclusive in its nature



Proposed  
Objectives –  
these will  
evolve.....

## Plymouth Sound National Marine Park – Proposed objectives



“In a society where it’s not always easy to have a cohesive fabric, there’s a real opportunity here [in Britain’s Ocean City]”  
**Tom Hooper, Isles of Scilly IFCA**

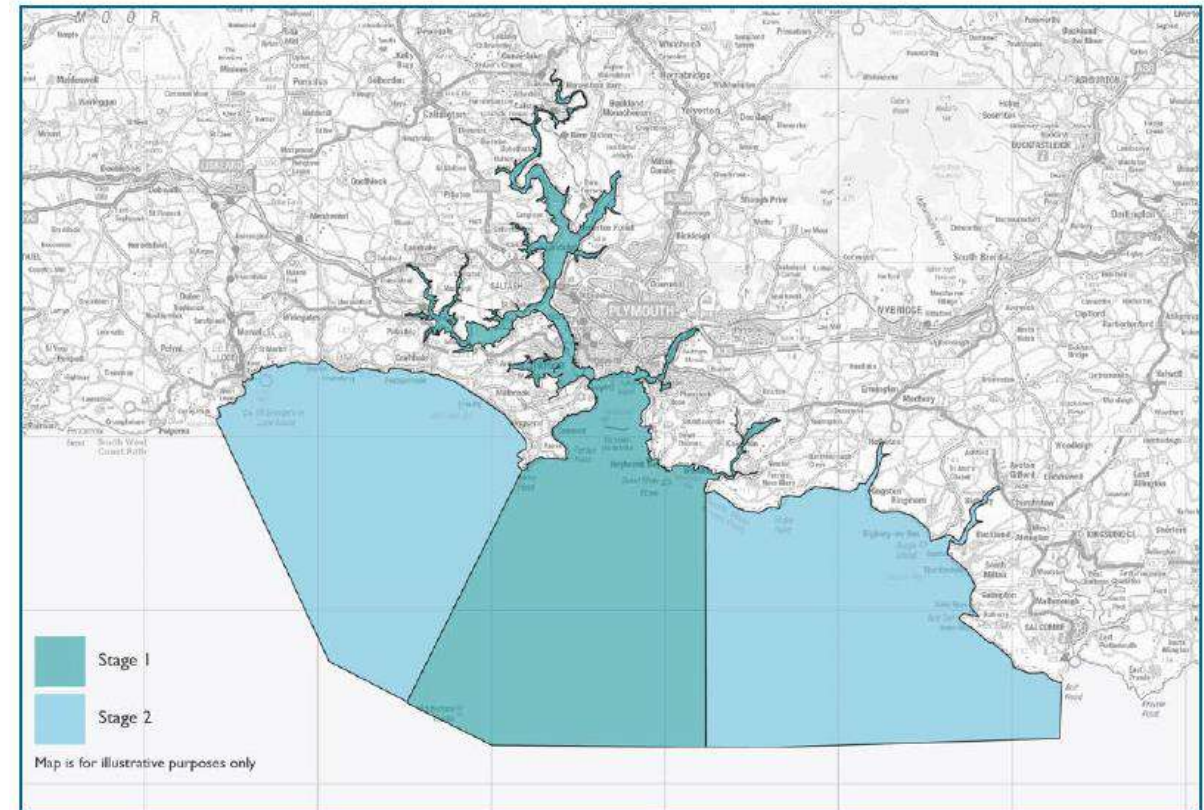
# Proposed Site

## Proposed initial area

- Plymouth Sound from the Hoe to Rame Head in the west and Gara Point in the east (broadly the area covered by the current Plymouth Marine Protected Area)
- Continued south to the Eddystone Reef
- The rivers that flow into Plymouth Sound and Tamar Estuaries Marine Protected Area

## Proposed extension area

- Subject to the agreement of Devon, South Hams and Cornwall Councils, the National Marine Park boundaries would be developed from the initial area as outline below, extending from Looe in Cornwall to Salcombe in Devon
- Extending out to the full 6 or 12 mile legal limit in the south
- Building on the work of the successful Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum, the extended National Marine Park would additionally include the rivers Avon, Erme and Seaton



There is currently discussion about how much of the foreshore it should include, and if it should extend back in to the city. We propose a 'fuzzy line' to include the foreshore but not be prescriptive about how far from the coast the National Marine Park should extend.



## Next steps

Now the first phase of engagement is complete we will:

- Translate the work and commitment from the city and surrounding communities into a marine park.
- Undertake all work collaboratively with those who live, work, protect, and enjoy Plymouth Sound
- See how partners and stakeholders can contribute and support a robust declaration.
- Develop locally and then create a nationally recognised Marine Park



Pic: Hazel Mansell-Greenwood

# Contacts

## NMP Project team:

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#MarineParkPlym

The engagement document was produced with thanks to the following organisations for their contributions:

- *Blue Marine Foundation*
- *Destination Plymouth*
- *Luke Pollard MP*
- *Marine Biological Association*
- *National Marine Aquarium*
- *Plymouth City Council*
- *Plymouth Marine Laboratory*
- *University of Plymouth*