



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Marine Protected Area Network Management Action Plan for Wales

2018–2019



Overview

For the first time, the MPA Network Management Action Plan for Wales 2018-19 brings together in one place the priority network level actions identified by the MPA Management Steering Group which work to maintain and improve the management and condition of the network of MPAs across Wales. It includes ongoing management actions plus new actions identified to improve the management and condition of the network.

The MPA Network Management Action Plan complements management activity delivered at a local level and identified within individual site action plans where they exist [please see Annex 2 of the MPA Network Management Framework for Wales 2018-2023 for details of these]. This Action Plan is focused on improving management at our existing network of sites; other workstreams are taking forward work to complete the network of MPAs.

The MPA Network Management Action Plan works toward the long-term vision for the management of the MPA network in Wales where:

The Welsh MPA network is under effective and consistent management which safeguards the marine wildlife and habitats of sites, and leads to site features achieving or maintaining favourable condition. Network management supports resilient marine ecosystems which in turn help to achieve clean, safe, healthy, sustainable, productive and biologically diverse Welsh seas. MPAs are valued for the long-term benefits they provide to the people of Wales through the protection of their rich natural and cultural heritage.

Each action contributes to at least one of the five management principles:

1. **Strategic Planning:** Management should be guided by strategic planning processes at both a sectoral and all-Wales level. It supports sustainable use of the MPA network in ways which conserve and enhance condition, support resilience of marine ecosystems, support wellbeing and deliver sustainable management of natural resources.
2. **Regulation, development consenting and assessment processes:** Regulatory processes and consenting decisions should be delivered consistently and proportionately across the network, and proactively consider and support the maintenance or enhancement (where possible / appropriate) of the condition of relevant sites and features across the network.
3. **Management advice and guidance:** Decision-making and management operations should be supported by clear and consistent advice and guidance on MPAs including their conservation objectives.
4. **Understanding the condition of, and pressures and threats on, sites and their features to inform management:** management should be informed by, and consistently refer to, formal assessment and reporting on the health and condition of features, sites and the network as a whole. Assessment and reporting is informed by a prioritised monitoring programme that improves understanding of condition, change and impacts across aspects of the network where key pressures are identified.
5. **Wider management:** management operations on individual and multiple sites should be prioritised to ensure delivery of activity that has the potential for greatest improvement in the management of key pressures, and on condition across the network. Management activities may maintain or enhance feature condition, identify and address particular local issues and pressures, and raise awareness of MPAs through targeted interventions and engagement with members of the public.

The actions

Actions were submitted by Steering Group members for assessment against a set of agreed prioritisation criteria, which are set out in **Annex 2**. Working with the Steering Group's European Marine Site Officer (EMSO) advisor, we also invited other EMSOs to submit actions to be assessed for inclusion in the first Network Management Action Plan.

Following the assessment the Steering Group has agreed a list of 21 priority actions. Many of the actions in this first iteration of the Action Plan are investigatory in nature. It is anticipated that these investigatory actions will result in the development of active interventions suitable for inclusion in future iterations of the Action Plan.

The actions reflect the breadth of MPA management which takes place day in day out as well as specific interventions and projects.

Annex 1 contains proposed actions which Steering Group members assessed as being important but more suitable for delivery at a local rather than network level. Local delivery officers will provide an update on these projects, and any other local actions being delivered with relevance to the network, as part of the annual reporting process for this Action Plan (Action 20 refers).

