

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Impact Assessment for the Marine Bill



What our client wanted

All prospective legislation in the UK must be supported by a (Regulatory) Impact Assessment (RIA), in line with the Wanless report. The Marine Bill outlined significant changes to the regulation of all types of marine works, from dredging to keep channels clear, to multimillion pound wind farms. Defra needed to assess the costs of acquiring marine consents under the current system and the likely changes under a new regime, in order to inform the RIA.

What Frontline did

We supported Defra to design a questionnaire to elicit a very complex set of financial and other information from about 350 organisations that had applied for various marine licenses over the preceding two years. Responses were provided on-line, by post or through interviews by person or telephone. Due to the time and information demands, we had to work hard to get a representative response across all sectors, project type and size. We achieved a 17% response rate which was very good in terms of the complexity of issues discussed. The information was analysed and extrapolated to give estimated costs under the current system and compared with potential savings under the proposed new regime. Our report underpinned the RIA and commented on potential improvements.

What difference we made

We ensured Defra had sufficiently robust information to complete the complex RIA in relation to new legislation. This helped inform decisions about a regime for licensing marine construction and dredging.

What our client said

"We chose Frontline as we were impressed by their enthusiastic and well-written project proposal. They were quick to understand this complex policy area and adapted easily to last minute changes in policy and scope of the project. Most notably, the team was proactive in contacting a wide range of developers and achieving a good response rate. The project team were friendly and responsive throughout. Frontline clearly met our expectations at the final delivery of the project, producing a well written and informative final report. Frontline made an important contribution to the Marine Bill Impact Assessment and offered good value for money."

Jessica Tipton, Defra Marine Bill Team