



Ocean Security Report

How a healthy ocean underpins the UK's
economic, environmental and food security

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Foreword

Sandy Luk

Chief Executive
Officer

The health of the UK's seas is no longer an environmental issue alone

A healthy ocean is irreplaceable infrastructure, critical to the UK's national security and resilience. It underpins our economic security, our food security, our energy security and supports the resilience and security of coastal communities.

The seas that surround our islands are vital to our daily lives. They sustain jobs, provide food, enable trade and generate clean, renewable energy. Healthy marine ecosystems also deliver vital services, from improving water quality to storing carbon and helping to regulate the impacts of climate change by attenuating wave energy and stabilising coastal environments. Yet these essential services are being steadily eroded.

Across the UK, from Scotland's expansive marine waters to Wales' coastal communities and England's busy marine economy, the condition of our seas reflects wider national pressures. Ocean degradation, driven by poor water quality, unsustainable fishing practices and the lack of a coherent marine spatial plan, is now converging with some of the defining challenges of our time, including biodiversity loss, economic growth and productivity pressures, and increasing competition for marine space.

This fragmented approach is placing a greater strain on marine ecosystems, increasing the costs of climate adaptation and exposing coastal communities to rising environmental and economic risks.

But this is also a moment of opportunity. Three new governments in Westminster, Holyrood and the Senedd have the chance to show leadership in regenerating our ocean. By putting ocean regeneration at the heart of decision-making, governments of the UK can improve and ensure our security, long-term resilience and prosperity.

This report sets out how regenerating our ocean's health can unlock four pillars of UK security and resilience: economic security, energy security, food security and coastal security. It also makes clear the consequences of inaction.

The current gap between policy ambition and delivery is not a barrier; it is a call for action. Public support for nature recovery provides the UK governments with a strong mandate to go further and faster to regenerate the UK's seas. The public are ready to see change, to feel hopeful about the future, and to take pride in the regeneration of our seas.

“ Nature sits at the heart of our national identity. It is the UK's second greatest source of pride after the NHS.

Public support for the regeneration of nature is overwhelming: 83% of people say it is important or a top priority to them personally, rising to 91% among Labour voters.

Yet only 15% of the public feel the UK government is currently doing a good job of protecting the natural environment.”

(National Trust & More in Common 2026)

At a time when nature remains one of the UK's strongest sources of shared identity, regenerating our ocean offers a way to turn that pride into progress, strengthening communities, supporting economic renewal and rebuilding public confidence in the government's ability to protect our seas, and the marine ecosystems we all depend on.

Introduction

The ocean as critical national infrastructure

UK seas should be viewed as critical national infrastructure. Like transport networks, energy grids and digital systems, our marine ecosystems provide essential services that sustain the functioning of the UK's economy and society.

The ocean is an ally against climate change and heatwaves, regulating our climate by absorbing 30% of carbon emissions and 90% of recent climate warming. It supports international trade, supplies food and enables renewable energy. Marine ecosystems can also help buffer UK coastlines from the impacts of increasingly severe storms and rising sea levels.

These functions form a system, interconnected and mutually reinforcing, strengthening our national resilience, supporting communities and enabling our long-term prosperity. There is growing recognition that economies do not operate independently of nature.

Despite a healthy ocean being vital to economic activity, its value has been historically underrepresented in decision-making. As marine ecosystems decline, the risks are no longer environmental alone. They are economic, financial and systemic.

The UK is particularly exposed. As an island nation with a global marine estate, including the waters of the UK Overseas Territories, the UK has one of the world's largest Exclusive Economic Zones. Its prosperity depends directly on the condition of its seas. The UK's seas and coast are estimated to contribute £272 billion annually to the economy, supporting businesses, jobs, communities and supply chains, across our coastal and inland communities.

Yet our laws, governance and regulation have not kept pace with the scale or complexity of these demands. Marine management remains fragmented, with decisions often taken in isolation rather than reflecting the cumulative pressures on the marine environment.

At the same time, financial systems have not fully integrated ocean-related risks, leaving the UK exposed to emerging economic shocks. As a result, the natural, economic and infrastructure systems that support economic growth, food security, climate resilience and coastal prosperity are being steadily weakened. Right now, climate change, geopolitical instability and domestic economic pressures are converging. Supply chain disruption, volatility in energy markets and rising food prices all reinforce the need to strengthen our domestic resilience. The health of the ocean is a defining factor in the UK's ability to respond to future shocks.

