



Meeting: Marine Scotland / Fishing Sector Focus Meeting

Date/Time/Venue: 13 September 2010, Victoria Quay

Agenda

1. Purpose of Group (see paper circulated)
2. Marine Planning - progress and objectives for the national marine plan. (see paper circulated)
3. Renewables - progress update, offshore wind development proposals, marine renewables development proposals (slide presentation)
4. Mapping of inshore fishing activity, Pentland Firth pilot and expansion to inform marine agendas (verbal update)
5. Conservation and MPAs (see paper circulated)

**Marine Scotland
September 2010**

**Marine Scotland / Fishing Sector Focus meeting
Victoria Quay, 15 September 2010**

Attendees:

Mike Neilson (chair)	Marine Scotland
Linda Rosborough	Marine Scotland
David Mallon	Marine Scotland
Phil Gilmour	Marine Scotland
David Palmer	Marine Scotland
Pippa Goldschmidt	Marine Scotland
Lorna King (secretariat)	Marine Scotland
Bertie Armstrong	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
Patrick Stewart	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
Alan Coghill	Scottish Fishermen's Federation/Orkney Fisheries Association
Malcolm Morrison	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
Archie McFarlane	Clyde Fishermen's Association
Roddy McColl	Fishermen's Association Ltd
Nick Lake	Inshore Fisheries Group Representative
June Lochhead	Galloway Static Gear Association
Andrew Lochhead	Galloway Static Gear Association
John Hermes	Mallaig and NW Fisheries Association / Scallop Association

Apologies:

Duncan Innes	Western Isles Fishermen's Association
Billy Hughes	Fife Fisherman's Association
Mike Park	Scottish White Fish Producers Association

Welcome and Introductions: Mike Neilson welcomed the establishment of the group. It would provide a forum to discuss a range of strategic issues of relevance to fisheries across the wide marine agenda.

1. Purpose of Group (draft remit circulated)

It was agreed the remit would be amended to read:

'To provide a strategic and co-operative forum to ensure commercial fishing interests are considered in the development of Marine Scotland policy **in relation to** marine planning, marine renewables and marine conservation. To provide for an integrated approach to information dissemination and discussion'.

The group will provide a forum for issues to be discussed in detail. Strategic matters arising may be discussed at the Marine Strategy Forum or The Scottish Fisheries Council as appropriate.

It was agreed that a brief note of the meeting rather than detailed minutes would be recorded.

Action 1: Secretariat to amend purpose of the group

Action 2: Secretariat to include remit and final meeting note on the MS website

2. Marine Planning

paper circulated

David Palmer: A National Marine Plan was being developed as part of the statutory framework for marine planning under the powers of the Marine (Scotland) Act. The framework would provide for better sectoral interaction and would include objectives for each sector. A draft plan was expected for pre-consultation in March 2011.

The meeting was asked what the fishing sector wanted from the plan.

Comments included:

- Marine planning should not restrict the taking of quotas.
- fishing should be allowed to continue with minimal disruption
- fishing is different from other activities – it relies on a migratory, mobile biological resource with temporal and spatial elements which is difficult to take account of in a planning framework – planning would need a flexible approach to fishing
- the quality of ‘best available science’ in marine protected area designation and renewables decisions causes concern
- possible displacement of sectors through marine planning could introduce pressure on other activities
- discussions should include all sectors if compromise is to be reached
- fishing should be “permitted development”.
- planning should take account of fisheries management but should not undertake it
- Consultation at a local level was required at an early stage for better information and compromise
- data upon which plan is based must be kept updated
- There must be a presumption in favour of fishing as an activity, which should only be restricted or terminated for one or more good planning reasons.
- Norwegian model of planning provides an example of how planning could be approached with respect to fishing interests
- Data upon which decisions are based should be updated regularly, preferably annually or biannually
- Marine planners should be aware of the Fisheries Council Plan

3. Renewables update

Phil Gilmour provided an update on the Strategic Environmental Assessment and draft Spatial Plan for Offshore Wind. The plan does reflect exclusivity agreements which cover the 10 sites proposed by The Crown Estate and shows other areas of search for potential lease bidding in the future beyond 2020. However these will only be confirmed after plan adoption and licensing process have been confirmed.

SFF had been represented at the pre consultation workshops in February and May 2010.

The draft plan has taken into account a Strategic Environmental Assessment. Future work will involve socio-economic and Habitats Regulation Assessment. The Socio-economic study will consider the impacts on marine activities including the fishing industry. National stakeholders will be invited onto a steering group.

