



Stakeholder Engagement, Facilitation & Mediation

R K Partnership Ltd
Ellsdone
Torbay Road
Castle Cary
Somerset, BA7 7DW
Tel: 01963 351008

Finding Sanctuary: Steering Group

REPORT

Meeting: 9th June 2010

Report: 23 June 2010

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Attendees

- | | | |
|-----|------------------|---|
| 1. | Mark Russell | British Marine Aggregate Producer's Association |
| 2. | Dick Appleton | British Ports Association |
| 3. | Dave Thomasson | British Spearfishing Association |
| 4. | Jane Maddocks | British Sub Aqua Club |
| 5. | Mike Bailey | Brixham Sea Angling Club |
| 6. | Paul Taylor | Cornish Federation of Sea Anglers |
| 7. | James Masters | Devon MCZ County Working Group |
| 8. | Martin Williams | Environment Agency |
| 9. | Steve Watt | Isles of Scilly Sea Fisheries Committee |
| 10. | Beth Stoker | Joint Nature Conservation Committee |
| 11. | Julian Roberts | Marine & Sea Fisheries Agency |
| 12. | Dr Emma Jackson | Marine Biological Association |
| 13. | Rod Jones | Ministry of Defence |
| 14. | Dale Rodmell | Nat. Federation of Fishermen's organisation, SW Committee |
| 15. | Roger Covey | Natural England |
| 16. | Dave Cuthbert | New Under Ten Fishermen's Association |
| 17. | Rick Parker | Offshore Adventure Dive Charter |
| 18. | Johnny Gowdy | Regen SW |
| 19. | Paul St. Pierre | Royal Society for the Protection of Birds |
| 20. | Peter Bartlett | Royal Yachting Association |
| 21. | Richard Stride | South Coast Fishermen's Council |
| 22. | Colin Cornish | South West Regional Development Agency |
| 23. | David Tudor | The Crown Estate |
| 24. | Chris Mathews | The Duchy of Cornwall |
| 25. | Jim Barnard | Somerset & North Somerset MCZ County Local Group |
| 26. | Sam Davis | Cornwall MCZ County Local Group |
| 27. | Adrian Lester | British Charter of Shipping |
| 28. | David Marshall | South West Handline Fishermen's Association |
| 29. | Peter MacConnell | Bass Anglers Sport Fishing Soc & Angling Trust Conservation Group |
| 30. | Dale Spree | Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) |
| 31. | Paul Trebilcock | Cornish Fish Producers Organisation (CFPO) |
| 32. | Sandie Wilson | British Ports Association |
| 33. | Oliver Wragg | British Wind Energy Association |

Project team

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------|-------------------|
| 34. | Joana Smith | Finding Sanctuary |
| 35. | Louise Lieberknecht | Finding Sanctuary |
| 36. | John Weinberg | Finding Sanctuary |
| 37. | David Murphy | Finding Sanctuary |
| 38. | Tom Hooper | Finding Sanctuary |
| 39. | Sarah McLintock | Finding Sanctuary |
| 40. | Alana Murphy | Finding Sanctuary |
| 41. | Tom Mullier | Finding Sanctuary |
| 42. | Shaun Lewin | Finding Sanctuary |
| 43. | Rupert Haines | Finding Sanctuary |

Agenda

09.30	Registration Members will have an opportunity to look at the latest maps of work in progress	Supporting paper
10.00	Review & agree Agenda and meeting Ground Rules	
15 mins	Finding Sanctuary Project Update There will be a brief update on the project and the timetable by Tom Hooper	
10 mins	Process Governance You will be asked to agree the PG recommendations and to set aside time to discuss any that you need to.	<i>PG April meeting report</i>
	Planning MCZs – Working Group: Context There will be a quick overview for the SG on what the WGs have been doing and there will be a short presentation by Louise Lieberknecht to introduce the “building blocks” that the working groups have been using.	
BREAK		
90 mins	Planning MCZs – Inshore & Offshore Working Group Work There will be time for you to work in smaller groups with Offshore and Inshore Working Group members so that you can ask them questions about their work, discuss their work with them and give them feedback, and to contribute to the work they will do next.	<i>Offshore Working Group April & May meeting reports + Inshore Working Group April meeting report</i>
1.15	LUNCH	
	Planning MCZs – Inshore & Offshore Working Group Work (cont'd)	
60 mins	First Progress Report There will be a short introduction / overview by Tom Hooper on the format, timetable and when it will be available for use. This will be followed by time for you to discuss what the content of the progress report will be based on.	
BREAK		
45 mins	Process Discussion You will be asked to discuss and decide about Marine Conservation Society membership of the Steering Group.	<i>Summary of objections</i>
	Next Steps Agree any actions, review decisions and know what is happening next and when	
	Reflection and evaluation Reflection on how the meeting has gone and progress so far.	
5.30	FINISH	

Meeting Aims:

- Catch up with the work of the WGs
- Input to the work of the WGs
- Help prepare 1st Progress Report (a representation of the work to date)
- Keep up with National/Regional Project progress

Finding Sanctuary & National Project Update

Tom Hooper gave attendees an update on the work of Finding Sanctuary to date and of how the project fits into the National process. Participants were given the chance ask any immediate questions regarding the updates made by Tom Hooper. None were raised.

