



**HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR**  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Southern Waters of Gibraltar Management Scheme**

The Government of Gibraltar is pleased to announce the publication of the revised Southern Waters of Gibraltar Management Scheme.

This Management Scheme provides a framework to enable the Relevant Authorities to carry out their responsibilities and functions in line with the requirements of the Nature Protection Act 1991, the Marine Strategy Regulations 2011 and the Marine Protection Regulations 2012. These legislative provisions aim to protect both the habitats and species for which the Southern Waters of Gibraltar European Marine Site was designated, but extend to the whole of British Gibraltar Territorial Waters.

The Management Scheme promotes the sustainable use of a living, working environment. It brings together all existing management measures in place and provides the mechanism by which these can be delivered.

The Management Scheme will not be a static management plan, but an ongoing process that aids decision-making and continually evolves to take account of changing issues and legal obligations. It sets out a regime to monitor the condition of the site's features and considers options to rectify any deterioration of natural habitats and species.

The revised scheme differs from the original in that it refers to the Marine Protection Regulations that are currently being formulated, refers to Marine Conservation Zones, and defines non-anchoring sites in order to protect the integrity of offshore reefs. Rules to regulate activities in the Marine Conservation Zones are currently being drafted in consultation with relevant stakeholders as part of the Marine Protection Regulations.