



National Nature Service Case Study: Humber Sea Rangers

Location: Humber Estuary

Introduction

The [National Nature Service](#) is a jobs programme that will enable unemployed people to find paid work and training in nature conservation at the same time as putting more resource into meaningfully improving the UK's depleted natural landscapes and seascapes. The idea is based on the most successful work programme enacted by Franklin D. Roosevelt following the Great Depression. There is an opportunity to pilot an award-winning maritime programme, as part of the National Nature Service, in the Humber Estuary.

The Humber Sea Ranger Service would be jobs programme in which unemployed young people are trained as Sea Rangers for 12 months as a stepping stone towards a maritime career, whilst simultaneously carrying out environmental management and research in coastal zones and marine protected areas.

Sea Rangers, once trained up after 12 months, could deliver commercial marine services, attracting private funding for their work, and delivering lasting employment.

The opportunity for the Humber Estuary

The potential for nature work

- ✓ Cost-effective management of the Humber Estuary Marine Protected Areas and fisheries areas
- ✓ Seagrass meadow restoration
- ✓ Added natural storage of carbon in coastal environments
- ✓ Offshore services incl. marine research, CO2 monitoring, seaweed farming

The need for new employment

Unemployment stands at around 8% in Humberside cities, including Hull and Grimsby.

Local nature expertise

The Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust would be on hand to help direct marine recovery work around the Humber Estuary.

How the nature work could be done

The Humber Sea Ranger Service is ready to be implemented to scale job creation and marine management around the Humber Estuary as early as 2021. We estimate that 100 jobs could be created in Humberside towns and cities, with 80 Rangers being supported by 20 training and support staff. The one-year cost of this programme would be around £5 million (we estimate costs averaging out at around 41,000 per job, with boats and equipment costs bringing the total up to £5 million).

The Humber Rangers would be based on the [Sea Ranger Service](#) in the Netherlands, which started in 2018.

The benefits

For nature

- ✓ 10,000 hectares of seagrass meadows restored
- ✓ Added natural storage of 2 metric tons carbon in coastal zones
- ✓ Cost-effective management of the Humber Estuary SAC and fisheries areas
- ✓ Offshore services incl. marine research, CO2 monitoring, seaweed farming

For people

- ✓ 100 jobs created in 2021 Focus on Humberside towns and cities hard-hit by unemployment due to COVID-19
- ✓ Royal Navy veterans could be exclusively employed to run training programmes, training rangers up on sailing
- ✓ At end of the 12 months, qualified Sea Rangers would have the skills to offer commercial marine services
- ✓ Extensive shipbuilding/rental orders placed locally, supporting local engineering jobs
- ✓ Programme supports small local businesses (ship maintenance and supplies)