Traeth Llyfn beach, Wales
© JHS Archer-Thomson



This report sets out a framework for addressing this challenge, built around four interdependent pillars:

- **Economic security**
- **Energy security**
- **Food security**
- **Coastal security**

Together, they show that regenerating our ocean is not simply an environmental objective.

“**Across all four pillars, water quality is a critical enabling condition. Poor water quality undermines our economic security, energy security, food security and our coastal security.**”

It must be a strategic priority for all UK governments. Ocean regeneration is one of the clearest opportunities the UK has to turn environmental commitments into visible national renewal, delivering progress that people can see, feel and take pride in.

Chapter 1

Economic security

The UK's economy is tied to the health of its seas

From jobs and trade to energy and food systems, our marine ecosystems support economic activity across all four nations. Marine industries form a critical part of the UK's economic base, with coastal tourism, fisheries, shipping and ports, and offshore energy all relying on a functioning marine environment.

Coastal tourism and recreation alone support over 460,000 jobs – more than half of all employment linked to the marine environment – and are particularly important in communities with fewer alternative employment opportunities. For these areas, ocean health is not just an environmental concern; it is central to economic resilience and prosperity.

These activities also deliver wider social benefits, with marine recreation and associated health and wellbeing benefits derived from UK seas valued at approximately £1 billion annually.

This economic activity is sustained by marine natural capital – the assets and processes in our sea that generate value and support society. These include the maintenance of fish stocks and water quality, regulating our climate and supporting recreation.

Much of marine natural capital is renewable: when ecosystems are healthy, they can continue to deliver benefits indefinitely. A sufficient stock of marine natural capital – healthy, functioning marine ecosystems – is essential to sustaining the long-term flow of economic, social and environmental benefits we derive from our seas. Maintaining this baseline provides both current and future generations with stability and flexibility in an increasingly uncertain world.

The UK's marine and coastal natural capital assets are estimated at £272 billion, with marine-dependent sectors forming a significant and growing part of the economy. Their long-term performance is directly tied to the condition of the ecosystems on which they depend.

The opportunities of a sustainable blue economy

A sustainable blue economy offers robust growth, built on restoring the ecosystems that sustain it.

By working with the private sector, we can mobilise co-ordinated and expansive support for scalable ocean regeneration projects. Private capital represents the largest pool of global finance, yet investment in ocean regeneration remains limited and fragmented. Sustainable Development Goal 14, Life Below Water, aims to conserve marine ecosystems but is the most underfunded sustainability goal. While the UN estimates an annual requirement of \$175 billion USD globally, actual investments have hovered around \$4 billion.

With co-operation and creativity, we can overcome these barriers. We can enhance the data collected on ocean-related risks and returns. We can ensure that there is strong policy alignment between financial investment and ecological recovery.

Getting this right will unlock substantial opportunities. Investment in marine regeneration can drive job creation and regional development, particularly in coastal communities. Emerging 'blue' jobs in restoration, monitoring, sustainable aquaculture and marine management represent a significant, largely untapped opportunity to strengthen local economies and national resilience.

Realising this opportunity will depend on treating marine ecosystems as **critical national economic infrastructure, and an investable asset**. Investment in ocean health should be seen as a strategic investment in national security and economic resilience.

Just as governments invest in transport, energy and digital systems, sustained public investment is required to maintain and restore marine natural capital. Private or philanthropic finance alone will not deliver this at scale.

For governments, this means **embedding the value of healthy seas into economic decision-making**, from how public funding is allocated to how major projects are assessed and national infrastructure is planned.

Acting now offers a clear route to stronger local economies, better jobs and a more resilient future.

The cost of inaction

As ocean ecosystems decline, our ocean economy becomes less productive and secure. This creates increasing pressures across marine-dependent sectors, including reduced fisheries yields, higher costs for businesses, and greater exposure to environmental and economic volatility.

Businesses across the blue economy are already experiencing these impacts. Poor water quality reduces the economic and recreational value of coastal tourism by deterring visitors and shortening trip durations, while pollution events create direct economic losses for businesses that depend on clean and accessible seas. Fishers are facing pressures from changing fish stocks, lower catches, and rising operating costs.