The draft plan was of concern to the fishing industry. Comments included:

- Industry considered the draft plan gave a presumption in favour of marine renewables in apparent contravention of the draft Marine Policy Statement, which requires equal treatment of activities.
- The fishing sector should have been involved in the plan's development
- Areas identified could have major impacts on the fishing sector if development is permitted
- A definition of 'significant concern' in relation to what may be considered at a strategic level as sufficient to prevent development is required
- The cumulative effects of wind and tidal developments on the fishing industry should be considered.
- The cumulative consultation from Government and developers was becoming a burden to the fishing industry in some areas and consideration should be given as to how this can be minimised and streamlined where possible.
- the awareness of the draft plan had been poor and in some areas the public considered the consultation period had been insufficient

4. Mapping of inshore fishing activity

Pippa Goldschmidt introduced the pilot project to collect inshore fishing activity planned for the Pentland Firth. A pilot study would collect data from vessels under 15m operating inshore waters in the Pentland Firth and Orkney waters for the purpose of informing renewables planning and the wider marine environment. Data would be collected via interview with fishermen. The pilot would be evaluated prior to roll out across other areas to inform other agendas e.g. marine protected areas designation. The steering group comprised of SFF, MS and MS Science.

There was general support for the study and the need for the fishing industry to be engaged. Comments included:

- may want to consider asking fishermen to use data loggers etc.
- Considerations should be given to the timing of studies to ensure availability of fishermen
- Similar studies were being undertaken by various bodies and streamlining would minimise the consultation burden on fishermen.
- The use of compliance officers caused concern. Fishermen may be more willing to provide people out with compliance with information.
- Fishing Associations or IFGs may be better placed to undertake the wider studies and encourage uptake, but this would be resourcing issues.

Marine Scotland would endeavour to encourage streamlining of various studies collecting inshore activity data.

5. Conservation and MPAs

paper circulated

David Mallon provided an update on the progress of work underway to designate Marine Protected Areas using the new powers provided in the Marine (Scotland) Act and UK Marine and Coastal Access Act.

The Cabinet Secretary had issued a statement to Parliament outlining the principles which would be followed in establishing a network of Marine Protected Areas in Scottish seas. Marine Scotland's draft Marine Nature Conservation Strategy and draft MPA Guidelines were being finalised. A stakeholder engagement plan will outline how stakeholders could participate in the process. Workshops would provide

opportunities to contribute data and evidence and would discuss areas of least activity.

The level of knowledge on features of importance and pressures was improving via the Defra datalayers project and supplementary information provided by new or existing data collected by Marine Scotland and its partners. Analysis of existing information on Priority Marine Features and survey work near Canna, Ullapool and Firth of Clyde was underway.

Comments included:

- Had there been a consultation on PMFs? (A draft list of relevance to MPAs had been included in the consultation on the MPA guidelines and the wider list had been subject to peer review. Future engagement with stakeholders would provide a further opportunity to comment)
- What role would socio-economics have in the process? (Designation would be a science led process but Impact Assessments would be prepared and an outline of management required would be provided where possible.)

6. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place in January.

Marine Scotland
Nov 2010



(Fishing MS 02/2010 as amended)

Marine Scotland/Fishing Sector Focus Group

Purpose of the Group

Aim

To provide a strategic and co-operative forum to ensure commercial fishing interests are considered in the development of Marine Scotland policy in relation to marine planning, marine renewables and marine conservation. To provide for an integrated approach to information dissemination and discussion.

Work programme

Meet four times per annum or as marine agenda requires.

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Marine planning

Marine National Plan Questions for stakeholders

- What does your sector want from the National Marine Plan (NMP), aims?
- Key industry aims, objectives and priorities?
- Where do you see your industry in 2015, 2020 and 2050?
- Key threats and opportunities?
- Key trends in profit?
- Do you see any potential conflicting priorities?
- How do we deal with that in a fair way?
- Structure and tone of plan?
- What should the aims and overarching approach of NMP be?
- What should the plan be trying to achieve?



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Conservation and Marine Protection Areas

Current work – an update

- Finalisation of marine nature conservation strategy, network guidelines for nature conservation MPAs and guidelines for demonstration and research MPAs

The consultation on the draft Marine Nature Conservation Strategy (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/marine-environment/Conservationstrategy/draftconstrategy>) and MPA guidelines (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/marine-environment/mpanetwork/draftmpaguide>) closed in June and comments received are currently being considered. Finalised Marine Conservation Strategy and MPA guidelines are expected in September.

