



ENGLISH
NATURE

Report Number
587

Maritime strategy Web survey

English Nature Research Reports



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English Nature Research Reports

Number 587

**Maritime Strategy
Web Survey**

White Maple Consulting Ltd

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Executive summary

Building on the publication in 2002 of the *Maritime state of nature report: getting onto an even keel*, English Nature has, in 2003, been developing a maritime strategy and action plan. English Nature has been keen to work with others in developing the strategy. Stakeholders views have been gathered during 2003 using a variety of methodologies, including a survey using a web based questionnaire. This report summarises key findings arising from the web survey.

The primary objective of the survey was to provide all stakeholders with an opportunity to express their views about our coasts and seas, including ideas for actions that they think should be taken to maintain or improve their condition. Another objective related to finding out what people know about our coasts/seas and what organisations do to manage them.

The results and findings of this web survey will be used to inform the development of English Nature's Maritime Strategy. They will be used in particular to inform how English Nature can improve the way it communicates its messages and engages in dialogue, including the way it listens. Improvements will need to be made using both direct and indirect methods.

The survey was available on the web from 4 June 2003 until 22 September 2003. A link to the survey questionnaire was created from English Nature's web site home page. In addition, the survey was promoted using a leaflet and through press releases to various publications. A total of 888 people completed at least part of the questionnaire.

Some of the key findings of the survey were as follows:

- The most popular reasons for visiting the coast were: Walking (38%); going to the beach (35%), weekend and day trips (28%) and work (26%).
- The health of our coasts and seas was clearly important to respondents, with 99% agreeing that "*The state/health of our coasts and seas matters to me.*"
- Although 9% overall had noticed no significant changes (this rose to 19% amongst respondents from London), respondents tended to have noticed the following changes:
 - more litter (although 13% had also noticed less litter);
 - more people;
 - it being more busy;
 - better information for visitors;
 - cleaner water;
 - less wildlife.
- 96% agree to some extent (79% strongly) that areas should be set aside and protected.
- 93% of respondents were "*worried about dolphins and porpoises being killed by commercial fishing activities.*"
- A key question in the web survey was "*What actions do you think should be taken to maintain or improve the condition of our coasts/seas?*" The top five categories of responses were:

Better support for communities and partnerships 25%

The responses ranged from increasing awareness of the importance of our coasts and seas, to enabling communities to be more directly involved in management. Some good examples of widening participation currently underway include SeaSearch (<http://www.seasearch.org.uk/>), using Community Officer at the Ainsdale Sand Dunes National Nature Reserve, using Access and Community Officers on the North Yorkshire Coast (<http://www.dinocoast.org.uk/>) and the UK's first wildlife-friendly accreditation scheme: WiSe (Wildlife Safe <http://www.wisescheme.org.uk/index.html>).

Better enforcement of existing rules 20%

Some respondents expressed concern that what happened offshore was 'out of sight, out of mind' and it was not clear where responsibilities for enforcement lay. Concern that relevant authorities did not have enough resources and that people would be prepared to spend more for better enforcement, backed up by bigger penalties. An example of community led 'enforcement', or raising awareness linked to above, can be seen in the Warden schemes which have been set up on the Thanet Coast (<http://www.thanet.gov.uk/cgi-bin/buildpage.pl?mysql=336>) and through the Nature Coast Project (<http://www.pebbledash.org.uk/about.htm>) in Sussex. These provide opportunities for people not only to care for their coast, by developing 'Codes of Conduct', but also to learn new skills.

Improved integration and management 20%

Responses ranged from identifying the need for a single management body to improving responsibilities across different sectors. The Irish Sea Pilot has initiated work to look at more effective ways of coordinating management at a regional seas level, whilst the Government has been undertaking an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Stock take.

Apply new technologies or approaches 14%

Responses highlighted the need to undertake more actions, such as realignment, in a lot more places and sooner, rather than later. Examples were also given of ways of reducing impacts of different activities and that incentives may be required to change behaviour.

More protected areas 12%

The emphasis in responses was that there should be more areas set aside free from any damaging activity.

1. Introduction

English Nature published, in 2002, the *Maritime state of nature report: getting onto an even keel*. Building on this, English Nature has in 2003 been developing a maritime strategy and action plan. The aim of these is to halt biodiversity loss and promote recovery of our coasts and seas.

English Nature has been keen to work with others in developing the strategy so that the needs of all stakeholders are addressed and practical solutions agreed for complex problems.

Stakeholders views have been gathered during 2003 using a variety of methodologies. These have included, for example, conferences, meetings and a survey using a web based questionnaire. This report summarises key findings arising from the web survey.

The web survey was initiated by The Maritime Team at Northminster House, Peterborough and was led by Helen Rae and Kimmo Evans. The survey was undertaken by White Maple Consulting Ltd.

2. Survey objectives

The primary objective of the survey was to provide all stakeholders with an opportunity to express their views about our coasts and seas including ideas for actions that they think should be taken to maintain or improve their condition.

Another objective related to finding out what people know about our coasts/seas and what organisations do to manage them.

3. Methodology

Following extensive testing, the questionnaire (see Appendix II) went live on the web on 4 June 2003, in the lead up to World Oceans Day. It remained available for completion until 22 September 2003. Thus it was available for c.16 weeks.

A link to the survey questionnaire was created from English Nature's web site home page. In addition the survey was promoted using a leaflet and through press releases to various publications (Appendix I). As a result there were follow-up articles in specialist press (such as Green Futures), websites (such as water sport sites) and magazines (such as Country Walking).

A total of 888 people completed at least part of the questionnaire. Detailed statistical data tables have been supplied separately (Annex A). The responses to the open ended questions (8 and 11) were analysed by English Nature. Over 200 respondents indicated that they wanted to be involved in future market research or development of policy.

4. Key findings

4.1 Profile of respondents

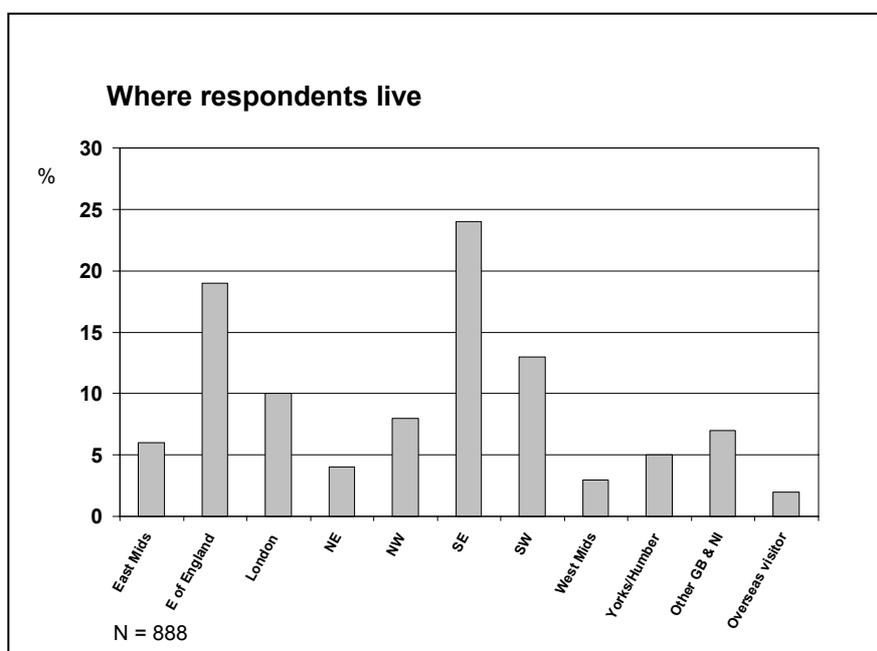
4.1.1 Where respondents live

(Question 1: *In which country/region do you live?*)

The regions where most respondents lived were the South East (24%), East of England (19%) and the South West (13%). See **Figure 1** below.

