



Agenda

Meeting: Marine Scotland / Fishing Sector Focus Meeting

Date/Time/Venue: 31 January 2011
12.30 – 16.30, Conf Rm 4 & 5, Victoria Quay
Lunch 12.00

Agenda

**Fishing
MS 05/2010**

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of previous meeting
2. Renewables
 - offshore wind - an update
3. Fishing data
 - Orkney inshore fishing study pilot
 - wider data issues
4. Marine Planning
 - Marine Policy Statement
 - National Marine Plan
 - Regional marine planning consultation
5. Marine Nature Conservation
 - MPA Guidelines, Marine Nature Conservation Strategy, stakeholder engagement
6. AOB



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Date/Venue: 31 January 2011, Victoria Quay

Attendees:

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Linda Rosborough (chair) | Marine Scotland |
| David Mallon | Marine Scotland |
| Phil Gilmour | Marine Scotland (in part) |
| David Palmer | Marine Scotland (in part) |
| Pippa Goldschmidt | Marine Scotland |
| Lorna King (secretariat) | Marine Scotland |
| Patrick Stewart | Scottish Fishermen's Federation |
| Alan Coghill | Scottish Fishermen's Federation |
| Malcolm Morrison | Scottish Fishermen's Federation |
| Archie McFarlane | Clyde Fishermen's Association |
| Nick Lake | Inshore Fishery Group Representative |
| James Buchan | Fishermen's Association Ltd |
| Tom Blasdale | JNCC |

Apologies:

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|------------------|--|
| Roddy McColl | Fishermen's Association Ltd |
| June Lochhead | Galloway Static Gear Association |
| Andrew Lochhead | Galloway Static Gear Association |
| Mike Park | Scottish White Fish Producer's Association |
| John Hermes | MNW Fishermen's Association. |
| Duncan Macinnes | Western Isles Fishermen's Association |
| Billy Hughes | Fife Fisherman's Association |
| Bertie Armstrong | Scottish Fishermen's Federation |

1. Welcome

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes were accepted with minor corrections and would be posted on Marine Scotland websites. Actions had been delivered.

3. Renewables

Phil Gilmour: Offshore Wind Strategic Environmental Assessment consultation analysis was being finalised. The final plan for offshore wind and a post adoption statement would be published on 18 March stating how consultation feedback had been taken on board.

Comments included:

- There was interest regarding how marine renewables development was being taken into account in the offshore wind socio-economic assessment. Marine Scotland clarified the consultants ABPmer were aware of the issue i.e. that some developments were being taken forward within similar timescales to offshore wind.
- There was concern that an offshore wind plan that did not take account of cumulative and in-combination effects due to other sectoral developments could not report on socio-economic impacts on the fishing sector.
- There was concern that Marine Scotland did not have enough information on fishing activity. The sector had offered to provide further information in consultation responses. It was not confident that the work being taken forward was properly scoped and could report on the impacts from offshore wind and marine renewables. Marine Scotland confirmed it was taking forward one method to collect fishing data which would be trialled in the Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters. The priorities of roll out to other areas would be discussed with SFF when the pilot was underway.
- Marine Scotland clarified that impacts on sectors are taken into account. The fishing sector should liaise with Marine Scotland to ensure issues of concern to the sector are covered.

Action 1: PG to provide feedback on how cumulative effects on offshore wind/tidal/wave was being dealt with within the socio-economic study.

Action 2: Marine licensing to be included on the agenda of future meeting

3. Fishing data

Pippa Goldshmidt: Data consent forms and protocols were in place which would allow the inshore fishing activity pilot in Orkney waters to progress in February. The steering group and Marine Scotland Science staff would consider the data at interim stages throughout the pilot and would evaluate the data, protocol and outcomes before rolling the project out more widely around the coast.

Marine Scotland had met with SNH, JNCC, the Crown Estate, Marine Management Organisation and SFF to discuss other projects aiming to improve understanding of fishing activity. JNCC were taking forward a UK wide approach which would potentially include an international dimension.

