



Stakeholder Engagement, Facilitation & Mediation

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# **Finding Sanctuary: Steering Group**

## **REPORT**

Meeting: 28<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Report: 6<sup>th</sup> October 2009

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## Attendees

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Mark Russell         | British Marine Aggregate Producer's Association |
| 2. Andy Green           | Canoe England, British Canoe Union              |
| 3. John Butterwith      | North Devon Fishermen's Association             |
| 4. Richard Stride       | South Coast Fishermen's Council                 |
| 5. Paul St. Pierre      | Royal Society for the Protection of Birds       |
| 6. Richard White        | Wildlife and Countryside Link                   |
| 7. Sam Davis            | Cornwall MCZ Working Group                      |
| 8. Rod Jones            | Ministry of Defence                             |
| 9. Keith Bower          | Sea Fisheries Committees                        |
| 10. Elly Andison        | Environment Agency                              |
| 11. Nick Russell        | English Heritage                                |
| 12. Peter Bartlett      | Royal Yachting Association                      |
| 13. Peter Madigan       | British Wind Energy Association                 |
| 14. Cheryl Hiles        | Regen SW  |
| 15. Chris Mathews       | The Duchy of Cornwall                           |
| 16. Dick Appleton       | British Ports Association                       |
| 17. Jane Maddocks       | British Sub Aqua Club                           |
| 18. Mike Bailey         | Brixham Sea Angling Club                        |
| 19. Paul Taylor         | Cornish Federation of Sea Anglers               |
| 20. Roger Covey         | Natural England                                 |
| 21. Dr Emma Jackson     | Marine Biological Association                   |
| 22. Derek Blackmore     | British Water Ski                               |
| 23. Joana Doyle         | Finding Sanctuary                               |
| 24. Spike Searle        | Finding Sanctuary                               |
| 25. Martin Syvret       | Finding Sanctuary                               |
| 26. Sarah McLintock     | Finding Sanctuary                               |
| 27. Louise Lieberknecht | Finding Sanctuary                               |
| 28. John Weinberg       | Finding Sanctuary                               |
| 29. David Murphy        | Finding Sanctuary                               |
| 30. Tom Hooper          | Finding Sanctuary                               |
| 31. Sean Lewin          | Finding Sanctuary                               |
| 32. Tom Mullier         | Finding Sanctuary                               |

# Agenda

The agenda for the day:

## 10.30 **START**

- Introductions
- Aims for today & Agenda

### **Context**

- Project to date
- Project from now on

### **Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs)**

- **What** they are
- **Why** they are being done
- **How** they are going to be developed
- Project timeline
- The steering group's role

## **BREAK**

### **The Finding Sanctuary (FS) Project**

- The National Level
- The Regional Level

## **LUNCH**

### **Steering Group - Initial Considerations**

(issues that SG will need to explore & agree at next meeting)

- Dealing with requests to join
- Substitution of representatives
- Terms of Reference

### **The FS Project Team**

- Who they are
- What they do / are doing

### **Next Steps**

- Agree actions & who does them
- What's happening next

### **Evaluation**

## 15.00 **FINISH**

## 15.15 **Informal session**

- project team support for the Steering Group

## Objectives

The objectives for the day were:

- To get to know each other
- To understand the project context & the legal context
- To understand the steering group's role
- To know timescales
- To know the support available to the steering group

## How The Steering Group Feels

Steering Group members were asked to share any thoughts that they had in answer to two questions:

### *What I'm looking forward to is...*

- The result - getting a network of MCZ's in place
- Good that we are here in one place, with a real chance to influence what happens and to balance our respective interests. Nothing is being imposed on us
- It's an opportunity to increase our understanding of the marine environment and how it is being used
- As a scientist, I'm looking forward to seeing all the information come together, seeing what it tells us and building an ecologically coherent picture

### *A concern or anxiety I have is...*

- That we won't be able to agree within the timeframe
- The potential conflict between users with such different interests
- Will we agree and will what we agree be enforceable?
- The displacement of activities into unsuitable areas
- That there will be nowhere for fishermen to earn their living
- A possible disproportionate impact on some local areas in terms of livelihoods
- There are many unknowns
- Understanding / knowing what /who will get priority from Government, as some activities will preclude others
- There is a need for considerable marine spatial planning to take place before MCZ discussions

## Points From The First Discussion Session

- An MCZ is *not* a 'no take' zone
- The ideal is that the SG comes up with one, agreed set of proposals. Failing that, the next best option is for the SG to recommend a number of alternative options, with a clear accompanying narrative as to why there was disagreement and the pros and cons of the different options.