The high proportion of respondents emanating from the East of England is likely to reflect English Nature's head office location in Peterborough. It can be assumed that some of these respondents will have been English Nature staff and/or their friends, families and local contacts (eg JNCC staff).

Figure 1



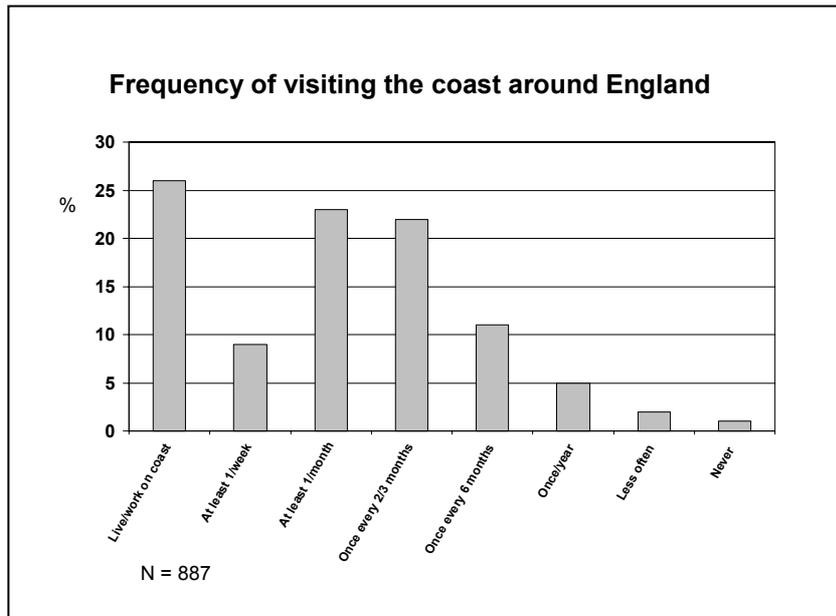
4.1.2 Frequency of visiting the coast around England

(Question 2: *How often do you visit the coast around England?*)

26% of all respondents lived or worked on the coast. Between 34% and 42% of respondents from the North East, South East, North West and South West lived or worked on the coast.

Some 58% of respondents visit the coast more frequently than once a month (including those that live/work on the coast). Only 3% visited less than once a year or never. See **Figure 2**. It can probably be assumed that most of the respondents are quite familiar with England's coasts.

Figure 2

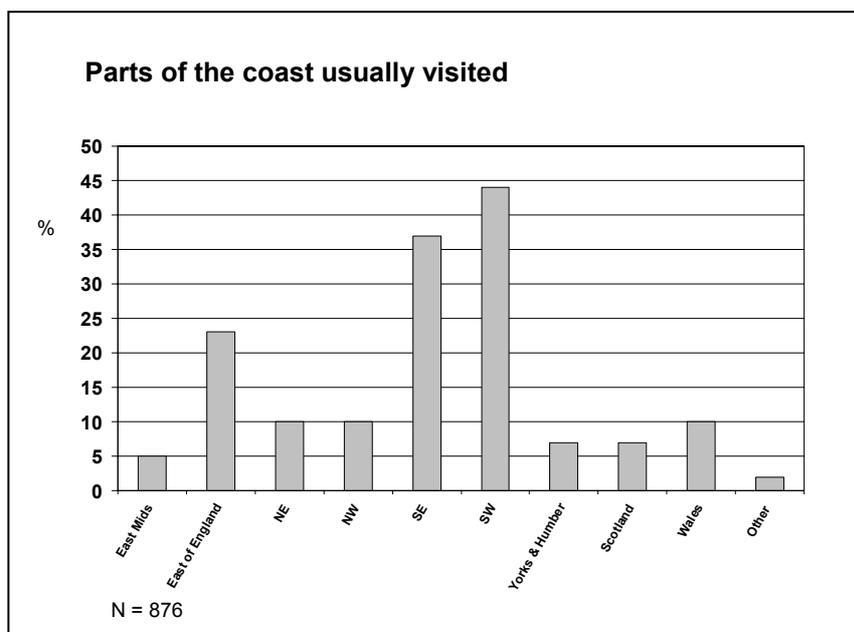


4.1.3 Part of coast usually visited

(Question 3: *Which part of our coast do you usually visit?* Respondents could select up to two areas of the coast)

The most frequently visited were the South West (44%), the South East (37%) and the East of England (23%). See **Figure 3**. The proportion visiting the East of England reflects the proportion of respondents living in the East of England (65% of those visiting the East of England also lived in that region). By comparison, only 29% of those visiting the South West lived in the South West.

Figure 3

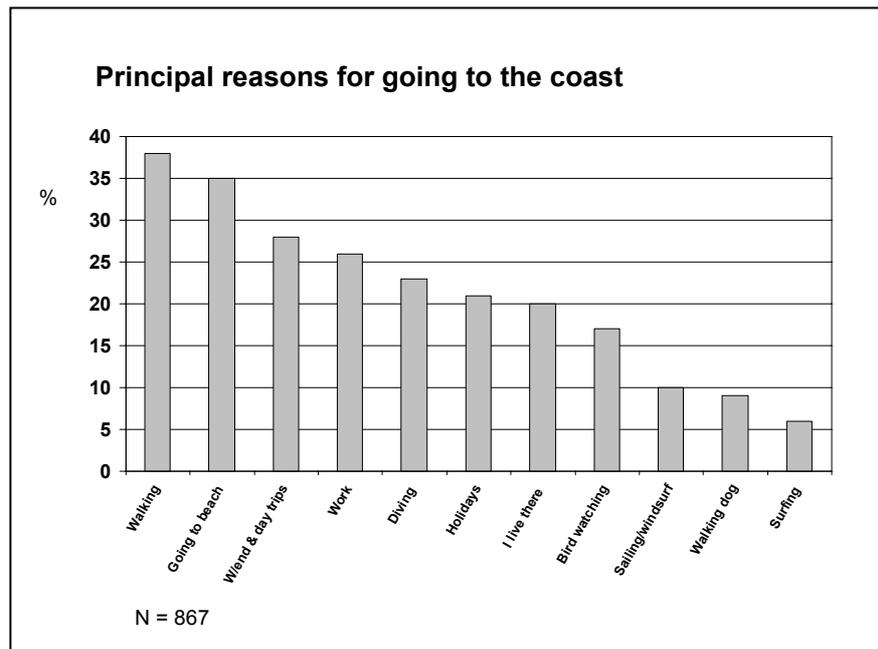


4.1.4 Main reasons for visiting the coast

(Question 4: “...please now tell us the main reasons why you go there”. Respondents could select up to three reasons)

The most popular reasons for visiting the coast were: Walking (38%); going to the beach (35%), weekend and day trips (28%) and work (26%). See **Figure 4**. It is perhaps interesting to note the next most popular reason was diving (23%); it should be noted that one of English Nature’s news releases about the survey was targeted at diving publications and, we understand, the survey was profiled in the diving press.

