



PRESS RELEASE

**Office hours: 01628 531646
07949 626375**

MSE/2008/026

Friday, 27th June 2008

In-depth report draws record crowd to Marine South East's Waterfront Strategy event

The much awaited findings from the Solent Waterfront Strategy study were unveiled this week at Marine South East's MareNet event on Monday (23rd June 2008) at the National Oceanography Centre in Southampton. A record crowd of over 100 people from the marine sector attended the event to hear the key findings from the study.



Importantly, the study reveals the major contribution the Solent marine industry makes to the UK economy, including future opportunities for growth. This is the first time factual evidence has been gathered to support claims that the Solent marine industry is a driver for economic growth. The Solent is one of the most important areas of water in the country and retention of waterfront access is vital for the future economic security and growth of the Solent marine community.

Jonathan Williams, CEO of Marine South East, spoke at the event and led discussions about how the study can now be implemented. He added;

"The Waterfront Strategy confirms the substantial contribution that the marine sector adds to the Solent economy and also stresses the pressure that is on waterfront land space. We welcome this report as it gives us the evidence to retain waterfront sites for continued and future economic development and wealth creation for the marine industry."

The Strategy was initiated following a call from the marine industry itself which expressed concerns about the lack of available waterfront land space. It is being led by SEEDA, the South East England Development Agency in partnership with Marine South East (MSE), Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH), Hampshire Economic Partnership (HEP) and British Marine Federation (BMF).

Kathy Slack, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Area Director for SEEDA, said;

"For the marine industry to compete internationally and to secure its future success in the region we need to take action now to ensure that planners and policies makers are aware of the significant contribution the sector makes to the economy. It is essential that the public sector and partners play a major role in influencing policy making decisions to ensure plans are put in place to allow this industry to prosper. We also recognise that significant investment is required in recruitment and skills programmes to address the marine skills shortage."

Next steps - the Solent Waterfront Steering Group will develop an implementation programme that will help unblock the current major constraints to growth, as well as ensuring that strategic consideration is given to the long-term prospects for the marine industry. It will also provide a provision for co-ordinated training and business support measures.

For further information and a copy of the Solent Waterfront Strategy please visit www.solentwaterfront.co.uk

- Ends -

For all media enquiries please contact; -

Harriet Subramanian, Marine South East, Tel: 01628 531646 or Email:

harriet@cityandstone.co.uk

Notes to Editors

Interviews will be available with Kathy Slack SEEDA Area Director for Hampshire & Isle of Wight and Jonathan Williams Chief Executive of Marine South East

Key Facts & Figures

- Covering West Sussex to Hampshire including the Isle of Wight, the Solent marine sector currently provides 25,000 direct jobs and makes up 25% of the Solent economy – more than any other sector in the area.
- The Solent sub-region is home to at least 1,750 businesses directly operating within the marine sector.
- Including indirect and induced effects the sector supports a total of 48,300 jobs, of which nearly 80% are safeguarded within the Solent sub-region
- It relies on a diverse supply chain which alone supports around 12,500 jobs including retail, logistics and freight, catering, clothing and specialist equipment
- GDP and GVA contributions of £3.6 billion and £1.9 billion respectively
- The sector makes a direct annual contribution to the National Exchequer of approximately £670 million
- The South East dominates as the region with the greatest revenue share of the marine industry (36.1%) - £1.1 billion turnover – £380 million value added – it has grown by 5% UK Leisure and Small Commercial Marine Industry – Key Performance Indicators 2006/7 – BMF
- Total UK turnover of leisure and small commercial marine industry is £2.9 billion.

Importantly, the study reveals the major contribution the Solent marine industry makes to the UK economy, including future opportunities for growth. This is the first time factual evidence has been gathered to support claims that the Solent marine industry is a driver for economic growth. The Solent is one of the most important areas of water in the country and retention of waterfront access is vital for the future economic security and growth of the Solent marine community.

Jonathan Williams, CEO of Marine South East, spoke at the event and led discussions about how the study can now be implemented. He added;

"The Waterfront Strategy confirms the substantial contribution that the marine sector adds to the Solent economy and also stresses the pressure that is on waterfront land space. We welcome this report as it gives us the evidence to retain waterfront sites for continued and future economic development and wealth creation for the marine industry."

The Strategy was initiated following a call from the marine industry itself which expressed concerns about the lack of available waterfront land space. It is being led by SEEDA, the South East England Development Agency in partnership with Marine South East (MSE), Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH), Hampshire Economic Partnership (HEP) and British Marine Federation (BMF).

Kathy Slack, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Area Director for SEEDA, said;

"For the marine industry to compete internationally and to secure its future success in the region we need to take action now to ensure that planners and policies makers are aware of the significant contribution the sector makes to the economy. It is essential that the public sector and partners play a major role in influencing policy making decisions to ensure plans are put in place to allow this industry to prosper. We also recognise that significant investment is required in recruitment and skills programmes to address the marine skills shortage."

Next steps - the Solent Waterfront Steering Group will develop an implementation programme that will help unblock the current major constraints to growth, as well as ensuring that strategic consideration is given to the long-term prospects for the marine industry. It will also provide a provision for co-ordinated training and business support measures.

For further information and a copy of the Solent Waterfront Strategy please visit <http://www.solentwaterfront.co.uk>

- Ends -

For all media enquiries please contact; -

Harriet Subramanian, Marine South East, Tel: 01628 531646 or Email: <mailto:harriet@cityandstone.co.uk>

Notes to Editors

Interviews will be available with Kathy Slack SEEDA Area Director for Hampshire & Isle of Wight and Jonathan Williams Chief Executive of Marine South East

Key Facts & Figures

- Covering West Sussex to Hampshire including the Isle of Wight, the Solent marine sector currently provides 25,000 direct jobs and makes up 25% of the Solent economy – more than any other sector in the area.
- The Solent sub-region is home to at least 1,750 businesses directly operating within the marine sector.
- Including indirect and induced effects the sector supports a total of 48,300 jobs, of which nearly 80% are safeguarded within the Solent sub-region
- It relies on a diverse supply chain which alone supports around 12,500 jobs including retail, logistics and freight, catering, clothing and specialist equipment
- GDP and GVA contributions of £3.6 billion and £1.9 billion respectively
- The sector makes a direct annual contribution to the National Exchequer of approximately £670 million
- The South East dominates as the region with the greatest revenue share of the marine industry (36.1%) - £1.1 billion turnover – £380 million value added – it has grown by 5% UK Leisure and Small Commercial Marine Industry – Key Performance Indicators 2006/7 – BMF
- Total UK turnover of leisure and small commercial marine industry is £2.9 billion.