

Shoreline Management Plan Policy Delivery in Wales (Measure 11)

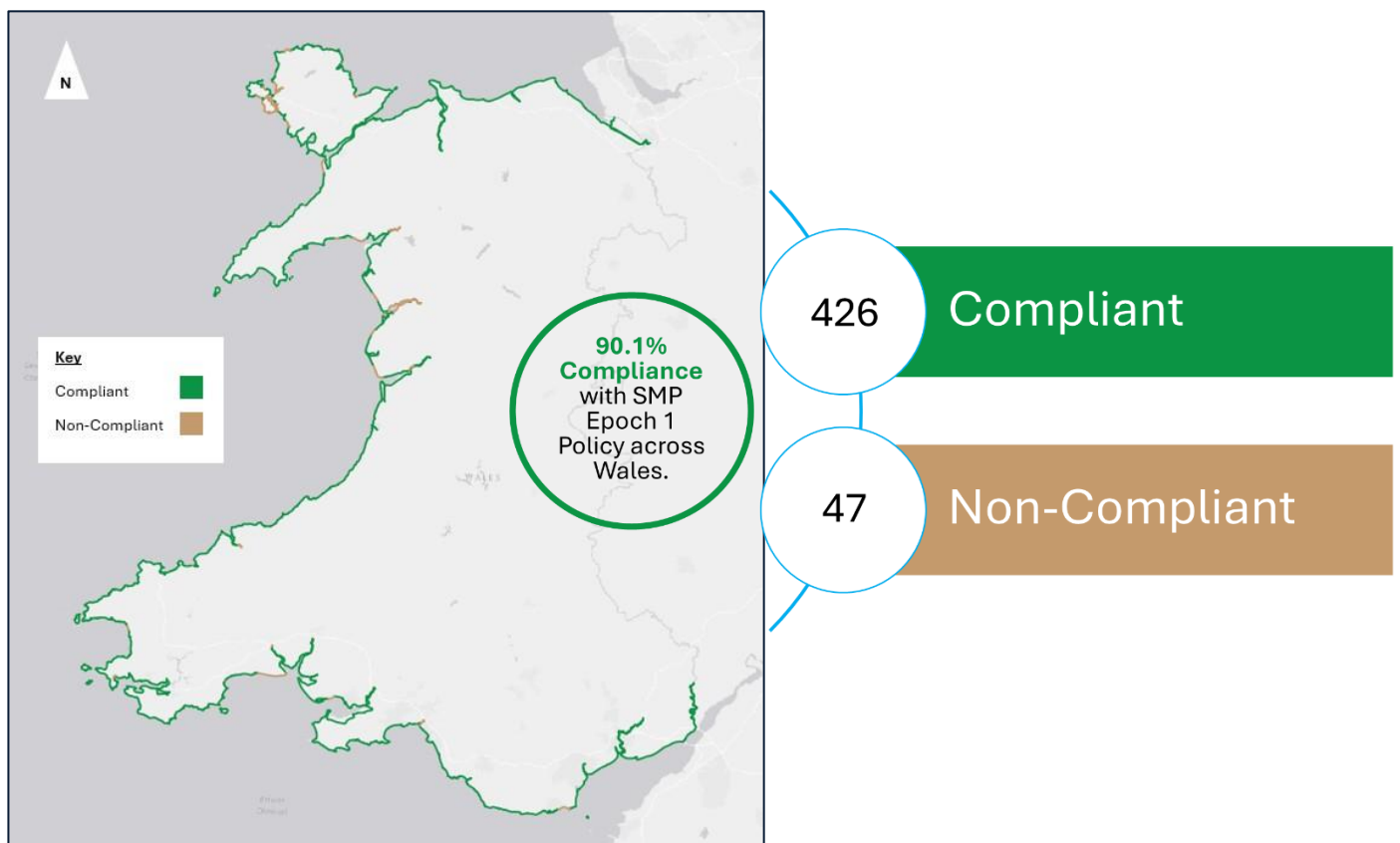
Purpose

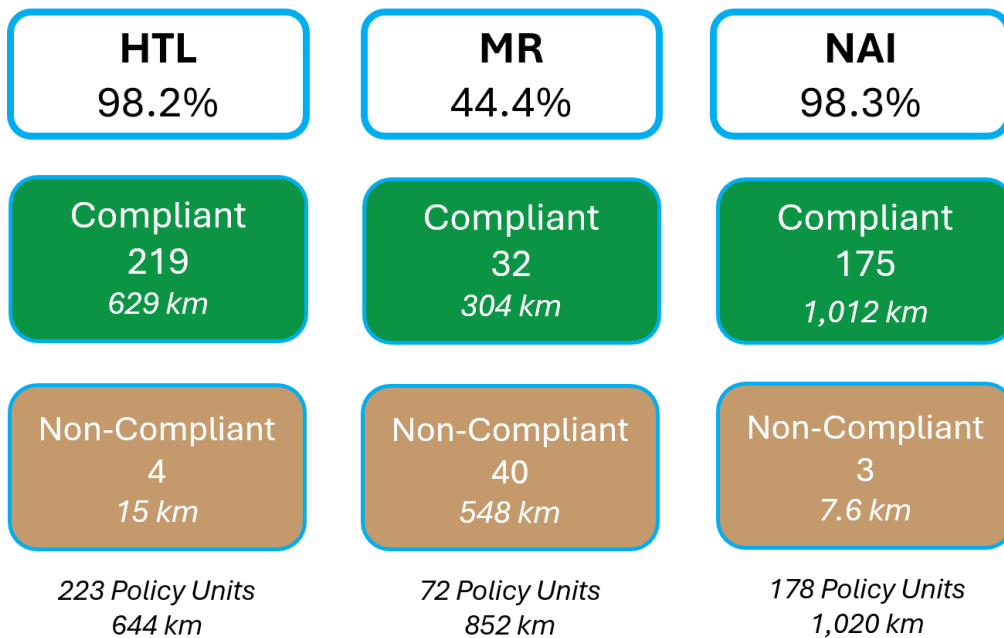
Shoreline Management Plans (SMP2) set a 100-year, non-statutory strategy for managing coastal flooding and erosion, organised into three planning epochs: Epoch 1 (2005–2025), Epoch 2 (2025–2055) and Epoch 3 (2055–2105) and attributed one of three SMP Management Intents: Hold the Line (HTL), No Active Intervention (NAI) or Managed Realignment (MR). Measure 11 requires Coastal Groups, via WCGF, to report by 2025 on whether Epoch 