

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ88797

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Senedd Member for Conwy
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

11 September 2023

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your Written Question (WQ88797): *Will the Minister state what steps are being taken to update Wales's Marine Development Plan to improve our status in the 15 descriptors of the UK Marine Strategy's good environmental status requirements?*

In response to your question, sustainable development is core to the Welsh National Marine Plan. The Marine Plan includes policies supporting the achievement of Good Environmental Status (GES) and encouraging actions to protect, restore and enhance marine ecosystems. My officials are currently working with NRW to map areas of opportunity for environmental restoration and enhancement. We are also working with Defra to publish the latest Programme of Measures within the UK Marine Strategy. This will set out our intentions for achieving and maintaining GES across the UK.

In March, I published a Written Statement setting out how marine planning is being taken forward following a three-year review. The Written Statement is available here:

<https://www.gov.wales/written-statement-taking-forward-marine-planning-following-three-year-review-welsh-national-marine>

Yours sincerely,

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.