

MARITIME UK SOUTH WEST – ACTION PLAN 2024 - 25

MUKSW Mission

Maritime UK SW brings together the breadth of our ocean economy, working in partnership to champion, grow and clean the sector.

Aims and objectives

1.Champion and promote our sector, internally, nationally and abroad.
1.1 Create evidence based strategy, profile and lobbying
1.2 Promote regional excellence
2. Drive clean growth by fostering collaboration between business, research and government and brokering access to support.
2.1 Drive collaboration, investment in R&D and clean growth
2.2 Increase investment in skills and promote careers in maritime
3.Harness our assets to build centres of excellence to maintain regional competitive advantage in a clean, prosperous maritime future.
3.1 Build supply chain capability in offshore renewables and bring forward investment in floating offshore wind
3.2 Create a world leading centre for marine autonomy and geospatial data innovation.
3.3 Drive investment in our Sustainable Ocean Economy
3.3.1 SW to become an early adopter of clean propulsion and shoreside infrastructure
3.3.2 South West Aquaculture Network to drive a vibrant aquaculture sector

And in order to deliver the above aims and objectives

4.Increase cluster resourcing to deliver our shared aims
4.1 Seek “strategic partners” and “sponsors” to resource our agreed annual strategic plan.
4.2 Lever the national innovation lead role of MUKSW to put the SW at the forefront of UK Maritime Innovation.
4.3 Bid for funding to deliver the MUKSW Strategy.

KEY Delivery Items for 2024/25

1. Bid for and win the £150,000 **IUK GSW Marine Launchpad Cluster Support** grant to employ a MUKSW Innovation Manager and deliver a programme of innovation support around regional hubs in Dorset, N Devon, Cornwall and Plymouth/South Devon. Document to be updated if successful with extensive programme of innovation support – March 24
2. Bid for a deliver a **MUKSW People Programme** to compliment the programme delivered by Maritime UK nationally, and working alongside the program delivered in Cornwall by MUKSW

partners Cornwall Marine Network. Document to be updated if successful with extensive programme of careers support.

3. Work alongside the Great South West as programme delivery board for the Marine and Maritime to ensure that the transformational opportunities afforded by maritime are fully **understood and exploited by South West political champions**.
4. Deliver a programme of innovation support in person and online events and special interest groups. Deliver one headline national event under the banner of **Ocean Tech Expo** on June 26th and 27th.
5. Continue to support the shift to clean maritime through the extension of the existing **MUKSW Clean Maritime Roadmap into an evidenced strategy including working to develop a SW – France-Spain Green Corridor**.
6. Deliver a contract to deliver a **national programme of innovation activity** working with partners Maritime UK and the Society of Maritime Industries – this putting SW maritime innovation interests at the heart of the national innovation agenda.

AIM 1: CHAMPION AND PROMOTE

1.1 CREATE EVIDENCE BASED STRATEGY, PROFILE AND LOBBYING

- Continued lobbying into the 2024 UK Gov Comprehensive Spending Review, as MUKSW and via our board place on Maritime UK to:
 - o *Invest in key SW projects (see below)*
 - o *Extending UK SHORE funding for maritime decarbonisation*
 - o *Modernise shipyards*
 - o *Establishing a shipbuilding skills delivery group*
 - o *Continuation of the National Shipbuilding Office and The Maritime Capability Campaign Office (MCCO)*
 - o *Adequate resourcing of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency to better support the deployment of new technologies including autonomy and clean maritime.*
 - o *Joined-up government engagement on maritime.*
- Lever National Innovation Lead to influence:
 - o Maritime and Science Ministers, DFT and other related government departments.
 - o Lobby and better understand Labour priorities.
 - o Work through the Celtic Sea Cluster to promote SW interests in floating offshore wind.
- Increase influence through place on Maritime UK National Council board:
 - o Centres of Excellence/Freeport Innovation Network/Hydrogen infrastructure investment.

1.2 PROMOTE REGIONAL EXCELLENCE

- Lead the delivery and seek funding to support a trade, invest and collaboration event under the brand, Ocean Tech Expo.

- Support delivery of MUKSW affiliated sub-groups:
 - o South West Aquaculture Network
 - o MUKSW Clean Maritime Network
 - o Future at Sea Technologies Group (FAST) focussed on marine autonomy and sensors.
- Promote MUKSW on a shared trade stand at Oceanology International (March) and Maritime Week (Sept).
- Monthly newsletter to 3900 recipients providing comprehensive dissemination and promotion for technology, events and wider business opportunities.

AIM 2: DRIVE CLEAN SECTOR GROWTH

2.1 Drive collaboration, investment in R&D and clean growth

- Attract public and private investment into SW (with focus on key projects: Appledore innovation centre, Oceansgate and Plymouth Innovation Centres, and investment in decarbonisation for ports and harbours across the SW).
- Support businesses bidding into the £7.5M IUK Launchpad and to access wider innovation and business support. (amendment to the plan to provided in Feb 24 if bid is successful to provide support).
- Act as point of contact and maintain interactions with partner international maritime technology clusters.

