



REGIONAL CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Annual Report – 2022/23

INTRODUCTION

This is the second iteration of an 'Annual Report' into the work of the Maritime UK and Mersey Maritime jointly delivered 'Regional Growth / Regional Cluster Development Programme' activity which is supported by the Department for Transport. This work forms part of one of the five key areas of focus for Maritime UK and is embedded in the priorities and themes identified in the Maritime 2050 Report (2019).

The programme work has continued to be delivered in practical terms through the most developed 'Regional Cluster Organisation' (RCO), Mersey Maritime, which represents the maritime industry in the Liverpool City Region and greater North West. The Department for Transport provide substantial financial support for this work, following an allocation of resource agreed in early 2021. Additional resource is also accessed from other programmes around specific activities and industry/government priorities as needed. The programme is delivered by Chris Shirling-Rooke (CEO, Mersey Maritime until July 2023 and subsequently CEO, Maritime UK) and Simon Eardley (Regional Cluster Development Manager), with input from the whole Maritime UK and Mersey Maritime team around key engagement and in terms of utilising specific expertise.

This report sets out the following key elements, including:

- Background and context to the programme
- Activity and deliverables over the period of the report
- The work of the Maritime UK Regional Council
- A summary of each existing cluster with a basic assessment of their status and key focus within the industry
- Case studies detailing recent engagement to build cluster organisations in the South East of England and in Northern Ireland
- Case studies detailing the work of three key regions: Maritime UK Solent, Maritime UK South West (including Cornwall Marine Network) and Mersey Maritime
- Analysis of the economic impact of the maritime industry at a regional level
- A forward look to what the 'future' of a Regional Cluster Development Programme work might look like
- Key contact information and geographic coverage for each RCO.

This report covers the 12-month period between July 2022 to June 2023.



BACKGROUND

Maritime UK and Mersey Maritime, together with its partners, is responsible for the development and roll-out of an ambitious 'Regional Cluster Development Programme', an initiative embedded in the priorities set out in 'Maritime 2050: Navigating the Future.' Maritime 2050 is the first long-term strategy for the UK's maritime sector and was launched by government in 2019. This vision recognises the maritime sector as being of significant importance to Britain's future success, with regions, and their individual unique specialist areas of focus, critical to driving the industry forward in the 21st century.

THE MARITIME 2050 VISION

"The UK will retain a diversity of maritime clusters that excel in their respective specialisations. London will remain the leading professional services centre in the world, the leading maritime centre in Europe, and one of the top maritime centres globally.

The UK will retain a highly attractive destination for maritime industry leaders and staff to work and live. UK-based maritime schools, colleges and universities will continue providing top-quality programmes and qualifications, providing technologically advanced skills that will be required in the maritime era.

The UK will maximise the benefit of its leading clusters across the country, retaining London as the home for maritime business and the global home of the IMO. The UK maritime sector will be consistently recognised for the ease with which business is done and the way in which government and industry work as one to promote the offer."

In short, the vision is for:

- Government and industry to work together to maintain and enhance the attractiveness of the UK's regional maritime clusters
- Government to support, enhance and promote the strength of all regional clusters in the UK, and their importance to the economy
- Where appropriate, the strengthening of ties between government, industry and academia to build on existing cluster success and identify new opportunities.

A GOVERNMENT BACKED PROGRAMME

The concept of a Regional Cluster Development Programme was developed as a direct response to Maritime 2050 and the emphasis it places on the importance of regions and regional growth to the future prosperity of the maritime industry at a national level. Mersey Maritime and Maritime UK worked in partnership to place a proposal before the Department for Transport to bring about the practical delivery of 'on the ground' programme activity. This was formulated in 2019 and led to the recruitment of professional support to deliver engagement and provide secretariat to the work of the Maritime UK Regional Council. This was in embryonic form at that time as a body to bring together representatives of existing and emerging centres of RCO activity around the coast (see summary of its work later in this document).

Initially the programme was funded for one year between the Department for Transport and Mersey Maritime. Progress in delivery saw a three-year, match-funded proposition, agreed and implemented from 2023. The initial and core emphasis of the work seeks to build on existing cluster success and identify new opportunities and strengthen the ties between government, industry and academia at both a regional and national level. As noted already, Mersey Maritime is the national lead for this project and is recognised as the preferred best practice model for its rollout in other places.

WHAT IS A 'REGIONAL CLUSTER ORGANISATION'?

- A hybrid of trade body, chamber of commerce and lobbying 'organisations'
- Loosely based on established cluster models on the continent and further afield
- RCOs support and intervene in single industry / associated sub-sectors
- Focus on creating jobs and growth
- Championing a particular region leads to direct correlation between RCO, increased productivity and innovation – growth and job generation across all sizes of business within the industry.

WHAT DO REGIONAL CLUSTER ORGANISATIONS DO?

Maritime 2050 sets out that their primary role is to create regional growth and in turn support national aims and objectives. To achieve this they focus on:

- Increasing the profile of the region as a champion for the maritime industry
- Providing the region with a critical pathway of communication and intelligence to government and key industry stakeholders
- Fostering intra-regional collaboration, creating the framework for collaboration and aligning activity across a given geographic area
- Driving export and foreign direct investment activity and opportunities
- Acting as a conduit between industry, education and government
- Facilitating networking and mentoring programmes to help create an ecosystem that is vital for growth
- Encouraging knowledge and best practice sharing at a regional level and in turn nationally, even internationally
- Delivering wider national programmes and initiatives at a regional level such as the MUK Careers Campaign and Diversity in Maritime.

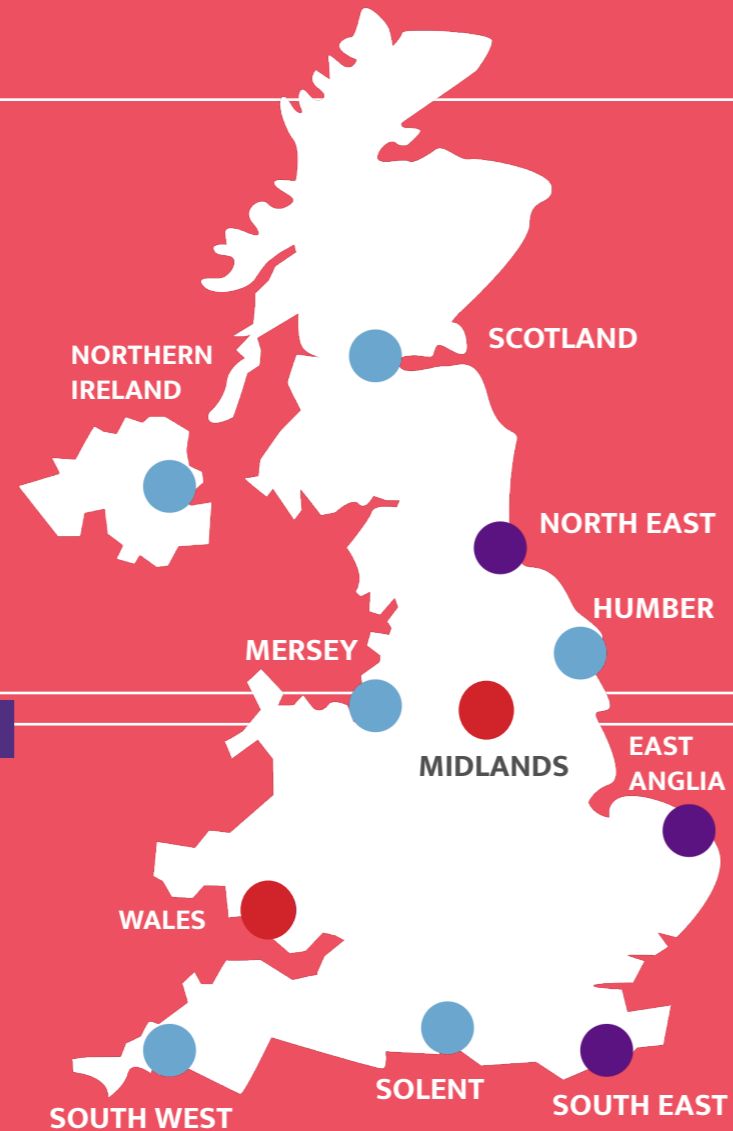


CURRENT NETWORK OF REGIONAL CLUSTER ORGANISATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT AREAS



FUNCTIONAL RCOs AT DIFFERENT STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT

- Belfast Maritime Consortium / NI Maritime & Offshore Network
- Humber Marine & Renewables
- Maritime UK Solent
- Maritime UK South West
- Mersey Maritime
- Scottish Maritime Cluster



ACTIVELY WORKING TO CREATE RCOs IN:

- East Anglia
- North East of England
- South East of England
- Midlands
- Wales

Activity in the Midlands and Wales is at its very earliest stages following initial conversations in 2023 with stakeholders. These areas are a priority focus for the future work of the programme.



OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT OF RCO STATUS AND INDICATION OF FOCUS

REGION / RCO	RAG STATUS (see note below)	MUK STATUS	KEY FOCUS WITHIN THE INDUSTRY
Belfast Maritime Consortium / NI Maritime & Offshore Network		Full regional member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovation in green technology Shipbuilding Offshore wind
Maritime UK Solent		Full regional member	<p>MUK Solent has identified the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People Innovation Environment <p>The Solent maritime cluster - uniquely - benefits from excellence across the spectrum of maritime, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ports and Shipping Maritime Defence Autonomy Robotics Training Academia and Research Leisure Marine Heritage and Tourism Regulatory Classification <p>Specific world-leading maritime strengths in the Solent with significant market potential are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Autonomous Maritime Connected Maritime Clean Maritime
Maritime UK South West (inc. Cornwall Marine Network)		Full regional member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offshore renewable (inc. floating offshore wind) Autonomy, maritime cyber and digital ocean technology Skills/training/ apprenticeships Environmental / digital technology Advanced engineering Marine Defence Concentration of harbours and ports (Falmouth, Plymouth, Poole, Portland) Clean maritime
Mersey Maritime		Full regional member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Port operations (UK's most significant west facing port) Shipbuilding including (Cammell Laird and specialist SMEs) Maritime professional services Engineering Offshore wind

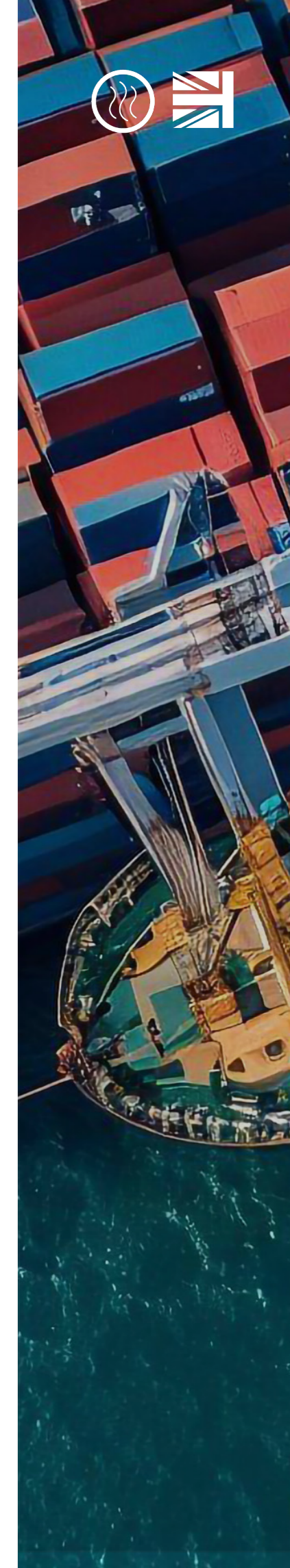




REGION / RCO	RAG STATUS (see note below)	MUK STATUS	KEY FOCUS WITHIN THE INDUSTRY
Scottish Maritime Cluster	Orange	Regional Council member only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ship management; Naval ship design, build and support; Offshore energy operations; Nautical training and personnel capability; Maritime education (universities and academics); Professional support services.
Humber Marine and Renewables (formerly Team Humber Marine Alliance)	Orange	Regional Council member only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offshore wind Offshore oil and gas Ports and commercial shipping Marine engineering Skills
East Anglia	Red	Regional Council invitee	TBC and agreed as development work is taken forward here
South East	Red	Regional Council invitee – cluster development workshops are at an advanced stage in this region to develop a new cluster organisation focused initially on the ‘Dover Straits’. Momentum is expected to pick up further from the Autumn 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital borders People and innovation Net zero green Risk mitigation for new technology Skills, training and talent
Wales	Red	Early stage conversations with potential stakeholders have taken place with Regional Council invitees to be identified in the future	TBC and agreed as development work is taken forward here
Midlands	Red	Early stage conversations with potential stakeholders have taken place with Regional Council invitees to be identified in the future	TBC and agreed as development work is taken forward here
North East - Tyne	Red	Regional Council invitee	TBC and agreed as development work is taken forward here
North East – Tees Valley	Red	Regional Council invitee	TBC and agreed as development work is taken forward here

‘RAG’ STATUS EXPLANATORY NOTE:

‘RAG’ STATUS	DEFINITION OF ‘RAG’ STATUS	BASIC EXPLANATION (EXAMPLES TO SHOW EVIDENCE)
Green	Established	Established; Governance fully in place; Business Plan formulated; Activity undertaken, MUK regional member
Orange	In development	Established but might be in transition; Governance in place or being developed; Activity plan in place or being developed; Regional Council participant only
Red	Early development	Embryonic establishment; Governance not determined; Limited activity underway or ad hoc; Regional Council participant only (but present)





MARITIME UK REGIONAL COUNCIL

The Maritime UK Regional Council has continued to meet during the lifetime of this Annual Report. It exists to bring together maritime RCOs from across the UK as a means for them to share best practice, collaborate and support the creation of new cluster organisations. The Regional Council is, in effect, one of the main working groups of the National Council which brings together the national trade associations to collaborate on shared priorities. At a regional level this work specifically focuses on driving growth in the maritime sector around the coastal communities of the United Kingdom as a whole.

Full regional members of Maritime UK sit on the Regional Council as well as the National Council. As the RCDP work has continued over the last year, an inclusive approach continues to be adopted to ensure that regions in which cluster development activity is either underway or ongoing, are able to send representatives to the meetings in order to foster collaboration and build the maritime ecosystem that sits at the heart of this engagement. The Regional Council can make recommendations to the National Council but it is not a decision-making body as such. During the period of this report the Chair and Deputy Chair have been as follows:

July, October, November (Special Meeting) 2022; January 2023

Chair: Paul Wickes (Maritime UK South West)
Deputy Chair: David Tyler (Belfast Maritime Consortium)

May 2023 (the appointment of a new chair and deputy chair took place in January 2023)

Chair: David Tyler (Belfast Maritime Consortium)
Deputy Chair: Chris Shirling- Rooke (Mersey Maritime)

The Regional Council meets on a quarterly basis and has done so as follows:

- 07 July 2022 – hosted by BMT Global / hybrid meeting
- 17 October 2022 – hosted by the Belfast Maritime Consortium in Northern Ireland / hybrid meeting

- 28 November 2022 – ad hoc special meeting held online
- 24 January 2023 – hosted by Maritime UK Solent in Southampton / hybrid meeting
- 23 May 2023 – hosted by Maritime UK South West in Devon / hybrid meeting

Engagement with a range of internal and external stakeholders is a critical part of the work of the Regional Council, in addition to the opportunity for Maritime UK programme updates to be given alongside other activity reports. A standing update agenda item is allocated for the Department for Transport and latterly the Department for Business and Trade (formerly the Department for International Trade). A summary is provided here of those people and organisations with whom the Regional Council has engaged over the life of this annual report:

MEETING	KEY EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT
July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connected Places Catapult • Casper Shipping / North East School of Shipping
October 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Royal Navy Maritime Enterprise • Innovate UK / Innovate UK-KTN
November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Cluster Development Team
January 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DP World • Department for International Trade (now DBT) • Royal Navy Maritime Enterprise
May 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Devon College • Department for Business & Trade (formerly DIT)

Action notes are issued following each meeting of the Regional Council and reported on at the quarterly meeting of the National Council.

REGIONAL ACTIVITY ROUNDUP REPORTS

Priority is given in the agenda for each meeting of the Regional Council to update reports on activity from each RCO (or developing RCO) covering the previous quarter. The host region is always given an opportunity to 'deep dive' into their specific activity which often leads to additional collaborations. This reporting assists with the general aim of this body to promote inter-regional best practice and collaboration based on experience. These reports are published on the Maritime UK website and also issued to colleagues in Government. Reports have been issued following the July, October 2022 and January, May 2023 meetings. An example of one of the reports is given in the appendix to this Annual Report but they can all be accessed via the Maritime UK website [HERE](#)

ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS

SUPPORT FOR UK SHORE NETWORKING AND BRIEFING EVENTS

- Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition Round 3
- Zero Emission Vessels and Infrastructure / UK Clean Maritime Hub Competition
- Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition Round 4

The Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition programme is a multi-year R&D funding initiative. In March 2021, the Government allocated £23m of funding to 55 projects across the UK as part of CMDC1. These projects, totalling £33m of public and private investment, supported the design and development of zero-emission shipping technologies and greener ports through a series of technology trials and feasibility studies to accelerate clean maritime.

In May 2022, the new £206m UK Shipping Office for Reducing Emissions (UK SHORE) in DfT committed to a number of interventions to accelerate the decarbonisation of the maritime sector including further rounds of the CMDC over the next three financial years. This included launching CMDC2 with £12m of government funding for feasibility studies and pre-deployment technologies in clean maritime. The application window was closed in July 2022 and bids were then assessed with the intention that successful projects would run from January 2023 to August 2023.

CLEAN MARITIME DEMONSTRATION COMPETITION ROUND 3

Regional cluster organisations led briefing sessions for CMDC1 and were asked to do so again for CMDC3 in the Autumn of 2022 following its launch. CMDC3 allocated £60m of match R&D funding for technology and system demonstrations in clean maritime solutions between April 2023 and March 2025 and was announced on 29 September 2022 with the application window closing in early November 2022.

Briefing sessions for CMDC3 were held as follows:

- 03 October 2022: Maritime UK South West (in-person)
- 04 October 2022: Mersey Maritime (in-person)
- 05 October 2022: Maritime UK Solent (in-person)
- 10 October 2022: North East, Port of Tyne (in-person)
- 11 October 2022: Scottish Maritime Cluster (online)
- 13 October 2022: South East focus, hosted by MUK (online)

It is estimated that over 300 individuals / organisation were engaged with and briefed as a result of these sessions.

ZERO EMISSION VESSELS AND INFRASTRUCTURE / UK CLEAN MARITIME HUB COMPETITION

A multi-million-pound Zero Emission Vessels and Infrastructure (ZEVI) competition was launched in early 2023 with the ambition that zero-emission vessels will set sail in UK waters within 2 years, on the back of £77 million of government investment in clean maritime technology. The funding is intended to take the tech from the factory to the sea – identifying which projects will have a long-term impact in reducing emissions, with successful projects demonstrating they could use this money to work with major UK ports and operators to launch a zero-emission vessel by March 2025.