Figure 4



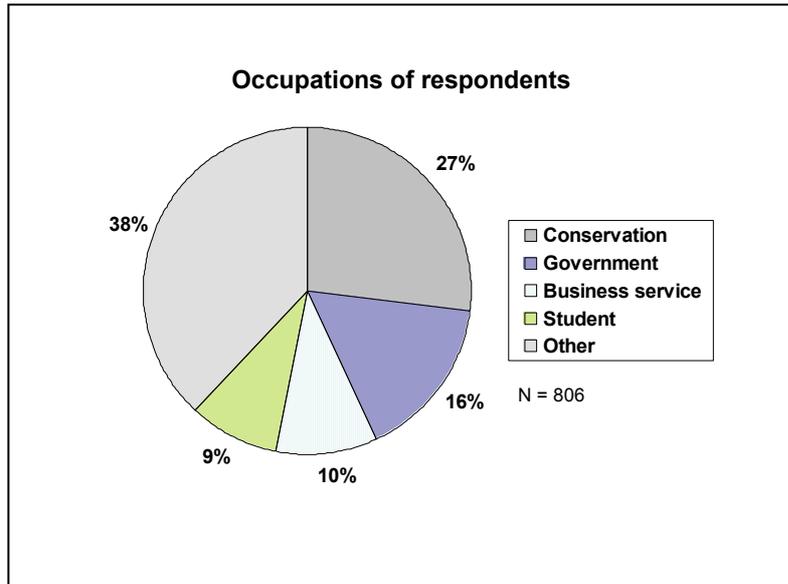
4.1.5 Occupations

(Question 5: *Please select one option which best describes your area of work or occupation?*).

It is perhaps unsurprising that, given the survey was linked to English Nature’s home page, 27% of respondents indicated that they were involved with conservation. See **Figure 5** on the next page. Many of the conservation respondents (66 of 219) also came from the East of England and thus may often be English Nature or JNCC staff (JNCC is also located in Peterborough).

16% indicated that they were involved with government. This proportion also probably reflects levels of awareness of the survey in the public sector as well as an interest in the subject.

Figure 5

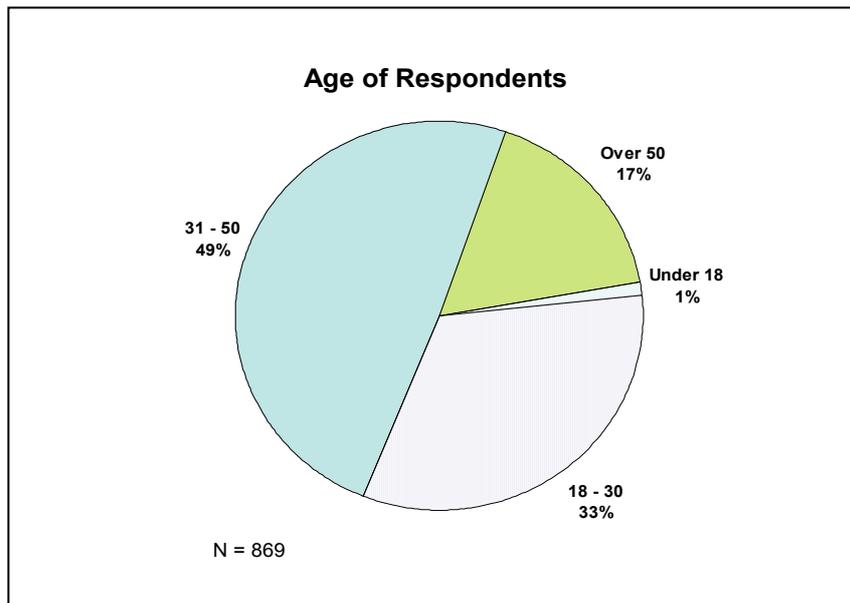


4.1.6 Age

(Question 6: *How old are you?*)

Very few respondents were under 18. See **Figure 6**.

Figure 6



4.2 Attitudes to the state of our coasts and seas

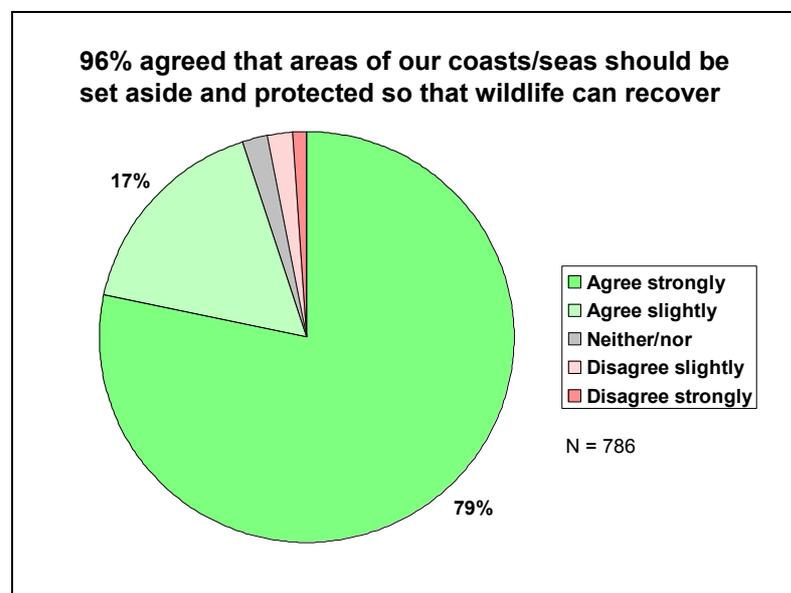
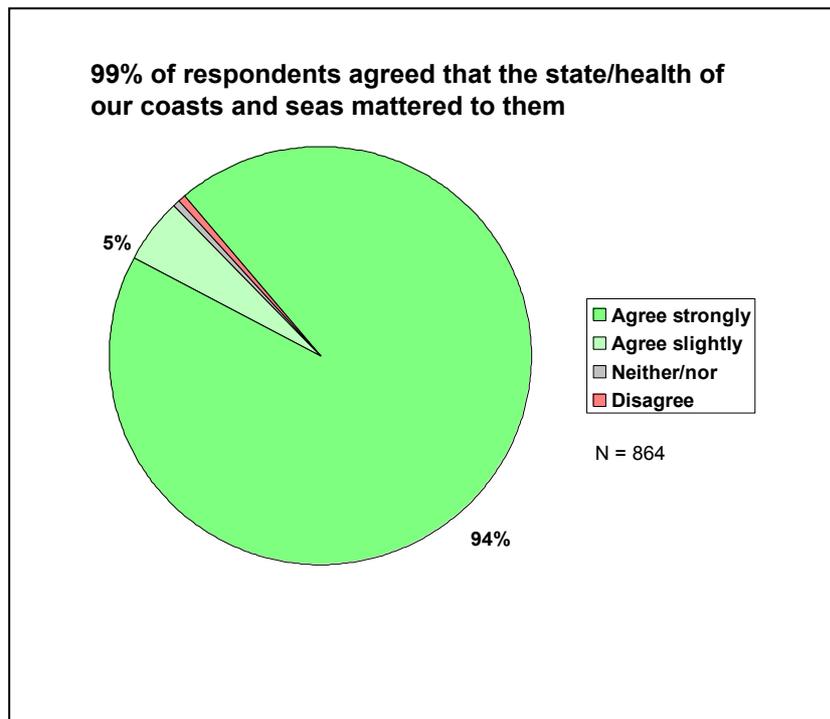
4.2.1 Extent that state/health of coasts/seas matters

Question 7: *“To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following statement: The state/health of our coasts and seas matters to me.”*

The health of our coasts and seas is clearly important to respondents, with 99% agreeing that this mattered to them. See **Figure 7**.

