

Lyme Bay – Delivering Marine Spatial Planning workshop

Chair: Tim Stevens

Key Messages from summing up session

- In response to asking people how they would want Lyme Bay to be in 20 years time, the common theme was one of management and the need for there to be a flexible, open management structures which people could trust and would have confidence in
- There needs to be links between different initiatives going on – statutory, research and non-statutory processes. As a group we are all involved in different things and we need a clear way of moving forward

Questions

Question 1:

What attributes should Lyme Bay have in 20 years?

- Certainly no worse
- Commercial perspective, should produce as much if not more fish. The value of fish has risen at least with the economy; sustainable for future generations.
- Biodiversity same or greater than now. Commercial areas too despite possible conflicts.
- A flexible management regime reflecting changes as opposed to by-laws set in stone.
- A management regime which avoids conflict.

Chair: There will be conflict but if acknowledged can be dealt with if expectations are more realistic.

- A variety of economic uses along the shoreline
- Funding for proper science
- A management system advised by good science
- Social and economic science as well.

Chair: A need to capture economics to understand the consequences of decisions.

- There is a problem with what is happening now, there are so many groups. Three authorities. Lots of scientific research in Lyme Bay. Need one umbrella organisation for a cohesive management system.

Chair: There is momentum in Lyme Bay but unsure who is driving it. A need to make links explicit.

- Common objectives are possible. Set these down to potentially unite people. Rather this than one all encompassing group.
- But need a focal point

Chair: This process [DMF meeting] aims to get all singing from the same hymn sheet.

- Must not stifle human diversity
- There must be some absolutes in the long run, a grading system, levels. Ranking for ecological sensitivity the irreplaceability concept.
- Are there models elsewhere in the world for deficiencies in economic data

Chair: Yes and being worked on at the University of Plymouth.

- Cannot ignore the areas outside Lyme Bay. The surrounding areas need considering.
- Develop stakeholder grouping in specific areas. Partnerships around geographically manageable areas. Sensible management units. Responsibility devolves to that area.
- A Devon - Dorset boundary issue. A need for agreement between authorities. Disagreement at present.

Chair : A need to talk to Dorset

- Beyond six miles? Beyond county/ political boundaries for management.
- An explicit aim to educate the wider audience. The public needs to be aware of the value.

Question 2:

What needs to change? (Within the next 5 years?)

- A need for sustainable/ viable fishing industry. Map important activities and how not to degrade areas. Map of resources.
- Resources needed for making improvements
- Attitudes need to change. Everybody's attitudes.
- Needs to be a change of attitudes. Need to use available data to work together. Decisions should be made within 1-2 years.
- Need a good understanding of trends and projecting them truthfully and scientifically.
- Decisions not to be made in ignorance.

Question 3:

What are the current trends?

- There are as much fish as there were 30 years ago
- Same species?
- An increase in leisure activities. A busier coastal zone than ever before
- Visibility has decreased over the last 5 years. No specific evidence but perception.
- Increased algal blooms especially to the west.
- Need data about water column too. Need to capture dynamics. Data is patchy on the water column.
- Hard to map water column as ever changing
- Geo-tourism, boat trips and diving [growth]
- Offshore renewables.
- Aquaculture – Lyme Bay lends itself to this. For example shellfish, rope grown mussels (Dart)
- The impact of global warming on Chesil
- Storage of natural gas under Portland for future use. Discharge will be to the east.

Chair: Nutrients are a big concern as other issues

- Need to be responsive to change such as global warming
- In isolation discharges are OK but need to take them as a whole. Connection between turbidity and discharges
- Nutrient loading has plateaued out

Chair: Is data available to access?

- About 7 years of DEFRA
- Now have accurate documented reports of catches
- The data should be presented in a way that is understandable to all – not only scientists. This to develop confidence.
- Most fishermen in support of many no take zones.

Chair: Voluntary closures beneficial

- Should move away from specifics of sea fans versus scallopers.
- A Lyme Bay definition? Start Point to Portland Bill or Berry Head to Portland Bill?