	Action	Description	MPA Network Management Outcome(s)	Timescale for delivery	Key Management Authorities	Resource secured: Y/N?
1	Develop an approach to undertaking improved and periodic MPA condition assessments.	Develop indicators and a process for reporting on condition of features protected within the network of MPAs in Wales.	Timely assessment and reporting on the condition of the features of our network will better inform management and focus priorities.	Stage 1: August 2018 Stage 2: December 2018 Stage 3: December 2018 – February 2021	NRW	Y for Stages 1 & 2; Stage 3 EMFF bid awaiting decision.
2	Deliver MPA management through regulatory consenting processes.	Regulatory decisions take account of impacts on MPAs and are in accordance with WNMP policies (once published), including in relation to condition and management of the MPA network.	Decision making that reduces impact on the features of our MPA network.	Continual	All management authorities	Y

	Action	Description	MPA Network Management Outcome(s)	Timescale for delivery	Key Management Authorities	Resource secured: Y/N?
3	Improve accessibility of marine monitoring data.	Compile and enter marine monitoring data into a suitable database (Marine Recorder) to increase accessibility of marine monitoring data. The project will focus on all sediment monitoring data since 2014, all WFD sediment data since 2007 and all reef data since 2010.	This will inform assessments of MPAs and allows the information to be used by others in projects / research, improving the overall marine evidence base.	October 2018 – March 2019	NRW	Y
4	Further develop and deliver a risk based marine monitoring programme across the MPA network.	Develop a prioritised, risk-based marine biodiversity monitoring programme across the MPA network which will be delivered using the most efficient and effective techniques available. Results and analyses will be published and used to inform management. Whilst the new programme is being developed, the current monitoring programme will continue to be delivered.	This will inform future assessments of MPA condition and improve the overall marine evidence base. The evidence will also inform the development of appropriate management measures and in the long-term help understand their effectiveness.	Ongoing delivery of risk based monitoring programme; implementation of new integrated marine biodiversity monitoring programme from April 2019 onwards.	NRW JNCC WG	Y
5	Develop an approach for refining conservation objectives for all MPAs in Wales while continuing to publish guidance for new sites as necessary.	Develop an approach to providing more targeted conservation advice for our MPA features in Welsh waters, while making sure that existing sites have published conservation objectives which will be integrated into the new approach when developed.	Decision-making and management will be supported by clear and consistent advice and guidance on MPAs including their conservation objectives.	Publish conservation advice for sites as needed. Initial contract to develop the approach on targeted conservation objectives September 2018 – March 2019.	NRW JNCC	Y

	Action	Description	MPA Network Management Outcome(s)	Timescale for delivery	Key Management Authorities	Resource secured: Y/N?
6	Develop a UK Dolphin and Harbour Porpoise Conservation Strategy.	Develop a consistent, UK-wide approach to managing pressures and threats on eight of the most commonly-found dolphin and porpoise species in UK waters within and outside MPAs.	Consultation on draft Strategy Publication and implementation of Strategy.	Consultation December 2018 Publication Summer 2019	WG JNCC NRW	Y
7	Undertake analysis of outstanding monitoring data samples to inform site condition assessment.	Complete analysis of outstanding data samples to improve accuracy and confidence in condition assessments.	Good, timely knowledge of the condition of features will help prioritise management action.	October 2018 – March 2019	NRW	Y
8	Assess and where necessary manage the impact of commercial fishing activities on MPAs.	Continue to deliver the Assessing Welsh Fishing Activities Project. The scope of the work currently focuses on Welsh waters to 12 nautical miles and considers impacts on benthic habitats in MPAs as well as mobile species features e.g. fish, birds and marine mammals.	Will improve the evidence base on the pressures / threats from all relevant commercial fishing activities on condition of the features across the network. This will be used to inform where management is needed.	Assessments completed 2020; management measures ongoing.	WG NRW	Y
9	Operate a risk based approach to fisheries enforcement.	Implement a risk-based and intelligence-led approach to marine enforcement, using technological improvements to maintain a focus on high-risk fisheries activities.	This action is key to the regulation of fisheries in Welsh waters.	Continual	WG	Y

