

Government seeks views on Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs)

News story

The Government has today (6 July 2022) launched a consultation to gather views and evidence on five candidate sites for pilot Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs).



Defra is consulting on five candidate pilot Highly Protected Marine Areas which are geographically spread around English waters.

Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs) will have the highest levels of protection in our seas. They will conserve all species and habitats within the HPMA boundary, enabling nature to fully recover.

This is the latest step in the Government's progress towards our ambitious ocean commitments and builds on the existing Marine Protected Area (MPA) network extending across 40% of English seas.

To enable the ecosystem to recover to as natural a state as possible, activities such as fishing, dredging, construction and anchoring are set to be prohibited in HPMA sites.

Environment Minister Rebecca Pow said:

Highly protected marine areas will offer the highest levels of protection in our seas. They will help a wide range of valuable habitats and species to fully recover, boosting the resilience of our ecosystem and allowing the marine environment to thrive.

As demands on our oceans increase, it is more important than ever that we take decisive action to safeguard nature whilst ensuring we can continue to meet the sustainable needs of those who rely on our seas.

Defra is consulting on five candidate pilot HPMA's which are geographically spread around English waters and cover inshore and offshore habitats. These are:

- Two inshore sites: Allonby Bay (Irish Sea) and Lindisfarne (Northern North Sea).
- Three offshore sites: North East of Farnes Deep (Northern North Sea), Inner Silver Pit South (Southern North Sea) and Dolphin Head (Eastern Channel).

The five candidate pilot sites are a mixture of natural and degraded sites and include a wide range of biodiversity such as sheltered intertidal mudflats, subtidal kelp forests, and biogenic and rocky reef. They are also home to valuable marine species, commercially important fish stocks, and include blue carbon habitats which play an important role in capturing and storing carbon. The candidate sites were selected using ecological analysis and advice from Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC).

Chair of Natural England, Tony Juniper, said:

By supporting the full recovery of vital marine ecosystems, Highly Protected Marine Areas will be a critical mechanism to reverse the damage imposed on our ocean and safeguard it for future generations.

The five candidate sites outlined today present the chance to protect some of our most vulnerable marine wildlife, and I welcome this consultation as we take the next step forward in securing the long-term sustainability of our ocean.

The consultation will run for 12 weeks from today, 6 July 2022. The evidence gathered will inform which candidate sites are taken forward as pilot HPMA's. The first HPMA's will be designated in 2023.

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[New bill introduced to ensure](#)

thousands of seafarers receive fair pay

- new pay protection laws on minimum wage for thousands of seafarers regularly entering UK waters
- laws will prevent firms undercutting fair pay for seafarers by using legal loopholes to pay low wages
- government publishes response to the consultation on Seafarers' Wages Bill

The UK government has today (6 July 2022) introduced new legislation to make sure seafarers get paid at least equivalent to the UK National Minimum Wage.

We are closing a loophole that allowed seafarers who work on vessels that regularly serve UK ports, to be paid below an equivalent to the UK National Minimum Wage for the simple fact that the vessel operates an international service.

Following P&O Ferries' decision to dismiss 800 loyal and hardworking workers without consultation or notice, the government took immediate action to begin changing the law on seafarer pay protection.

The changes mean that thousands of seafarers regularly entering the UK will receive fairer pay, putting the UK ahead of every EU state in its pay protections.

The Seafarers' Wages Bill – introduced in the House of Lords today – enables port authorities to deny access to services calling regularly at UK ports who do not pay their workers equivalent rate to the UK National Minimum Wage (NMW) for time spent in UK waters – closing a legal loophole which was exploited by P&O Ferries.

Maritime Minister Robert Courts said:

Britain's rich maritime history and exciting future is thanks to the extraordinary men and women who work at sea.

Fair pay for seafarers is a must and the new laws we've introduced in Parliament today send a clear signal to operators that the UK will not let seafarers be priced out of their jobs by rogue bosses.

Following P&O Ferries' shameful conduct, the government launched the consultation on the Seafarers' Wages Bill in May 2022. The [response](#), published alongside the introduction of the bill today, shows that the overwhelming majority of respondents agreed that pay protection must remain at the forefront of the sector's objectives.