## Project Queries & The Answers

- *Question:* How will the fact that the **four national projects** might choose to do things differently, or prioritise different things, be handled? For example, if designations are made on each side of the administrative dividing line within a small geographical area, but between two project areas, which make no sense when put together.  
*Reply:* This will be picked up at the national level. The national Board will be looking across all the projects to check for consistency / conflicts.
- *Question:* How will **national level data sets** be taken account of?  
*Reply:* Project team confirmed that there are currently research contracts for national level data still unfinished, but there was a clear intention to ensure that once the research is done, regional and national level data are integrated.
- *Question:* Is there a gap between what the Environment Agency's Severn river basin catchment management plan work is doing, and the **Severn Estuary area** covered by the Finding Sanctuary project?  
*Reply:* The Finding Sanctuary project team envisage working closely with the Severn Estuary Forum to ensure that there is no gap.
- *Question:* Can a potential **MCZ be within, or overlapping an existing designated area**, (eg an Special Area of Conservation)?  
*Reply:* Yes, but this cannot comprise only duplication -additional benefits must be shown to accrue.

## The Steering Group In The Wider Process

Tom Hooper described how the Steering Group sits at the receiving points of four different 'feedback loops' of information, views and in one case, formal review. These four are:

- **The Local Working Groups**, set up to cover Isles of Scilly, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset and North Somerset
- The **national Scientific Advisory Panel**, (role of formally reviewing emerging, draft proposals). This panel should be appointed and operational in the next few weeks.
- The group of **named 'others'** - those with a key stake, but who cannot participate at local or regional levels, for example, other countries, international organisations.
- A wide range of **regional stakeholders**, who are being and will be engaged through the work of the project team and Steering Group.

### QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- *Question* .What role will Natural England take once they receive the Steering Group's recommendations? Will they change them, or pass them on up the line straight to Government?  
*Reply*: Natural England recognise that they are both a participating stakeholder and a regulator decision maker. Their position on this question is that providing the Finding Sanctuary Steering Group proposals meet the national Scientific Advisory Panel criteria, Natural England will pass the Steering group proposals straight up to Defra.
- *Question* .Can people sit on both their local working group, (previously called County Groups) and on the Steering group? NB The coordinator of each local working group has an automatic place on the Steering Group under the current terms of reference.  
*Reply*: There is nothing in place to stop this, but the spirit of the arrangement is not to have duplication beyond the coordinator, to ensure that the widest range of perspectives are brought into the process at the local level.
- A request was made for the Project Team to feed up to national level, the importance of the four projects liaising on their meeting cycles, as several people are sitting on more than one of the regional steering groups, and date conflicts have already arisen. The need for early notice for Steering Group meeting dates was also highlighted. Project team action

## How The Steering Group Works

### Issues for the Steering group to agree in near future

Issues that participants suggested would need to be considered by the Steering Group, in relation to its own operation were:

- How to deal with and resolve disputes
- Discussing in more detail the role and responsibilities of individual Steering Group members in relation to their wider sector
- Ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to contribute at meetings, not just the 'loudest voices'
- Ensuring that the very limited amount of time that can be spent together in meetings is used effectively.

It was clarified and confirmed that the current protocol is that Steering Group members' contact details are *not* provided to the public, and that all approaches to them are made via the project team.

## Ecological Design Guidelines

The project team updated the Steering Group on when this important information might become available. A further announcement is due on this following a national Board meeting on October 15th. A draft may be available by November, but the final, design guidance will not be signed off until all the national research which will inform the document has been completed, and until the Marine and Coastal Access Bill receives Royal Assent. The final guidelines are therefore unlikely to be available until spring 2010.

The Steering Group **agreed** to send a letter, via its Chairman Sir Harry Studholme, to either the Minister or to the National Board, expressing their dismay at the delays and asking for a prompt release of the design guidelines.

## Dealing With Uncertainty And Information Gaps

There was a discussion around whether or not the Steering Group could carry out any useful work in the absence of the Ecological Design Guidelines. Some SG members felt that there was little to be usefully done. However, the consultants, supported by the Project Team, encouraged the Steering Group to adopt a view that there will be uncertainties in a process such as this, and the most constructive way forward is to start work (as there is not enough time to continue to wait) on what can be done, knowing that the uncertainties remain, but still moving forward on what is a very big task.