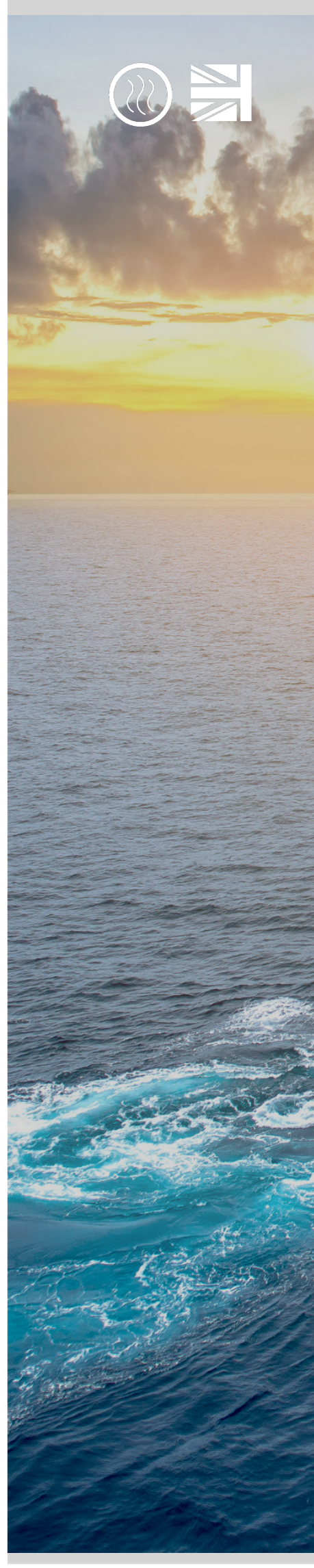
UK SHORE aims to transform the UK into a global leader in the design and manufacturing of clean maritime technologies. Key to this is addressing barriers across a range of TRLs. UK SHORE also partnered with the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) to jointly allocate £7.4m for a competition to establish a flagship UK national Clean Maritime Research Hub. The successful Hub will be made up of research organisations like universities and conduct TRL 1-3 research in clean maritime. The Hub will develop partnerships with industry and civic organisations to identify relevant research challenges and leverage match-funding.

Regional cluster organisations held briefing / networking sessions for the ZEVI and Clean Maritime Hub competitions as follows:

- 21 February 2023: Maritime UK South West
- 22 February 2023: Mersey Maritime
- 24 February 2023: Maritime UK Solent
- 27 February 2023: North East, Port of Tyne
- 03 March 2023: South East (online only)
- 14 March 2023: Northern Ireland (online only)

CLEAN MARITIME DEMONSTRATION COMPETITION ROUND 4

Regional cluster organisations will also hold briefing / networking sessions for the Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition Round 4 in July and August 2023. At the time of writing this report, a mixture of in-person and online sessions are planned in nine regions across the United Kingdom. CMDC4 allocates £34m for real world demonstrations, pre-deployment trials and feasibility studies of innovative clean maritime solutions between April 2024 – March 2025.



HOUSE OF COMMONS TRANSPORT SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT INTO MARITIME 2050

PUBLISHED IN MARCH 2023

In March 2022 the Transport Select Committee launched an inquiry into ‘Maritime 2050: Objectives, implementation and effects.’ A call for oral and written evidence was made to relevant stakeholders with a particular emphasis on:

- Whether and how the ambitions and objectives described in Maritime 2050 support the maritime sector;
- Progress towards the ambitions and targets set out in Maritime 2050, including effectiveness, pace and priority of the strategy’s implementation, and,
- The effect of Maritime 2050 on Government policies and regulation, maritime sector decision making and economic and environmental outcomes.

Both oral and written evidence was submitted by the Regional Cluster Development Programme team with Chris Shirling-Rooke appearing in-person before the Select Committee and Simon Eardley supplying a detailed statement. This material was often couched in the direct context of the operational work of a maritime regional cluster organisation and its activities. The evidence submitted commented on:

- The background and reasoning for the establishment of a regional cluster organisation, in this specific instance that relating to Mersey Maritime
- The Maritime 2050 vision for clustering / regional growth as set out in the original strategy report
- The work that has seen the practical manifestation of this vision through the development of the joint Department for Transport, Maritime UK and Mersey Maritime ‘Regional Cluster Development Programme’
- Progress around RCO development
- Engagement in programme activity and reporting mechanisms for monitoring progress
- Examples of regional input into wider Maritime 2050 ambitions
- Analysis around the economic impact of regions (Centre for Economics and Business Research commissioned ‘State of the Maritime Nation’ Reports).

A number of key messages were evidenced in the material submitted, both orally and in written form, with a call to:

- Continue to invest in regions and regional growth as a priority of Maritime 2050 through an ongoing and ambitious regional cluster development programme
- Support industry to ‘take the investment risk’ in the transition to net zero and the decarbonisation of the maritime industry
- Champion the themes set out in the Maritime UK ‘Coastal Powerhouse Manifesto’ which are aligned with the principles of the Maritime 2050 strategy.

The Transport Select Committee published its report in March 2023, a fully copy of which is available via the link [HERE](#)

The Committee specifically identified the importance of a policy emphasis to ‘Level up coastal areas’, detailing that:

“Coastal towns and cities could be levelled up if the Government continues to develop new ‘regional maritime clusters’, which are concentrations of firms and institutions around ports. The purpose of clusters is to “maintain and enhance the attractiveness of the UK’s regional maritime offer”.

Paragraphs 26 to 30 of the report (see full extracts in Appendix 4) comment on regional clusters and the Maritime UK Regional Council in particular. A specific recommendation is made, namely:

“The Department for Transport should continue to fund the Regional Council and assist in the development of potential new regional maritime clusters while assessing the benefits of existing clusters for levelling up.” (Paragraph 30)

Industry remains committed to delivering the work associated with the Maritime UK Regional Council and the imperative to enable the development of new maritime focused regional cluster organisations across the United Kingdom and specifically in those areas where work is either underway via the RCDP or is noted as a priority for the future. Equally, we are committed to working collaboratively with HM Government to deliver its own response to the challenge laid down to it by the Transport Select Committee around this theme of ‘regional growth’ and competitive advantage more generally.



LONDON INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING WEEK 2023

Maritime regions will once again have a significant presence at London International Shipping Week 2023, the planning for which is well advanced at the time of writing this report. Individual regions are expected to host a number of region specific events, including the Scottish Maritime Cluster Reception at HM Treasury; Mersey Maritime's 'Mersey on the Thames' Reception at the Palace of Westminster and a Maritime UK Solent Investors Showcase at the Maritime UK Global Maritime Hub.

In addition, the Thursday of LISW will see a major focus on the importance of regions to the UK economy with a specific Maritime UK Regional Showcase morning. Maritime UK and its network of regional cluster organisations will spotlight coastal communities and businesses contributing significantly to local economies and the national exchequer. The event will showcase some of the leading maritime regions, their recent developments, plans, and investment opportunities for growth.

The work of six regions will be the focus with a series of presentations, debate and opportunities for questions that demonstrate the diversity and broad range of the UK's maritime offer in the following areas: the Solent (Maritime UK Solent), the North West (Mersey Maritime), Northern Ireland (NI Maritime & Offshore Network), the West Country (Maritime UK South West), Scotland (Scottish Maritime Cluster) and the South East (partners within the Dover area).

As this Annual Report notes, the UK has a number of strong maritime regions, who work together to make the UK a compelling choice as a maritime centre. From Scotland to the south coast, LISW is an opportunity to explore how clustering is being used to create a unique and attractive business environment for businesses large and small, academia and government. Delegates will also learn about the unique specialism of each region and hear of specific investment opportunities for those visiting the UK for LISW.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

A number of miscellaneous activities have also taken place over the period of this report which regions have either engaged with directly or had the opportunity to do so. Some notable examples include:

- A roundtable discussion with Dehenna Davison MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on 26 January 2023 to consider the 'Coastal Powerhouse & Levelling Up Fund' opportunities for engagement between Maritime UK, regional cluster organisations and this Government department.
- Collaborative opportunities for engagement with external stakeholders such as the Conservative Environment Network (hydrogen fuels / economy focus) on 16 May 2023.
- Building relationships with parliamentary stakeholders via the opportunity of the Maritime UK Parliamentary Drop-in session at the Palace of Westminster on 16 May 2023.

In addition, it should be noted that the following activities also took place which were the direct responsibility of the RCD team to engage with and deliver:

- Publication of the first Regional Cluster Development Programme Annual Report 2021-22 at the Maritime UK National Council, chaired by HRH The Princess Royal as Patron of MUK on 07 December 2022.
- Midlands cluster building stakeholder conversation roundtable, 06 March 2023.

A FORWARD VIEW



WHAT MIGHT THE FUTURE OF THE REGIONAL CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME LOOK LIKE?

Phase 2 of the Regional Cluster Development Programme is due to come to a conclusion towards the end of 2023. Discussions have taken place with members of the Maritime UK / Mersey Maritime team, through a special meeting of the Regional Council and in consultation with the Department for Transport about what the future might look like. There is a collective will to see the programme activity continue in the years ahead, which remains an identified priority of Maritime 2050 and also as highlighted in the Transport Select Committee Report detailed elsewhere. As a result of these discussions, a number of priorities have been identified which are summarised here and were the main point of discussion at the November 2022 and January 2023 meeting of the Regional Council.

Broad focus and principles for future work:

- Develop a long-term programme beyond 2023.
- Consolidate and expand the work of the MUK Regional Council.
- Maintain support for existing RCOs who are members of Maritime UK, including through Regional Cluster Development Plans (RCD Plans).
- Maintain ongoing support for 'development' RCOs, including RCD Plans.
- Maintain and develop a pipeline of activity around the coast of the UK based on 'gaps' and priority areas, including RCD Plans.
- Continue to act as a critical communication pathway between industry and government.
- Maximise specific opportunities to give regions a high profile to both a domestic and international audience, e.g. LISW.
- Give ongoing profile to this work through the publication of an Annual Report each Autumn.