There was no significant variation in attitude across respondents in terms of age, occupation, where they live or frequency of visiting the coast.

Figure 7



Why the state/health of our coasts/seas does or does not matter

Question 8: *“Please tell us why the state/health of our coasts and seas does or does not matter to you”*.

The questionnaire gave space for respondents to give their reasons as free text. Some 680 respondents gave their reasons. English Nature have analysed a random 10% of the responses

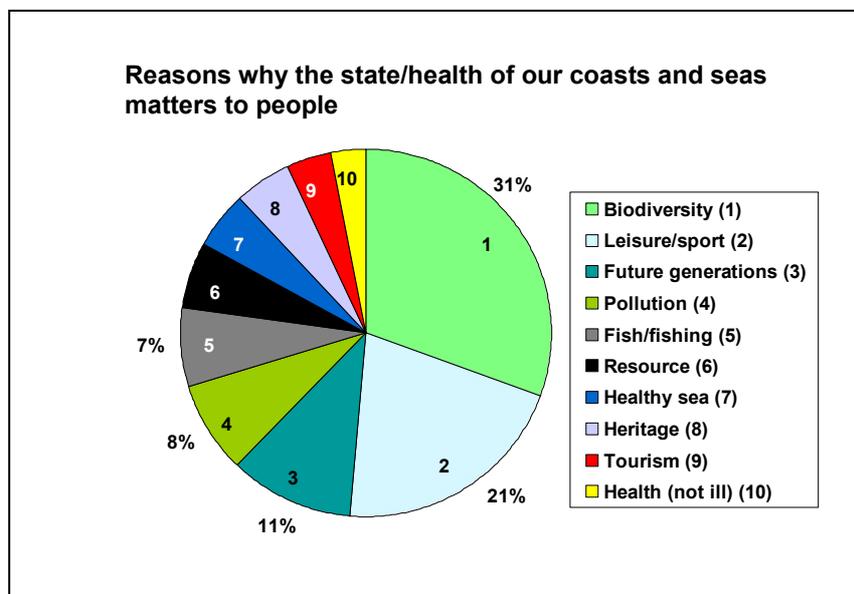
to provide an overview of the reasons. The responses could be grouped into 10 broad categories. Please see **Figure 8** on the next page for a summary of the analysis.

Some verbatim examples of reasons given in each category are listed below:

Biodiversity:

- Nature conservation.
- If the seas are not maintained and looked after we will lose many species of sea creature through pollution, over fishing and general abuse
- It is a vital area for much of the wildlife of the British Isles.
- As a biologist/conservation professional I am acutely aware of the amount of 'biodiversity' in the oceans and the inter-relatedness of all things!
- Habitats need to be preserved in order to maintain biodiversity.
- Habitat preservation. Maintenance of biodiversity.
- I have a strong interest in wildlife and conservation.
- Because it is so important for wildlife.
- I value biodiversity.
- I want clean seas and coasts to allow wildlife to thrive.
- I want to continue to be able to watch birds and see wildlife.
- It matters because we must try and conserve the health of the coast and seas to retain current levels of biodiversity.
- Maintain habitat for birds, fish, animals.

Figure 8



Leisure

- Because I love to walk on the beaches and around the coastline.
- Because my main hobby is boating and I am obviously interested in the proper maintenance of our coastline and its infrastructure.
- Essential recreational resource with relatively open and free access.
- I enjoy the coast for recreation (scuba diving) and quality of life (weekend breaks). I find the coast relaxing and eventually want to move away from London to the coast.
- It's a great resource for bird watching / walking with some really wild, isolated, dynamic and extreme scenery.

Future generations

- I think that it is important to conserve our coasts and seas for the sake of the animals & plants for our sake and for the sake future generations.
- Continuation of beaches and coastal areas for leisure purposes for future generations.
- Healthy seas are our heritage which we are duty bound to bequeath to future generations in an unadulterated state.
- I believe we have a duty to look after our environment and to hand it on to future generations in good order.
- It matters to me because I use them, and future generations should be able to use them too!
- I want my children/grandchildren to enjoy what I have known.

Pollution

- As a diver I have a dislike to pollution.
- I am concerned about potential levels of pollution in the seas and on the coast and the impact that this may have on the marine life.
- I am generally concerned about pollution and over development.
- I love nature and animals, if anything happened to it I would hate to go there, for example, if there was an oil spill, I couldn't bare to go there in fear of seeing a hurt creature unless I was there to help clean it up.
- I worry about the widespread effects of pollution by chemicals.
- It's morally unethical to pollute and endanger other species. We have no right to pollute and endanger other organisms and should not interfere with ecosystems to further benefit mankind.

Fish/fishing

- Fish stocks and informed environmental management ensure the continued availability of one of our most valuable leisure and food source areas.
- I like to catch fish that I know are safe and healthy to eat.
- I want to continue to be able to eat fish from local waters I want there to be a sustainable local fishery.

Resource

- A vital resource for now and generations to come.
- As a natural resource and a beautiful place to visit which we have a responsibility to keep in its current state or even improve on since we are the ones that cause damage to it through pollution and usage and coastal "protection".

Healthy sea

- A clean sea means a clean shore which means a healthy environment for life on the seashore
- A healthy sea indicates that we are living in a sustainable fashion.
- As a diver the health of the environment is important because it is the main focus of the dive. The health and abundance of wildlife is directly related to my enjoyment.
- Healthy seas and coasts affect all of us

Heritage

- Future heritage.
- Because the coast is a vital arena for our natural heritage and for families to relax.
- They are part of our heritage.
- From a personal view I wish to see healthy richly stocked seas to hand on to future generations.

Tourism

- Maintenance of important tourism income.
- The British seaside is important to our economy.
- Because the area that I live in relies so heavily on tourism it is important that the quality of the environment is protected for the community's economic security.
- For recreational purposes it would be nice to see a cleaner environment with more sea life, over the last twenty years that I have been diving, the quantity of sea life has diminished dramatically.
- It represents England and it brings in tourism. It needs to be preserved for the future.

Health (not ill)

- The beaches and seas need to remain clean and healthy so that it is safe for us to visit them when we need to.
- Hygiene/health - need to be confident of walking on the beach or swimming in the sea without encountering health hazards.

