



# Marine Spatial Planning Pilot Newsletter



Issue 2, September 2005

This newsletter provides a progress update for the Marine Spatial Planning Pilot (MSPP) Project. The MSPP project is seeking to identify and address practical issues associated with the implementation of marine spatial planning in the UK. A key part of the project is to develop a **pilot plan for part of the Irish Sea**. The project is funded by Defra and undertaken by a consortium comprising ABPmer, Terence O'Rourke Ltd, Risk & Policy Analysts, Geotek, Hartley Anderson and Coastal Management for Sustainability.

All the outputs from the project can be downloaded from the project website [www.abpmer.co.uk/mspp](http://www.abpmer.co.uk/mspp).

## June Workshop

Over 80 delegates attended the two-day workshop in Liverpool on 22nd-23rd June at which the Consortium presented its ideas for a marine spatial planning and management process and some initial thoughts on what a regional MSP might look like. Despite the sweltering heat, the workshop generated some very lively and constructive debate and provided a useful opportunity for stakeholders to raise questions and concerns.



## Useful MSP Links

**Norvision** <http://www.planco.de/cgi-bin/texte.asp?textverweis=26>

**Baltcoast** <http://www.baltcoast.org/intro/>

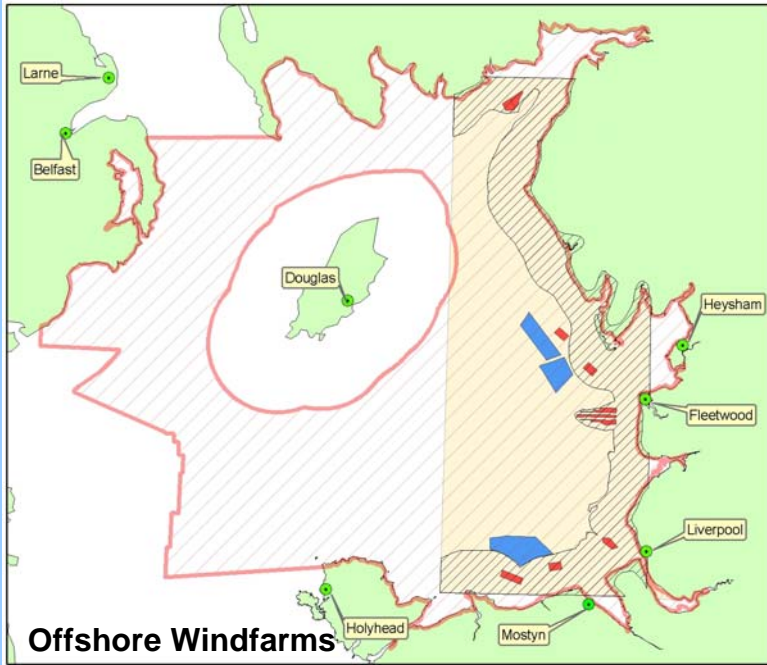
**Balance** <http://geus.net/balance/>



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## Consultation on Draft Regional Plan

The draft regional plan for part of the Irish Sea was issued for consultation on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. The draft plan is accompanied by three scenarios that explore how the plan might be used to support integrated decision making about future allocation of sea space.

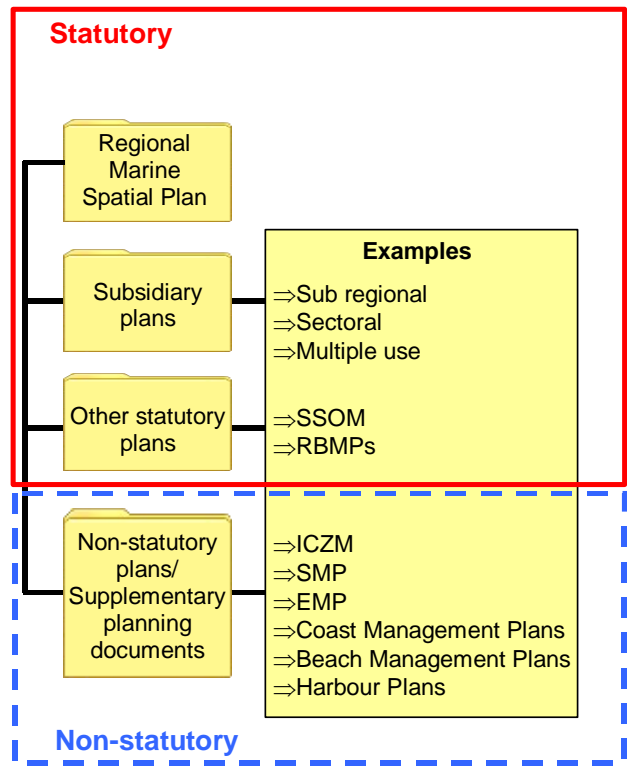
Initial comments on the draft plan and scenarios have been requested by 23<sup>rd</sup> September, with final comments due by 7<sup>th</sup> October. The plan will be a key focus for discussion at the Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