Priority focus example (1) - Maritime UK Regional Council:

- Maintain and develop this collaborative forum with RCOs inputting more into the agenda.
- Refocus and refine the agenda to give it more of a 'delivery focus' (RCD Plans as a core element).
- Continue to engage government and external stakeholders within the agenda.

Priority focus example (2) - Support offer and training:

- Develop and deliver a programme of internal workshops to aid cluster development.
- Bi-monthly or quarterly programme delivered with both internal and external input.
- Sessions might include: business development / commercialisation; developing a business plan; marketing (etc).
- Offer 'master class' sessions, e.g. maximising engagement with HMG / other funding opportunities.

Priority focus example (3) - Stakeholder engagement:

- Department for Transport – key partner on an ongoing basis.
- DfT focused activity and engagement, e.g. future rounds of CMDC, other UK SHORE initiatives etc.
- Other HM Government departments, e.g. Department for Business & Trade.
- Maximising maritime opportunities from funding calls, including Levelling Up Fund; UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

There is general agreement that the Regional Cluster Development Programme since 2019 has made a positive contribution to both the identified priority focus of Maritime UK in terms of regional growth, the strategic priorities of Maritime 2050 and the wider work of the maritime industry through existing RCOs and broader industry stakeholders. The challenge now will be to see a longer term and sustainable programme develop this work further in the years beyond 2023.





CASE STUDY

REGIONAL CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT IN ACTION – THE SOUTH EAST

Significant progress has been made to bring about the establishment of a new regional cluster organisation in part of the South East of England over the course of the period covered by this Annual Report, specifically in the ‘Dover Short Straits’ area. Whilst the work is to be finalised, three dedicated workshop sessions with stakeholders have been held and key partners are now considering the next steps to realise the ambition that exists in a region known to make a significant contribution to the regional and national economy. These sessions took place as follows:

- 20 July 2022 – hosted by Viking Maritime.
- 27 April 2023 – hosted by DFDS.
- 05 July 2023 – hosted by the Port of Dover.

Each event has been supported by the Regional Cluster Development Team and has benefited from significant input to drive the project forward by a number of key partners, especially Simon Barnes of the University of Kent who has been a driving force in recognising the need for a SE focused cluster organisation and has provided extensive support and background information to focus discussions. The RCDP team have presented on the principles of the RCD programme, the context of Maritime 2050 (the reason for doing this work), the wider work of the network of regional cluster organisations that is being developed and the various models that exist that provide a framework for new cluster building.

Discussions have focused keenly on the key ingredients that are needed to form cluster identity, namely:

- Purpose, which in this case is to, ‘Ensure government policy making and funding supports and develops the Short Straits maritime industry and consequently the wider region.’
- Objectives for the RCO, such as it acting as a cohesive regional voice for the ‘Short Straits’ maritime sector; providing industry input from the region to inform government policy making, fostering international collaboration and supporting sustainable, responsible growth and investment in the region.

- A clearly defined geographical scope that will be sufficiently ambitious to start the cluster organisation off (with an appreciation that it may wish to expand and develop to cover a wider area in time).
- Defined and clear priorities such as:
 - o Digital borders
 - o People and innovation
 - o Net zero green
 - o Risk mitigation for new technology
 - o Skills, training and talent.

A critical mass of key businesses that will form the bedrock of this new cluster organisation is coming into being and a pathway for engagement established with the ambition to launch a new organisation within the next 12 months.

Why does this matter to those who are committed to delivering this work? The facts speak for themselves in terms of our understanding of the overall impact of the (whole) South East maritime sector on the economy:

- £12.7bn direct economic impact (22.9% of the whole UK)
- £3.7m in terms of GVA (20.2% of the whole UK)
- 46,887 direct jobs (20.6% of the whole UK)
- £1,876m in terms of Compensation of Employees
- Aggregate economic impact = £23.5bn
- Aggregate impact, jobs = 130,000
- Trade between Dover, Dunkirk and Calais is worth £144bn per annum.

(Cebr, State of the Maritime Nation, 2019 Report)

CASE STUDY

REGIONAL CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT IN ACTION – NORTHERN IRELAND

The Belfast Maritime Consortium

The Belfast Maritime Consortium was established in 2020 with the aim of launching the world's most advanced, high-speed, zero emission passenger ferry and to develop the technical and operational requirements for a maritime transport system of the future.

Recognising the impact, the Consortium could make to the maritime industry and to the potential economic benefits to Northern Ireland, the Consortium was awarded £33 million of funding in 2020 from UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) through the Strength in Places (SiP) Fund as part of an overall £63 million project.

Since its establishment, the Consortium has made a significant contribution to the maritime industry in Northern Ireland, which includes an estimated £22million of GVA generated and the creation of 125 new jobs and 27 apprenticeship opportunities. In addition, it has worked collaboratively to successfully realise an additional £13million from other funding sources. In June 2020, the Belfast Maritime Consortium, along with lead partner Belfast based Artemis Technologies, a global leader in maritime innovation, joined Maritime UK.

Working collaboratively

To facilitate further collaboration, the SiP bid emphasised the need for the establishment of a wider regional cluster organisation in Northern Ireland. The Belfast Maritime Consortium, which encompasses both established and young firms, academia, and local government, already possesses key elements of a vibrant and dynamic RCO. Members include Artemis Technologies, Belfast Harbour Commissioners, Creative Composites, Spirit AeroSystems, Condor Ferries, Northern Ireland Advanced Composites Engineering (NIACE), Energia, Catalyst, Ards and North Down Borough Council, Belfast City Council, Invest Northern Ireland (Invest NI), Belfast Metropolitan College, Ulster University, and Queen's University, Belfast.

Collaborative networking events have been a key element of the wider cluster building work which is underway in Northern Ireland. These events are facilitated by Invest NI and typically include input from the existing Belfast Maritime Consortium, the wider maritime industry and stakeholders including Maritime UK. Of the three events held since July 2022, approximately 75 people attended each event which included local industry, stakeholders, and academia. With the support of Maritime UK, attendees heard from local industry and stakeholders about sector capabilities, skills development offerings and wider support available, including funding opportunities. Attendees also gained insights from other Maritime Regional Cluster Organisations in GB and heard about offshore wind supply chain opportunities as developers continue consenting for deployment of new projects in the Irish Sea, which presents significant opportunities for the NI Maritime and Offshore supply chain, given the capabilities and infrastructure strengths in the region.

Establishing a Regional Cluster Organisation (RCO)

To create a supportive ecosystem for maritime businesses and further its ambition to create a Regional Cluster Organisation, the Consortium sought the advice and support of the Economic Development Agency for Northern Ireland, Invest Northern Ireland (Invest NI).

Invest NI has offered over £170,000 of support through its Collaborative Growth Programme which has enabled the Consortium to establish a Collaborative Growth Network comprising of 21

companies and 21 stakeholders; and appoint an independent facilitator for three years to support the network to build on two existing strands of activity:

- The BMC £33million SiP project is helping to reinvigorate Northern Ireland's historic maritime heritage and promote Belfast as a world leader in green maritime innovation, and;
- An established NI offshore renewables supply chain which has an opportunity to benefit from a number of proposed offshore investments such as the North Sea Energy Co-operation.

Invest NI's assistance has been vital in supporting the ambitions of the Consortium and working towards establishing a Maritime Regional Cluster Organisation as the Consortium's work has gained increased recognition.

It was following the networking events and with the Invest NI funding, that the NI Maritime and Offshore Wind Network was established. Initial sessions have taken place with members to commence work on this initiative.

Strategic Approach

Strategic activities for the Invest NI funded Collaborative Growth Network are grouped under eight main work streams, with 25 smart objectives covering the areas of governance structure, supply chain, market opportunities, skills, and strategic comms.

The Invest NI funded Collaborative Network provides an opportunity for peer-to-peer knowledge transfer, the promotion of best practice and the identification and exploitation of commercial opportunities across a wider sector base. Priorities also include skills development within the maritime industry and the establishment of a broad network membership base.

The project aligns with key Northern Ireland strategic priorities, including Northern Ireland's 10X Economic Vision, Green Growth Strategy, and the City Deals. These strategies are designed to support the development of a strong, competitive, regionally balanced economy where there are more people working in better jobs.

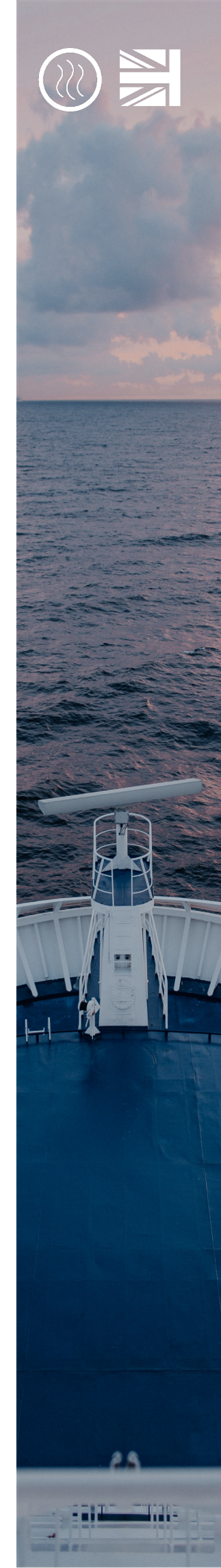
The development of this network is fully aligned with the 'competitive advantage' theme of Maritime 2050 and the Maritime UK emphasis on regional growth to deliver jobs, growth, and economic development in coastal communities.