	Action	Description	MPA Network Management Outcome(s)	Timescale for delivery	Key Management Authorities	Resource secured: Y/N?
10	MPA Network Condition Improvement Project.	Expand the remit of the existing MPA Condition Improvement Project to incorporate, and update where necessary, the pressures and threats for the complete network of MPAs in Wales, including recently designated sites. Reprioritise priority work areas and focus going forward.	Revised project scope will focus on the identifying the pressures and threats that are (or could) significantly affect the condition of the features. The project will actively seek to address common management challenges across the network scale.	July 2018 – Apr 2019	NRW	Y
11	Improve maps of the extent and distribution of Annex I marine habitats.	Key evidence to support management of SACs (e.g. casework advice) and Article 17 reporting. Mainly involves collation of third party data (e.g. UKHO multibeam data) to update maps.	Improved maps will support management as well as assessment and reporting.	Continual (as new data becomes available).	NRW	Y

	Action	Description	MPA Network Management Outcome(s)	Timescale for delivery	Key Management Authorities	Resource secured: Y/N?
12	Deliver phase 2 of the unregulated activities project, focussed on the priority activities.	Project focussed on the unregulated activities of greatest concern at the network scale. The project will develop the evidence base on the spatial and temporal distribution, intensity and impacts of these activities on features protected in the network. We will work with appropriate stakeholders to identify and implement feasible and effective management interventions (e.g. regulation, financial incentives, behavioural change, etc.), where required, to mitigate impacts.	The project will increase our evidence base for high priority activities. This will allow the prioritisation and implementation of management (if needed).	September 2018 – April 2019	NRW	Y

	Action	Description	MPA Network Management Outcome(s)	Timescale for delivery	Key Management Authorities	Resource secured: Y/N?
13	Deliver the priority actions within the Marine Litter Action Plan where they provide benefit to the network of MPAs in Wales.	<p>The priority actions for delivery are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strong evidence base – build an understanding of what works, recognising that different types of litter requires different solutions, to inform the action plan. • Focus on preventative action to prevent the problem at source as core strategy. • Involvement of communities of place, communities of interest and users of the marine environment to develop and implement solutions. • Integrated working to maximise economic, social and environmental outcomes. • Monitor the impact of interventions in achieving long term change. 	Will improve understanding of this issue on MPAs in Wales.	March 2021	<p>The Clean Seas Partnership:</p> <p>WG</p> <p>NRW</p> <p>DCWW</p> <p>MHPA</p> <p>LAs</p> <p>RAG officers</p>	Y

	Action	Description	MPA Network Management Outcome(s)	Timescale for delivery	Key Management Authorities	Resource secured: Y/N?
14	Collate and analyse evidence to inform reporting requirements which meet national and international obligations, including under Section 124 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009) and to OSPAR on effective management of MPAs.	<p>Update the 2016 assessment on management effectiveness to include new information and feed Welsh level information into the UK report to OSPAR.</p> <p>Compile report under section 124 of the Marine Act on the extent to which an ecologically coherent network of MPAs in Welsh waters has been achieved and is being managed effectively.</p>	Improved accessible information on the state of the MPA network.	Section 124 report laid before the NAfW and published on WG website – December 2018 Management effectiveness report submitted to OSPAR – October 2018.	WG NRW JNCC	Y
15	Explore how outcomes from pilot projects on diffuse and atmospheric pollution at Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau, Pembrokeshire Marine and Severn Estuary SACs can be applied across the network.	Use learning from site level projects to explore the need to develop a network scale project / action addressing water pollution effects on the features of the MPA network.	Improved water quality across the network.	Interim results to be reviewed by MPAMSG June 2019.	NRW Relevant Authority Groups	Y

	Action	Description	MPA Network Management Outcome(s)	Timescale for delivery	Key Management Authorities	Resource secured: Y/N?
16	Sustainable Management of Marine Natural Resources Project. The Welsh Government has been awarded European Maritime and Fisheries Funding to deliver this project which will support the implementation of the first Welsh National Marine Plan.	To develop, and improve access to, the environmental evidence base to help identify opportunities and constraints in relation to potential future development of the wave and tidal stream energy and aquaculture sectors in Welsh waters. It will aim to create locational guidance and other tools to allow the consideration of environmental sensitivities and help to ensure compliance with the environmental policies in the draft WNMP.	Local guidance and other tools will allow developers, decision makers and other stakeholders to better understand the environmental sensitivities within areas of potential future use for the wave and tidal stream and aquaculture sectors leading to better outcomes for the environment and contributing towards the sustainable development of these sectors.	Work Package 1 (Collation and QA of existing data and information) to be delivered by January 2019. Work Package 2 (Improved access to relevant data and information and production of locational guidance and decision making tools) to be delivered by December 2020.	WG NRW	Y