## Related Plans

The introduction of a system of marine spatial planning needs to integrate with the wide range of existing plans that relate to the marine environment. A possible mechanism for achieving this integration is through the introduction of a Marine Spatial Plan Scheme.

The concept would be similar to the Local Development Scheme system that has been introduced for terrestrial planning and would establish a framework to manage the process of producing the various plans identified within the Scheme.

## Marine Spatial Plan Scheme





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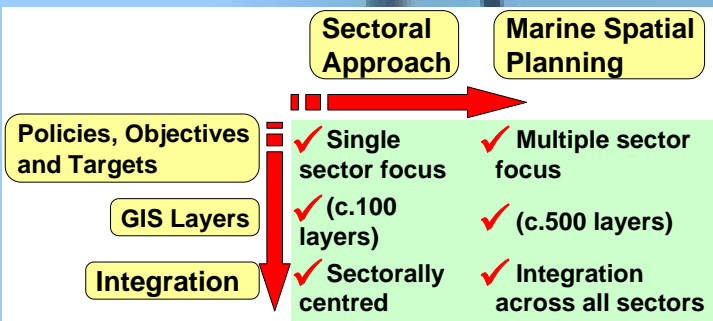
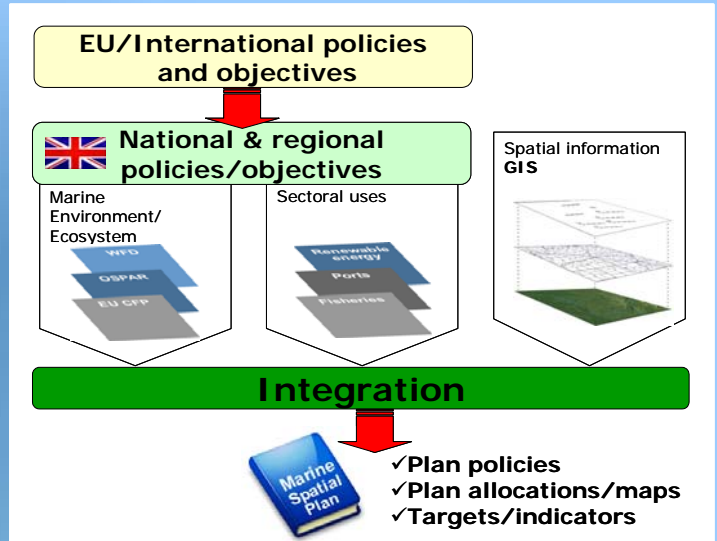


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## Key Benefits of MSP

The study has helped to clarify a number of potential benefits of MSP compared with the current sectoral approach:

- Integration of policies and targets between human uses and the environment – practical delivery of the ecosystem approach;
- A process of integrated forward planning and allocation of sea space rather than the reactive and poorly coordinated processes currently in operation;
- An agreed and consistent framework for ongoing management of the marine environment rather than one dominated by regulation;



- A clear framework for investment in marine projects and a far greater degree of certainty for business planning;
- A reduction in the unnecessary duplication of effort in data collection and scoping for major decisions; and
- The effective implementation of sustainable development objectives.

- Opportunities for a streamlined and transparent consenting regime;
- A focus for stakeholder participation in the process of planning future uses of the sea;
- A basis for prioritised and consistent data collection, and monitoring of the marine environment;
- A forum for the clarification and articulation of conflicts of interest, and a spatial mechanism for resolving these;

## ? Where can I get further information? ?

More details about the project can be obtained from the project website, by emailing [mspp@abpmer.co.uk](mailto:mspp@abpmer.co.uk) or from Stephen Hull at ABPmer on 023 8071 1877.