

ENRC No: 02 of 2021-22

**Memorandum for Environment and Natural Resources Committee**

**SUBJECT** **Final Draft Marine Compliance and Enforcement Strategy**

Memorandum by Director of ENRP

**ADVICE SOUGHT** **The Environment and Natural Resources Committee is being asked to approve the final draft Marine Compliance and Enforcement Strategy.**

**BACKGROUND & CONSIDERATIONS**

1. St Helena's Territorial Sea and Exclusive Fishing Zone (EFZ) has been classified as an IUCN Category VI Marine Protected Area (MPA). This is defined as a protected area with sustainable use of natural resources.
2. Work is underway by ENRP through the Blue Belt programme to develop an improved regulatory framework beyond the current fishing licensing and marine accreditation scheme for the key marine operations that impact our marine environment.
3. SHG does not have a Compliance and Enforcement Strategy for management of its marine based operations and this strategy has been prepared to close this gap and improve St Helena's overall governance, monitoring and reporting requirements for its MPA.
4. The Strategy has been developed to help inform marine stakeholders and the public as to how the Environment, Natural Resources and Planning Directorate (ENRP) will manage compliance and enforcement with St Helena's legislation for its marine environment. It outlines the need for regulation, the legal basis on which any regulation is put in place and the actions ENRP proposes to take to ensure compliance with such regulation.
5. ENRP has begun to establish a Marine Compliance and Enforcement function through assistance from the Blue Belt programme and responsibility for the management and operational elements of the Strategy will lie with this Section.
6. ENRP has completed targeted consultation on the Strategy between August and October 2020 with key stakeholders and comments fed back are attached at Appendix 1. As a result, minimum changes were required to be made to the draft presented to and discussed with the Committee as a result of the consultations.
7. Beyond the current Blue Belt funding for the operational activities of the Section, there will be operational costs from April 2021 that will have to be borne by the Section through the ENRP current budget to enable implementation of the Strategy.
8. Making provision for improved governance arrangements for marine operations that occur within our MPA will improve economic prospects for the Island through local and tourism related operations for the future.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS**

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**CONSISTENCY WITH INVESTMENT POLICY PRINCIPLES**

9. N/A.

**PUBLIC / SOCIAL IMPACT**

10. There will be some impact on the public as a result of implementing a strategy involving a requirement for increased compliance with marine regulation and taking enforcement action where little or no compliance is experienced. High levels of compliance will ensure this impact is minimised.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

11. Implementation of the Strategy will provide positive benefit for our marine environment. Improving compliance with licensing and legislative requirements for marine based operations will reduce environmental damage to fish stocks and marine habitats.

**PREVIOUS CONSULTATION / COMMITTEE INPUT**

12. Consultation was held on an earlier draft within ENRC at their meeting in July 2020 and the draft was approved for targeted consultation with marine stakeholders..

13. A targeted consultation was held with marine stakeholders. Responses were received from Sports Spearfishers, Recreational Stakeholders, SHCFA and SHNT. Comments received have been included in the development of the final strategy.

**PUBLIC REACTION**

14. It is expected that there will generally be a positive response to the Strategy and its intentions.

15. Marine users may have strong views on compliance and enforcement actions but through a collaborative approach to finalising the strategy, the importance of having transparent arrangements in place for the compliance and enforcement approach and actions that has been included and will be implemented will be recognised.

**PUBLICITY**

16. ENRP will provide publicity on the Strategy once the final draft is agreed.

**SUPPORT TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

17. The strategy is mostly aligned with the “Altogether Greener” and Altogether Wealthier” national goals of St Helena’s Policy Framework.

**LINK TO SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN GOALS**

18. The strategy supports the following SEDP goals:

3. Attract Visitors and Increase Tourism

6. Sustain and improve our Natural Capital.

*DD*

**OPEN /CLOSED AGENDA ITEM**

Open

**DATE OF MEMO**

11 /2 /2021

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