Establishing a Northern Ireland Maritime and Offshore RCO

There is growing support and interest in establishing a Northern Ireland Maritime and Offshore Regional Cluster Organisation to ensure that market opportunities are maximised. Invest NI has already provided Collaborative Growth Funding to enable a facilitator to be appointed by the NI Maritime and Offshore Wind Network which is made up of a core group of representatives from the sector.

There is substantial commitment from all stakeholders engaged with this network building programme to see it succeed. Key to that will be ensuring a long term and sustainable network model which will develop its work beyond the scope of Invest NI support and the existing Belfast Maritime Consortium activity.

Recognising the opportunity to position Northern Ireland as a global leader in the maritime industry, companies and stakeholders in the maritime sector understand the benefits that the establishment of a Regional Cluster Organisation will bring to the region and will continue to seek funding opportunities to support this ambition.





CASE STUDY

MERSEY MARITIME

Mersey Maritime is an award-winning regional cluster organisation for the maritime industry in the Liverpool City Region (LCR) but with a focus on the wider North West of England too. At the heart of the organisation is a simple mission to be ‘a catalyst for growth, influencing policy and driving change for the good of the sector.’ In fulfilling this objective, Mersey Maritime delivers a range of dynamic events and activities throughout the year in support of its membership and the wider maritime ecosystem in the region. The period 2022/23 has been no exception. Notable activities have included:

- The 8th Mersey Maritime Industry Awards which were held in Liverpool Cathedral in November 2022. This event is now well established in the national maritime calendar but attracted record numbers of applications and attendees with some 600 guests present for the prestigious ceremony. The awards showcase the very best talent and businesses that the region has to offer in a high profile manner, recognising success across all aspects of the sector.
- The Mersey Maritime Exchange Conference held in June 2023 which seeks to promote thought leadership around priority themes, often closely aligned to Maritime 2050. The Exchange was originally conceived in 2019 and attracted leading industry speakers and parliamentarians across the length and breadth of the UK, with technology and innovation and people and skills as the main focus.
- Ongoing delivery of the national ‘Regional Cluster Development Programme’ in partnership with Maritime UK and the Department for Transport. This three-year funded activity has seen Mersey Maritime continue to support existing regional cluster organisations around the coast of the United Kingdom and offer direct support to the development of activity in new and emerging areas. This work sits under the direction of Chris Shirling-Rooke and Simon Eardley at a practical level and includes the co-ordination of all activities associated with the collaborative forum of the Maritime UK Regional Council.

Whilst these headline events and national activities are of significance, Mersey Maritime is resolutely focused on supporting its core membership, particularly small businesses. It seeks to maximise their opportunities to grow and benefit from a range of initiatives, which this last 12 months have often been associated with the Department for Transport’s UK SHORE activities. Mersey Maritime has fully participated in briefing and networking events to enable participation in various rounds of the Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition and has been delighted to see major member businesses such as Bibby Marine and Expleo benefit from the funding opportunities presented. Mersey Maritime’s rolling programme of monthly networking opportunities and strong marketing activities on behalf of members continues to engage significant numbers of stakeholders across the industry in the region and beyond.

Associated with these endeavours has been Mersey Maritime’s participation in a ‘Port City Innovation Hub’ (PCIH) project which was a programme of funded innovation accelerator support across the Liverpool City Region, led by Wirral Council in partnership with other delivery leads such as The University of Liverpool and Rainmaking in the LCR. The programme concluded in June 2023, having been supported by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Strategic Investment Fund and European Union Regional Development Fund. As part of this activity, Mersey Maritime delivered a total of 47 events (such as ‘introduction to maritime’ briefings and ‘meet the buyer’) which engaged a total of 80 PCIH participants, as well as further Mersey Maritime members, and included one-to-one business support. Overall project outcomes included:

- 14 new full time equivalent jobs created.
- 21 enterprises engaged with research facilities.
- 16 specific enterprises supported.
- 16 enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products.

It is anticipated that the Gross Value Added value to the LCR Combined Authority will be £3.75m and in terms of growth in turnover in supported businesses, £17.6m. Mersey Maritime’s reputation as a significant regional cluster network organisation was noted as a demonstrable incentive for participants to enrol on the programme.

As an indication of the ongoing importance of this iconic maritime region, the most recent economic impact analysis data gives a clear indication of how the industry continues to thrive and grow, with Mersey Maritime being a key component in the overall sector. A study commissioned by the Centre for Economics and Business Research reports further progress for the region as follows, indicating it:

- Is worth £5.6bn to the Liverpool City Region economy in terms of domestic output through business turnover (an increase of £664,000,000 since 2019).
- Employs over 45,000 people at its widest definition.
- Has some of the most productive workers in the whole of the United Kingdom: £92,484 versus a UK average of £58,327.
- Against such a positive economic picture, the stage is set for Mersey Maritime to further advance its key advocacy role in support of the industry in the region and to further develop the maritime ecosystem in the years ahead.

CASE STUDY

MARITIME UK SOLENT

Maritime UK Solent provides leadership, champions and seeks to grow the Solent's maritime sector. It is an independent, private sector-led sector representative body, within the family of the Maritime UK regional clusters.

Our ambition is for the Solent to be known globally for maritime excellence, enabling maritime businesses and organisations operating in the Solent to trade off the Solent brand and make the Solent the first choice for maritime investment.

Strategically located at the centre of the south coast, the Solent has drawn people, international commerce, and innovation for millennia, laying down the strata that have helped shape the Solent as the UK's Coastal Powerhouse. This status continues to evolve, fuelled by the unparalleled aggregation of maritime assets that have clustered in the Solent, anchored by the flourishing port cities of Southampton and Portsmouth. This aggregation of assets fuels a powerful £7.7 billion maritime sector - circa 25% of the total economic output of the Solent economy - supports £17 billion of turnover, and just under 200,000 jobs.

We launched in September 2019 - just ahead of the pandemic - during which we provided a valuable online networking space for our sector through our monthly virtual networking sessions.

Buoyed by this traction, we incorporated Maritime UK Solent in July 2021, to provide the robust underpinning governance upon which to grow the organisation. Our board of directors is drawn from senior business, academic, and education leaders from the Solent. Capacity funding has been provided by the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), who is the sole member of MUK Solent Limited.

Our first year as an incorporated body focused on building the network, developing evidence to inform future activities, and providing a platform for all that is great about the Solent's world class maritime sector. We highlight here some of the ways in which we have sought to develop the Solent maritime cluster over the last 12 months.

We are not a membership organisation, so our power is in our network of businesses, education, academic, research, and public sector organisation. It has therefore, been critical to convene our network through regular networking sessions and events. In 2022/23 we held 12 MUK business networking events attracting over 500 attendees. We have also connected our sector to Government through hosting specific events for DfT / UKRI on the Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition and the Zero Emission Vessel and Infrastructure Fund, along with a dedicated session in June 2023 for DfT to engage directly with Solent Maritime businesses.

We hosted our inaugural MUK Solent Awards in 2022, which attracted over 230 guests and provided an exceptional platform to celebrate the achievements of, and shine a spotlight on, our Maritime sector. Feedback from award winners, sponsors, has been terrific and is seen to have had a positive impact on their business.

We have launched a website to showcase the Solent's maritime sector and, through an interactive map, list our maritime businesses and organisations - helping the sector to connect.

Developing an independent evidence base has been important to underscore the Solent's Maritime



excellence and impact, to support our sector with bidding, and to inform inward investment. We have worked with Maritime UK to calculate the economic impact of the Solent's maritime economy and worked with the Royal Navy and Connected Places Catapult to identify the area's key innovation strengths with strong market potential - these being Autonomous, Connected, and Green Maritime. This, in turn, helps inform Government policy and our focus locally. We have seen an increasing recognition of the Solent as a cluster, with it identified in the Levelling Up White Paper as one of 20 economically significant clusters in the UK - based on its port and maritime excellence.

Making sure our maritime business have the skills pipeline they need has been a particular focus of our work. We have been involved in the successful designation and are a partner of The South Coast Institute of Technology, which has a maritime focus. We have produced reports setting out maritime skills needs, supply and gaps, and a report on the skills that the Solent Freeport target sectors will need. This work has formed part of the evidence base of the Solent Local Skills Improvement Plan, which aims to ensure that skills provision better reflects local industrial need. We have hosted a maritime careers fair - connecting industry with schools and colleges, secured significant funding from DfE to deliver a Maritime, Transport and Logistics Skills Bootcamp, and are co-funding a post with industry to promote careers in Maritime, Transport and Logistics.

We strongly believe that the Solent Maritime cluster is internationally significant, and we are working to promote the cluster, not only across the UK, but internationally. We have hosted a delegation from Turku, Finland (with who we have signed a collaboration agreement), and from Halifax, Nova Scotia. We have also supported the work on Maritime UK at past Atlantic Future Forums in New York and Washington DC and are working with The Solent Cluster to grow the Solent as a low carbon economy.

Central to our work, has been the publication of an annual Business Plan, which sets out what Maritime UK Solent plans to do over the year, and showcases the excellence of our cluster. A key project for 2023/24 will be the establishment of a Solent Maritime and Decarbonisation Hub, providing a focal point for these two interlinked sectors and a setting in which innovation and connection will proliferate - keeping the Solent at the forefront of global maritime success.

CASE STUDY

MARITIME UK SOUTH WEST

Maritime UK South West is a business, research and regional government partnership which aims to enable investment in sustainable economic growth with a focus on four transformative opportunities for the region:

- Clean maritime.
- Floating offshore wind.
- Marine autonomy and geospatial data.
- Ocean technology and aquaculture.

