

Roles and Responsibilities

MPA Management: Formal Roles and Responsibilities in English waters



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Defra

In English waters, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is the government department responsible for marine environmental protection and fisheries.



Marine
Management
Organisation

Marine Management Organisation

The MMO are the lead domestic regulator regarding any implementation and compliance with fisheries measures within 6-200nm.

Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities

The Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009) places a clear duty on IFCAs to sustainably manage sea fisheries resource and protect marine ecosystems in their Districts.



Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) has the responsibility for the provision of nature conservation advice in the offshore area (12 – 200nm). JNCC is the public body that advises the UK Government and devolved administrations on UK-wide and international nature conservation.



Natural England (NE) is the government's statutory advisor on nature conservation in English waters out to 12nm. Regulators are required to seek the advice of NE regarding the achievement of MPA conservation objectives and how any impacts may be mitigated.



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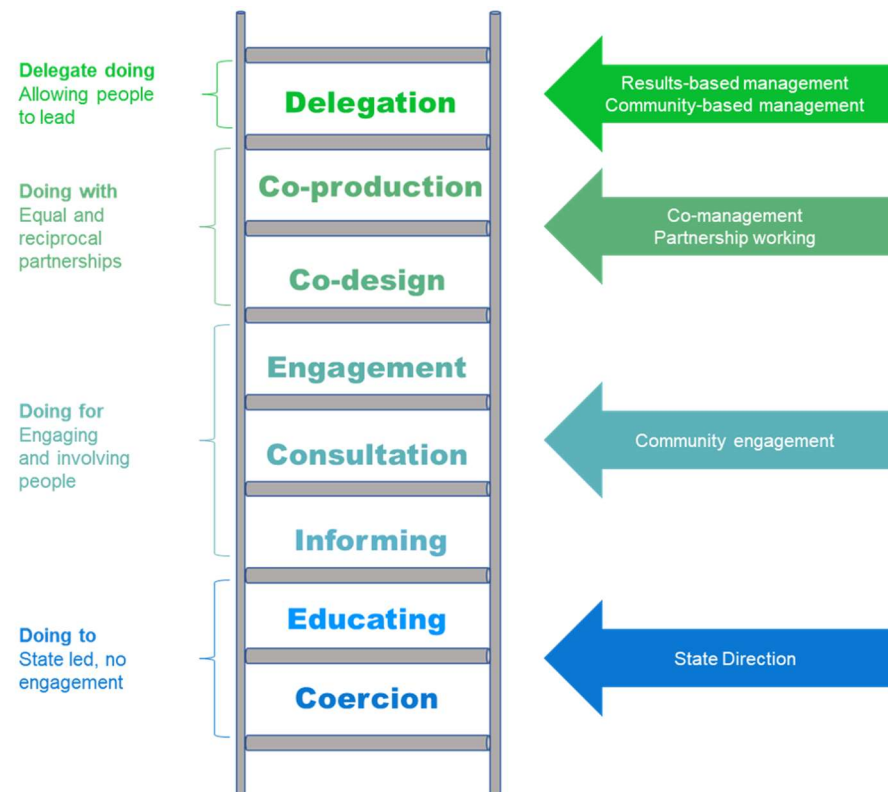
Guidance on High Level Governance Options

Governance is the process through which decision-making powers and responsibilities are defined and delivered.

Governance approaches can range from highly participatory (e.g. co-management or delegation) to minimal participation (e.g. 'top-down' or 'state-led').

There are several factors to consider when choosing a governance structure, in terms of evidence availability, scale and logistics e.g.

- uncertainty in evidence base
- complexity of the site,
- site condition/site objectives)
- stakeholder variety
- geographical scale
- capacity
- cost
- time
- facilitation options



For MPA fisheries management in England, while the regulator retains overall responsibility, there are many ways in which stakeholders can be involved in the decision-making process.