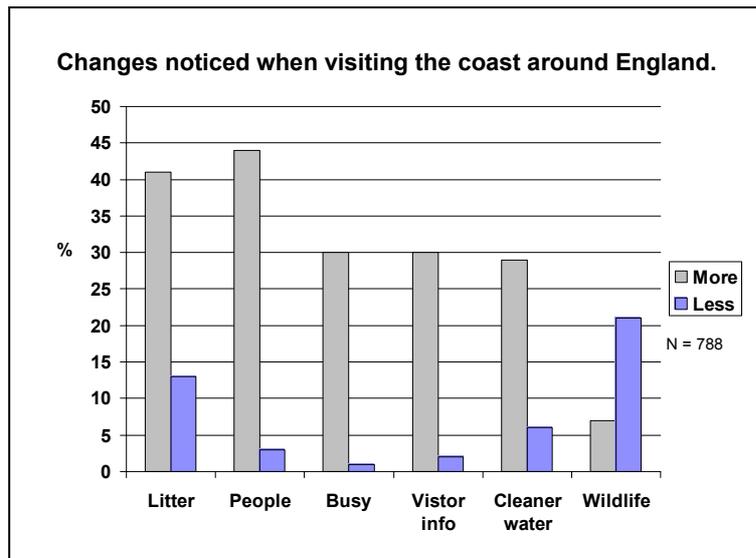
4.2.2 Changes noticed when visiting the coast

(Question 9: *What changes have you noticed in recent years when visiting the coast around England?*)

Although 9% overall have noticed no significant changes (this rose to 19% amongst respondents from London), respondents tended to have noticed the following changes (see **Figure 9**):

- more litter (although 13% had also noticed less litter);
- more people;
- it being more busy;
- better information for visitors;
- cleaner water;
- less wildlife.

Figure 9

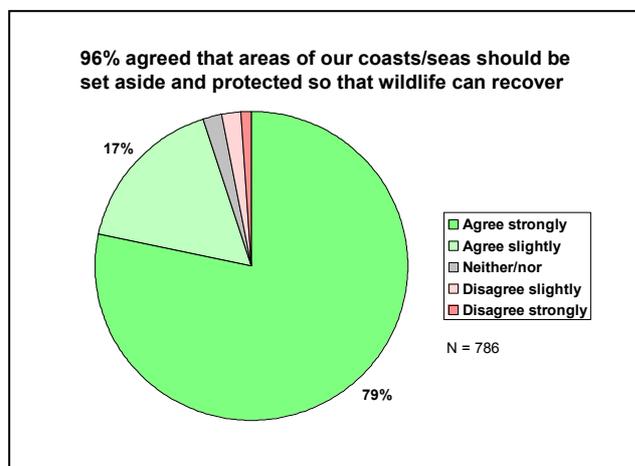


4.2.3 Views about set aside/protection for wildlife recovery

Question 10a: *To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following statements: Areas of our coasts/seas should be set aside and protected so that wildlife can recover.*

96% agree to some extent (79% strongly) that areas should be set aside and protected. See **Figure 10**. Conservationists agree with the statement particularly strongly with 99.5% agreeing to some extent (90% strongly).

Figure 10

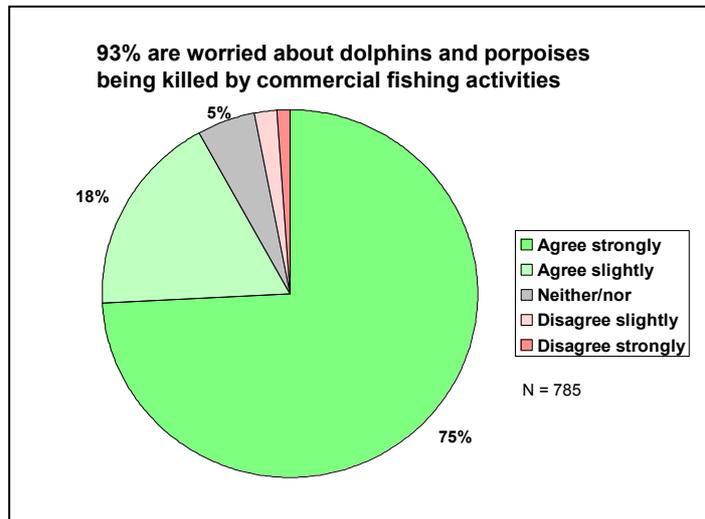


4.2.4 Views about dolphins/porpoises being killed

Question 10a: *To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following statements: I am worried about dolphins and porpoises being killed by commercial fishing activities.*

93% of respondents were worried about this. 5% neither agreed nor disagreed with the statement. See **Figure 11**.

Figure 11

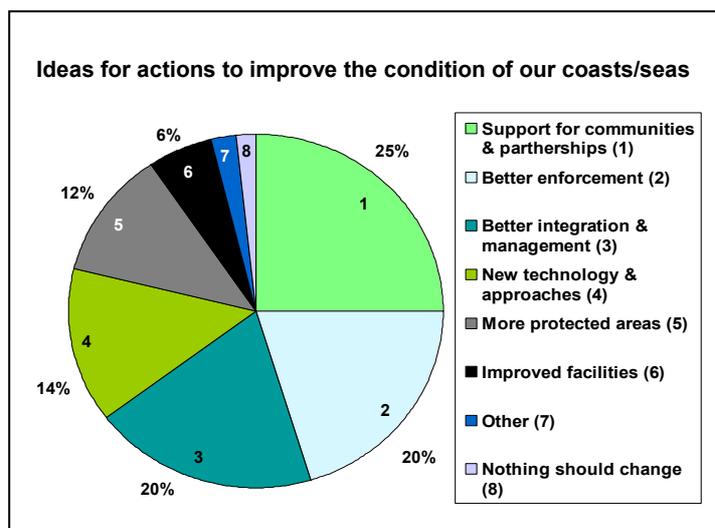


4.2.5 Ideas for action to improve condition of coasts/seas

Question 11: *What actions do you think should be taken to maintain or improve the condition of our coasts/seas?*

The questionnaire gave space for respondents to give their reasons as free text. Some 667 respondents gave their reasons. English Nature have analysed a random 10% of the responses to provide an overview of the reasons. The responses could be grouped into eight broad categories, some of the responses included more than one category. Please see **Figure 12** for a summary of the analysis.

Figure 12



Some verbatim examples of reasons given in each category are listed below:

Support for communities and partnerships including raising awareness

- Educate people about the value of coasts/seas.
- Make it more economically viable for the fishing industry to fish within limits and with less intensive measures through subsidies?
- At the end of the day, people need to be educated. Not everyone takes an interest in our seas but they do need to have a respect for them.
- On beaches - wardening where possible - perhaps by voluntary groups if funds are not available.
- No prohibitive action should be taken without due consideration and consultation with coastal users and local land-owners, and even then as a last resort. The best means by which to protect the coast is to educate people on the implications of their activities, both positive and negative.
- More resources and more flexible legislation for the organisations currently responsible for marine management. Meaningful dialogue and engagement with all sea users to capture information and seek practical solutions.