	Action	Description	MPA Network Management Outcome(s)	Timescale for delivery	Key Management Authorities	Resource secured: Y/N?
17	Develop a bio-security plan for marine invasive non-natives species (INNS) learning from existing projects.	<p>Pilot project at Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC to inform development and implementation of biosecurity planning across the MPA. It will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with stakeholders to address the main pathways of introduction and spread of marine INNS. • Develop techniques to assess and predict the effects of INNS on habitats and species. • Build capacity to protect marine biodiversity and minimise risks to protected features. • Learn from The Rapid LIFE project particularly the pilot work done on the Severn. 	The main outcome of the project will be the protection of the features of the site by managing the key pathways by which marine INNS are introduced and spread at the site level through the use of good biosecurity.	<p>Preparatory action: August 2018 – March 2019</p> <p>EMFF project: April 2019 – March 2022</p>	NRW PLAS RAG	Y for preparatory action; EMFF bid awaiting decision.
18	<p>Develop consistent and proportionate guidance to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> improve casework advice, and to support implementation of the Welsh National Marine Plan. 	To support a consistent and proportionate assessment of the impacts of regulated activities on the protected features of MPAs in the Welsh marine area. Guidance to support implementation of Welsh National Marine Plan policies in decision making e.g. marine licencing and policy specific guidance.	Consistent and proportionate guidance will support improved decision making which will help to improve the security of management and help to maintain the condition, and where appropriate, improve the features of our MPAs.	Ongoing programme of relevant guidance production.	NRW JNCC	Y

	Action	Description	MPA Network Management Outcome(s)	Timescale for delivery	Key Management Authorities	Resource secured: Y/N?
19	Addressing coastal squeeze impacts on MPAs.	A review to understand the nature and scale of coastal squeeze on MPA coastal habitat features. Continue to progress habitat creation projects to provide compensatory coastal habitat for anticipated habitat loss arising from work associated with flood and coastal erosion risk management schemes.	Compensation for loss of some coastal habitats due to climate change and increased knowledge of what the impacts may be.	Evidence action: September 2018 – end March 2019. Habitat creation work is ongoing.	NRW WG	Y
20	Maintain links between the Network Action Plan and locally agreed actions, where they exist, and support exploration of funding opportunities.	This action will highlight and link to local actions of relevance, including specific local actions in the annual action plan as appropriate.	Will allow the sharing of best practice from different sites and encourage cross-site working as well as promoting the work done at the site level.	Reports produced by EMSOs and collated by MPAMSG EMSO advisor by June 2019.	Relevant Authority Groups	Y
21	Integrate sustainable management of the MPA network with the Area Statement Process.	Ensure that the MPA Management principles are embedded in and integrated with the Marine Area Statement process and products, recognising that securing a well managed network of MPAs is a key tool in delivering SMNR and a resilient marine ecosystem.	Integration of marine planning and management processes and additional support for MPA network management delivery.	Development of first marine area statement (March 2020) and ongoing delivery.	NRW Management Authorities and all other relevant stakeholders	Y

Annex 1

Actions for delivery at a local level (at this stage)

