

Natural capital

Marine environment



Marine natural capital and ecosystem services

Summary

Marine ecosystems are critically important to many services, goods and benefits that support human societies; and there is a growing requirement to better represent them through the lens of natural capital. As such, there is a need to build a common, and shared, knowledge base and to ensure that existing data can be effectively applied to describe and understand marine environments in the context of natural capital.

Work involved

JNCC has identified several work areas which aim to build the knowledge base and demonstrate how existing knowledge and data can inform discussions relating to marine natural capital. These include:

- i. Developing a robust marine natural capital asset register;
- ii. Mapping the distribution of marine ecosystem services (including both the supply of, and demand for, them);
- iii. Building a better understanding of the trade-offs in marine ecosystem services when making management decisions; and
- iv. Assessing the status of marine ecosystem services using existing marine biodiversity indicators.

Key Outcomes

New data and information products to support assessments of marine natural capital, including the state of marine ecosystem services.

Future Work

New partnerships will be sought across a range of organisations, including businesses and other parts of government.

Identified research priorities

Integrating the concepts of marine natural capital into management decisions for the marine environment.

Further information

For further details on the work above please see the following paper: <http://bit.ly/2mdECcH>

Country: UK

Main Drivers:

Defra 25 Year Environment Plan, JNCC Strategy 2017 – 2020, EU Biodiversity Strategy

Period of work: 2014 onwards

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