Better enforcement of existing rules and regulations

- Put a stop to the apparent widespread usage of commercial fishing nets that are dragged through the water and catch everything in their grasp. Why have quotas when all the fishermen do is throw back into the sea the runt of the catch that takes them over the quota?
- The seas are more difficult since the unscrupulous can probably "dump" unseen. But heavy fines and penalties for those who are caught.
- Higher protection for Sharks, Dolphins, etc.
- Better control of coastal development. Active control/policing of seas and coast. The extra cost to the public will worth paying.

Better integration and management

- More co-operation between local authorities when making any management plans or decisions that may have an effect on other stretches of coast line.
- Improve integration between responsible organisations, amend legislation, raise awareness, enhance management decision-making through progressing studies using robust science.
- I think that it is vital to have one single main body who will work to co-ordinate all the different land-owners / government bodies / local government whose principal aim is sustainability and conservation, not excluding public access and enjoyment.

Apply new technology and approaches

- Ships should use Sulphur Free fuel, NOT the cheapest oil they can get hold of.
- All oil/potential polluting vessels should be better manned & better supervised when in our waters.

- Also in popular tourist locations and dive sites, why not install permanently bouyed moorings to help prevent anchor damage from visiting boats. They seem to work abroad where coral reefs are endangered, why can't it work here?
- Improve water quality. Water companies to implement UV treatment of Waste Water like Jersey and Wales.
- Development should be moved away for the coast - to allow the habitats and wildlife a bit of elbow room.
- Greater financial incentives from the Government to encourage coastal landowners to consider managed realignment.
- How about areas of reclaimed land that are turned into temporary brackish lakes, by controllable, periodic breach, or pumping, as above, in strategic areas that do not affect salt marsh in any way. These lakes could be periodically drained - something similar to a coastal version of what happens at La Brenne in France (see British Wildlife magazine, about 2 months ago), where lakes are drained on rotation by fisherman who then collect and sell the fish - a kind of coppicing of a series of lakes.

More protected areas

- Set aside some areas to allow nature to flourish naturally
- Statutory designated marine areas, to protect most important/vulnerable sites.
- Better regulation of fishing so that it is possible to halt fishing activities in areas where they are causing severe damage - eg bycatch or habitat destruction. Introduction of more no take zones and other protected areas, including ones to limit shipping. New/revised legislation to provide better protection for species and habitats from other activities and developments - less sectoral, more integrated regulation.
- As far as marine ecosystems go, I think something has to be done to allow fish stocks to recover. If the only way to do this is to have areas where it is prohibited to fish, then i think that it is a good idea.

Improved facilities (in places such as beaches, ports or marinas)

- More litter bins for areas which are frequented by families/children.
- Develop other areas to improve yachting facilities to allow people to enjoy the natural environment.

4.3 General knowledge

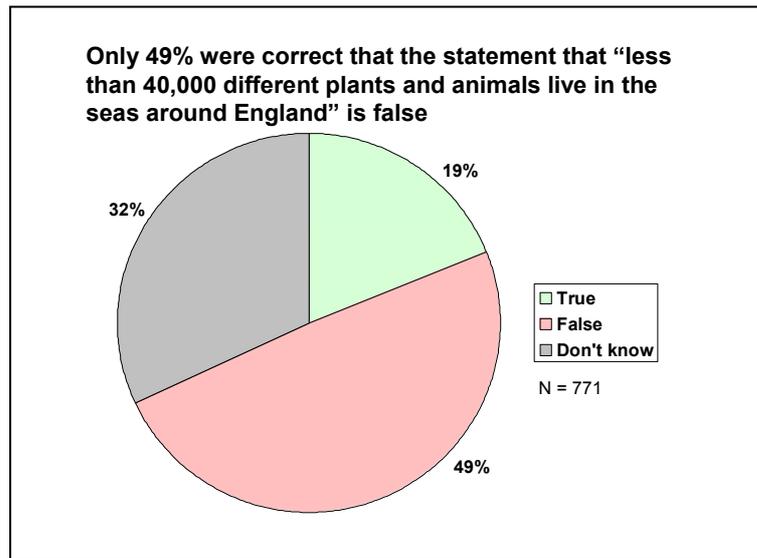
Question 12a: *Are the following statements true or false? Less than 40,000 different plants and animals live in the seas around England.*

The correct answer is: False. There are more than 40,000.

Only about 50% of respondents answered this question correctly (see **Figure 13**). It is interesting to note that even amongst the 190 conservationists who answered the question, only 58% answered the question correctly (16% wrongly thought the statement was true and 25% indicated that they didn't know the answer). People working in business services were

least likely to give a correct answer (of the 71 who answered the question, 72% gave an incorrect answer or didn't know the answer).

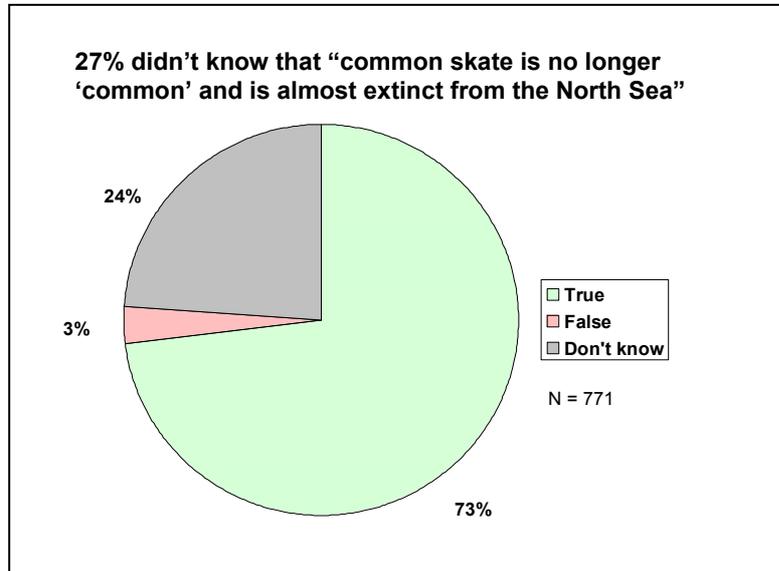
Figure 13



Question 12b: *Are the following statements true or false? Common skate is no longer 'common' and is almost extinct from the North Sea.* The correct answer is: True.

Although very few respondents (3%) answered this question incorrectly, nearly a quarter stated that they didn't know the answer. See **Figure 14**.

