

Collection: North West Marine Plan

Updated: North West sustainability appraisal options assessment report

We have included below the latest information on process to develop the North West Marine Plan.

If you would like further information please subscribe to [newsletter](#).

Form: Form LPD1: application for deployments for land-spreading of waste

Updated: Removed the RPS 214 statement as RPS 214 has now expired.

Use this application form for deployments for land-spreading of waste where the operator holds a permit referring to any of the following standard rules:

- [SR2010 No 4: mobile plant for land-spreading](#)
 - [SR2010 No 5: use of mobile plant for land reclamation, restoration or improvement of land](#)
 - [SR2010 No 6: mobile plant for land-spreading of sewage sludge](#)
 - bespoke mobile plant permit for land-spreading or land reclamation
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Statutory guidance: Marine licensing exempted activities

Updated: Text updated

Exemptions allow the MMO to be proportionate in its regulation of the marine environment. They make the marine licensing process more efficient and cost effective in specific cases which the MMO considers to be low risk.

If you intend to rely on exemption(s) you must make sure that you meet the

relevant qualifying criteria and conditions. You might also need to notify the MMO about your activities.

Please be aware that the 'Marine Licensing exempted activities' document above relates only to marine licences. Marine licence exemptions, where they apply, does not remove the requirement for you to secure any other consents, including [wildlife licences](#), where appropriate.

Enforcement action might be taken if it is later determined that the activity, or the circumstances in which it was carried out, are not consistent with the terms of the relevant exemption.

Exempted activities

Together the exemptions orders [2013](#) and [2011](#) list 34 activities which may be exempt from requiring a marine licence ("a licence"). These activities are split into three categories:

1. [exemptions for which no notification is required](#)
2. [exemption which require notification to be given to the MMO](#)
3. [exemptions which require approval from the MMO](#)

In addition there is an exemption in [Section 75 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009](#) for certain dredging activities, or the disposal of dredged material [carried out by or on behalf of a harbour authority](#).

Activity	Category
Accidental deposits	2
Air accident investigation	1
Bored tunnel	2
Cables and pipelines – authorised emergency repair and inspection	3
Maintenance of coastal protection, drainage and flood defence works	1
Coastguard activities – safety purposes and training	1
Scheduled works under the Crossrail Act 2008	1
Removal of obstruction or danger to navigation	1
Licensed deep sea mining	1
Defence activities	1
Dismantling of ships	1
Diver trails within restricted areas	1
Deposits in the course of aggregates or mineral dredging	1
Fire fighting	1
Fishing operations	1
Flares and other such items for safety purposes and training	1
Emergency works in response to flood or flood risk	3
Rights of foreign vessels under international law	1
Launching of vessels	1
Maintenance of harbour works	1

Activity	Category
Markers for European marine sites and marine conservation zones	3
Merchant Shipping Act 1995 – activities falling within Part 6	1
Merchant Shipping Act 1995 – safety directions	1
Moorings and aids to navigation	2
Navigational dredging	2
Deposits in the course of normal navigation	1
Deposit of equipment to control, contain or recover oil	1
Deposit of marine chemical and marine oil treatment substances	3
Pontoons	3
Use of vehicles to remove litter, seaweed or dead animals	2
Salvage	1
Samples for testing an analysis	2
Scientific instruments	2
Activities in the Scottish inshore region	1
Shellfish propagation and cultivation	2
Temporary markers	2

Guidance: Buyers and sellers of first-sale fish and submission of sales notes

Updated: Link added

If you want to fish commercially and sell your fish you may be subject to regulations depending on your fishing method. If you are fishing recreationally or using a charter vessel you are also subject restrictions on selling your catch.

If you want to purchase fish you may need to register and submit sales information to the fisheries authority. The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) registers buyers and sellers operating in England.

Corporate report: Radioactive

particles in the environment around Dounreay

Updated: Attached new information leaflet 'Monitoring of beaches near Dounreay'

Particles are fragments of irradiated nuclear fuel discharged to sea as a result of historic practices in reprocessing.

Used fuel from the reactors on site and other research reactors in Britain and abroad was recycled in the site's reprocessing facilities.

The swarf produced during the procedure was discharged from fuel ponds with the water and were released to sea.

It is not known how many particles were released but extensive research suggests that the bulk were released between 1958 and 1984.

The most hazardous fragments are located close to an old discharge point on the seabed.

Their disintegration is believed to be the source of smaller, less hazardous particles detected on local beaches since the early 1980s.

Health risks

Expert laboratory research into the potential health effects of different particles has been carried out by the Health Protection Agency for Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), and studied by the independent Dounreay Particles Advisory Group (DPAG). The work looked at the likely health effects of different particles being swallowed, inhaled or coming into skin contact.

DPAG concluded that only those particles in the significant category pose a realistic potential to cause harm to members of the public, and that the probability of the most frequent beach-users at Sandside coming into contact with a relevant particle is one in 80 million.

A number of studies on the potential effects of particles have been completed by independent bodies.

Explanations of the hazards and risks can be found at:

- SEPA
- Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (COMARE)
- Food Standards Agency (FSA)

Monitoring

Beach monitoring continues and forms part of the RSA authorisation granted to the site by SEPA. Monitoring of land owned by third parties is subject to

agreements on access.

During 2003-2008 an extensive consultation programme was established to identify the best practicable environmental option (BPEO). The consultation led to recommendations to Government bodies on the way forward which is environmentally and publicly acceptable.

This process recognised that recovery of every particle was impractical but that it was feasible to seek recovery of larger, more hazardous particles that pose a significant health risk and which had settled in the sediment close to Dounreay. That, along with on-shore monitoring specifically at Dounreay foreshore and Sandside beach, was identified as the preferred way forward.

Underwater clean-up started in August 2008, targeted at a 60-hectare area of seabed known as the “plume” where the most hazardous particles were located. This work continued each summer until 2012.

This programme was guided by the independent expert Particles Recovery Advisory Group (Dounreay), PRAG(D), which advises both DSRL and SEPA.

All particles recovered from the seabed were returned to Dounreay.

The Dounreay foreshore and Sandside beach in the bay adjacent to the site are monitored on a regular basis. Strathy beach and Murkle beach act as ‘gatekeepers’ and are monitored twice a year to ensure that the offshore work has not adversely impacted the surrounding beaches.

When a particle is detected, it is retrieved and taken to Dounreay for analysis. The regulator is informed, and the find is reported publicly via this website. Any unusual finds are treated in the same manner.

In the 1990s extensive additional surveys of the site were carried out. This included roadside verges, cliff top land and drainage systems. By 2009, these surveys had yielded 89 particles.

Detailed investigations identified a number of areas of the site where more particles could be expected to be found during decommissioning.

The effectiveness of the clean-up is reported by Dounreay to SEPA, PRAG(D) and other interested parties, including the site stakeholder group.