1 policies have been delivered or are actively being implemented, providing a national baseline for Epoch 2 planning and investment.

This summary document presents the key-findings and recommendations from the main Measure 11 report.

Key findings

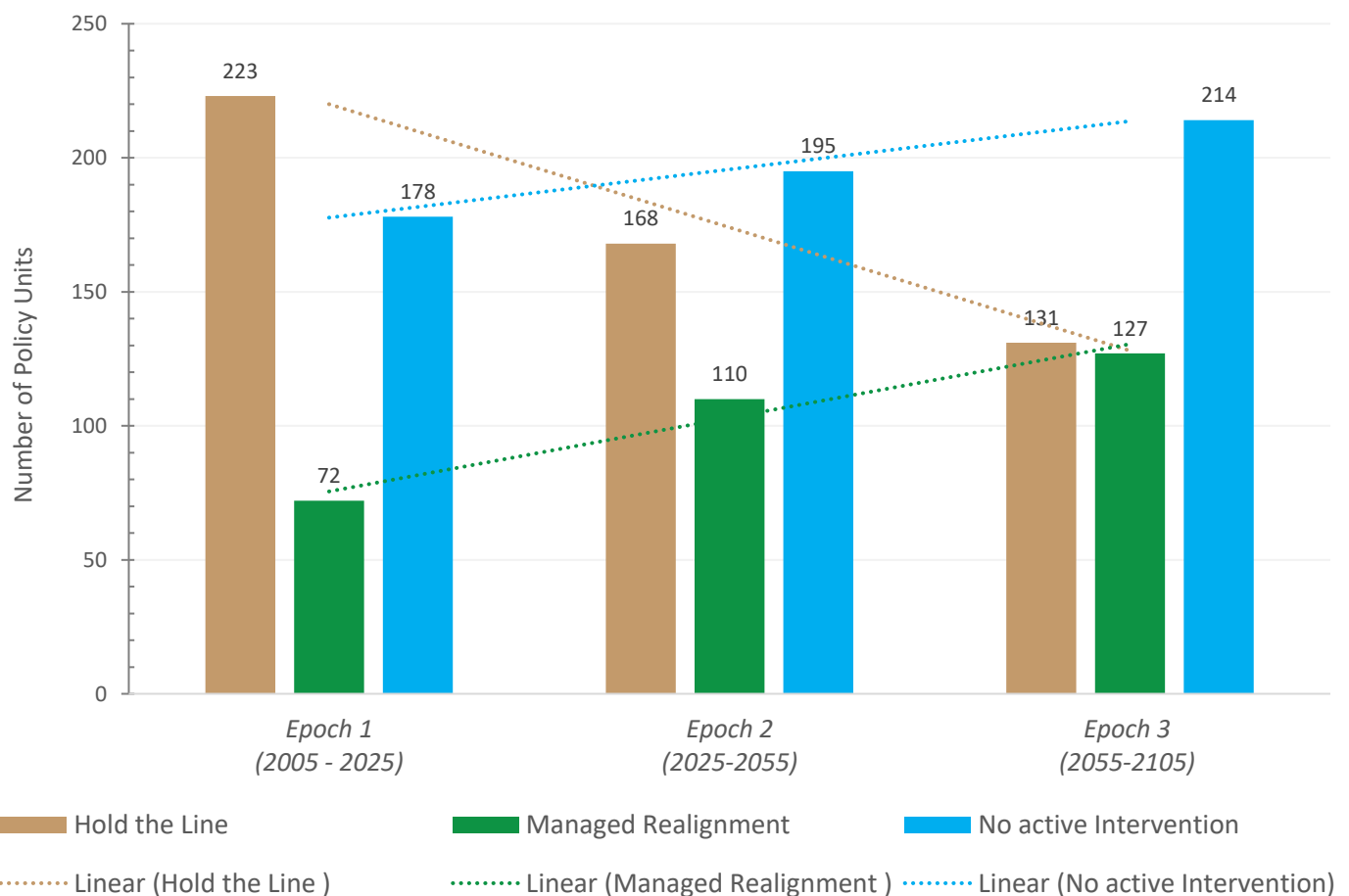
Reporting covered 473 Policy Units (1,914 km of coast). Wales achieved 90.1% compliance overall (1,725 km of coast), with 47 Policy Units (189 km) identified as non-compliant. Performance is strongly policy-dependent: HTL and NAI show near-complete delivery, MR is the primary delivery gap.





