

Getting people on board with MSP - a regional perspective workshop

Chair: Tom Hooper (TH), Finding Sanctuary Project Manager, South West Food & Drink

Also present: Louise Liberkecht (LL), Finding Sanctuary

Key Messages from summing up

Key issue that came up was that of trust in the process and trust in and confidence in the use of data. There needs to be a greater degree of trust, particularly with knowledge of fishing areas. International knowledge of fishing areas also needs to be considered before decisions are made.

Issues about confidentiality weren't seen as such an issue, but there needs to be further discussion with regards to use of commercial information.

Summary

- Want to collect information for planning process not necessarily decision process
- Crucially who are the decision makers?
- Areas of interest are v. large but FS relatively small project, therefore may only collect data on boats out to 40 nm where project area is 200nm
- Possible data lacking
- Really only able to do 6nm inward as have French/Belgium fleets
- Current regs of common fish policy will not allow for MPA network outside of 6nm and therefore worried that its appropriate that only possible to police/ enforce MPAs within 6nm
- Channel potting area – volunteer agreement between France/Belgium and UK for last 20 years, practically NTZ

Questions

Question 1:

How can your industry best represent its spatial requirements? E.g. existing data or reports/questionnaires/remote monitoring?

- What is Finding Sanctuary's vision?
- How many MPAs, what size etc, what % of the sea covered.

Chair: to plan sites need knowledge first

- Where & how did Finding Sanctuary originate?

Chair: from Lundy, Phillipa Hoskins, Chris Davies

- Fishing industry doesn't have a problem with dialogue but worried about giving information and then it being used against them
- If project is to work then needs full support, therefore need to convince everyone that it is worth backing.

Chair: in 10 years if fisheries not healthy, FS will have failed. Need to collect information and have spatial data.

LL – Use of data in interactive planning process so that can address everyone's needs. If areas are particularly important to stakeholders then can take this into account to avoid conflict.

- Information that FS gathers is surely of benefit to everyone, silly not to share information and if don't know where activities take place then cannot take into account.
- DWLT point that isn't time to collect data v. worrying, when FS say need data before decision making.
- who will be the guardian of the data?

Chair: if people hand over data, people need to be clear on what and who it can be used by and how. FS steering group want to use data for proposing network of MPAs. Some data would be available to the public, other have to have license. Are sectors you represent.

- GIS data of opp areas, freqs of fishing. Basically blank out all within 6nm limit.
- Must collect data from all sectors and must collect yourself
- Have lots of information covering Irish sea, etc
- How detailed does the data FS wants need to be?
- JP work on dover sole quota v important but possibly scientists not able to get data like this.
- No big secrets being given away.
- TH How big do squares need to be?
- 6nm to 12 nm must be clear
- seasonal changes in fish/species caught

Question 2:

What are the risks that you see with a poor or incomplete spatial understanding of your activity?

- If have MPA, anglers/divers not a problem/damaging/important within it when compared to commercial fishing

Chair: want every human use of the sea. Need also to take into account habitats

- RSPB are putting in data but incomplete. Possible that certain sites without data are also incomplete e.g. bird breeding sites disturbed by motor boats.

- Fishing industry concerned that large swathes will be closed at the drop of a hat due to pressure to conserve.
- Sea not exclusively for fisheries, therefore must put in data to avoid this.
- Fishing industry shut off after SA talk at FS workshop.
- Devon IPA – very successful, flexible management changes annually, is MPA but also allows fishing
- perception of ‘sanctuary’ could be seen as sanctuary of fisheries not just nature reserves
- not all areas of sea are fished, large areas aren't, but need to record this
- does DSFC data cover all areas of fishing or does some need more adding.
- DSFC sightings 24/7, accurate

Chair: Finding Sanctuary needs to validate data so that is as close to truth as possible.

- Mapping areas already excluded to fisheries e.g. dumping zones, traffic lanes, gas rig, cables etc
- Must be properly mapped to add to debate as may find that vast areas already closed
- Boats > 15.26 M not allowed inside 6nm
- Lots of wrecks also closed
- Data on gas rigs etc available
- Process of data given in, mapped, given back to public/steering group
- Will people be given warning about the level of data given out?
- Biggest Challenges – weighting of data, quality implications
- Don't think confidentiality will be an issue
- Data presentation – in 5km² blocks?
- If data given is more detailed it can be presented at a lower resolution

Question 3:

Can you give us some basic spatial parameters about your activity- is it restricted to particular parts of the sea? Does it use small or large areas of sea? Are you restricted to the shore? Particular depths or habitats?

Question 4 What are the challenges when collecting and analysing data for stakeholder mapping and how can these be overcome?

There wasn't time to discuss questions 3 and 4