National

- Now in last 10months of planning to meet June 1st 2011 submission date.
- National data gathering tool going live 10th June 2010 - online webGIS
- National Stakeholder forum being set up by the JNCC
- Ecological Network Guidance document has now been signed off - is available on Natural England's and on the JNCC's websites
(http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/100608_ENG_v10_tcm6-17607.pdf or
http://www.jncc.gov.uk/pdf/100608_ENG_v10.pdf)
- Compatibility matrix - the final component for our work - due for delivery in mid August

Regional (Finding Sanctuary)

- Activity mapping work to be completed by the end of September 2010
 - Focusing on South Devon Fishing data & Cornish Inshore Fishing data
- December 2010 absolute deadline¹ for new data entering the process - this includes update on data presently being used. We're hoping that final RP update with happen at the October SG meeting.
- WG calendar very busy from now until October - especially for those members on the groups, but essential that they are able to move process forward
- Local Groups - all in process of holding 2nd planning meetings, most in July, then again in September with final meetings hoped to be held in Jan/Feb 2011.

It was **AGREED** that:

- Tom Hooper will email details of National Data Collection Tool (web GIS) details to all SG members for circulation to their constituents

¹ Please note the word "absolute" – the deadline we're publicising more widely is September 2010, because we need enough time to process data – we aim to add it to the regional profile and working group maps from October onwards. We can cope with updates or additional small amounts of data after that, but we cannot cope with a large amount of data delivered in December 2010 - by the time we've processed and mapped it, we'd be at the end of our planning process.

Process Group Recommendations

The group were asked to agree to the recommendations put forward by the PG. Any issues arising were discussed.

1. PG recommendations - process
2. SG membership (except MCS)
3. Progress report (1st iteration) - process
4. Named Consultative Stakeholders - process

It was **AGREED** by all SG members that:

- All PG recommendations would be accepted (except MCS membership - see page 19).

Working Groups

Context

Peter McConnell (OWG) gave the SG his perspective on behalf of the OWG on the WGs work so far . He explained that:

- WG members were invited to indicate which areas they felt would be most contentious and which would be the most advantageous at the initial meeting. Most members found this task difficult to complete due to lack of understanding and sufficient data.
- WG members were reassured that any decisions made were purely provisional and could be rescinded at a later stage - WG members felt happier about discussing areas following this.
- It was agreed that WG members could share the building blocks with their constituents to get greater feedback
- At 2nd meeting, members were introduced to a new tool - the compatibility matrix, and a broad framework for protection levels
- Some concerns were raised by WG members (mainly fishing representatives) about the compatibility matrix.
- Some members felt that the socio-economic data was thin on the ground, meaning that WG didn't feel happy making decisions
- WG members agreed that they would like Rupert Haines to attend future meetings to shed more light on the socio-economic factors that could be affected by sites.

This introduction led to a discussion regarding the **compatibility matrix** in which:

- Concern about whether the official compatibility matrix to be released on time in August was raised by several members of the SG.
- Some members also felt that it lacked scientific credibility and that there needed to be more research into renewables before they could be accurately placed within the matrices.
- Louise Lieberknecht explained that FS have been compiling their own interim compatibility matrix which:
 - Is to be used in the short term,
 - Uses a traffic light system to illustrate which activities are compatible with which ENG features.

- The Finding Sanctuary matrix is currently being reviewed by the SAP to check how credible it is.
- It has now been recognised nationally that a consistent approach is needed to develop a compatibility matrix which can be used by all four regional projects.
- Contractors ABPmer are developing a matrix setting out pressures against features, based mainly on science - with some industry input as well (workshops are planned for this summer). The work is due to be finished in mid-August. This matrix will have a life span beyond the regional projects and the MCZ process, so it also encompasses ecological features that are not listed in the ENG.
- This “pressures/features” matrix does not list what activities cause what pressures. The link between pressures and activities is made in a third matrix, which has already been produced by Natural England and the JNCC.
- Following the delivery of the “pressures/features” matrix, our interim compatibility matrix will need to be reviewed and finalised to make sure it ties in with the national matrices, and that it’s consistent across four projects. Pending delivery of the ABPmer work in August, we aim to have a final compatibility matrix (setting out activities against ENG features, in the format of our interim matrix) in time for working group meetings in September.