Action	Description	Site	Resource secured: Y/N?
Identify and address issues affecting otters in Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC.	Consolidating information on otters within the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC and implementing any management actions needed to maintain the feature. The otter will also be used engage with the general public.	Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC	Y
Litter Free Coast & Sea Somerset project.	Investigate the possibility of expanding the Litter Free Coast & Sea Somerset project to the south Wales coast (SEP project).	Severn Estuary EMS	Y
Investigate use of the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC by otters.	The study will build on existing work, and make use of trail camera technology, to try to establish if otters are resident on the coast or temporarily visiting the sea from inland waterways. Otter usage is known to be high, but when and how otters use the marine environment is less well understood. Generation of evidence to help inform management.	Pembrokeshire Marine SAC	Y
Produce a bilingual marine education resource for Pembrokeshire (with wider application).	Collate existing resource and increase availability to schools and organised groups to generate a greater understanding of the wildlife of Welsh seas. Cross-site collaboration planned, with input into all-Wales Visit Wales related outputs.	Pembrokeshire Marine SAC	Y
Investigate options for enhancing the crawfish population within MPAs.	Pilot project to investigate options for enhancing the crawfish population in Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC.	Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC	Y
Workshop on atmospheric nitrogen deposition into the Severn Estuary European Marine Sites.	Investigate the opportunity to work in partnership with Cardiff University's Water Research Institute to host a catchment-wide workshop.	Severn Estuary EMS	Y

Action	Description	Site	Resource secured: Y/N?
Identify and address water pollution issues at a catchment level.	Pilot project at Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC to improve the water quality of the SAC and reduce the stress on the site features. This will help the condition of multiple features and help input in other drivers such as water framework directive.	Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC	Y
Review existing data on nutrient condition, fish and freshwater invertebrates of the estuary feature in Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC.	Pilot project at Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC to better inform the conservation objectives and regulation 37 advice. The estuaries are low nutrient estuaries and need to be maintained as such.	Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC	Y
Increase nitrate and phosphate monitoring data for the Milford Haven waterway to aid pollution reporting and help inform management.	SWEPT (surveying waterway environment for pollution threats) citizen science project will generate data and raise awareness of the land run-off issue within the catchment and its impacts on the marine environment.	Pembrokeshire Marine SAC	Y
Review the intensity, frequency and distribution of land-based recreational activities ongoing within the Severn Estuary EMS.	ASERA Officer will work with RAs, NE, NRW, the Welsh Government and D&S IFCA to determine whether management measures are required in relation to the above, developing a strategic approach to visitor management (e.g. through zonation / beach management plans) where necessary.	Severn Estuary EMS	Y
Reduce recreational impacts on marine mammals.	Re-instate boat patrols by Ceredigion County Council to aid code of conduct enforcement, bottlenose dolphin population monitoring and impact studies, and essential education / awareness raising.	Cardigan Bay SAC	Y
Bait digging byelaw pilot.	The next stage in bait code work with enforcement, awareness raising, monitoring and displacement activity study to be conducted by NRW and partners.	Pembrokeshire Marine SAC	Y

Action	Description	Site	Resource secured: Y/N?
Establish recreational activity carrying capacity of the coast within MPAs.	Building on existing work, update Wales Activity Mapping data and expand to include angling.	Kenfig SAC Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries EMS Pembrokeshire Marine SC Cardigan Bay SAC	Y
Review shore-based angling, bait digging and boat-based recreational fishing activities.	Identify if there are any specific fishing related activities / sensitive locations / habitats / birds where there are likely to be potential impacts on the Severn Estuary EMS, activities / locations where there are no concerns, and locations where further information is required.	Severn Estuary EMS	Y
Reduce recreational impacts on MPA features.	Maintain work with local stakeholders as applicable to continue to raise awareness of and enforce well-established recreational codes of conduct. Review their effectiveness.	Severn Estuary EMS Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries EMS Pembrokeshire Marine SAC Skomer MCZ Cardigan Bay SAC Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC	Y

Annex 2

MPA Management Steering Group: Potential criteria for screening and scoring actions to include in the MPA Network Management Action Plan

Introduction

The MPA Management Steering Group (the Steering Group) has developed an MPA Network Management Framework to aid Welsh management authorities to better manage the MPA network in Wales. Alongside this Framework is the MPA Network Management Action Plan (NMAP) which will be updated and reported on an annual basis.