The government spoke extensively with industry on how it can rapidly shape

new laws on seafarer pay protection and has used the information and perspectives to shape the bill's scope and compliance policies.

Vessels and services that call on UK ports at least every 72 hours on average, or more than 120 times a year, will fall under these new pay requirements and the ports, Maritime and Coastguard Agency and Department for Transport will all have a role in ensuring compliance.

In parallel, the Insolvency Service's criminal and civil investigation into the circumstances of the redundancies made by P&O Ferries continues.

Labour Markets Minister Paul Scully said:

Just because someone works out at sea, it doesn't mean they should be excluded from the protections UK workers receive.

That's why we've moved at pace to get this bill across the line, levelling the playing field and ensuring everyone working in UK territorial waters will benefit from the equivalence of the National Minimum Wage.

We hope seafarers will soon see the difference in their pay packets, as we continue to protect and enhance the rights of all workers

As part of the Secretary of State for Transport's [seafarer protections 9-point plan](#), we are continuing to work with our near European neighbours on bilateral agreements.

This discussion focuses on exploring agreements that help to improve seafarer welfare and protections and the potential development of bilateral minimum wage corridors.

British seafarers are recognised as some of the most highly skilled worldwide and the UK's [Maritime 2050 strategy](#) sets out a plan for a fairer global maritime industry.

Seafarers' Charity. Deborah Layde, Chief Executive, said:

After P&O Ferries appalling disregard for their hardworking seafarers, many of whom had given many years of loyal service to the company, I am delighted to see government taking steps to ensure fair pay and enhanced protections for seafarers regularly entering UK ports.

The Seafarers' Charity welcomes The Seafarers' Wages Bill as an important step in recognising the substantial contribution seafarers make to our economy in what can be a very demanding job.

At The Seafarers' Charity we fully support efforts to ensure that

all seafarers receive equivalent pay and protections as those working ashore.

Outbreaks of Koi herpesvirus (KHV) disease in 2022



KHV is a serious viral disease of fish and is a listed disease in the United Kingdom. It affects all varieties of common and ornamental carp species (*Cyprinus carpio*) and can result in large scale mortalities. Fish with KHV disease may show the following signs, especially when water temperatures are between 16 to 28 °C:

You must [contact the FHI](#) if you suspect an outbreak of KHV. This includes fish with the above signs, or deaths of carp or carp hybrids.

There is no risk to public health.

Sites with KHV disease must undergo a formal monitoring programme immediately following the outbreak. The FHI visit these sites to look for evidence of disease and to inspect compliance with the conditions of the statutory controls in place.

Confirmed designation

If a notifiable disease is confirmed, FHI places controls to limit the spread of disease (these are known as confirmed designations). The following conditions are applied under disease controls:

- No person may, without the previous consent in writing of the FHI, move any aquatic animal including eggs, and gametes, into, out of or within a confirmed designation area.
- Disposal of dead aquatic animals, including eggs and gametes, must be by

an approved method for disposal of Category 2 animal-by-product waste in compliance with local Environmental Health department requirements

- Notify the Fish Health Inspectorate immediately should mortalities re-occur or spread to other waters within the designated area.
- Notify the FHI in advance of all intended physical changes to sites within the designated area – such as site boundaries, number or size of waters, use of the site. FHI written permission will be required beforehand for all such changes.
- All requests for consents required under this Confirmed Designation Notice must be submitted to the FHI with a minimum of 5 working days' notice.

New outbreaks

When laboratory testing confirms KHV disease at a site, the FHI place statutory controls to limit the spread of the disease. These controls restrict movement of aquatic animals.

Disease controls have been applied at:

Diseases controls lifted at:

- [Conifer Lakes, North Yorkshire – 6 July 2022](#) (PDF, 309 KB, 1 page)
- [Leisure Land, Cambridgeshire – 26 July 2022](#) (PDF, 292 KB, 1 page)
- [Swan Lake Leisure, Lincolnshire – 7 September 2022](#) (PDF, 294 KB, 1 page)
- [Keppel Unit Lake, North Yorkshire – 25 August 2022](#) (PDF, 313 KB, 1 page)
- [Coston Lakes, Norfolk – 25 July 2022](#) (PDF, 331 KB, 1 page)
- [Castanet Lake, Lancashire – 27 July 2022](#) (PDF, 281 KB, 1 page)
- [Barford Lakes, Norfolk – 27 July 2022](#) (PDF, 380 KB, 1 page)
- [Tin Mill Dam, South Yorkshire – 5th August 2022](#) (PDF, 452 KB, 1 page)
- [Whitehouse farm reservoir, Essex – 8th August 2022](#) (PDF, 187 KB, 1 page)
- [Cantley Park Pond, South Yorkshire – 8th August 2022](#) (PDF, 525 KB, 1 page)
- [Oxborough Fishing Lakes, Norfolk – 9th August 2022](#) (PDF, 321 KB, 1 page)
- [Harbour Bridge Lakes, Weymouth, Dorset – 12 August 2022](#) (PDF, 315 KB, 1 page)
- [Stonham Barns Fishing Lakes, Suffolk – 22 August 2022](#) (PDF, 230 KB, 1 page)
- [Carney Pools, Staffordshire – 22 September 2022](#) (PDF, 259 KB, 1 page)
- [Newbridge Fishing Lakes, Merseyside – 26 September 2022](#) (PDF, 246 KB, 1 page)
- [Dan's Top Pool including Middle Pool, West Midlands – 27 September 2022](#) (PDF, 371 KB, 1 page)
- [The Hunstrete Fishery, Avon – 7 October 2022](#) (PDF, 382 KB, 1 page)

- [Mere Moor Fisheries, Cheshire – 28 September 2022](#) (PDF, 285 KB, 1 page)

Further information

You can:

Background

Koi herpesvirus disease (KHV) is a listed disease under [The Aquatic Animal Health \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2009](#). KHV outbreaks have been subject to statutory controls in the UK since 2007. The UK maintains a surveillance programme for this disease.

When the FHI confirm an outbreak, they take steps to control and, wherever possible, remove the disease. This may involve movement controls on susceptible species in the affected area, enhanced biosecurity, culling of fish, and cleaning and disinfecting of the premises.

Once statutory controls are in place the site operators must write to the FHI to get permission to move live fish into, out of, or within the designated area, and to make material changes to the site or site activities. This also applies to fish eggs and gametes.

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Last updated 16 November 2022 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 16 November 2022

A confirmed designation has been lifted.

2. 27 October 2022

A confirmed designation has been lifted.

3. 13 October 2022

A confirmed designation has been lifted.

4. 11 October 2022

A confirmed designation has been lifted.

5. 7 October 2022

A new disease outbreak listed.

6. 7 October 2022

A number of confirmed designations have been lifted.

7. 29 September 2022

A disease control has been lifted.

8. 28 September 2022
A disease outbreak lifted.
9. 28 September 2022
A new disease outbreak listed.
10. 27 September 2022
A new disease outbreak listed.
11. 26 September 2022
A new disease outbreak listed.
12. 22 September 2022
A new disease outbreak listed.
13. 7 September 2022
List has been updated with the new outbreak confirmed at Swan Lake
14. 26 August 2022
A new disease notification has now been listed.
15. 23 August 2022
A new disease notification has now been listed.
16. 12 August 2022
New outbreak of KHV listed.
17. 9 August 2022
Three new KHV outbreaks confirmed.
18. 4 August 2022
Two confirmed designations now revoked, and removed from the 'applied at' section, and moved to the 'controls lifted at' section.
19. 27 July 2022
2 new disease outbreaks listed.
20. 26 July 2022
A new disease notification listed.
21. 26 July 2022

A new disease outbreak listed.

22. 6 July 2022

First published.

Catherine Large at the End Point Assessment 2022 conference

Hello everyone, thank you for inviting me to speak to you today. I'm here as the qualifications regulator, as it is our job to make sure that the Apprenticeship End Point Assessments that are in our purview are awarded consistently and fairly and with the apprentice's interests protected as a priority. So I'd like to focus on three key things this morning from my perspective and then over to you for questions.

Firstly, you will be aware that End Point Assessment Organisations were asked in 2020 to apply to be regulated by Ofqual, as part of the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education's programme to simplify the quality assurance process – and that ticks off one of the challenges of 2018, Charlotte [Bosworth, who chaired the event]. Many of you here today will have recently been through our recognition process or are perhaps going through it now. I know you are keen to understand how the market will change and develop as a consequence, so I will give you an update and overview today.