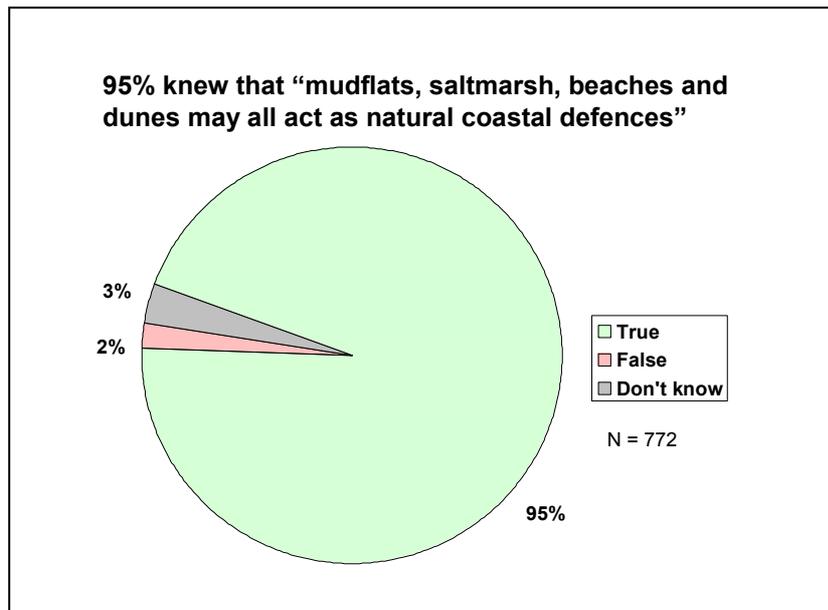
Figure 14



Question 12c: *Are the following statements true or false? Mudflats, saltmarsh, beaches and dunes may all act as natural coastal defences.* The correct answer is: True.

This question was answered correctly by 95% of respondents. See **Figure 15**.

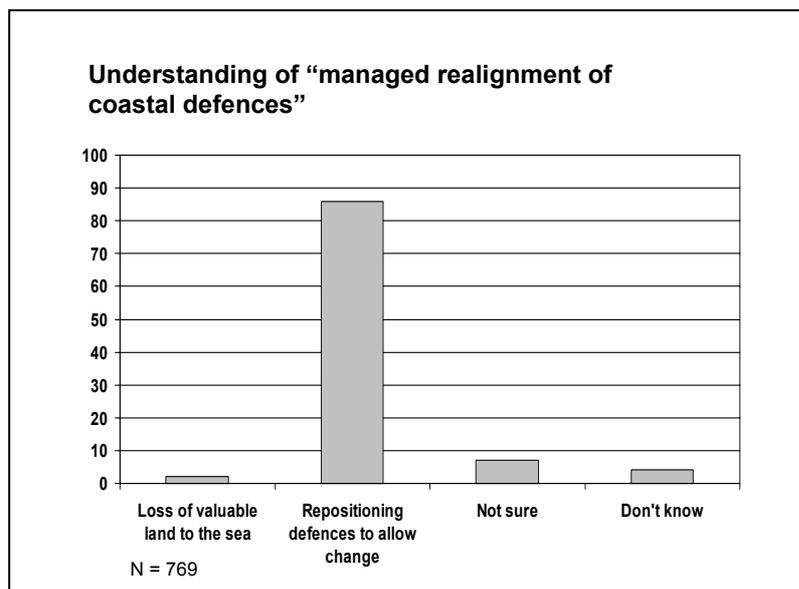
Figure 15



Question 13: *What does 'managed realignment of coastal defences' mean to you?*

86% of respondents stated that their understanding of the term was that it meant "repositioning coastal defences to allow for future coastal change". Only 17 out of 769 respondents thought it meant "loss of valuable land to the sea". See **Figure 16**.

Figure 16



4.4 Visiting protected areas

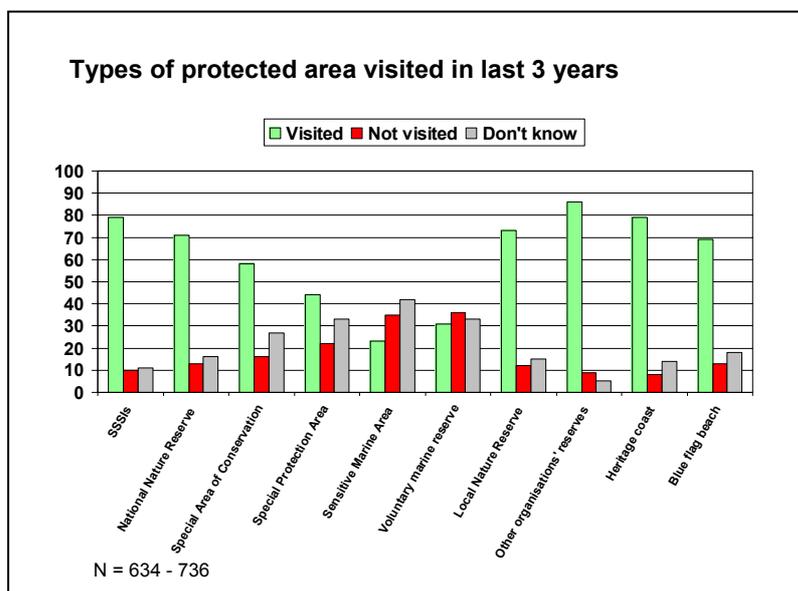
Question 14: *English Nature and other organisations use many methods for protecting areas on the land and at sea. Which of the following have you visited in the last 3 years?*

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).
- National Nature Reserves (NNRs).

- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs).
- Voluntary marine nature reserve.
- Local Nature Reserves (LNRs).
- Reserves of the RSPB, Wildlife Trusts or National Trust.
- Heritage Coasts.
- Blue flag beach.

Over c.70% of respondents had visited: a SSSI (79%), an NNR (71%), an LNR (73%), a reserve of the RSPB, Wildlife Trusts or National Trust (86%), a Heritage Coast (79%), or a Blue Flag beach (69%). See **Figure 17**.

Figure 17



The fact that only a small proportion of respondents had visited marine protected areas (SMAs: 23% visited; voluntary marine nature reserve: 31% visited) is perhaps unsurprising because they are less accessible than land based reserves.

Half of those who had visited a voluntary marine nature reserve were conservationists, civil servants or students (SMA visitors also had this profile). Visitors to this type of reserve also tended to live/work on the coast or visit it at least once/week.

It is interesting to note the relatively large proportions of respondents who stated that they “don’t know” if they have visited certain types of reserve: SMA (42%), voluntary marine nature reserve (33%), SPA (33%) and SAC (27%).

Appendix I List of media

Press, media and publications that the websurvey was sent to

Maritime Events Quarterly
Maritime Journal
The Nautical Magazine
The Sea
Seaways
Fishing Monthly
Fishing News
Fishing News International
Seatrade
The Maritime Advocate
Ocean Voice
Tourism
The Lifeboat
New Scientist
Ocean Challenge
Marine Conservation
The Marine Conservation Society
Natural World
Science
BBC Radio 5 Live Forward Planning
BBC Science (Radio)
BBC Science (Television)
National Geographic Channel
North West Evening Mail (Cumbria)
The Bath Chronicle
Birmingham Evening Mail
The Birmingham Post
Metro (Midlands)
Lancashire Evening Telegraph
The Gazette (Blackpool)
Bolton Evening News
Daily Echo (Bournemouth)
The Argus (Brighton)
Evening Post (Bristol)
Western Daily Press Bristol
Gloucestershire Echo
Express & Echo (Exeter)
Metro (North-East)
Hartlepool Mail
East Anglian Daily Times
Yorkshire Evening Post
Yorkshire Post
Lincolnshire Echo
Isle of Wight County Press online
Eastern Daily Press (Norwich)
Western Morning News
Lancashire Evening Post
Evening Post (Reading)
Scarborough Evening News
Gazette South Shields
Shropshire Star
Dorset Echo
Guernsey Press and Star
Jersey Evening Post
Kent on Sunday
BBC Radio Cumbria (Furness)
BBC Radio Lancashire
BBC Radio Bristol
BBC Radio Cambridgeshire
BBC Radio Cumbria
BBC Solent 103.8 FM (Dorset)
BBC Radio Devon (Exeter)
BBC Radio Gloucestershire
BBC Southern Counties Radio
BBC Radio Humberside
BBC Radio Suffolk
BBC Radio Lincolnshire
BBC Radio Merseyside
BBC Radio Cleveland
BBC Radio Newcastle
BBC Radio Norfolk
BBC Radio Cambridgeshire (Peterborough)
BBC Radio Kent
BBC Radio Cornwall
BBC Radio Jersey
Gatwick Life
New Statesman
Bella
Eve
Prima
Country Living
Good Housekeeping
Home & Country
The Rambler
Trail
Dive Girl
DIVE Magazine
Diver
DIVERNET
Scottish Diver
Scuba World
SportDiver
The Surfer's Path
SURFmagic
Wavelength
Windsurf Magazine
Country Life Online
The Field