Across sectors, businesses are also increasingly exposed to environmental risks linked to ocean pollution and ecosystem degradation. For example, Planet Tracker has highlighted the growing financial implications of PFAS-related liabilities to businesses, including the potential impacts on company cash flows, balance sheets and credit profiles. Its PFAS dashboard assessed 1,079 publicly listed companies and 5,248 facilities, finding that 55% of companies and 61% of facilities were categorised as high-risk for PFAS-related litigation.

These impacts are not distributed evenly. Coastal communities are particularly exposed given their close connections to marine industries, while smaller businesses are likely to have less capacity to absorb any economic shocks. Without action, the decline of marine ecosystems risks weakening the economic systems that depend on them, undermining the UK's long-term economic security and resilience.

Protecting and regenerating our seas is not only an environmental priority; it is an investment in economic security. The choice is between managing the growing costs of marine ecosystem decline or investing now in ocean regeneration.

There is a clear opportunity to regenerate our ocean and in turn, build a more secure and prosperous future. By recognising marine ecosystems as critical economic infrastructure and investing in their recovery, the UK can turn ocean regeneration into sustainable growth, stronger coastal economies and greater national resilience.

People on beach,
Wareham, UK
© Howard Walsh | Unsplash



Crab pots in Staithes, UK
© Gabrielle Polita | Unsplash

Chapter 2

Energy security

The UK's energy future will be built at sea

The UK's transition to a secure, low-carbon energy system will depend heavily on healthy, well-managed seas. Offshore energy will play a central role in reducing dependence on fossil fuels, stabilising energy prices and strengthening the resilience of the UK's energy system. The UK government's 2030 target of 43-50 GW of offshore wind capacity will not only require major investment in infrastructure, but also marine ecosystems capable of supporting long-term deployment at scale.

Offshore renewables are often framed as a technical challenge of capacity, infrastructure and investment. In reality, energy security also depends on the health of the marine environment in which this infrastructure operates.

Climate change and nature loss are deeply interconnected. Rising sea temperatures, ocean acidification and more frequent extreme weather events are placing increasing pressure on marine ecosystems, reducing their ability to store

carbon, regulate climate and recover from disturbance. As ecosystem resilience declines, so too does the stability of the natural systems that support long-term economic and energy security.

If we focus only on expanding offshore energy without restoring the ecosystems that sustain it, we risk undermining our own progress. Offshore wind turbines, subsea cables, interconnectors and emerging technologies such as floating offshore wind and tidal energy are long-term investments expected to operate over decades. Their performance, resilience and maintenance costs are shaped by the condition of the marine environment in which they are located and how that space is managed.

A clean energy transition that ignores ocean health is strategically short-sighted. The UK must move from managing ecosystem decline towards ocean regeneration, ensuring our seas continue to support both people and the infrastructure needed for a secure energy future.

Marine Spatial Planning as an enabler

As demand for offshore energy increases, marine space is becoming one of the UK's most contested strategic resources. Offshore energy development must co-exist with genuinely protected Marine Protected Areas, fisheries, shipping, ports and other marine industries, creating a complex landscape of competing demands.

The scale of the energy transition highlights the need for strategic management of marine space. Research from Heriot-Watt University demonstrates the challenge ahead: modelling a scenario where current North Sea offshore wind ambitions are delivered, wind farm boundaries could occupy around 11% of the North Sea by 2050. This illustrates the growing pressure on a finite resource. Without effective co-ordination, competing demands risk creating conflict, delaying projects, increasing costs and reducing certainty for developers and investors.

Marine Spatial Planning provides the framework to manage this complexity. Through a strategic, spatial and whole-system approach, it can consider cumulative impacts, long-term trade-offs and the limited availability of marine space. It can help identify suitable areas for energy infrastructure while avoiding sensitive or irreplaceable ecosystems.

This approach can reduce conflict between sectors, improve investment certainty and enable more efficient deployment of offshore energy. Crucially, it also provides a mechanism to align the energy transition with marine recovery. Climate change, biodiversity loss and changing energy needs cannot be addressed separately; a rapid expansion of offshore energy without effective planning risks undermining the marine systems on which long-term resilience depends.