In the first year (2018/19) the NMAP is likely to focus on actions that are underway, fully funded or very likely to be funded. Even so, there needs to be some prioritisation of actions for this financial year given resource limitations (including staff time). At its meeting in March 2018, the Steering Group agreed to the development of transparent criteria that can be consistently applied to prioritise actions put forward for consideration for the NMAP.

This paper outlines the criteria developed for discussion with the Steering Group at a teleconference in May 2018, acknowledging the criteria will evolve for future rounds of the NMAP. These criteria have been developed from two processes NRW has used for prioritisation of marine work planning.

Screening and prioritisation of actions for inclusion in the NMAP

Table 1 summarises the proposed criteria; further detail to apply them is provided in the subsequent sections.

Table 1: Threshold scores and maximum scores for each criterion

#	Criteria	Threshold score	Maximum possible score
1	Is the action consistent with the MPA management principles?	2*	15
2	What is the spatial extent of the action?	2	3
3	What is the ability of the action to deliver improvements, or to improve our understanding of pressure / threats or their management?	2	3

* Against at least one of the management principles

#	Criteria	Threshold score	Maximum possible score
4	What is the feasibility of the action?	2	3
5	Does implementing the action represent value for money? Yes / No	N/A	N/A
	Total	8	24

We are proposing two screening measures:

1. If an action scores negatively against any of the MPA management principles in criterion 1 it should not be taken any further through the prioritisation process until these issues are addressed.
2. Only actions that reach the threshold score (as laid out in Table 1) for all criteria should be included in the NMAP¹.

Further consideration could be given on how the total score for an action could be used to differentiate between and therefore prioritise actions included in the NMAP, for example to determine the allocation of resources.

1. Is the action consistent with the MPA Management Principles?

This first criterion is focussed on the consistency of an action with the five MPA network management principles. Actions will be scored against each of the MPA management principles (Box 1); the maximum score achievable is therefore fifteen. An action may not be relevant for all management principles. If an action scores negatively against any management principle it will not be taken any further through the prioritisation process until these issues are addressed.

¹ Sponsors of actions that fail to reach the threshold should consider how it could be improved to reach that score before it is suitable to be included in the NMAP.

Box 1: MPA Management Principles

MP1 Strategic Planning: Management should be guided by strategic planning processes at both a sectoral and all-Wales level. It supports sustainable use of the MPA network in ways which conserve and enhance, and contributes towards resilient marine ecosystems, wellbeing and delivery of sustainable management of natural resources.

MP2 Regulation, development consenting and assessment processes: Regulatory processes and consenting decisions are delivered consistently and proportionately across the network, and proactively consider and support the maintenance or enhancement (where possible / appropriate) of the condition of relevant sites and features across the network.

MP3 Management advice and guidance: Decision-making and management operations is supported by clear and consistent advice and guidance on MPAs including their conservation objectives.

MP4 Understanding the condition of, and pressures and threats on, sites and their features to inform management: management is informed by formal assessment and reporting on the condition of features, sites and the network and the associated pressures. Assessment and reporting is informed by a prioritised evidence programme (including monitoring) which improves our understanding of the relationship between pressures and threats and condition.

MP5 Wider management: management activities across the network are prioritised towards those that have the potential for greatest improvement on condition and security of management. Common management challenges are address collectively across the network.

Use the following as a guide:

	Explanation	Score
N/A	The action has inconsistencies with the management principle.	-3
None	The action is not relevant to the management principle.	0
Low	The action is partially consistent with the management principle.	1
Medium	The action is consistent with the management principle.	2
High	The action is consistent with the management principle and will also bring about a positive change in ways of working.	3

2. What is the spatial extent of the action?

Scores should be allocated based on the scale of the impact of the action on the MPA network. Use the following as a guide:

	Explanation	Score
None	The action is for on a single site only and has no wider application across the network*.	0
Low	The action is for a small number of sites or a small proportion of the network.	1
Medium	<p>The action is for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • multiple sites or • a large proportion of the MPA network or • a large proportion of a feature across the network. <p>A medium score can also be awarded if the action is a demonstration project# with strong potential to be delivered across the network after a local pilot stage.</p>	2
High	The action is for the network (e.g. whole feature and/or pressure wide).	3

* These actions should be prioritised though local action plans where they exist or the Actions Database.

