



Marine Spatial Planning Pilot Newsletter



Issue 1, May 2005

The Government is in favour of implementing marine spatial planning (MSP) for UK waters if practicable and Defra has commissioned a research project to develop a **pilot plan for the Irish Sea** to test ideas and concepts which will run until late autumn 2005. The project is being undertaken by a consortium comprising ABPmer, Terence O'Rourke Ltd, Risk & Policy Analysts, Geotek, Hartley Anderson and Coastal Management for Sustainability.

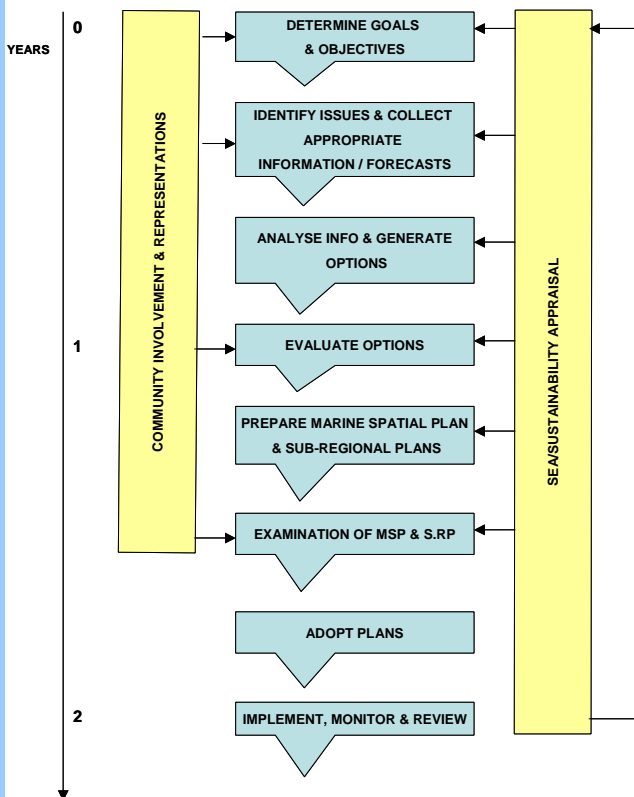
This newsletter highlights the research being undertaken and explains how stakeholders can become involved in the project.

Literature Review

A literature review has been undertaken to seek to identify relevant experience both nationally and internationally that might inform the development of MSP in the UK. Relevant findings from this review have been used to develop a possible marine spatial planning and management process (Figure 1) and incorporated into proposals for the pilot marine spatial plan.

All the outputs from the project can be downloaded from the project website www.abpmer.co.uk/mspp. The website includes a **discussion forum** which seeks stakeholders views on a suggested MSP process and a variety of practical issues linked to MSP implementation, including approaches to setting plan boundaries and requirements for sub-regional plans.

Figure 1. Suggested Marine Spatial Planning Process





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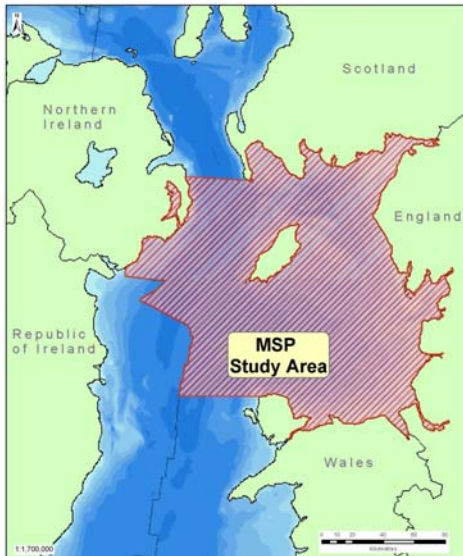


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Pilot Study

Data and information are currently being collated to support the preparation of the pilot plan. This includes the data collected for JNCC's Irish Sea Pilot Project together with a wide range of information on national and regional policies. An [outline specification](#) for the pilot is provided on the website.

Figure 2. Map of Irish Sea Study Area



The pilot area includes English, Scottish, Welsh, Northern Irish and Manx estuarine and coastal waters.



Stakeholder Advisory Group

A Stakeholder Advisory Group has been established for the project covering the full range of marine stakeholders. Around 50 stakeholders attended an initial Advisory Group meeting in April to hear presentations on the literature and the proposed approach to the pilot project. The discussion session confirmed the high level of interest in MSP amongst stakeholders and provided an opportunity for stakeholders to voice their concerns.



? Where can I get further information? ?

More details about the project can be obtained from the project website, by emailing mspp@abpmer.co.uk or from Stephen Hull at ABPmer on 023 8033 8100.