The National Trust Magazine
Berkshire Life
Cheshire Life
Cumbria Life
Devon Life
Dorset Life the Dorset Magazine
Kent Life
Lincolnshire Life
The Somerset Life Magazine
The Suffolk Journal
Brighton & Hove Life
Sussex Life
Wiltshire Life
Yorkshire Life
Hampshire Life
Essex Life & Countryside
Birds - The Magazine of the RSPB
BBC Wildlife Magazine
Jet Skier & Personal Watercraft Magazine
The Seafarer
Ships Monthly
Yachting & Boating World
Yachting Life
Yachting Monthly
All at Sea
Angling News
Angling Times
Sea Angler
Total Sea Fishing

Appendix II Questionnaire

English Nature

Maritime Strategy Web Questionnaire

What do our coasts and sea mean to you?

English Nature is working with other Government agencies and organisations to develop an action plan to improve how we all look after the coasts and seas around our country.

We are keen to have the views and ideas of as many people as possible. This questionnaire will take about 10 minutes to complete. Your response will be kept confidential within English Nature and, indeed, will be anonymous unless you choose to volunteer to participate in one of our on-line feedback panels.

Thank you for sharing your views with us.

About you and our coasts and seas

- 1. We are interested in hearing about your thoughts on the coasts and seas of England, either as a resident or as a visitor in the last 12 months.
In which country/region do you live? (select one)**

[Map of the UK with English regions/countries and islands marked.]

Channel Islands

England

East Midlands

East of England

London

North East

North West

South East

South West

West Midlands

Yorkshire & the Humber

Isle of Man

Northern Ireland

Scotland

Wales

Channel Islands

Overseas visitor

2. How often do you visit the coast around England? (select one)

I live/work on the coast
At least once a week
At least once a month
Once every 2 - 3 months
Once every 6 months
Once a year
Less often
Never

3. Which part of our coast do you usually visit? (select up to two)

[Map of the UK with English regions/countries and islands marked]

England
 East Midlands
 East of England
 North East
 North West
 South East
 South West
 Yorkshire & the Humber
Isle of Man
Northern Ireland
Scotland
Wales
Channel Islands

4. You have told us how often you visit the coast around England, please now tell us the main reasons why you go there. (select up to three)

Work
I live there
Bird watching
Diving
Education/school
Fossil collecting
Going to the beach
Holidays
Sailing /windsurfing
Sea angling- shore
Sea Angling- boat
Surfing
Walking
Walking the dog

Waterskiing/Boating
Weekend/day trips

Other (please specify)

5. Please select one option which best describes your area of work or occupation?

Student
Retired
Homekeeper
Business service
Conservation
Energy
Farming
Fishing
Government
Health
Manufacturing
Mining/quarrying
Retail
Tourism
Transport/logistics
Other (please state)

6. How old are you?

Under 18
18 to 30
31 to 50
Over 50

Your views about our coasts and seas

7. To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following statement:

“The state/health of our coasts and seas matters to me”

Agree strongly
Agree slightly
Neither agree nor disagree
Disagree slightly
Disagree strongly

8. **Please tell us why the state/health of our coasts and seas does or does not matter to you.**

9. **What changes have you noticed in recent years when visiting the coast around England?** (select up to three)

More litter
Less litter
More people
Less people
More busy
Less busy
Better information for visitors
Worse information for visitors
Cleaner water
Dirtier water
More wildlife
Less wildlife
Other (please state)
No significant changes
Don't know

10. **To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following statements:**

- a. **Areas of our coasts/seas should be set aside and protected so that wildlife can recover.**

Agree strongly
Agree slightly
Neither agree nor disagree
Disagree slightly
Disagree strongly

- b. **I am worried about dolphins and porpoises being killed by commercial fishing activities.**

Agree strongly
Agree slightly
Neither agree nor disagree
Disagree slightly
Disagree strongly

11. What actions do you think should be taken to maintain or improve the condition of our coasts/seas?

--

General knowledge

We are keen to find out what people know about our coasts/seas and what organisations do to manage them

12. Are the following statements true or false? (select one in each row)

Less than 40,000 different plants and animals live in the seas around England	True	False	Don't know
Common skate is no longer 'common' and is almost extinct from the North Sea	True	False	Don't know
Mudflats, saltmarsh, beaches and dunes may all act as natural coastal defences	True	False	Don't know

13. What does 'managed realignment of coastal defences' mean to you? (select one)

- Loss of valuable land to the sea
- Repositioning coastal defences to allow for future coastal change
- Not sure
- Don't know

14. English Nature and other organisations use many methods for protecting areas on the land and at sea. Which of the following have you visited in the last three years? (select one in each row)

	Yes I have visited	No I have not visited	Don't know
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)			
National Nature Reserves (NNRs)			
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)			
Special Protected Areas (SPAs)			
Sensitive Marine Areas (SMAs)			
Voluntary marine nature reserve			

	Yes I have visited	No I have not visited	Don't know
Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)			
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs)			
Reserves of the RSPB, Wildlife Trusts or National Trust			
Heritage Coasts			
Blue flag beach			

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

From time to time we will be posting summaries on the English Nature website of the feedback that we are receiving.

If you would like to see the answers to the general knowledge questions, please [click here](#).

If you would like to become a volunteer on one of English Nature's future on line feedback panels, please give us your name and email address. We may contact you upto 12 months from the date you register.

Please [click here](#) to read our privacy policy

Name
 Email
 Thank you

[Click here](#) to return to the English Nature home page

Annex A Data tables (separate document)



ENGLISH NATURE

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

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Front cover photographs:

Top left: Co₂ experiment at Roudsea Wood and Mosses NNR, Lancashire.

Peter Wakely/English Nature 21,792

Middle left: Radio tracking a hare on Pawlett Hams, Somerset.

Paul Glendell/English Nature 23,020

Bottom left: Identifying moths caught in a moth trap at Ham Wall NNR, Somerset.

Paul Glendell/English Nature 24,888

Main: Using a home-made moth trap.
Peter Wakely/English Nature 17,396



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