- Statement in Scottish Parliament on MPA network principles

A Ministerial statement <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/marine-environment/mpanetwork/MinStatement010910> on the creation of a MPA network in Scottish territorial waters was laid before the Scottish Parliament on 1 September 2010 by the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Environment. This also revises the statement made in March by the Cabinet Secretary which set out principles that will be followed when designating MPAs for biodiversity protection in offshore waters adjacent to Scotland. The same principles will be followed in both inshore and offshore waters allowing for a joined up approach across water adjacent to Scotland.

- Survey work and data mining for MPA network development

SNH have begun their survey programme with a survey of the seas around Ullapool which began on July 22nd 2010, to chart the quantity, quality and distribution of priority marine features. Surveys of the Sound of Canna, the Clyde Sea, Rockall and Fair Isle are all planned for 2010. JNCC also plan to undertake

opportunistic surveys in the offshore during 2010. Both JNCC and SNH are also mining existing data sources.

- Development of stakeholder engagement plan

A stakeholder engagement plan is being developed in tandem with the MPA guideline documents. Differences in stakeholder engagement between the UK and Scottish projects is largely explained by a difference in approach to site designation.

- SNH peer review of wider list of priority marine features in inshore waters

SNH are seeking to complete a targeted peer review of the draft list and a wide range of marine specialists have been invited to take part in a six-week review. The final proposals will be submitted to Scottish Ministers.

- Development of guidance and strategy for Historic MPAs by Historic Scotland

Historic Scotland are currently awaiting the final report on a project by Wessex Archaeology to advise on the transition of designated wrecks and under water scheduled monuments to MPA status. A working group has been set up internally within HS Scheduling and Marine Team to develop draft guidance and strategy on Historic MPAs on the basis of the Wessex report. Once a draft is available for circulation, we anticipate in the first instance circulation of the draft guidance to the MPA steering group and a workshop with stakeholders before review and finalisation of the guidance.

Other developments

- JNCC have proposed a UK stakeholder group for MPAs

The proposed group's aim would be to support the MPA initiatives by providing a place to share information and address strategic issues which are significant beyond an individual project area. The proposed group would also coordinate and disseminate the collective views of both national and international stakeholders, the devolved administrations and their conservation advisors.

- Marine Natura sites will be included in the MPA network and work is ongoing to complete SAC and SPA designations in marine environment

Marine Scotland is working with SNH and JNCC to identify possibly important inshore aggregations of waterbirds around the Scottish Coast. Such SPAs would recognise the important feeding areas in the open sea used by aggregations of waterfowl during the non-breeding season that are essential for the individual species survival. JNCC is also undertaking analyses to identify any important offshore areas for seabirds. It is anticipated that advice on suitable areas will be submitted during 2010.

The consultation process for offshore SACs at North West Rockall Bank and the Wyville Thomson Ridge has been completed. In the inshore area a regulatory

impact assessment is nearing completion for potential sites in the Sound of Barra and East Mingulay.

- Historic Scotland working with Marine Scotland/SNH on the extent to which existing designated wrecks and underwater scheduled monuments (which might become Historic MPAs) might contribute to biodiversity policy aims.

The report also considers the extent to which the above sites might contribute to the network. When finalised, a copy will be circulated to the MPA steering group in the first instance, so that the group can consider outcomes and take forward any actions arising.

Marine Strategy Forum discussions

Issues relating to MPA network development were discussed at the last meeting of the Marine Strategy Forum, the marine stakeholder forum which contributes to Marine Scotland governance.

Discussion focussed on some key issues relating to the evidence base for MPA designation, stakeholder engagement in the MPA process, and the role of Natura sites in a MPA network. It was generally concluded that:

- Existing data including data mining and the results of surveys currently underway should be relied on as far as possible.
- A science led approach and stakeholder engagement were not incompatible and stakeholder engagement was vital in taking forward the network.
- Stakeholder engagement should be done under the umbrella of the Marine Strategy Forum discussions, via bilateral discussions at key stages in the process which could be integrated through the MSF.
- It was sensible to consider existing Natura locations as a starting point for network development by looking at the potential to represent other features in these locations.

In addition, the following points were made:

- Important to be clear that management of MPAs would vary according to the features being protected, in some cases this may mean temporal variation or no additional management is required. This would be outlined in guidelines to be developed, probably in 2011/12.
- The approach to designation varied between the different UK administrations – for example in terms of the detailed approach on involving stakeholders and setting of size requirements.
- Where possible data sources should be declared and made available (unless designated commercial and in confidence)