Comments included:

- The consent form was developed with the intention for a single approach to data collection, recognising there would be limitations in achieving this.
- Would be helpful if the evaluation of the Orkney pilot included a report of the difficulties, evaluation of the effectiveness of using compliance officers and fishing industry concerns regarding the process.
- Concerns that renewable energy developers were already approaching fishermen, many of whom were not represented, for data. There could be issues regarding appropriate use and validation of data.
- Time series information was needed - should agree a timeline for refreshment.
- Roll out of data collection around the coast should match the areas for which renewable projects were most advanced, or areas for consideration for MPAs

- A complete picture of the industry in all waters around Scotland was required to inform development, designations and assessment of displacement effects. The timescale in achieving this would depend on resource availability e.g. the effectiveness of using compliance officers
- VMS data beyond 12 NM needs to be supplemented with additional information

Action 3: SFF to consider an article for Fishing News regarding the Marine Scotland inshore fishing study and the importance of data validation.

Action 4: Orkney Pilot steering group to give early consideration to wider programme, pending pilot experience and results.

4. Marine Planning

David Palmer: The fishing sector had provided useful comment on early drafts of the National Marine Plan following the previous Focus Meeting. A pre-consultation draft was expected to be published on the 15 March. There would be opportunities for dialogue beyond this date.

The consultation on Scottish Marine Regions was underway and would close on the 18 February. A variety of opinions had been voiced at the series of public meetings which would be reflected in a consultation response in March if possible.

The Marine Policy Statement would be published week beginning 14 March.

Comments included:

- The relationship between sectors should be clarified i.e. how a sector fits within the context of the others.
- The fishing chapter should make clear what needs to be done over and above existing frameworks and initiatives, what Government intends to take forward and how other industries should take account of fishing activity.
- The chapters should be written in such a way as to be accessible for all.
- Difficult to comment on Scottish Marine Regions in advance of National Marine Plan.
- There needs to be a relationship between IFG boundaries and those of Scottish Marine Regions and few people are aware that IFG boundaries are subject to review
- Artificial boundaries in planning units could be problematic - there could be benefit in not assigning Scottish Marine Regions but creating them as shadow bodies to follow the process. This would allow a national marine plan to take prominence and allow for activities such as fishing and shipping to be considered on a national basis.

5. Marine Nature Conservation

David Mallon: An update on marine nature conservation issues was provided in the latest Marine Strategy Forum communications and conservation papers (MSF 28/11 and MSF 31/11 made available to attendees). In summary, a *Strategy for Marine Nature Conservation in Scotland* and *Guidelines on the selection of MPAs and development of the MPA network in Scotland* were nearing finalisation and would be published in February. SFF's involvement had been useful.

It was envisaged that MPAs would be identified by 2012, with designation processes to follow. Workshops were being planned for 2011 to involve stakeholders in the MPA process:

- February/March: to discuss the data sets being used to support MPA identification and address data gaps.
- May/June: to consider areas identified as being least damaged/most natural as a starting point for site designation.
- Sept: to share first possible sites identified by SNH and JNCC and seek feedback from sectors.

Historic Scotland were preparing guidance in relation to Historic MPAs and continued to liaise with SNH and JNCC regarding survey work.

The consultation on the Mingulay SAC would close on 22 February.

Comments included:

- SFF had found a recent meeting with Marine Scotland to discuss Marine Protected Areas useful and informative. Demonstration & Research MPAs had not been fully explored and dialogue on this would continue.
- The Guidelines would provide for a balanced approach to MPA identification.
- It was essential for dialogue to continue, especially when sites were nearing identification and management was being determined.
- It was believed that JNCC had suggested that that no take zones/reference points could be introduced as Demonstration and Research MPAs.
- A study undertaken by the then Marine Laboratory near Gairloch and in the Firth of Forth on the effects of fishery closures on biodiversity may be a useful resource.

JNCC confirmed there was no intention to introduce specific reference sites.

6. AOB

Date of next meeting late May 2011.

**Marine Scotland
February 2011**