By embedding ecosystem recovery into spatial decision-making, Marine Spatial Planning can safeguard areas for habitat



Offshore oil rig
 Grant Durr | Unsplash



Engineers standing among wind turbines and solar panels
 APChanel | Shutterstock

restoration, protect ecosystem functions and ensure offshore infrastructure is developed in ways that support, rather than compromise, ocean health. A healthy marine environment is not simply a co-benefit of the energy transition; it is a precondition for its success.

The cost of inaction

Without a co-ordinated approach to managing marine space, pressures on the marine environment will intensify. Poor siting decisions can damage ecosystems, create planning bottlenecks and increase the cost and complexity of project delivery. Over time, this reduces the availability of suitable space for future development and creates greater uncertainty for offshore renewable deployment.

Marine degradation and energy expansion are closely linked. As pressures increase, conflicts between sectors will sharpen, consent timelines will lengthen and uncertainty will grow. This risks slowing offshore renewable deployment and weakening the security and resilience of the UK's energy system.

Failure to strengthen Marine Spatial Planning and protect marine ecosystems

could increase costs for developers, governments and consumers, while intensifying competition between energy, fisheries, conservation, shipping and other sectors. At the same time, cumulative environmental damage, including habitat loss, pollution and species decline, will reduce the capacity of marine ecosystems to support sustainable development.

The cost of inaction is therefore not only environmental degradation; it is a slower, more expensive and less resilient energy transition.

The UK has an opportunity to deliver a faster, more efficient and more resilient energy transition by placing Marine Spatial Planning at the centre of decision-making. A co-ordinated, ecosystem-led approach across all four nations can reduce spatial conflicts, provide greater certainty for investors and ensure offshore renewable expansion works alongside the regeneration of the marine ecosystems on which long-term energy security depends.

Through strategic planning at sea, the UK can demonstrate how ocean regeneration, climate action, and energy resilience can work together to make the UK more secure and deliver long-term sustainable growth.

Chapter 3

Food security

The UK's seas can play a vital role in national food security

Fisheries and aquaculture can provide an important source of domestic food supply, support livelihoods, and contribute to local economies. Approximately 30,000 people are employed in the UK seafood industry. In an increasingly uncertain global context, marked by supply chain disruption, rising food prices and geopolitical instability, strengthening domestic food security is a key national priority and essential to the UK's long-term resilience.

Fish stocks, shellfish populations and aquaculture all rely on clean water and well-functioning habitats. Without these conditions, the long-term stability of seafood supply cannot be secured.

Pressures on fish stocks and marine food systems

The UK's marine food system is under increasing pressure. Fish stocks and aquaculture are affected by a combination of environmental and human-driven factors. Overfishing and unsustainable practices continue to deplete stocks and damage the very ecosystems they rely on. Habitat loss through seabed degradation and pollution affects both wild fisheries and aquaculture. Meanwhile, climate change is altering species distribution, migration patterns and stock stability. Fisheries depend on healthy marine ecosystems. Fish rely on a network of habitats, including the seabed, coastal nurseries such as seagrass, and wider ocean systems, for breeding, feeding and migration.

The condition of these habitats is shaped not only by environmental pressures, but also by pollution and the methods used to catch and harvest seafood. Repeated habitat disturbance degrades marine ecosystems, slowing the recovery of fish populations. Shifting fishing efforts towards lower-impact methods, where appropriate, would help protect the ecosystems that sustain productive fisheries while supporting the long-term sustainability of the sector.

Despite a strong legislative framework, including the Fisheries Act 2020, there remains a gap between legal commitments to increase the health of fish stocks and real-world outcomes. **Over half of assessed fish stocks in the UK are not meeting their recovery targets.*** The expected speed of growth of the aquaculture sector could put additional pressures on the health of marine ecosystems and needs to be effectively managed alongside other interests to ensure they all operate within environmental limits and feed is sourced sustainably. These combined pressures are reducing the resilience and productivity of the ocean, with direct implications for food security, coastal livelihoods and long-term stability.

*OSPAR Quality Status Report 2023, Recovery in the Population Abundance of Sensitive Fish Species

Supporting sustainable choices: The role of the Good Fish Guide

Consumers and businesses play an important role in shaping sustainable food systems. The Marine Conservation Society's Good Fish Guide provides a practical, science-based tool to support more sustainable seafood choices.