Focussing on clean maritime, for the last 4 years Maritime UK SW has held 8 clean maritime network events attracting over 600 delegates. Following the first clean maritime summit, a Clean Maritime Roadmap was created and a leadership group started work on delivery of the plan via the wider SW network, meeting monthly with subsequent face to face meetings timed to coincide with funding announcements in order to successfully enable the creation of bid regional consortia.

The roadmap focusses on:

- Regional coordination and leadership.
- Network creation and peer to peer support.
- Communication: to the public and within the maritime and other sectors.
- Innovation: harnessing knowledge and best practice.
- Skills: ensuring that the right skills are in place to service non fossil fuelled vessels and infrastructure.

Partnership working via MUKSW and its partners has resulted in: disproportionately high levels of success in the UK SHORE Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition Programme, a £15.6 million investment in a clean maritime innovation centre at Appledore, North Devon, a clean maritime project via South Hams and West Devon Council, the SW taking a lead role on Green Skills via Cornwall Marine Network and the BEIS Pioneer regulators fund project providing much needed progress on regulation for clean maritime and autonomous systems.

With a well-established network now in place, Maritime UK South West plan to lever the opportunity of significant and imminent SW investment in port and clean maritime infrastructure as Floating Offshore Wind developers begin to bid for 4GW worth of contracts in 2024. MUKSW have secured the resources to create the UK's first region wide evidence base, investment strategy and delivery plan for clean maritime for the SW, with a focus on port infrastructure, offshore workboats, marine leisure and fishing. As part of this MUKSW are working in partnership with a major hydrogen provider to support the development of a functioning green hydrogen ecosystem for the SW.

The evidence base, investment strategy and delivery plan will begin work in late 2023 and report back to the public at the two day MUKSW Ocean Tech Expo on June 25th and 26th 2024 in Plymouth where a range of SW clean maritime and zero carbon data collection technologies and investment propositions will be on show for potential buyers, collaborators and investors.

For more information contact sheldon.ryan@maritimeuksw.org



CASE STUDY

CORNWALL MARINE NETWORK (PART OF MARITIME UK SOUTH WEST)

Cornwall Marine Network (CMN) is the business support delivery arm of Maritime UK South West. CMN is focussed on using their maritime members' barriers to growth to inform public sector funding bids which then pay for CMN to deploy expert business mentors and provide targeted grants to increase their members' economic prosperity. Support includes skills and training, digital marketing, productivity improvements and bringing innovations to market.

CMN's use of public funds to drive economic growth in coastal communities is without precedent in the UK maritime sector. During the last 20 years, since CMN was created by local employers, the team has contributed significantly to support the sector to double to £1.12 billion GDP during this period. CMN's key achievements include:

- Growing membership to 360 subscribing marine businesses
- Creating more than 4,600 new jobs (including 1,600 new apprenticeships in local small businesses, 92% of whom had never employed an apprentice)
- Supporting more than 900 unemployed adults to gain jobs
- Engaging 36,000 young people at school in marine vocational training and careers advice, using volunteer Marine Ambassadors from 106 member businesses
- Directly adding £540 million GVA to Cornwall's economy as a result of competitively winning £42 million of project funds
- Upskilled and re-skilled more than 9,500 marine employees (65% of the entire local marine workforce of 16,052 employees)
- Worked in collaboration with 72 different European project partners to exchange best practice
- Supported more than 500 marine businesses to survive during Covid-19
- Staff team of 38, making CMN the largest employer-owned, not-for-profit maritime cluster in the UK and Europe
- Generated more than £40 million of private marine sector investment in skills and a further £225 million of private sector investment in innovation and business growth
- Every £1 won by CMN and spent on services to marine businesses produces £12.86 added value to Cornwall's economy
- Incredibly, the CMN team has, on average, created a new job somewhere in Cornwall EVERY working day since the staff team was formed in 2005
- Recognised at Regional, National and International level for outstanding economic achievements.

Find out more [HERE](#)



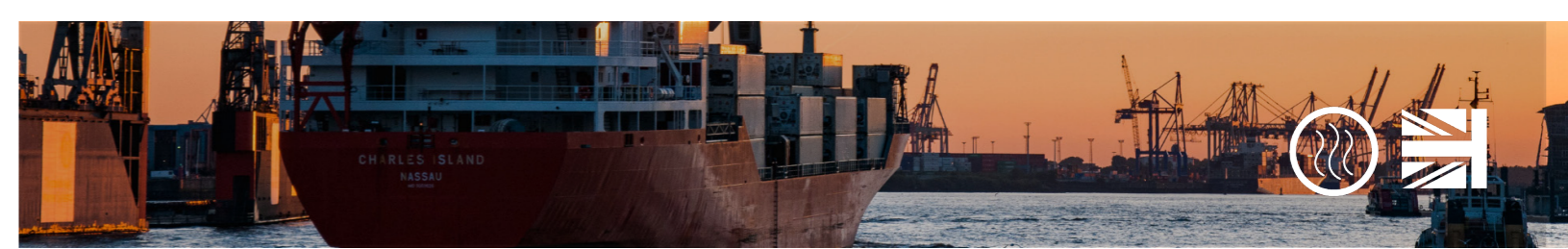
APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: REGIONAL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE MARITIME INDUSTRY – CENTRE FOR ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS RESEARCH ANALYSIS 2019 AND 2022

Regional Economic Impact Analysis Comparison (2019 and 2021 reports)

Direct Economic Impact (2019 report figures shown in brackets)

REGION	DIRECT TURNOVER	DIRECT GVA	EMPLOYMENT	COE
Scotland	£9,359m (£8,688m)	£3,892m (£3,718m)	37403 (39761)	£1,507m (£1,446m)
Northern Ireland	£2,184m (£1,774m)	£400m (£376m)	5287 (5128)	£195m (£198m)
Wales	£546m (£775m)	£207m (£281m)	3616 (4308)	£111m (£132m)
North East	£728m (£827m)	£265m (£304m)	4276 (4939)	£140m (£194m)
North West	£5,369m (£5,150m)	£1,556m (£1,263m)	22800 (19977)	£968m (£769m)
Yorkshire & Humber	£1,089m (£1,241m)	£427m (£545m)	7270 (10106)	£240m (£301m)
East Midlands	£634m (£535m)	£191m (£178m)	3928 (3880)	£114m (£106m)
West Midlands	£708m (£453m)	£244m (£165m)	4466 (3297)	£140m (£114m)
East of England	£2,995m (£2,852m)	£1,033m (£1,050m)	15992 (16033)	£567m (£562m)
London	£15,166m (£12,186m)	£5,284m (£4,418m)	45207 (39629)	£2,149m (£1,866m)
South East	£12,695m (£10,473m)	£3,771m (£3,619m)	46887 (44033)	£1,876m (£1,714m)
South West	£4,002m (£3,402m)	£1,417m (£1,537m)	29035 (29880)	£965m (£1,005m)



APPENDIX 2: CONTACT DETAILS AND GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

ORGANISATION	GEORGRAPHICAL AREA COVERED	KEY ORGANISATIONAL BODY	MUK STATUS	WEB LINK FOR FURTHER INFO
Belfast Maritime Consortium	Northern Ireland	Artemis Technologies	Full MUK regional member	HERE
Maritime UK Solent	Solent LEP area	Solent LEP	Full MUK regional member	HERE
Maritime UK South West (inc. Cornwall Marine Network)	Cornwall & Isles of Scilly LEP, Dorset LEP, Heart of the SW LEP	Cornwall Marine Network	Full MUK regional member	HERE
Mersey Maritime	Liverpool City Region / wider North West	Mersey Maritime	Full MUK regional member	HERE
Scottish Maritime Cluster	Scotland	Scottish Maritime Cluster	Regional council member	HERE
Humber Marine and Renewables	Humber	Humber Marine and Renewables	Regional council member	HERE
East Anglia	New Anglia LEP	N/A	Invited to Regional Council as key contact - development area	
South East	South East LEP (specific focus on 'Dover Straits')	N/A	Invited to Regional Council as key contact - development area	
North East	1) Tyne 2) Teeside	N/A	Invited to Regional Council as key contacts from both localities - development area	
Wales	Wales	N/A	Invited to Regional Council as key contacts from both localities - development area	
Midlands	West Midlands	N/A	Invited to Regional Council as key contacts from both localities - development area	



APPENDIX 3: EXAMPLE REGIONAL ROUNDUP REPORT

Maritime UK Regional Council - Regional Roundup Notes May 2023

Maritime UK South West (Sheldon Ryan and Paul Wickes)

- As host region, Maritime UK South West presented in detail around their current work, regional assets and opportunities with a particular focus on offshore wind (including floating offshore wind) and the opportunities that have arisen from strong engagement with HMG funding, including multiple rounds of the Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition.
- Hosted a joint visit to the South West by the Department for Transport (early May 2023). Presentations included challenges for ports in developing appropriate infrastructure and the wider sector to decarbonise, opportunities presented by floating offshore wind, the freeport, marine autonomy and challenges around the drop off in EU funding for innovation support and skills. Cornwall Marine Network also presented the nationally recognised business support model at CMN, including employer-led skills and training, green skills and sustainability and business support for SME's using both radical and incremental innovation. More here: <https://cornwallmarine.net/news/cornwall-marine-network-welcomes-the-department-of-transport-dft-as-they-visit-to-the-region>
- CMN supported MUK by hosting the inaugural MUK Roadshow for Girls event focussed on maritime themed STEM activities in Falmouth on 30th June 2023.
- FLOW workforce demand taskgroup – engaging with to develop a developmental plan and wider understanding of requirements.
- Launched Cockwells Boatbuilding Academy with the support of 16 new apprentices.
- Cornwall Marine Network currently engaged with bidding for multiple new funding opportunities, including into the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (regional allocations in the SW).
- Noted that new statistics reveal the national apprenticeship 'success rate' has fallen to 51%; CMN figure is 70%.
- Two key SW focused programmes are now coming to a conclusion, e.g. Marine-i. Marine-i led and galvanised business-led and market-driven Research, Development and Innovation (RD&I) over the six years 2017 - March 2023. More details here: <https://www.marine-i.co.uk/> (overall project work). Visit the following link for more details of the 'success' / outcomes of the project: <https://www.marine-i.co.uk/>
- 'Launchpad' bid is currently pending with Innovate UK.
- Bids submitted from the region for the Zero Emission Vessels and Infrastructure (ZEVI) competition following recent engagement opportunity arranged in collaboration with UK SHORE.
- Falmouth Docks have secured nearly £1million of UK SPF funding to undertake an environmental impact assessment (EIA) to inform potential redevelopment: <https://maritimeuksw.org/falmouth-docks-secures-funding-to-inform-potential-redevelopment/>

