

A tool for the wise use of marine space workshop

Chair: David Bench, head of Marine Legislation Division, Defra

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Key message from recording of summing up session:

- Need to get consistency in the way processes work
- Links between terrestrial and marine planning framework need to be effective and developed with consistency running throughout
- Need stakeholder involvement in different types of consultation and facilitation to deliver engagement in a consistent way so that input is inclusive and everyone understands how their input will be used
- Existing structures should be used where appropriate so as not to overburden people
- Focus needs to be on small representative groups who would create a network so they can pick up the necessary information
- There needs to be some kind of quality assurance to ensure there is consistency of approach and ensure people are being representative of the sections they are aiming to cover

Key Messages form transcripts

Question 1: How can local stakeholder involvement and expertise assist with management of the seas?

- link between terrestrial and marine planning framework and influences on each other
- how we best get stakeholder involvement
- co-ordinating different types of consultation so not overburdening people
- expert facilitation – managing stakeholder input effectively

Question 2: What expertise should be included on Marine Planning Steering Groups?

- use existing structures if appropriate. Don't overburden groups if consulting in similar areas but concern that groups may not in fact be fulfilling their function- tension
- focus on small representative groups who feedback and network
- quality assurance process to ensure proper representation essential
- marine planning expertise needs development. Courses, training but also provide training to those involved in process

Question 3 How could an MMO provide leadership for coastal managers and assist in ICZM?

- case studies of real places/people to feed into bill
- funding issue for stakeholders engagement
- right skills and expertise in MMO

credibility of MMO

Question 4: What are the opportunities coastal partnerships could derive from any involvement in the planning process and how would these be realised?

- consistency – how MMO can deliver this across different regions
- case studies – better articulating what planning will mean – use case studies to demonstrate how it works and feedback to training and development of those involved in process e.g. estuary partnership – use as a model, also Plymouth council example

Questions

Question 1:

How can local stakeholder involvement and expertise assist with management of the seas?

- Existing arrangements e.g coastal defence, how will marine-related employment fit in?
- Land development – problem
- Marine planning must have status to influence land-use planners e.g MMO statutory consultee. 2 equal organisations may not be workable
- Bill should provide for whether any beneficial maritime users. Should have priority – once land goes to residential, never get it back. Include in planning applications on terrestrial use.
- Planning guidance more ignored than followed. Need to give it more teeth

Chair: Linkage between marine and terrestrial planning system – to be decided

- SMP model (division into sections) could extend out to sea. Not just defence arrangement
- So much stakeholder consultation – danger of putting people off – need mechanism that doesn't exclude breadth of input and leave only specialist group

Chair: How do we make best use of local expertise without overwhelming people?

- Other side is people do like to talk and contribute and feel can make difference.

Chair: How to ensure people can see they are being listened to?

- Good chairman = very scarce resource. Essential to have someone to take charge MMO – maybe set standards to train people

- Part of answer = how you work on different scales. Timetable consultations so don't end up with competing groups. Rational places for consultation needs to be developed.
- Don't underestimate proper facilitation – makes big difference if professional facilitator – gives air of independence also

Question 2:

What expertise should be included on Marine Planning Steering Groups?

- How would boundaries be defined, how to start planning?

Chair: Easier to talk on larger scale/general and then focus on specifics and add detail to broader scale plan

- Moved beyond administrative boundaries e.g using ecosystem approach. Sea – no respect for administrative boundaries (management to recognise this)
- Big strategic issues – take view on it now e.g. UK level policy statement - have severn barrage argument there, make decision at this earlier point. Facilitate local decisions later on – more clarity.
- If uses can be made to fit together should do this – like a jigsaw – complimentary uses should be considered
- MMO will not have skilled marine spatial planners as they don't exist yet. Need them. Rapid dialogue with training institutions needed

Chair: Being done at the moment – in process of being developed

- Don't bias against people not salaried to be in steering groups- need to pay more than just expenses to achieve this
- What is appropriate size for MMO to be manageable?
- Quality assurance for groups to show they really are representative. How to do this? Quality assured representation.
- Model for: river basin liaison process – transparent and quality process. They network out 10-12 people.
- But still issue as to whether people properly represented
- People should have time to follow through – not an organisation – personal membership

Question 3:

How could an MMO provide leadership for coastal managers and assist in ICZM?

- Begin by taking stock of why existing ICZM effective
- Roll out as model for others to try
- Stumbling block – value of decisions – issue based – doing firefighting rather than managing strategically

- Harmonisation role
- Lack of access to data – burden to reinvent wheel each time. National guidelines on easily applicable statistics would be useful
- MMO could pick up on old English coastal partnership network where it left off
- Bringing partnerships together to share expertise. Other groups as well as partnerships would benefit. Question re: how broad that might be. MMO need to take national lead.
- MMO needs credibility. Where will MMO officers be from? Needs to catch everyone. Lots of people working not joined up at the moment – MMO needs to be the joining umbrella – this will lead to credibility if seen to embrace everybody
- Pockets of deprivation in coastal resort areas – how does that fit into this process?

Chair: Process is not designed to deal with these socio & economic issues. Should it? Would expect this information to feed into planning process (if regeneration of these areas is being considered important to feed this into the planning structure)

- Pick up on planning - do it that way. Feed money back to poor areas.
- Doesn't fit in here
- Short term versus long term goals
- Short term benefits reduced if targets set right and long term economic benefits become more important
- How to get credibility other than all stake holder involvement?
- Run casestudies based on real places and people and feed into Marine Bill. Test in real world and in different coastal situations.
- Could be part of way to start to build planning expertise
- MCEU – frustration re: misunderstandings – MCEU don't have right skills
- Transparency and communication build credibility over time Also competence and reliability
- Regional office for MMO?

Chair: Existing fisheries agencies already have regional focus. Needs to address how much more needed for MMO

- Funding for other stake holder groups that need to be built up = big question – needs to be addressed elsewhere

Question 4:

What are the opportunities coastal partnerships could derive from any involvement in the planning process and how would these be realised?

Chair: facilitating transfer of best practice, data collection and presentation

- Avoid duplication- knowledge transfers. MMO could act as conduit for information sharing
- Maeve Nightingale – benefit of coastal partnership working with land-use planners – estuary partnership has showed very successful integration. Could use this model for how partnerships could engage with MMO and how coastal management could feed back into land planning process.
- Development control issues – planners will struggle on nitty gritty as knowledge gap. If coastal issue, the planners need to access someone in MMO with the relevant expertise. Relationships need to be build
- Building relationships and knowing who to go to for information is important
- Boost local democracy if approached in right way – not through MMO as a bit too top-down. Reassurance that it will happen locally is not there at the moment. Needs to get through.

Chair: Role of MMO needs to be defined

- Question of getting the right balance depending on different areas. MMOs need flexibility to shift balance accordingly to local planners or away from them
- But need consistent approach at same time as some bad planners out there!
- Awareness needed of marine socio-economic and environmental aspect not just marine spatial planning. Make everyone aware.