

Socio-Economic Assessment of the English Solway: Summary



Sea Fisheries

- Primarily shellfish, particularly whelks, scallops and nephrops
- Overall tonnage has declined by around a third since 2013
- Whitehaven accounts for 79% of landings
- Salmon catch, including traditional haaf netting, has undergone a substantial decline over the last decade
- Cockle beds closed to commercial harvesting



Seafood Processing

- Fish processing employment has fallen by 60% from its 2011 peak
- This followed the closure of two Cumbrian Seafood sites in Maryport and Whitehaven
- Harbourside Products in Maryport processes smoked salmon for export



Shipping and Transport

- There are active freight ports at Workington and Silloth
- Nearly all of the freight handled by the ports (500,000 tonnes in 2018) is inbound – primarily goods and raw materials for use by local industry



Energy, Aggregates, Subsea Cables & Pipelines

- Robin Rigg Wind Farm, operated by RWE, has 58 operational turbines. Although in Scottish waters, it is serviced from Cumbria
- A new subsea coking coal mine is proposed near Whitehaven



Marine Management and Education

- Various orgs have a remit for the management of the Solway – most are based outside the region
- At a regional level, the Solway Firth Partnership plays a key role in promoting sustainable use and furthering understanding of the Solway



Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage

- The region has a rich maritime history, with many sites of historical importance, including castles, monuments, and lighthouses
- This supports the visitor economy, with various museums and visitor centres
- Other initiatives to promote the region's history include the Solway Military Trail, which includes multiple sites from the Second World War and more recent military history



Sport, Recreation and Tourism

- There are popular beaches and walks around the coastline, including wildlife and nature reserves, such as the Solway Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- There are yachting marinas in Maryport and Whitehaven
- A new coastal activities centre is being developed in Whitehaven

