

Marine Spatial Planning Project Management Group Meeting

**Note of meeting held at 2:00 pm on 5th July
Defra Offices, Whitehall Place West, London**

Those present:

Robert Canning	Defra (chair)	Richard Bowles	MOD
Matthew Carden	Defra	Colin Morris	DfT
Paul Leonard	Defra	Carol O'Boyle	DOENI
Sharon Thompson	Defra	Kevin O'Carroll	DTI
Sonia Gharyal	Defra	Steve Hull	ABPmer
		Jim Claydon	TOR

Welcome and introduction

1. Robert Canning welcomed colleagues to the meeting. Its purpose was to review progress made to date, particularly the outcomes of the Liverpool stakeholder workshop, and agree next steps. Apologies had been received from Defra/European Wildlife Division, the Scottish Executive and the Crown Estate.

Review of Liverpool workshop

2. Steve Hull presented a summary of the outcomes of the stakeholder workshop held in Liverpool on 22-23 June. He noted that feedback from stakeholders had generally been positive but that stakeholders were currently unclear how MSP would fit into the wider Marine Bill and links to the marine agency and possible proposals for a simplified consenting regime. In particular, stakeholders had questions, as yet unanswered, over how MSP would be implemented and by whom and what would be in it for them if MSP was to be more than additional red tape. It was noted that multiple use of the marine environment means marine planning is very different to terrestrial planning and presents unique challenges.

3. In discussion, the management group made the following points:

- The Liverpool workshop had demonstrated that a valuable marine information system and GIS map could be produced that brings together data and information on human activities and presents it alongside habitat and species information. Such a system could provide a valuable information tool to assist developers.
- There was an expectation amongst stakeholders that MSP was more than just an elaborate information and mapping system. However, the meeting felt that the workshop had stopped short of focusing on exactly how the information that had been presented could be used to improve on the current situation for managing marine activities (eg could the information be used to plan ahead and identify areas suitable for specific activities where a fast-track consenting regime could be implemented?) The contractor needed to specifically look at and demonstrate the added value of MSP.

- If statutory MSP is to be included in the Marine Bill, it will be crucial to demonstrate how MSP improves on the current position and will better protect and manage the marine environment. The meeting felt that this will be an essential part of the remainder of the project and that the Regulatory Impact Assessment that would accompany the pilot will be crucial.
- The meeting felt that high level goals and objectives needed to be established and tested by scenarios before focussing on the sub-regional plan. Role play to test scenarios at the next stakeholder workshop needed to be better scripted and prepared. Developing this with stakeholders and using it to develop an actual plan should be the priority for next steps.

4. **Action:** ABPmer to provide a one or two page executive summary to the Liverpool report that was produced for this meeting and circulate it to stakeholders.

5. **Action:** ABPmer to collate possible high level goals and objectives based on information collected from stakeholders and ongoing dialogue with individual stakeholders. This will be used alongside the data and mapping presented in Liverpool to prepare scenarios for the next workshop to identify where MSP could potentially improve management and protection of the marine environment.

Preparations for autumn stakeholder workshop

6. The meeting proposed that this should be a one day event in London to take place during the week commencing 26th September. Discussion of the sub-regional plan would justify attendance by a representative number of local stakeholders (although it was recognised that holding the workshop outside the region may result in relatively few local stakeholders attending). The autumn workshop would be the final workshop under this project. The meeting agreed that it would need to look closely at regulatory impact assessment, costs, benefits and the practicality of MSP.

7. **Action:** ABPmer to identify options for a one day workshop in London to be held the week commencing the 26th September¹.

Next management group meeting

8. The next management group meeting will be held in mid to late August. This will review progress made by the contractor in identifying how the information and mapping can be used to demonstrate the benefits of MSP and to discuss the scenarios to be presented to stakeholders ahead of the autumn workshop. This would be principally for Defra and the contractor to review progress although other members of the Management Group would be invited. A further meeting of the management group would be held after the autumn workshop to review progress and to discuss emerging conclusions from the project.

**Marine and Waterways Division, Defra
11 July 2005**

¹ This has now been arranged for 29 September.