2.2 Increase investment in skills and promote careers in maritime

Bid for and deliver a **MUKSW People Programme** to compliment the programme delivered by Maritime UK nationally, and working alongside the program delivered successfully in Cornwall by MUKSW partners Cornwall Marine Network. The programme will effectively link existing training providers and provide increased linkage and promotion to young people regarding careers across the sector.

Funding of £1.5M was announced in September and is expected to be released in early 2024. MUKSW as a recognised maritime cluster will have the opportunity to bid into this fund alongside other maritime clusters in the UK. An update will be published in Spring. If you are interested in being involved with the proposed programme, please email sheldon.ryan@maritimeuksw.org.

AIM 3: BUILD CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

3.1 Build supply chain capability in offshore renewables and bring forward investment in floating offshore wind.

- Comms in place for North Devon and wider stakeholders ref likely impacts and opportunities from FLOW.
- Close working with Crown Estate – to support enabling actions to reduce consenting timeline and achieve 4.5GW by 2035 and ambition for follow on 20GW by 2045;
- People programme in place to support community benefit from FLOW.

- Representation on Celtic Sea Cluster steering board.
- Work with developers to better understand maritime supply chain exploiting Glass AI enabled database of 10,000 UK maritime supply chain.
- Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult: Workshop - Accelerating Consenting for Offshore Renewables Deployment (ACORD) using MAS, Drones, Satellites, big data management
- Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult support to Celtic Sea Power on Cornwall FLOW Commission activity
- Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult – Celtic Sea Cluster workshop, update on Round 5 Leasing, Celtic Sea Developers Alliance

3.2 CREATE A WORLD LEADING CENTRE FOR MARINE AUTONOMY AND GEOSPATIAL DATA INNOVATION.

Work with MCA - the BEIS Regulators Pioneer fund will enable much closer collaboration with the MCA to deliver autonomy R&D regulations. Continue to lobby via MUK and SMI for further resourcing within the MCA to deliver regulation.

Produce a series of test and demo videos to promote regional capability via a shared showreel for the Ocean Tech Expo.

Continue to support the delivery of the [Future Autonomous at Sea Technologies](#) cluster.

Exhibit at Oceanology International – March 2024.

3.3. DRIVE INVESTMENT IN OUR SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ECONOMY

3.3.1 CLEAN MARITIME

- Refresh the existing MUKSW Clean Maritime plan with an appropriate evidence base with potential focus on establishing supply and infrastructure as pilot schemes in potential high demand ports e.g. Falmouth, Plymouth, Portland, Poole, Bristol and Ilfracombe.
- Partner with and provide supply chain linkage with partners capable of providing scaled clean fuels. Work in partnership with Hydrogen South West to integrate maritime with other high demand hydrogen off-taker sectors.
- Continue to deliver the MUKSW Clean Maritime Ports Group to assist in efforts to decarbonise, working alongside the SW Sub national Transport Group.
- Work to establish a SW Green Corridor working with Dept for Transport.
- Clean Maritime project delivered in South Hams and West Devon via Shared Prosperity bid. Seek funding and use as model for other SW Local Authorities.
- Investment in The Clean Maritime Innovation Centre in Appledore.
- Continue to deliver the series of MUKSW Clean Maritime Network events and online drop in sessions.

3.3.1 South West Aquaculture Network

- SWAN is in a transitional period of change looking to formalise and provide dedicated support.

- The network has broadly agreed with the objective to find someone to take on a dedicated aquaculture support officer role which will facilitate the network with funding, networking and aquaculture sector profile awareness.
- Broadly, the network agrees to continue with the development of an aquaculture innovation hub and the process of agreeing what this would look like whether virtual and an expansion of the current SWAN network or physical with a building.
- SWAN to present regional excellence at the Ocean Tech Expo.

INCREASE CLUSTER RESOURCING TO DELIVER OUR SHARED AIMS

- The accountable body (i.e. the banker, HR and back office service provider) for MUKSW has been the Heart of the SW LEP since 2017. The MUKSW Board has decided to change it's accountable body away from Heart of the South West LEP (as it is due to be closed down on April 1st 2024), to Plymouth City Council under a service level agreement which will be made available online and will ensure legal compliance for MUKSW activity while retaining full political and practical autonomy for MUKSW to operate as an independent entity.
- 2024 will see MUKSW resourcing reduced without the strategic partner contributions from the three Great South West Local Enterprise Partnerships. This creating a £45,000 reduction in cluster revenue streams of £110,000 PA.
- MUKSW will continue to deliver services on a not for profit basis but will pivot to achieve increased revenues and delivery on behalf of the sector:
 - A strategic partnering proposition for project activities has been put to the Great South West and is pending approval.
 - Two bids (into the IUK Launchpad and the Department for Transport Cluster Support Programme) have the potential to create additional programme delivery for a People Programme and Innovation Support. In order to support the core plan above the Strategic Partnering and Sponsorship model will be continued, alongside charged events for the first time via Ocean Tech Expo. Subject to the terms of the two funding bids MUKSW will start to deliver a wider program of paid events for the first time as a new source of revenue.