

GUIDELINE:

As evidence mounts for the need to act with urgency to address climate change, it is clear a global transition to a greener maritime sector is underway.

The UK already has strong influence at a number of global fora such as the IMO, and is a leader in the field of international maritime environmental diplomacy. Leading by example, the UK was also the first advanced economy to commit to net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Globally, the rising importance of the blue economy will generate renewed interest in environmental regulation as we move towards 2050. The UK will maintain its leading role, ensuring the sector meet climate change and wider environmental goals, using its influence to shape international regulation aligned with our interests.

Maritime 2050 - Navigating the Future, report, Department for Transport, January 2019.



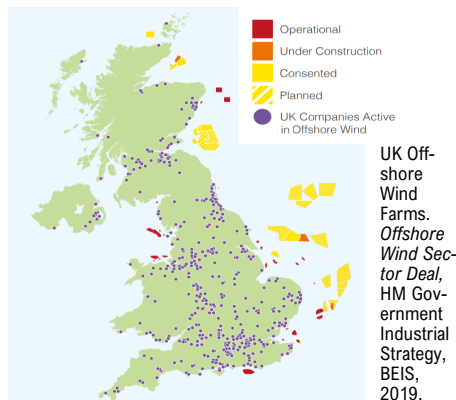
“Five highly protected marine areas planned to ban fishing”, P. Barkham & H. Horton, *The Guardian*, 20 June 2022.

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As the global transition to zero emission shipping gathers pace over the coming years, driven by increasing international pressure to tackle emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants, we must also harness the power of the financial sector to bring about a greener future.

The UK is already a trailblazer in the development of green financial products, providing capital to projects that tackle climate change. It offers huge opportunities for the maritime economy and will enable industry and government to use the power of financial markets to secure sustainable growth. It also allows the UK to build on its existing position as a world leading financial centre so as to become the global hub to provide green finance and legal services for a more sustainable maritime sector.

Clean Maritime Plan, Department for Transport, July 2019.



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It is perhaps not surprising that coastal communities voted for change - for Brexit. For many of these coastal communities, people feel left out and left behind. Traditional industries have departed and, whilst some new sectors such as renewable energy have arrived, many of the lost jobs and investment have not been replaced.

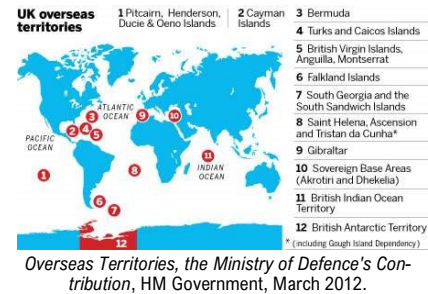
Leaving the EU's failed Common Fisheries Policy is one of the most important benefits of Brexit. It means we can create a fairer system which will allow marine habitats to thrive, with new powers to support our fishing sector and conserve our wonderful Blue Belt at home and abroad. This new Fisheries Bill takes back control of our waters, enabling the UK to create a sustainable, profitable fishing industry for our coastal communities.

“Fisheries Bill to enshrine sustainability in law”, Environment Secretary Theresa Villiers, press release, 29 January 2020.



Watch out, Macron! UK deploys GUNSHIPS to Channel in huge warning to EU fishing. Paul Withers, *The Sunday Express*, 3 January 2021.

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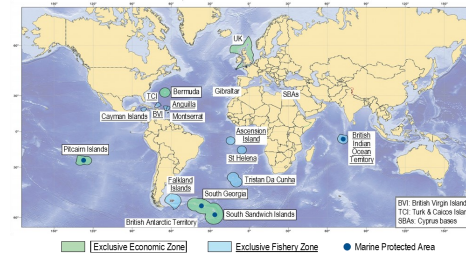


The relationship between the UK and the Overseas Territories is founded on mutual benefits and responsibilities. The Territories offer the UK a global presence and strategic reach in support of our international objectives. Their global spread gives us access to diverse regions of the world; as a set of strategic assets, some of the Territories host military bases or cover regions of significant current operational and long term strategic value. [...]

The Territories benefit from the relationship with the UK through defence and security. The UK contributes to their protection from crime and support in the event of natural disaster; to ensure that they are able to trade, exploit their natural resources and develop their economies free from external interference.

The Overseas Territories, security, success & sustainability, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, June 2012.

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The Marine Zones of the UK and its Territories. *UK National Strategy for Maritime Security*, Ministry of Defence, May 2014.

Tourism is a major part of the economy of most Territories especially -but not exclusively, for Caribbean islands. They built their reputation as beautiful, safe, exclusive and high-end tourism destination and their tourism industry is aimed at the luxury market. It is important to develop this industry but also to consider carefully environmental impacts so that the coasts, seas and wildlife that attract tourists are not damaged.

Cruise ships also stop at the Cayman Islands and Bermuda in the Caribbean but also Gibraltar in the Mediterranean and the Falkland Islands on the way to Antarctica. However, this growing market has a high environmental impact on vulnerable maritime environments -hence the drive for a more eco-friendly tourism.

Sustainability in the UK Overseas Territories, House of Commons Environmental Committee, 8 January 2014.

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The Overseas Territories are home to many species and environments found nowhere else in the world, offering the rich environmental assets for which they are internationally recognised. Each of the Territories depends on these assets in some way, e.g. for fisheries or tourism.

As their maritime environment is threatened by climate change, pollution and overfishing, competition for resources and serious weather events are likely to increase. Moreover, the OTs' ability to manage their environments and mitigate climate change may be hampered by the loss of EU funding.

Hence the government's responsibility to protect these vulnerable communities, planning for a more sustainable development.

Global Britain and the British Overseas Territories: Resetting the relationship, Parliament, 21 February 2019.



Helicopter and crew from HMS Iron Duke assisting in disaster relief training in Montserrat. *Overseas Territories*, Ministry of Defence, March 2012.