

**Net Gain: Can it be applied sensibly in  
the coastal & marine environment:**

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## Current situation

- Marine industries make a significant contribution to the UK economy
- Environment needs protecting and improving
- Extensive experience of working with legislation and regulators

# Future goals for environment and economy



- **Economy:** Need for economic growth to meet UK targets for energy, climate change etc
  - Offshore wind will play a key
- **Social:** Better alignment of socio-economic targets to parallel environmental targets? Coastal towns are some of the most deprived areas in the country
- **Environment:** 25 year Environment Plan, ecosystem services, net gain and natural capital all have a role in planning and delivering work



# Net Gain and SUDG - where are we?

- Net gain will be mandatory
  - Town and country Planning Act
  - Environment Act
- Marine and coastal environments need restoring
- Marine industries have strong experience in delivering environmental solutions
- Regulation should be proportionate and targeted to deliver environmental outcomes
- Net gain should be a real opportunity to deliver restoration



# Net Gain and SUDG –

- Marine industries support net gain –
  - We need to maintain that positive support
- Net gain should be a real opportunity to deliver restoration
  - Not packages of ‘greenwash’
- Best done through innovation, not complex regulation
  - Keep it simple
- Better to collaborate on how to plan and deliver net gain
  - The importance of partnership working



# Net Gain and SUDG:

- Mitigation hierarchy remains essential
  - Not looking for changes in the law
- Net gain could be linked to the mitigation hierarchy
  - ecosystem enhancement or 'compensation plus'
- Avoid constraints of additionality
  - Many industry developments will be in or near MPAs
- Deliver best environmental outcomes
- Avoid unnecessary and complex regulation

# Net Gain and SUDG

- Identify and agree national targets for net gain
  - Task and finish group
- Use these to direct approaches for delivery of net gain
- Currently preparing bid to look more locally



# Summary



- SUDG industries are critical to marine and UK economy
- The environment needs protecting, but also needs restoring
- Industry can help through net gain and delivery of agreed strategic targets
- Use these targets to determine direction and delivery of net gain
- We need actions for conservation not complex regulation

**We are good at recording environmental damage –  
now we need to be good at restoring the environment**