Mersey Maritime (Ruth Wood and Simon Eardley)

Regular and one-off cluster events since the last meeting of the Regional Council:

- 27 January 2023 - Policy Forum event with Baroness Vere who received a briefing from CSR and SE on the regional cluster development programme. This was followed by a site visit to the proposed new Maritime Knowledge Hub in Birkenhead.
- 01 February – launch of Kays Logistics event and 'Meet the Buyer' with Kays Medical.
- 07 February – Face-2-Face – opportunities at London International Shipping Week, following by workshop on LISW for Port City Innovation Hub participants.
- 22 February – UK SHORE update event and briefing (ZEVI) in collaboration with the Department for Transport.
- 28 February – site visit and maritime simulator tour with Liverpool John Moores University.
- 07 March – Face-2-Face – Maersk.
- 04 April - Face-2-Face – on the road – visit to Essar / Stanlow Manufacturing Complex.
- Various drop-in surgery events.

- Planning is well advanced for the next Mersey Maritime Exchange Conference which will take place on 22nd June 2023. The broad themes of 'Technology/Innovation' and 'People/Skills' will be the focus with speakers drawn from across industry and government. More details here: <https://merseymaritime.co.uk/mme23/>
- The Battle of the Atlantic Memorial Weekend will take place variously in Liverpool on 26-28 May 2023. A series of events outside this time have also been planned around this major and critical battle of WWII which the city had such a significant role in. Full details here: <https://battleoftheatlantic.org/boam-events/>
- Mersey Maritime will hold its 'Mersey on the Thames' event at London International Shipping Week on 12 September 2023, hosted by the Shadow Maritime Minister, Mike Kane MP at the House of Commons. This event will be by invitation only owing to space.
- Regional Cluster Development Plan and Programme delivery. CSR and SE continue to deliver this important activity which has included key activities in recent months such as:
- Future programme planning – extensive engagement with the Department for Transport around planning and implementation work for the future phase of this activity. Papers around this activity will be presented to the May 2023 Regional Council meeting.
- Facilitating all the regional UK SHORE update events around ZEVI and other competitions (February and March 2023).
- Supporting major cluster development activity in Northern Ireland in collaboration with Invest NI – specifically their latest workshop on 09 February 2023.
- Supporting significant cluster development activity in the South East – specifically a workshop held on 27 April 2023 with the support of DFDS.

Other upcoming events:

- 'Fireside chat' with the First Sea Lord, 26 May 2023.
- Regular Face-2-Face networking with Peel Ports Group, 06 June 2023 follows by a 'Meet the Buyer' Port City Innovation Hub event.
- Mersey Maritime Industry Awards 2023 will be held at Liverpool Cathedral on 02 November 2023.

Key projects to deliver in the future (ongoing in most cases):

- Maritime Knowledge Hub project – various partner engagement sessions have been held between MM, Peel L&P and likely tenants/occupiers. Planning permission has now been fully granted for the site and there is a wish to commence building from the Autumn. Delivery of this work is a key focus for the Mersey Maritime team going forward.
- Maintaining the regular programme of 'eco-system' events.
- Delivery of key activity such as the MME23 and the MMIA23.

South East (Dieter Jaenicke)

- SE Cluster Development Workshop held on 27 April 2023 and hosted by DFDS. 15 key potential partners to help build the cluster present. Facilitated and supported by the Maritime UK Regional Cluster Development team. Action notes issued.
- Established broad themes for the focus of the new cluster: digital borders, people and innovation, net zero green, new technology and risk mitigation opportunities.
- Intend to hold a follow-up meeting in the summer with a robust timetable to established the organisation in the coming months with appropriate governance in place.

Maritime UK Solent (Stuart Baker and Lorna Wagner)

- New website launched. View here: <https://muksolent.com/>
- Solent LEP engagement with Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP around a shipbuilding project, Britannia Maritime (diesel/electric hybrid vessel) to be constructed across UK shipyards as a multi-use vessel. Discussions ongoing around funding opportunities across LEPs and Maritime Regional Clusters.



- Maritime UK Solent Awards to take place on 05 October 2023 and all preparations well advanced to build on the success of the previous event in 2022. Details here: <https://muksolent.com/muksolent-awards-2023/>
- The Solent maritime cluster will host a visit for officials from the Department for Transport on 12 June. An extensive programme has been put together to showcase the Solent offer. The event was successful with a large number of businesses involved and DfT officials leaving with a clear understanding of the opportunities to grow the UK maritime offer in the Solent.
- ‘Maritime and Decarbonisation Innovation Hub’. Collaborative work with the National Oceanography Centre in Southampton is ongoing.
- Solent Decarbonisation Cluster. Partner working with the University of Southampton and ExxonMobil. Bid has been submitted to HMG for ‘track 2’ status with a focus on carbon capture and storage. Combined economic impact is 1% of total UK GDP. More details here: <https://www.thesolentcluster.com/>
- Maritime skills will be reflected in engagement with ‘Local Skills Improvement Plan’ activity (submitted by the end of May 2023).
- Seawork Trade Show (June 2023) – MUK Solent will have a presence.
- Southampton International Boatshow (15-24 September 2023) – MUK Solent will have a strong presence.
- Roadshow for Girls. Scheduled for 29 September 2023 at QinetiQ.
- Engaging in a local STEM education project with local schools.
- Hosting a tour by George Freeman MP - the Science, Innovation and Technology Minister (27th April 2023) – as part of his engagement with innovation clusters across the UK. This provided a key opportunity to promote maritime innovation in the Solent.

Scotland (Duncan Cunningham)

- Joint Offshore Wind Decarbonisation Conference with the British Ports Association, the Workboat Association, UK Ship Register and the Maritime & Coastguard Agency held on 22 February 2023. More details and an overview of the event here: <https://www.ukshipregister.co.uk/news/register-for-our-upcoming-offshore-wind-decarbonisation-conference/>
- Ongoing engagement and update meetings held with Transport Scotland, the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology and Scottish Enterprise around cluster activity on an ongoing basis.
- Membership interest is strong with two new members recently recruited (Seapeak and Scottish Power Renewables) and further in the pipeline.
- Finalising arrangements for the employment of a ‘Business Support Officer.’ This role is being funded with the support of members and will give extra capacity to the wider team at the SMC.
- London International Shipping Week reception planned for the first Monday at Dover House. [Subsequently this has moved to the Churchill Room, HM Treasury].
- Wide range of other member engagement planned in the coming weeks including the next regular membership Meeting in the 3rd week of June (HMS Prince of Wales) – SMC Board meeting, members wider engagement and a tour of the vessel.

Belfast Maritime Consortium (David Tyler)

- Invest Northern Ireland support remains ongoing around the ‘next phase’ of regional cluster development in NI with the ambition to establish a full NI Maritime and Offshore Wind Cluster in the coming months, building on the existing work of the BMC but much wider in terms of scope.
- Three year funding package to build the collaborative network has been agreed and now being implemented with a project facilitator in place and beginning work.
- Maritime UK Awards 2024 will take place in Belfast (March 2024) and will be supported by regional stakeholders including the BMC, Invest NI and others.
- London International Shipping Week 2023. The intention is to have the Pioneer vessel on the Thames at the start of the week at a major launch event for the Global Maritime Hub.
- The BMC will have a presence at DSEI 2023 which is running between 12-15 September 2023.



- Success for Artemis Technologies in CMDC3: <https://www.artemistechnologies.co.uk/news/clean-maritime-demonstration-competition-cmdc-wave-three>
- Inaugural careers open event held in March 2023 (over 250 guests present at the Titanic Quarter, Belfast): <https://www.artemistechnologies.co.uk/news/careers-open-evening-2023>

Humber Marine & Renewables (Camilla Carlbom-Flinn)

- Strong delivery of the Offshore Wind Connections Conference 2023. 350 visitors present and 50 exhibitors. Landing page for 2024 available here: <http://www.offshorewindconnections.com/>
- Will be present at Global Offshore Wind (14/15 June 2023).
- New director appointed, Kurt Christensen (Managing Director of Wind Power Support). More details: <http://windpowersupport.com/index.html>
- Delighted that the Maritime UK Awards and associated events were hosted in Hull in March 2023. Write up here: <https://www.humber-marine-renewables.co.uk/maritime-uk-award-winners-announced-in-hull/>
- Collaborative Trade Mission to the Port of Esbjerg Denmark 19-21 April 2023, with the support of HM&R and partners.

Extracts from the report which deal specifically with regional clusters. Taken from: <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5803/cmselect/cmtrans/160/report.html#heading-2>

Regional clusters

26. Regional maritime clusters are concentrations of maritime industries, firms, and institutions in a particular area, for example around a port. The purpose of clusters is to “maintain and enhance the attractiveness of the UK’s regional maritime offer.” Many of the clusters have distinct specialties, for example, the maritime business services sector in the City of London, and leisure marine for the Cornwall Marine Network. This regional approach feeds into the Government’s levelling up ethos by encouraging economic growth in coastal areas; the Levelling Up White Paper cites ports and maritime as among the industries which have particular strengths in certain parts of the UK. Mersey Maritime, one of the regional cluster organisations, sees this as an:

approach [which] is essential as a means of international companies looking where to locate their businesses or do business to identify easy, highly attractive one-stop show centres where their operations might be efficient and fully realised.

