



Project Summary

Effective Partnerships for Marine Nature Recovery

'EPMNR'



In a pioneering new project, Natural England have commissioned the Coastal Partnerships Network (trading as The Coastal Collaborative Ltd) led by Amy Pryor, Niall Benson and Natasha Bradshaw, to answer the question 'What makes effective partnerships for marine nature recovery?'

Building partnerships for nature recovery is Natural England's core mission. Partnership working is fundamental to organisational delivery of the goals defined in the UK Government's 25 Year Environment Plan (YEP). Partnerships work with and through a wide range of people to re-build sustainable ecosystems and thereby protect and restore habitats, species and landscapes.

Coastal and Estuary Partnerships have a crucial role to play in marine nature recovery, but there is a need for comprehensive understanding regarding their efficacy, challenges, and prospects. These partnerships are likely to be critical in supporting collaborative working through providing links and coordination amongst key local stakeholders. These place-based networks are invaluable to understanding local challenges and opportunities as part of strategic marine and local planning processes. However, there is limited up to date knowledge of what characterises effective coastal partnerships for supporting and delivering marine nature recovery.

This project will address this knowledge gap by advancing understanding of the governance structures of coastal partnerships and how these relate to dimensions of efficiency, effectiveness, equity and legitimacy in delivering for nature. The research will employ a mixed methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis with a realist approach, to assess the variety of governance structures used and their impact on nature recovery.

The overarching objective of this novel initiative is to maximize the potential of Coastal and Estuary Partnerships and similar initiatives which support collaboration to advance nature recovery. It will gain valuable insights to enhance coastal and marine management at the local, regional, and national levels.

The efforts undertaken by Natural England and the Coastal Partnerships Network are set to usher in a new era of collaboration and progress in the pursuit of safeguarding and enhancing our invaluable coastal ecosystems. The project runs from August 2023 – April 2024.

Key contacts

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The Coastal Collaborative Ltd