

MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING PILOT PROJECT

REPORT OF LIVERPOOL WORKSHOP

This note provides a report of the Stakeholder Advisory Group workshop in Liverpool held on 22nd-23rd June. Over 80 delegates attended the workshop representing all the main use sectors and a high level of engagement was achieved. A list of delegates is attached at Appendix 1.

Workshop Objectives

The main objectives for the workshop were:

- To describe the *process* of plan preparation and management [*Towards marine spatial planning and management*]
- To present ideas of what a regional marine spatial plan might look like [*Concept draft Irish Sea Regional Plan*]
- To demonstrate plan making and the plan use process through role play
- To engage with and obtain feedback from delegates on the above

Delegates views were obtained through:

- responses to a series of structured questionnaires;
- extended Q&A sessions during the workshop.

Key Issues Raised by Delegates

A number of generic issues emerged from the workshop, identified below:

- Many delegates wished to understand the broader context of MSP - how it would be implemented and who would be responsible. These are essentially policy decisions for government. However, the pilot project can play a useful role in informing these decisions by:
 - Considering different options for MSP (information system, non-statutory MSP, statutory MSP);
 - Considering the benefits/ disbenefits of different options, linked to the initial Regulatory Impact Assessment.
- Marine stakeholders are generally unfamiliar with planning concepts and there is a major communication and education task to enable stakeholders to participate in the process in an informed way;
- The approach to spatial allocation and prioritisation requires further clarification and development, in particular how MSP might be used to provide for future allocation of space and add value to current arrangements.
- While the potential environmental benefits of MSP are clear, the benefits to industry are currently uncertain. For MSP to be attractive to industry it needs to be designed/implemented in such a way that it minimises bureaucracy and reduces uncertainty for existing and future uses.

What Delegates Still Want to Know

The delegates were asked what information they require to increase their understanding of MSP. The following points summarise their comments:

- more information on the Marine Bill and the potential for a Marine Agency;
- clearer definitions of policies and objectives and how they will be prioritised;
- the role of stakeholders;
- production and implementation of the Plan - who and how?;
- clear examples of how MSP would benefit industry;
- how the information and GIS mapping can be used to look forward and plan in the marine environment;
- integration with other plans and commitments;
- cross border issues; and
- more information on the planning process.

Current Views of Delegates

The majority of delegates were either convinced or undecided about the need for marine spatial planning, this varied quite considerably between various sectors:

	Convinced (%)	Undecided (%)	Unconvinced (%)
Government	46	46	8
Industry	11	78	11
NGO's	80	20	0

Delegates identified the following potential benefits and drawbacks of MSP:

Key Benefits Identified	Key Drawbacks Identified
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual tool with a common data source; • Potential for increased certainty for developers; • Benefits to the environment through better planning and monitoring and review of impacts; • Better management of the marine environment; • Integration of all sectors to deliver sustainable development; • Simplification consents process reducing time and associated costs; and • Forward looking plan for an increasing number and scale of developments in the marine environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for additional layers of bureaucracy; • Increasing the costs and amount of time required to gain consents; • Creating confusion at the plan boundaries; • Difficulties of integrating with other plans and existing systems; • Concerns regarding data availability; • May not address the management of impacts; • Local detail is not incorporated; • May not add anything to the existing system; and • Not all sectors will benefit equally from MSP.

Appendix 1: List of Delegates Attending June Workshop

Name	Affiliation
Ian Townend	ABP Marine Environmental Research Ltd
Natalie Frost	ABP Marine Environmental Research Ltd
Paul Lacey	ABP Marine Environmental Research Ltd
Stephen Hull	ABP Marine Environmental Research Ltd
Sarah Farr	Archaeological Officer, Merseyside Archaeological Service
Peter Barham	UK Major Ports Group
Mark Russell	British Marine Aggregate Producers Association
Edward Romaine	British Wind Energy Association
Richard Hill	BT Subsea Operations
David Price	Cable & Wireless
Stuart Rogers	Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
Patrick Stewart	Clyde Fishermen's Association
Bob Earll	CMS - Coastal Management for Sustainability
Sue Gubbay	Coastal Expert
Andrew Hill	Countryside Council for Wales
Carolyn Heeps	Crown Estate
Claudia Kenyatta	Department for Culture Media and Sport
Leila Alkazwini	Department for Culture Media and Sport
Cheryl Case	Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs
Jennifer Hauser	Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs
Kim Gunningham	Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs
Matt Carden	Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs
Whitmee, Dominic	Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs
Anthony Hynes	Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs/ Fish
Robert Canning	Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs/ Marine and Waterways
Sharon Thompson	Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs/ Marine and Waterways
Sonia Gharyal	Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs/ Marine and Waterways
Andy Cooper	Department for Transport
Colin Morris	Department for Transport
Alan Reddick	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland
Bob Davidson	Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland
Carol O'Boyle	Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland
Kevin O'Carroll	Department of Trade and Industry
Jeremy Parsons	Economy & Environment, Cumbria County Council
Christopher Pater	English Heritage
Liam Fisher	English Nature
Paul Gilliland	English Nature
Chris Lumb	English Nature, Cumbria
Jim Andrews	Environment Agency
Tony Heaney	Environment Agency
John Lambert	Environment Agency Wales
Mike Elliott	Hull University
Sue Boyes	Hull University
Duncan Shaw	Irish Sea Forum
Fiona Gell	Isle of Man Government
Charlotte Johnston	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Peter Iles	Lancashire County Archaeological Service
Dave Dunlop	Lancashire Wildlife Trust

Melissa Moore	Marine Conservation Society
Eugene Nixon	Marine Institute Ireland
Brian Elliott	Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Rachel Donnelly	METOC
Jonathon Wilson	Ministry of Defence
Richard Bowles	Ministry of Defence
Andrew Ashall	North West Regional Assembly
Caroline Salthouse	North West Regional Assembly
John Howarth	Proudman Coastal Observatory
John Griffiths	Renewable Power Association
Jan Vernon	Risk & Policy Analysts Ltd
Lisa Palframan	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Mabel Cheung	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Howard Reynolds Jones	Royal Yachting Association
Stephen Midgely	Scottish Coastal Forum
David Ross	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Alayna Imlah	Scottish Executive
Phil Macmullen	SeaFish
Steve Lockwood	SeaFish
Alan Jemmet	Sefton Council
Graham Lymbery	Sefton Council
Paul Wisse	Sefton Council
Wendy Dodd	Sefton Council
Gareth Halanen	Stenaline
Jim Claydon	Terence O'Rourke
Steve Gallimore	The Mersey Docks & Harbour Company
Jason Scholey	UK Hydrographic Office
Mick Borwell	UK Offshore Operators Association
Kate Hutchinson	Ulster Wildlife Trust
Sasha Davies	Welsh Development Agency
John Entwistle	Wirral Borough Council
Janet Brown	WWF – UK
Alan Stevenson	