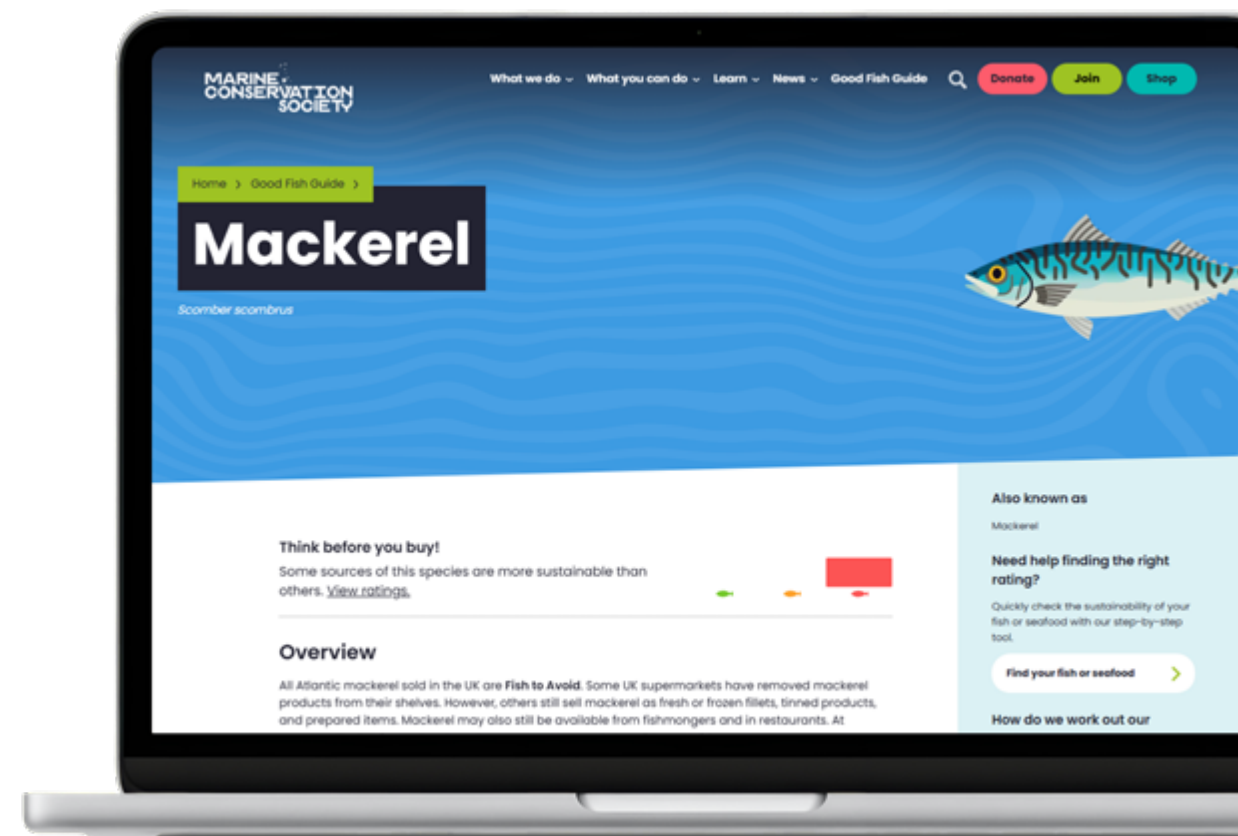
The guide assesses over 600 seafood options across more than 130 species, using a traffic light system – green (best choice), amber (needs improvement) and red (avoid) – alongside scores from 1 (most sustainable) to 5 (least sustainable). Ratings consider species, origin and fishing or farming methods, offering a clear picture of environmental impact.

By guiding decisions towards responsibly sourced seafood, the Good Fish Guide helps reduce pressure on overexploited stocks, supports better fishing and aquaculture practices, improving transparency across supply chains.

Recent updates highlight the scale of the challenge. Several widely consumed UK species have been downgraded, reflecting sustained pressure on fish stocks. Most cod is now red-rated (5), with no recommended UK-caught options. Atlantic mackerel has also been downgraded to red following years of overfishing. Some langoustine (scampi) fisheries have similarly declined, with sustainability now highly dependent on how and where they are caught.

