



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Marine Net Gain

Policy perspective on Marine Net Gain in England

Marine Law Symposium: Can Offshore Wind Development Have a Net Positive Impact on Biodiversity?
Regulatory and Scientific Perspectives and Considerations: 21st April 2023

Background of Marine Net Gain policy

- **Net Gain** – An approach to development that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than beforehand



Reverse the loss of marine biodiversity

- Habitat creation and restoration schemes
- Support for species management and recovery, such as predator reduction



Embed environmental improvement into the heart of infrastructure planning and development

- Clear process for developers to demonstrate net gains
- Increasing natural capital assets

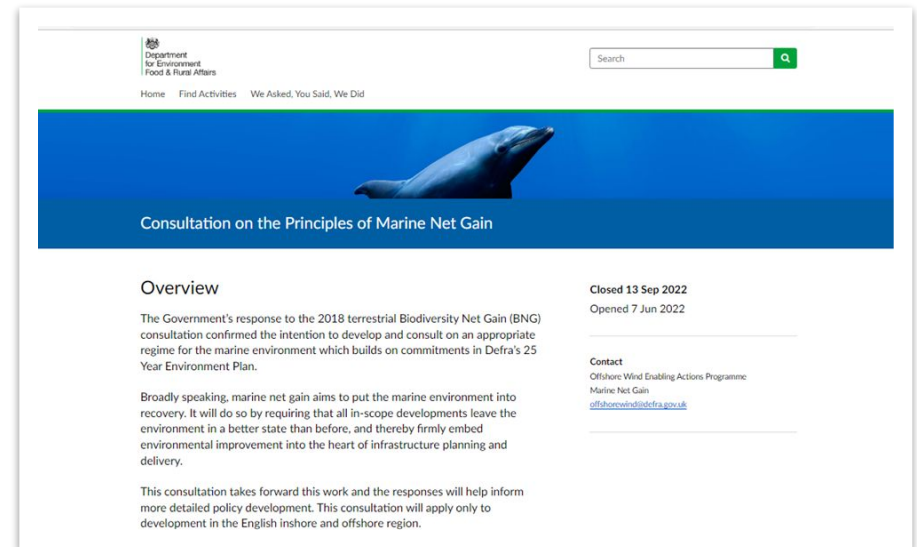


