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The **Maritime Team** based at Northminster House in Peterborough will coordinate the development of the strategy:

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Your English Nature Area Team will also be able to provide you with details of upcoming events and meetings that you may wish to attend. To obtain contact details for your English Nature Area Team, ring our Enquiry Service on 01733 455100 or visit our website at www.english-nature.org.uk.

Useful information

'Safeguarding our Seas': www.defra.gov.uk/environment/marine/stewardship/default.htm

'Working with the grain of nature':

www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/ewd/biostrat/index.htm

Maritime state of nature: getting onto an even keel:

www.english-nature.org.uk/pubs/publication/PDF/SONmar.pdf

Ecosystem approach:

www.english-nature.org.uk

Non-governmental organisations;

www.wwf.org.uk/orca/

www.mcsuk.org/

www.rspb.org/policy/marine/

www.wildlifetrusts.org/



What do our coasts and seas mean to you?

English Nature is the Government agency that champions the conservation of wildlife and geology throughout England.

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Andy Rouse/NHPA



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What do our coasts and seas mean to you?

Our coasts and seas - an asset to look after

As part of an island nation, England is fortunate to have such a rich maritime heritage. We all depend on the health of our coasts and seas for a better quality of life. However, despite a number of initiatives aimed at improving coastal and marine management, the quality of our coasts and seas continue to decline.

English Nature's *Maritime state of nature report: getting onto an even keel* highlights fisheries, water quality and coastal development and management as priority issues for our coasts and seas.

Taking action - a joint effort

English Nature is developing a maritime strategy to help implement Government's stewardship vision set out in 'Safeguarding our Seas' and the biodiversity strategy for England 'Working with the grain of nature'.

The aim of the maritime strategy and action plan is to halt biodiversity loss and promote recovery of our coasts and seas

MV Willy on the rocks, Plymouth Sound. Keith Hiscock/English Nature



We cannot address many of the issues facing our coasts and seas alone. We need **your** help. Successful stewardship of our coasts and seas will need the cooperation and input of many people and organisations. By working with others in developing the strategy we want to address the needs of all stakeholders and agree practical solutions to complex problems.



Treasures on our seabed-Jewel anemones *Corynactis viridis*, Lundy MNR. Keith Hiscock/JNCC

How can we do this?

- Move towards better sea-use and integrated coastal zone planning by taking forward on a regional basis.
- Better risk-management such as setting aside areas to promote recovery which also act as a form of insurance policy.
- Manage our coast in ways that allow it to change in response to coastal processes therefore not tying future generations to inflexible options.
- Improve our knowledge base of the resources we have, how they work and of the threats they face, so subsequent policy decisions are better informed.

English Nature wants to encourage a climate that builds consideration for biodiversity into our everyday lives, so that it comes naturally to society as a whole. Healthy coasts and seas are beneficial to our health and social well-being. Healthy coasts and seas are also essential for the future success of the many communities and industries that rely on these assets.



Re-profiling shingle with a bulldozer. Peter Wakely/English Nature

We want your views

Over the coming year, the maritime strategy and action plan will be prepared and developed using your feedback. We will be seeking your input on the priority issues outlined in the *Maritime state of nature* report through a variety of workshops, meetings and other events, such as on our website survey www.english-nature.org.uk.

Your participation and your views are important.

To be truly successful this process may run for some time, but a progress report will be published in November 2003 so that the efforts of those involved can be recognised. You can keep up to date with progress via our website.

In the meantime

- take an interest in your coasts and seas
- tell us what you think and what you know.

Numbers of fishing boats have declined steadily since the 1980's. Roger Covey/English Nature