Each time ratings are updated, there is a clear surge in public interest, reflected in significant increases in traffic to the Good Fish Guide. It is already used by major retailers to inform sourcing decisions, such as suspending mackerel sales in response to sustainability concerns.

To build on this momentum, government and industry should expand use of the Good Fish Guide in everyday decision-making – from public sector menus to supermarket sourcing. Using it as a shared reference point would help make sustainable seafood the default choice, while encouraging improvements where practices fall short and shifting the market towards more sustainable options.



The cost of inaction

Failure to regenerate marine ecosystems and manage fisheries sustainably could have significant consequences:

- Reduced seafood availability: declining stocks lower domestic supply
- Rising prices: scarcity makes seafood less affordable
- Greater reliance on imports: increasing exposure to global risks
- Loss of livelihoods: economic decline in coastal communities

- Long-term instability: reduced capacity of the ocean to provide food
- Repeated habitat degradation, alongside pollution: damaged marine ecosystems, further risking the long-term productivity of UK fisheries and aquaculture.

By regenerating marine ecosystems, tackling poor water quality and supporting sustainable fisheries, the UK can secure a more stable, affordable and nutritious seafood supply, while strengthening coastal economies and improving public health.

Chapter 4

Coastal security

Healthy UK seas create secure coastal communities

The long-term resilience of the UK's coastal communities is closely tied to the health of the marine ecosystems that surround and protect them. Ocean regeneration focuses not just on repairing damage, but on rebuilding entire systems so they can function and thrive again at scale.

Crucially, it recognises that lasting success depends on people. Coastal communities must be supported to help shape, manage and sustain the ocean ecosystems on which they depend.

Nature as critical national infrastructure

Marine nature-based solutions offer a powerful way to protect and regenerate ecosystems while tackling climate change, improving water quality and strengthening local economies. In practice, this means restoring habitats such as seagrass meadows, native oyster reefs and kelp

forests – unlikely ocean heroes that quietly power the health of our seas. When healthy, these ecosystems act as living infrastructure. Seagrass meadows help clean the water by trapping sediments and excess nutrients, lock away significant amounts of carbon, and provide vital nursery grounds for commercially important fish species. They also help calm wave energy and stabilise seabed sediments.

Native oyster reefs can go even further, with each oyster able to filter up to 200 litres of water a day, transforming surrounding water quality, while the oyster reef structures they build create complex habitats that support hundreds of marine species and help restore the productivity of coastal ecosystems.

Unlike engineered infrastructure, these systems are living and place-based. Their success relies on local knowledge, community involvement and sustained management. Coastal security is therefore not only ecological – it is social.

From ocean regeneration to economic renewal

Delivering nature-based solutions requires the removal of pressure from pollution, alongside investment in restoration, monitoring and long-term management. In turn, this creates skilled jobs and supports local economies, particularly in coastal areas facing economic challenges.

Regenerating marine environments will bring together communities, local authorities, scientists, industry and governments, building trust and ensuring regeneration reflects lived experience. It can help build pride in coastal places, strengthen

connections between communities and the sea, and create opportunities for future generations. Our evidence shows that coastal environments are central to people's identity, wellbeing, relationships and cultural life, not just their economic activity.

Nature-based solutions rely on participation at every stage, from design through to long-term stewardship, ensuring projects reflect local priorities and have lasting support. Ultimately, coastal security depends as much on social and institutional strength as it does on ecological health. Healthy ecosystems protect communities, and empowered communities are essential to sustaining those ecosystems in return.

Removing barriers to ocean regeneration

Delivering ocean regeneration at scale requires action in two areas: preventing pollution from entering the marine environment, and implementing holistic marine spatial planning that balances competing demands on marine space while supporting ecosystem recovery.

A clearer national framework is needed to prioritise ocean regeneration across the UK, supported by strong partnerships between government, industry and locally led delivery organisations.

Marine licensing is a critical enabler. In England, the current system can create barriers for community-led and partnership-based restoration projects, with complex processes, long timelines and variable costs often disproportionate to low-impact regenerative activities.