Then, following on from that, I want to talk about our approach to regulating End Point Assessments in delivery, and what you can expect from us as the regulator. This will be something that those of you in the room who have been recognised by Ofqual for a while will be very familiar with I'm sure, but I'm conscious as I said, that there are organisations here that are brand new to Ofqual regulation too.

And finally, I just want to talk to you about the importance of data and research and how this informs how we regulate, and how, in turn, I hope it will help drive up quality in the apprenticeship system overall in the future.

EQA transition update

So, to start with, Ofqual recognition. What's going on? The Institute's decision two years ago that all apprenticeship assessments should be awarded by organisations that are subject to statutory regulation was, I think, a really important sector development. We are delighted that so many End Point Assessment Organisations, of all shapes and sizes, have come forward to meet the necessarily high bar we set for entering the regulated community.

Out of the approximately 100 organisations that applied to us in the initial phase, we have now recognised 51 to deliver end point assessments, with more applications under review, including 9 EPAOs recently invited to panel meetings. These new organisations, together with the existing operators in the regulated market, means that there are now 110 organisations in total offering regulated end-point assessments, and we are making more decisions each day. We have never received and approved so many applications for recognition in Ofqual's 12-year history. And this has been done without lowering the bar on quality.

This growth includes organisations who may be here today that are specialists in their respective fields, that have demonstrated they can meet our requirements. They range from niche organisations like the Institute of Cast Metal Engineers, recognised for a single apprenticeship standard – the Metal Casting, Foundry and Patternmaking Technician (I like that example), to those that are broader in scope offering popular standards such as Business Administrator and Associate Project Manager.

The Department for Education (previously, the Education and Skills Funding Agency) is now taking steps to remove End Point Assessment Organisations from their Register if they have not been recognised by Ofqual after two applications. These organisations have not yet demonstrated that they meet our requirements by providing sufficient evidence to us, two years after the announcement was first made. If that sounds a bit tough then it all comes back, for me, to the goal of protecting the quality of assessments for apprentices and their current and potential employers. There is absolutely nothing stopping organisations applying to us at any point in the future, as many times as they like.

I am alive to the risks in the market as it changes, and we remain in close dialogue with the Department and the Institute as they manage these developments. Our work so far has brought more than 95% of apprentices in our first phase into the protection of regulation. We are united as partners in our aims for quality and will continue to prioritise the apprentices themselves as we progress through the programme. We expect apprentices who have started their end point assessment with an EPAO to complete their end point assessment with the same EPAO – the transition process is being very carefully managed, so no apprentice is disadvantaged.

We are now starting to look at applications from organisations that have applied to us as part of the last phase of the programme, the deadline of which was 16 May. We have received applications from all 30 organisations we were expecting to receive, which is great news. Thank you for coming in on time. These applications will now be reviewed, and the outcomes shared with individual organisations and we will continue to provide updates like this on our progress.

I'm confident therefore that there will continue to be a thriving market of End Point Assessment Organisations supporting apprentices in the future. And, of course, I am highly recommending that everyone makes an Ofqual-recognised Awarding Organisation their EPA provider of choice from this point on.

Regulatory approach

The second point I wanted to talk to you about today is what you can expect from us as the regulator.

Many elements of our regulatory approach to End Point Assessment are similar to those used in our regulation of other qualifications. This includes setting the rules and requirements that you must meet as awarding organisations and then monitoring and enforcing those rules. These are elements of our approach across all regulated qualifications and you would expect us to be consistent and coherent across all qualifications.

But apprenticeship assessment is a particular form of assessment. The assessment must meet the requirements set out by employers as articulated in the Apprenticeship Standard and Assessment Plan held by the Institute. Like many vocational qualifications, it is not done en masse in an exam hall but in the field, in workplaces, on site, and at multiple different points in the year. Our regulatory approach is therefore tailored to this unique set of circumstances.

Over the past year we have established our new field team, whose job it is to engage End Point Assessment Organisations directly and take time to understand your approaches to assessment. An important and growing part of this team's role is to travel to those places where assessment is being carried out and observe apprentices being assessed. From manufacturing environments to hair salons, the team have been welcomed by you and – most crucially – employers, who understand how important it is for Ofqual to see assessments first hand, so we can properly appreciate the hard work that both they and the apprentice put into a meaningful apprenticeship programme. Through this work our aim is to better understand the quality of assessments being offered to apprentices and their experience of them.