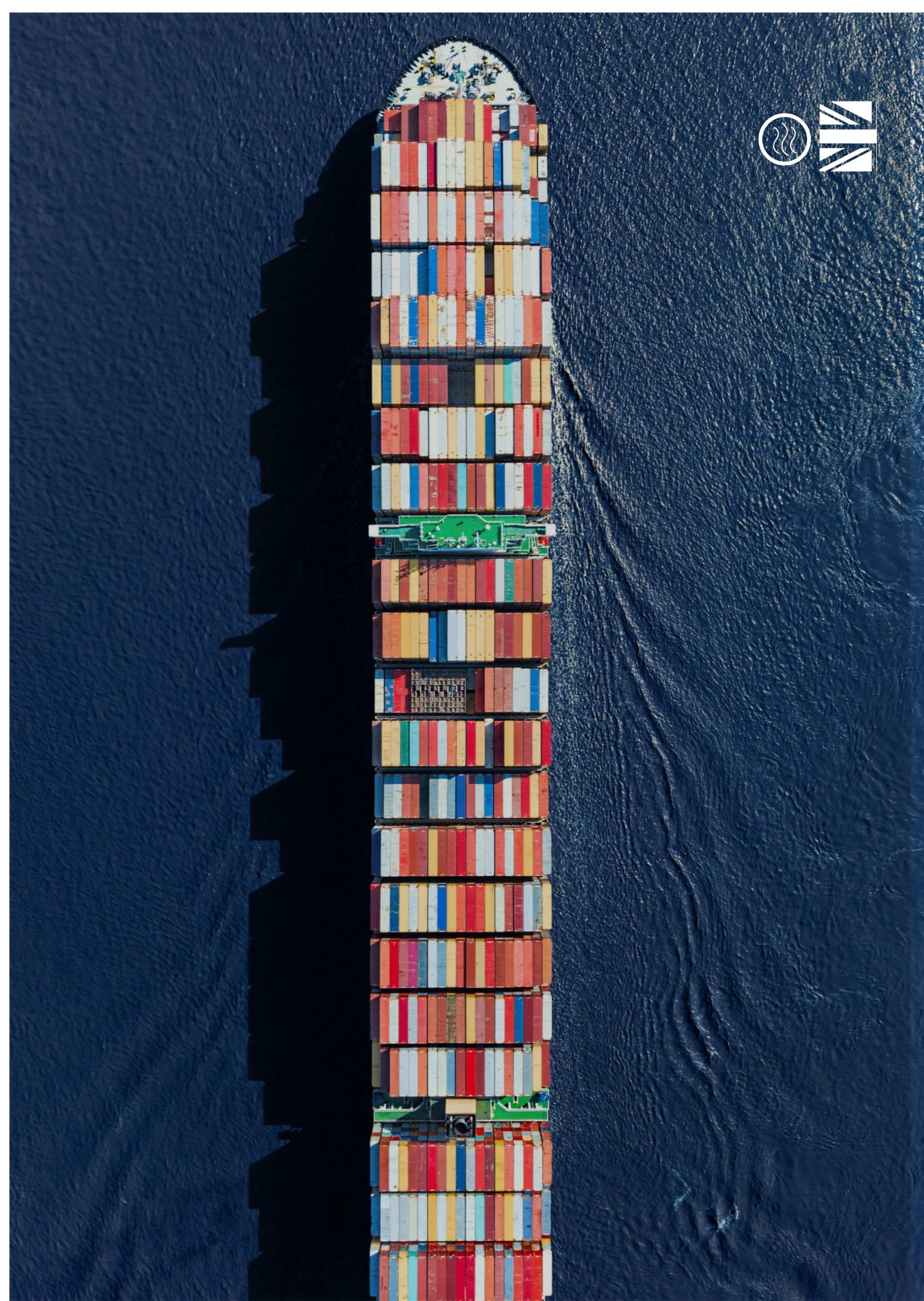
27. A headline recommendation in Maritime 2050 was for Government and industry to work together to maintain and enhance the attractiveness of the UK’s regional maritime clusters. The Government established a Regional Clusters Development Programme in 2019 and £50,000 was allocated to Maritime UK for development of a Regional Council, creation of new regional clusters and production of a toolkit to support further cluster creation.

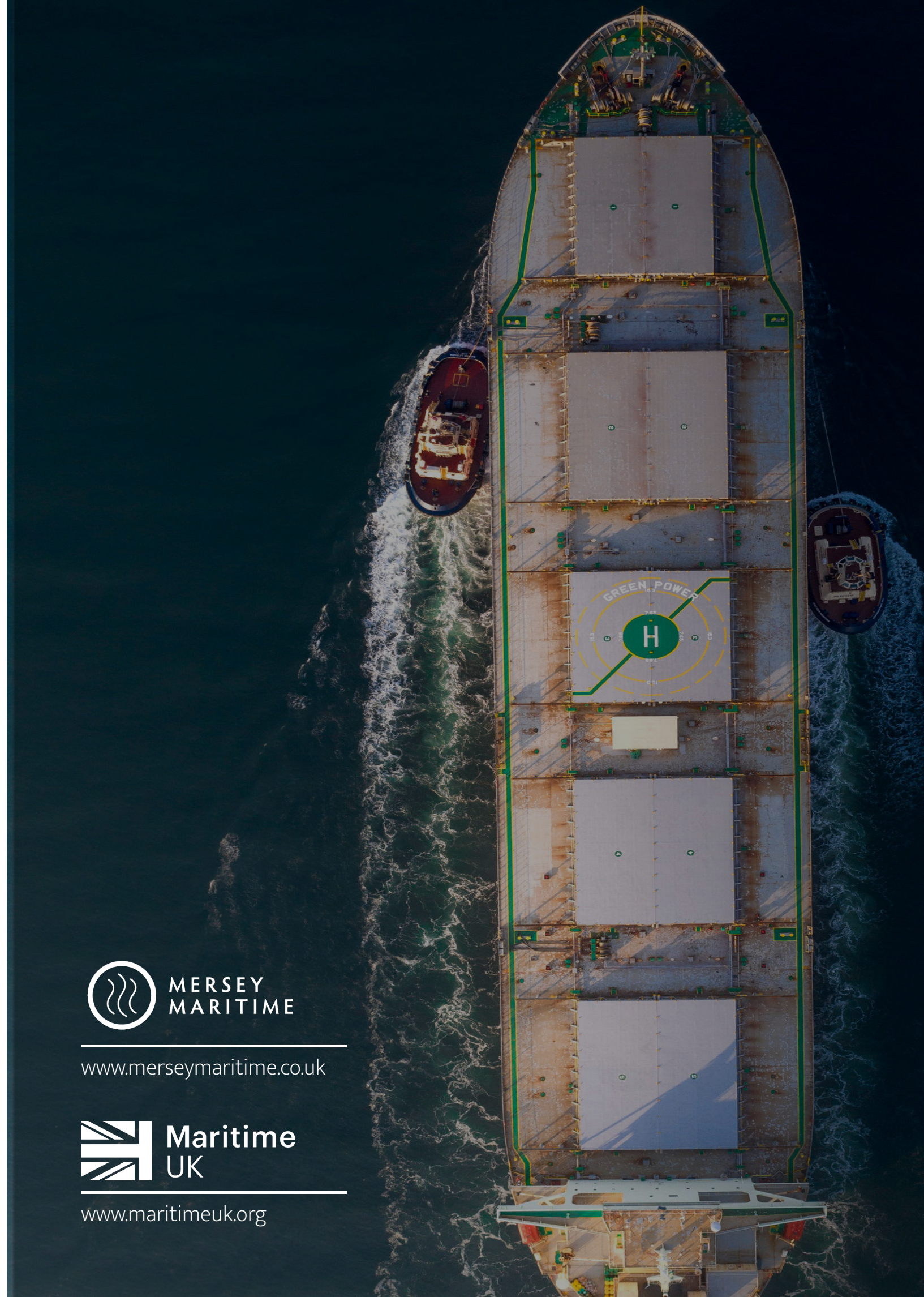
28. Chris Shirling-Rooke of Mersey Maritime said that the clusters “glue all the assets of our different regions together. We are all talking to each other. It gives us a big competitive advantage”. Providing a single voice for the sector in a particular region, across its disparate groups and businesses, was identified by clusters as an important benefit of the model. Chris Shirling-Rooke believed that it “has given all of our coastal communities a bigger voice”, and Maritime UK pointed out the benefits of clusters in “[increasing] the level of input for national consultations, events and programmes around subjects such as technology and innovation, careers, skills and training, decarbonisation.” Solent Local Enterprise Partnership asserted that regional clusters “know the breadth of the maritime sectors in their respective localities and are best placed to convene relevant actors to deliver on the ambitions of Maritime 2050.”

Regional Council

29. The regional clusters form Maritime UK’s Regional Council, which has the role of discussing regional cooperation and their involvement in national programmes and initiatives. The regional clusters feed into Maritime UK, with the progress on their work being reported to the Department for Transport. Since 2021, £300,000 more funding has been secured with one of the aims being to expand and develop the Regional Council. The additional benefit has been that the Regional Council has provided a forum in which information could be efficiently passed to Government during the pandemic about what was happening on the ground.

30. The Department for Transport should continue to fund the Regional Council and assist in the development of potential new regional maritime clusters while assessing the benefits of existing clusters for levelling up.





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