European flat oyster, *Ostrea edulis*
Arousa | Shutterstock

Government-endorsed frameworks and locally grounded projects will help provide certainty for investors. Emerging examples of blended finance, such as private investment in saltmarsh restoration, demonstrate the potential to reduce long-term risks while supporting both communities and ecosystems.

The cost of inaction

Without investment in regenerating marine ecosystems – and in the communities that sustain them – the UK will face growing risks:

- Greater exposure to flooding and erosion as natural defences decline
- Rising infrastructure costs driven by reliance on engineered solutions
- Continued loss of biodiversity, declining water quality and reduced seafood availability
- Reduced ability to adapt to climate impacts
- Ongoing erosion of coastal community health and declining economic growth

With climate impacts accelerating and the biodiversity crisis deepening, now is the time for transformative ocean regeneration at scale. Acting now will regenerate marine ecosystems, strengthen coastal communities and build long-term economic resilience.



Wild blue mussels, Cornwall UK
MagicBones | Shutterstock



Young volunteers rockpooling
MCS

Conclusion

Our Ocean Security Charter

The health of our seas is fundamental to our national security. Marine ecosystems support our economy, the food we eat, the energy we generate, and coastal communities facing growing pressures from climate change.

Across England, Scotland and Wales, we need a shared approach that recognises the ocean as critical national infrastructure.

The following recommendations set out a practical pathway to strengthen our national security, by protecting marine ecosystems, building resilience against future risks and ensuring our seas continue to support a secure, resilient and prosperous UK.



Staithe Harbour, North Yorkshire
© Dave Head | Shutterstock

01

Economic security: Invest in marine natural capital as infrastructure

The UK has a major opportunity to prioritise ocean regeneration as a driver of sustainable economic growth.

We urge governments to:

- ✓ Embed marine natural capital into public funding decisions, infrastructure planning and project assessments, recognising that healthy marine ecosystems are valuable assets that deliver economic and social benefits.
- ✓ Deliver a joined-up Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy across UK nations to provide a clear framework for sustainable growth at sea and unlock investment through innovative finance mechanisms such as blue bonds.



Offshore wind turbines off the English coast
Nuttawut Uttamaharad | Shutterstock



School of sardines in a shallow reef
SaltedLife | Shutterstock

02

Energy security: Put Marine Spatial Planning at the heart of the offshore energy transition

The UK needs a strategic, ecosystem-led approach to managing marine space to ensure that energy development works alongside ocean regeneration.

We urge governments to:

- ✓ Adopt national holistic Marine Spatial Planning frameworks, joined up across the UK, that put healthy seas at the heart of decision-making. This will ensure that marine space is strategically allocated to balance our energy needs whilst supporting ocean regeneration and low-impact fisheries and aquaculture practices.

03

Food security: Support sustainable seafood

Healthy marine ecosystems are essential for resilient seafood supplies. Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, alongside informed consumer choices, strengthen our food security and coastal economies.

We urge governments to:

- ✓ Use the Good Fish Guide across the UK to promote sustainable seafood choices across procurement, retail and supply chains.
- ✓ End unsustainable fishing and aquaculture practices, phasing out methods that have the greatest impact on marine habitats and ecosystems.
- ✓ Support a fair transition to low-impact fishing practices to secure the future of sustainable fisheries.



Thongweed, Isle of Coll, Scotland
© Mark Kirkland

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Porthleven, Helston, UK © Darren Welsh | Unsplash

Back cover
Sandwich tern © Menno Schaefer | Shutterstock
Girl with crab claw © MCS
Fistral Beach, Newquay, Cornwall, UK © iSky Media | Shutterstock



04

Coastal security: Enable ocean regeneration at scale

Coastal communities depend on healthy seas for prosperity, protection and resilience. Ocean regeneration can restore natural systems, strengthen coastal resilience and create new opportunities for the people and places that depend on healthy seas.

We urge governments to:

- ✓ Establish co-ordinated national programmes of ocean regeneration, supported by long-term funding and improved marine licensing.
- ✓ Strengthen water legislation across the UK to tackle hidden chemical pollution and microplastics. Any forthcoming legislation should mandate monitoring of PFAS and microplastics, enforce the 'polluter pays' principle, and prioritise investment that prevents pollution at source.
- ✓ Create long-term pathways for ocean regeneration jobs and skills, supporting place-based employment and community stewardship.



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