



The Rt Hon Boris Johnson  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
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**Councillor Nick Kelly**  
Leader of Plymouth City Council

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13 January 2022

Dear Prime Minister

**Re: Ocean Net Recovery**

I write to you as the Leader of Plymouth City Council as on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 our Council agreed to support a motion on notice to declare an urgent need for Ocean Recovery. As part of the motion we will be progressing action across Plymouth from developing the UK's first National Marine Park to working with our marine businesses to ensure they maximise the opportunities to drive a sustainable future.

Ocean recovery cannot however be delivered without National as well as Local action. I therefore ask the Government to support our work and agree to put the ocean into net recovery by 2030 by taking forward a series of related outcomes:

1. Ensuring Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities have the resources they need to effectively research and monitor our growing number of marine protected areas, and to set and enforce appropriate fishing levels that support local economies and deliver environmental sustainability. Locally discussions are already underway with DEFRA officials to address the underfunding of the Devon and Severn IFCA.
2. Incorporating social scientific evidence and lived experience to improve community co-production of policy and develop more effective and equitable solutions.
3. And by listening to marine scientific advice to update the Marine Policy Statement and produce a national Ocean Recovery Strategy which will:
  - i. Enable the recovery of marine ecosystems rather than managing degraded or altered habitats in their reduced state.
  - ii. Consider levelling up, marine conservation, energy, industrial growth, flood and coastal erosion risk management, climate adaptation and fisheries policy holistically rather than as competing interests.

- iii. Develop a smarter approach to managing the health of the entire ocean that moves beyond Marine Protected Areas and enables links to be made across sectors towards sustainability.
- iv. Establish improved processes for understanding the benefits from ocean management, leaving no doubt the links between this and human lives, livelihoods and wellbeing.

We are very proud of what we are already delivering in Plymouth, to support the aims of Ocean Recovery and developing the UK's first National Marine Park. I would be very pleased to share our learning to date with you and discuss how we could work collectively at National and Local levels towards an Ocean Recovery.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N. Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, thin tail on the letter 'y'.

**Cllr Nick Kelly**  
**Leader of Plymouth City Council**