

Foreword



I am very pleased to be able to present to you the final Key Issues Report which EGCP has recently completed with the assistance of a number of experts to provide an up-to-date insight into the key current and future issues facing the East Grampian Coast.

This document represents a considerable amount of time and effort and will help to set the context for further discussion and engagement on marine spatial planning in the East Grampian area, particularly as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic and face growing concerns about the future impacts of climate change on our coast.

The information gathered in the Report has been formatted as a series of tables, and sets out to identify the key Issues facing coastal management in East Grampian as the basis to implement regional marine planning for the coastline of Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.

This current document builds on previous work by EGCP in 2009, when the East Grampian Coastal Partnership (EGCP) undertook the completion of a comprehensive stocktake of the State of the East Grampian Coast (<https://www.egcp.scot/publications>) extending from St. Cyrus in the south to Fraserburgh in the north. The 2009 report was followed up by a number of EGCP workshops in 2017 to establish a dialogue between coastal stakeholders and to examine the potential for implementing marine spatial planning (MSP) for future management of the East Grampian coastline (<https://www.egcp.scot/marine-spatial-planning>).

This work laid the early foundations for examining factors influencing coastal management along the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire coast.

Although the implementation of marine planning has to date been confined to a number of pilots in Scotland, Marine Scotland is now keen to pursue the development of marine planning partnerships around the Scottish coast to develop regional marine plans.

Further information on Marine Planning, the National Marine Plan, Scottish Marine Regions and the National Marine Plan interactive (NMPi) tool to help the development of national and regional marine planning can be found on Marine Scotland's website: <https://www.gov.scot/policies/marine-planning/>.

On this basis we look forward in the future to working with stakeholders in progressing a local regional marine plan for the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire coast and to begin a dialogue on marine spatial planning in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.

David Green Chair EGCP LTD

