



**Plymouth
Sound**

National Marine Park

DECLARATION OF INTENT

We, the undersigned, pledge our support to create the UK's first National Marine Park. By this we mean that the undersigned will work together to enhance the economic, environmental and social values of Plymouth Sound, and promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of those special qualities by the public.

The waters of Plymouth Sound are unique and have been instrumental in shaping not just our city's and nation's heritage, culture, wealth and security, but that of America, Europe and many other parts of the world. It is a place where people have met the sea since time immemorial. The National Marine Park will be the legacy that we have the privilege and responsibility of bestowing on future generations.

The National Marine Park will celebrate our past and our future: it will encourage greater prosperity and enhanced engagement with our marine environment. Building on our current work and existing structures, it will support a new approach to how we value and work in harmony with the natural environment to deliver the greatest benefit for all. Our vision is for a National Marine Park that supports thriving businesses, connected communities and inspired visitors.

The waters of Plymouth Sound are a place of extraordinary and inspiring natural beauty, where local people enjoy sailing, swimming fishing and countless other leisure activities and where adventurers from around the world have set out on global voyages. They are already home to a complex and diverse mix of uses – from the Navy and the port to commercial fishing and diver training as well as the marine leisure industry. These uses thrive alongside some of the most highly protected areas designated for wildlife in the UK. Through our common endeavour these uses and strong partnerships will continue and be developed further.

In declaring our intent to create the first National Marine Park in Plymouth Sound we are also signalling the next stage of our journey. Plymouth City Council will constitute a Marine Park Board to co-design a strategy and delivery plan. To provide advice to the Board, a working group will ensure that the voices of all users are heard and fully engaged.

The National Marine Park has been developed collaboratively, declared locally, and delivered through a spirit of opportunity.

We invited the nation to recognise the international significance of Plymouth Sound as we embark on a new journey, as so many others have. We will become the UK's first National Marine Park, and be a proving ground for others to follow this innovative new approach.

This declaration signals a citywide commitment to work with Government, stakeholders and citizens to develop a blueprint for National Marine Parks that can be replicated nationwide. The signatories are not, at this stage, seeking additional statutory powers under the National Parks Act 1949 or other legislation, and will work within existing legislative frameworks. The National Marine Park is a statement of intent of the signatories to work together for the public benefit.