Leave the environment in a measurably better state than beforehand

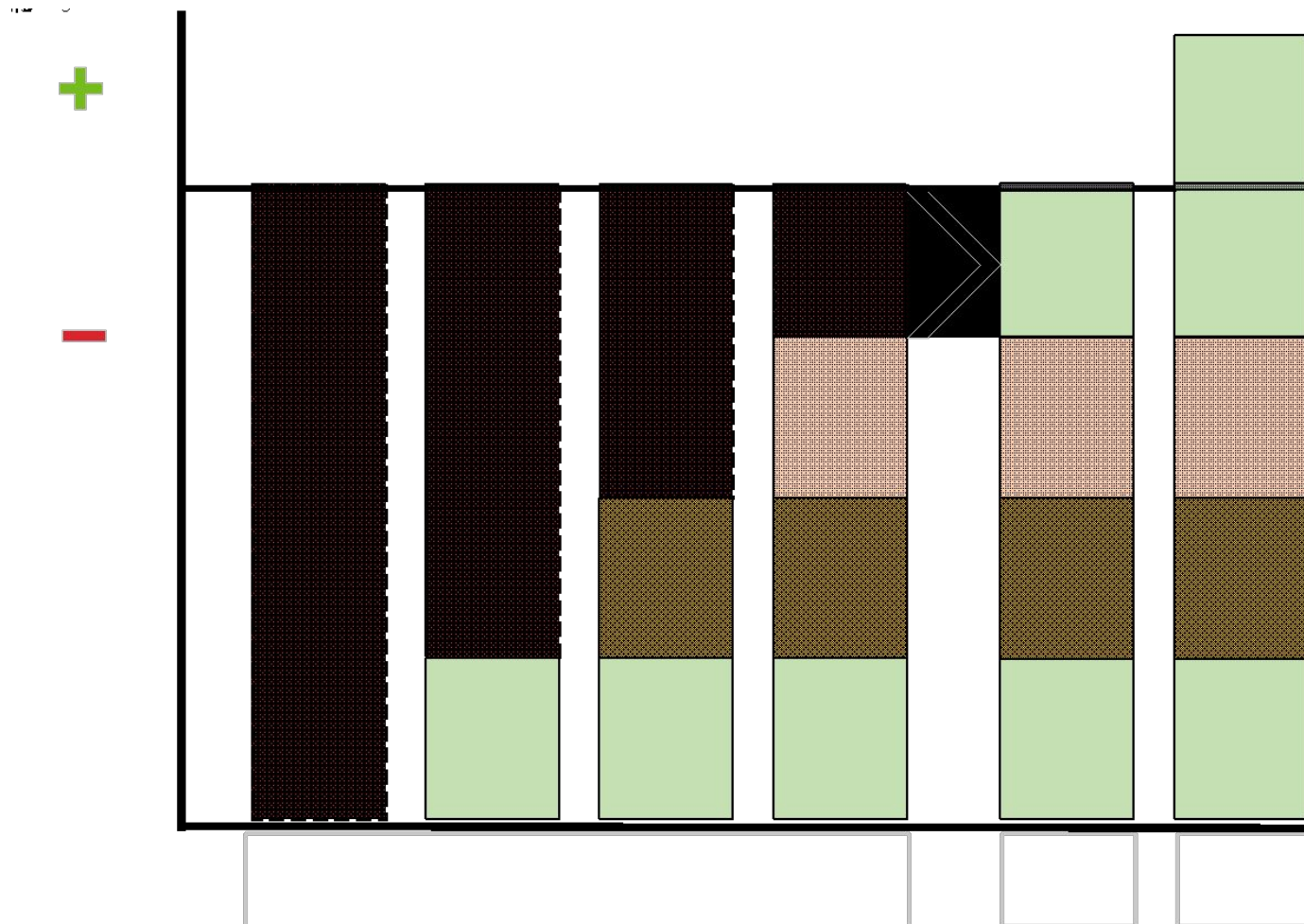
- Secure additional recovery and restoration measures to contribute to national and international targets
- Reduce cumulative impacts and identify opportunities for enhancement

Principles of Marine Net Gain Consultation

- Net gain will assess **losses/impacts** and require that developers deliver **additional biodiversity enhancements** to ensure overall gain is achieved.
- Net gain to be delivered through planning/licensing regimes
- Does not replace the mitigation hierarchy
- Strategic approach
- Active restoration/enhancement, assisted recovery, natural recovery via pressure reduction all in scope
- Considering options for delivery through contributions based approach and metrics