A demonstration project would need to address an issue that is of concern across the network but suitable to be carried out at a single site level to prove the approach.

3. What is the ability of the action to deliver improvements in condition, or to improve our understanding of pressure / threats or their management?

The following criterion has been divided into two parts. An action should be taken through only one:

- Criterion 3a is linked to the ability of the action to address a known pressure on or threat² to features of the network.
- Criterion 3b addresses actions where there is a need to investigate a pressure or threat, or to investigate the appropriate management measure to address the pressure or threat.

² **Pressure:** A factor that is considered to be currently having an adverse impact on one or more features.

Threat: A factor that is not currently an issue but is considered likely to become an issue in the near future (defined as up to 2020) unless action is taken.

3a. What is the ability of the action to deliver improvements to, or maintenance of, feature condition?

This criterion is related to actions that will result in improvements to, or maintenance of, the condition of features of the MPA network by managing pressures / threats. Use the following as a guide:

	Explanation	Score
None	The action is not targeted at a pressure or threat with a link to feature condition.	0
Low*	Threat: The action will manage one or more of the suspected threats that could affect the condition of the MPA network features.	1
Medium	Pressure: The action will manage one or more of the known pressures affecting the condition of the features of the MPA network. Threat: The action will manage one or more of the threats that could affect the condition of the features of the MPA network.	2
High	Pressure: The action will manage one or more of the known pressures significantly affecting the condition of the features of the MPA network, using a proven approach. Threat: The action will manage one or more of the threats that could significantly affect the condition of the features of the MPA network using a proven approach.	3

* There is no low score for pressures as to be prioritised for the NMAP the pressure should be known.

3b. What is the ability of the action to improve our understanding of pressure / threats or their management?

This criterion is related to actions that will result in improving our understanding of the pressures or threats to the MPA network, or improving our understanding of the different management measures that could be used to address these pressures or threats. Use the following as a guide:

	Explanation	Score
None	The action will not improve our understanding of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> pressures or threats; or the management measures needed to address them. 	0
Low*	Threat: The action will partially improve our understanding of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> one of the threats which could affect the condition of the MPA network features; or the management measures needed to address this threat. 	1
Medium	Pressure: The action will increase our understanding of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> one or more of the pressures and how they are affecting the condition of the features of the MPA network; or the management measures needed to manage those pressures. Threat: The action will improve our understanding of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> one or more of the threats that could affect the condition of the features of the MPA network; or the management measures needed to manage those threats. 	2
High	Pressure: The action will significantly increase our understanding of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> one or more of the pressures and how they are affecting the condition of the features of the MPA network; or the management measures needed to manage those pressures. Threat: The action will significantly improve our understanding of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> one or more of the threats that could significantly affect the condition of the features of the MPA network; or the management measures needed to manage those threats. 	3

* There is no low score for pressures as to be prioritised for the NMAP the pressure should be known.

4. What is the feasibility of the action?

This criterion relates to the technical feasibility of carrying out an action.

Technical feasibility: includes practical, logistical and technical ability (including skills and expertise) to undertake an action.

Use the following as a guide:

	Explanation	Score
None	The action is not technically feasible, even if resources were available.	0
Low	The technical feasibility of the action is currently unproven.	1
Medium	There are no significant issues with technical feasibility.	2
High	Technical feasibility is proven.	3

5. Does implementing the action represent value for money?

This criterion relates to the value for money of the action. This is a simple yes or no answer, but the yes answer will need to be justified. There is no scoring associated with this criterion.

Does implementing the action represent value for money? Yes / No

If yes, please justify your answer considering how proportionate the cost is to the size of the project and the benefits it will deliver (*please include the direct costs as well as other resources necessary to achieve the action and the expected outcomes of the project linked to improvements in condition or understanding*).