## Agreements

- Steering group members' contact details are not to be in the public domain (for now)
- Contact details of steering group members clubs, associations etc. Are to be used & kept by the project team only.
- Ensure that 2 way communication happens between SG members and their organisations / constituents

## Date of next Steering Group meeting

24 November 2009

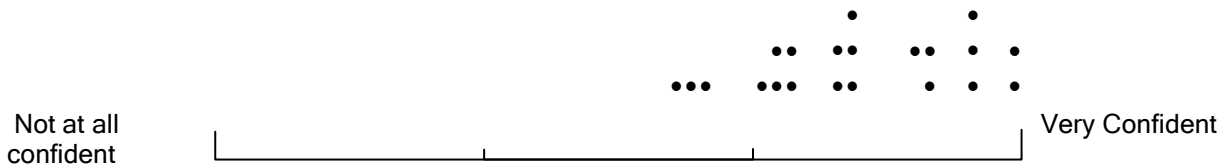
### Actions

What	Who	By when
Look at Steering Group contact / information sheet and let Tom Hooper know any corrections needed or updates	All	Today or ASAP
Send each SG member the list of stakeholders (as held by the project team) for their sector.	Tom Hooper	Mid November
If SG members want to see stakeholder lists for sectors other than their own you need to ask the project team for them	All	As and when
SG members to check the stakeholders list for their own sector and let the project team know if there are any gaps or corrections	Each SG member	27 November
If SG members have any suggestions on stakeholders for their sector, send them to the project team ASAP	All	ASAP
Notify the SG when the website has significant changes	Sean Lewin	20 October
Investigate feasibility of an automated system to notify SG members when the website is updated	Tom Mullier	20 October
Let your own members / associations know that they may be contacted by the project team	All	1 December
Let the project team know if any of your members / associations prefer not to be contacted	All	1 December
Notify the SG when the ecological guidance is available	Louise Liebernecht	
Send a letter, from the SG (in Sir Harry Studholme's name), to either the minister or the national board (Tom Hooper to decide appropriate recipient) emphasising the imperative need for the ecological guidance	Tom Hooper	9 October

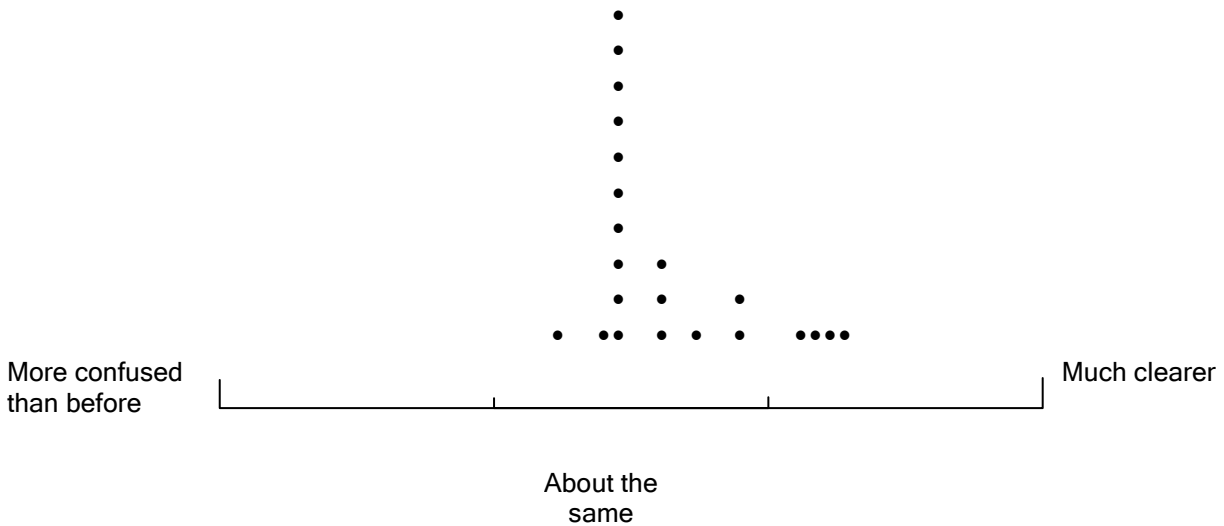
## Evaluation

Steering Group members were asked to answer the two questions below by placing a sticky dot along a scale to represent their answer. The results are shown below.

### 1. How confident are you that you understand your role as the Steering Group?



### 2. How much better do you understand the project now compared with yesterday?



If there had been time the group would have been encouraged to discuss the reasons why the dots / answers are where they are.