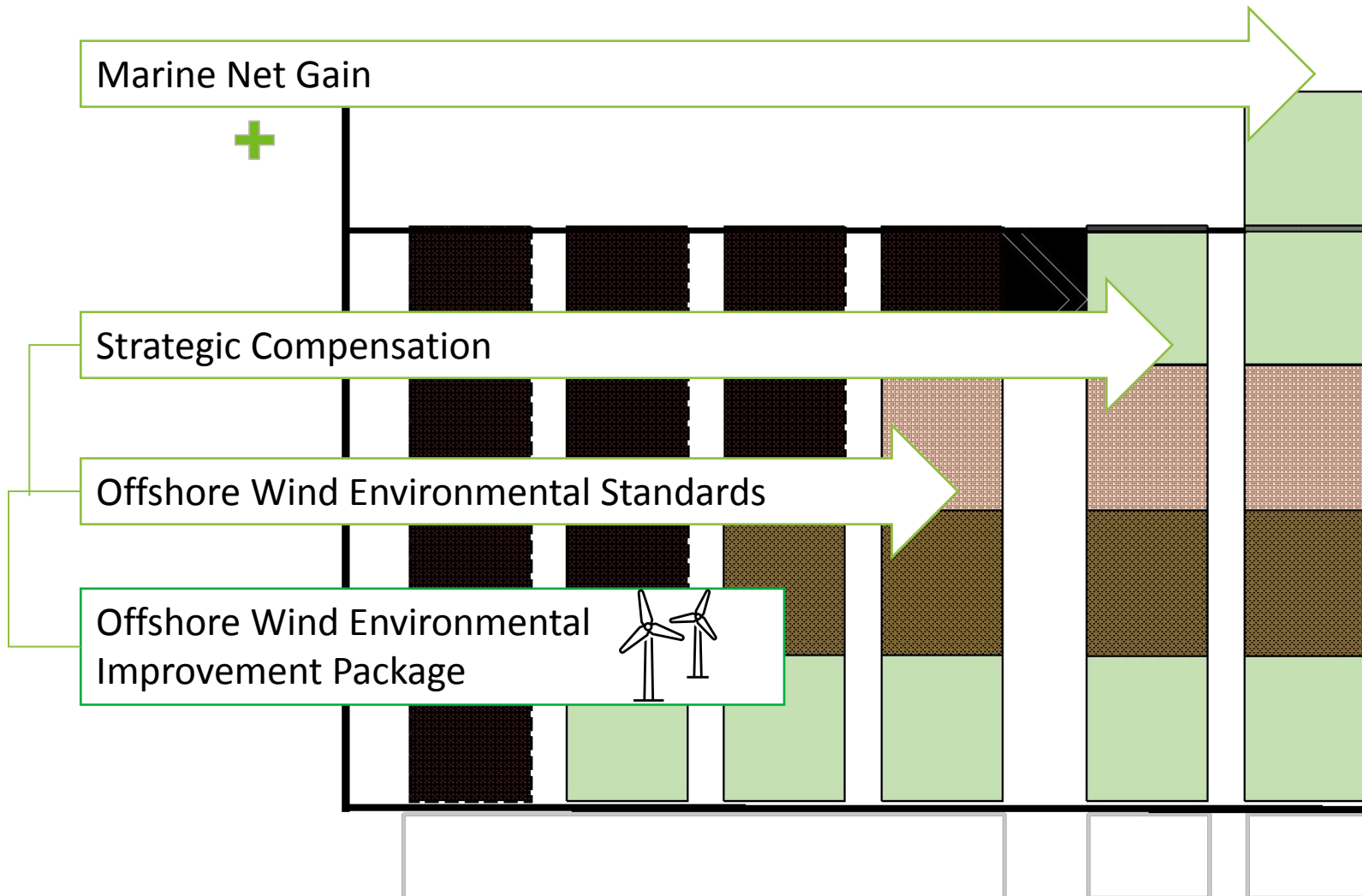


Marine Net Gain Concept



Marine Net Gain Concept

Doesn't operate in isolation



Offshore Wind Environmental Improvement Package (OWEIP)



In support of the British Energy Security Strategy and Growth Plan, Defra is implementing a new Offshore Wind Environmental Improvement Package. This will accelerate deployment whilst enhancing and protecting the marine environment.

The measures in the package include:

- **Reforms to Habitats Regulations Assessments** for offshore wind;
 - Establishing a **Marine Recovery Fund** to deliver **strategic environmental compensation** for environmental impacts;
 - Delivering **Offshore Wind Environmental Standards**; and
 - Implementing a **strategic approach to environmental monitoring**.
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Next Steps for Marine Net Gain



Consulted on the broad principles for a marine net gain regime



Further policy development



Proof of concept projects



Implementation and delivery



Legislative powers



Collaborative approach with stakeholders to identify and test options



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Thank you!

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