We are also establishing sector fora for awarding organisations to collectively share and address issues which some of you have participated in already. We have seen a real willingness to engage, and to work together to resolve problems, for example those offering assessments in financial services, who recently agreed to work jointly on common grade descriptors. We have seen a welcome readiness to adjust approaches to accommodate common practice and this is critical to establishing consistency across awarding organisations and strengthening comparability for apprentices and employers. We also have got a really close feedback loop with the Institute, to make sure that any adjustments needed to Assessment Plans are fed back and acted on.

We call this collaborative working with Awarding Organisations co-regulation and you will hear us talk of this more and more. Yes, we are the regulator, and yes, we have rules that you, they, have to comply with. But there is no reason not to work cooperatively, if you have quality as your shared goal, and the interests of the apprentices themselves as your priority.

Research and data

The last point that I want to mention briefly is the increasing use of research and data in our work in this area. It is so important to us to ensure that vocational and technical qualifications and assessments are properly theorised, researched and documented, so there is a strong evidence base from which they can be understood.

Some of you will be aware of our CASLO research, led by Paul Newton, for example, which looks to thoroughly understand qualifications that confirm the acquisition of specified learning outcomes. We are also looking in to how best to assess 'soft skills', behaviours – the 'highly valued competencies' that employers demand. These are inherently difficult to assess but incredibly important to get right for employers.

Those of you who have been regulated by Ofqual for some time will know we are now collecting EPA outcome data on an annual basis, which we will publish in due course in line with other qualifications we regulate, once it becomes a significant data set. This will allow us to compare outcomes between EPAOs on the same standard and over time. We hope it will in turn contribute to the national picture we have about apprentices as a cohort of learners and support the system as a whole to develop further.

Conclusion

To conclude then, as I said, I believe that working together cooperatively we can get the best outcomes for apprentices and employers.

We need input and feedback from you, through participation in sector fora and other forums we host, as I said, as well as other direct contact on risks and issues. We will shortly be publishing some new guidance for awarding organisations to support interpretation and understanding of our EPA regulations and clarify some points which have proven unclear since we launched them in 2018. This will be formally open for consultation shortly and we would welcome your views.

And I know that you are all here today because you are interested in cooperating with each other to drive quality. I welcome discussions today about industry best practice, and the work you might do to collectively drive up quality in the system. As the regulator we can play our part in setting a quality baseline, but to really reach the gold standard – that is up to you.

I hope that's helpful. I'm around all morning to answer your questions.

Dangerous driver who killed a baby receives increased sentence after referral by the Attorney General

News story

James Davis will spend longer in prison for causing the death of a baby by dangerous driving.



A Walsall man has received an increased prison sentence for causing death by dangerous driving after his case was referred to the Court of Appeal by the Attorney General Rt Hon Suella Braverman QC MP.

On 4 April 2021, James Davis, 35, was driving at grossly excessive speed along a shopping high street in Brownhills, Walsall, when he lost control of his vehicle and collided with a pram carrying Ciaran Morris, an 18-day old baby, who was killed.

Davis had been travelling at speeds of up to 67 miles per hour – over twice the speed limit – and was driving uninsured whilst under the influence of cannabis. The collision occurred when he became distracted by his mobile phone. He then fled the scene before handing himself in to the police.

On 8 April 2022, Davis was sentenced to 6 years and 6 months' imprisonment at Wolverhampton Crown Court for causing death by dangerous driving.

The Attorney General referred his sentence to the Court of Appeal under the Unduly Lenient Sentence scheme because she did not believe it reflected the severity of the offences that had taken place.

On 6 July the Court of Appeal found Davis' original sentence to be unduly lenient and imposed a new sentence of 10 years' imprisonment.

Speaking after the hearing, the Attorney General Rt Hon Suella Braverman QC MP said:

Today my thoughts are with the family of Ciaran Morris, who was tragically killed by the criminally dangerous driving of James Davis. While no sentence can repair the damage caused by Davis' actions, I welcome the decision of the Court to impose a sentence that better reflects the dreadful offending that has taken place.

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