What changes in Epoch 2

Across Wales, SMP intent shifts toward adaptation over time: HTL reduces from 223 Policy Units (Epoch 1) to 168 (Epoch 2) and 131 (Epoch 3), while MR increases from 72 (Epoch 1) to 110 (Epoch 2) and 127 (Epoch 3), and NAI increases from 178 to 195 and 214, respectively. Because MR is currently the least deliverable policy type, addressing MR enablers early in Epoch 2 is critical to maintain national compliance and avoid reactive, short-term decisions.



What to retain and scale (enablers)

Epoch 1 delivery has been enabled by investment programmes, routine asset management and improved evidence. These should be retained and adapted to support a greater proportion of MR and transition-related NAI in Epoch 2.

- Programme investment and established delivery routes for defence where HTL remains appropriate (including the inspection and maintenance regimes that sustain legacy assets).
- Dedicated Coastal Group support via the appointment of Coastal Officers.
- A strong national evidence base through WCMC (monitoring, data platforms and consistency) that supports decision-making, trigger setting and business cases.
- Partnership delivery with infrastructure owners and major frontage managers where their assets define the defence line or constrain adaptation options.

Constraints and risks

Although non-compliance is concentrated in a minority of locations, the barriers are systemic and recurring and are particularly prominent for MR. The priority constraints reported in Measure 11 are:

- **Resource and Capacity Constraints** Primary barrier in 25 Policy Units; frequently co-occurs with MR non-compliance and slows feasibility, engagement and business case development.
- **Funding Constraints & Partnership Working Complexity:** Identified in 22 Policy Units; standard appraisal routes can disadvantage adaptation, habitat creation and transition costs (including disposal and H&S liabilities).
- **Land ownership:** Identified in 14 Policy Units; negotiations, uncertainty and misalignment with SMP intent can delay or prevent action.
- **Infrastructure and access dependencies:** Identified in 14 Policy Units; roads/rail/utilities and public rights of way add cost, consents and coordination requirements.
- **Unknown asset ownership:** Identified in 4 Policy Units; unclear responsibility slows action and complicates communication of future management intent.

Recommendations

The emerging recommendations coming from this report are to be discussed by the WCGF and will form the basis of its ongoing and future workplan. *The recommendations will be considered against national and regional priorities, resources and capacity so may be subject to change.*

- **WCGF to develop a Workplan that fully incorporates and prioritises the Measure 11 recommendations.**
- **Review all 22 Policy Units that identify ‘Funding Constraints & Partnership Working’ as barriers.**
- **Undertake a “Theory of Change” exercise across five MR locations.**
- **Undertake a “Who has stake at the coast” analysis.**
- **Build long-term monitoring inputs to support adaptation planning.**
- **To Develop a coordinated communication and engagement approach for the Forum.**
- **Call for Welsh Government to Progress Measure 18 of the National Strategy in collaboration with WCGF.**