The recommendations were **AGREED**:

- That the PT would ask the SAP to comment on the FS interim compatibility matrix

WG Process

Rob Angell talked about the process and progress achieved by the WGs so far and presented on the types of things that might be useful as a narrative to accompany the first progress report from the SG. Louise then presented on how the building blocks were created by the PT for use by the WGs using the following aims:

- Meeting the ENG targets
- Minimise negative impacts on sea users
- Focused on the information we have right now

Louise Lieberknecht explained that:

- The building blocks were never intended to be a single network option and were based largely on the EUNIS L3 habitats.
- The process of creating building blocks was carried out for offshore sites and then again for inshore,
- At present only the distribution of fishing activity has been taken into account, although other socio-economic factors will be added later.
- Existing MPAs, such as SACs and SSSIs were also taken into account when creating the BBs (especially inshore).
- In creating the building blocks, there were a couple of instances where we are limited in options for locations of MCZs for certain features. However, for many EUNIS L3 habitats, there is a great deal of flexibility.

Questions arising

Q: *Why have only commercial fishing activities had been taken into account when creating the building blocks and not other socio-economic activities?*

A: At present the PT has only focused on commercial fishing because a) it is likely to be affected by MCZs, and b) it is the most diffuse and widespread activity. Other commercial activities, such as aggregate extraction, can be more easily taken into account as areas they occur in are well documented and contained - they can be built into the process once the BBs have been created (note BBs are a starting point for discussions - they can be modified / chosen from / added to).

Q: *Intertidal habitats are already incorporated into other conservation sites. Therefore, do they need to be covered again by MCZs?*

A: When inshore building blocks put together, looked at existing protected areas and the EUNIS L3 habitats already covered and included it in the targets met. Bear in mind this is initial set of sites, more detail will be looked at for next WG meeting.

Q: *Existing sites are designated for very specific reasons, and may not afford protection to all habitats they contain. Is this accounted for in creating the building blocks and example network configurations?*

A: For now, the (crude) assumption has been made that any feature within an existing site contributes towards the ENG goals, but as the questioner points out, not all features within existing sites are, in fact, afforded protection. Work is ongoing to carry out a more detailed analysis, in collaboration with Natural England, to work out what features are protected within existing sites, and which ones aren't, and our figures will be revised accordingly. The outcomes of this work will be presented to future IWG meetings. As a related aside, we know that within the inshore area, most of the existing MPAs protect rocky habitat. As a result, the ENG targets for rocky habitat are already exceeded within the inshore area. Therefore, less emphasis was put on the rocky habitat targets with creating the building blocks offshore, because the over-representation inshore may make up for an under-representation offshore. However, the SAP may suggest that we need to go back and look at more rock areas offshore, in order to achieve connectivity guidelines.

Q: *Will WG building blocks be revised if/when new fishing data becomes available?*

A: Yes, when we get it. Also, remember that this is a starting point for discussions. We're not limited to just the areas within the building blocks - they can be added to if the WGs deem it appropriate.

Q: *What happens if the national "pressures/features" matrix (the ABPmer work) is delayed, as has occurred in the past with other national documents, e.g. the ENG? Not a criticism of the FS project and process, but more of the high end process and how we are beholden to it to a certain extent. Would be good to know sooner rather than later if it is going to be delayed.*

A: Yes, there have been delays to national deliverables in the past (e.g. ENG), and we may face the same with the work on the matrices. At the same time, we are faced with the reality of a final delivery deadline in June 2011, so we need to find a way to make progress in the face of ongoing uncertainties (one such uncertainty being the absence of a finalised compatibility matrix). It is for this reason that the PT have developed our interim compatibility matrix, which we think is based on reasonable knowledge and assumptions, and will allow the WGs to make some progress while we wait for the final version. It is also for this reason that the SAP have been asked to comment and feedback on the interim matrix, to ensure some degree of credibility and scientific weight is behind it.

Planning MCZs - Inshore & Offshore Working Group Work

SG members worked in the groups on their tables to complete the following tasks:

Task 1 - Inform yourselves – SG members were asked to talk to WG members to find out what they have been doing, and to understand what the WG is up to.

Task 2 - Contributions & feedback for the WGs – SG members were then asked to discuss in their groups and to list suggestions that they felt would aid the WGs to work more effectively.

Their comments on task 2 were recorded at their tables and then pulled together into the following feedback; this has been grouped so that it is relevant to each working group.

Feedback for OWG

Presentation	Colour coding for what was liked/disliked
	Reports from OWG need to be more technically focused – clear and easy to follow thread of decisions
Data Used	Robustness of EUNIS Level 3 & inshore/offshore split questionable
	Encourage more cooperation for sharing data on fishing activity in Cornwall
	Paul Trebilcock on behalf of CFPO: “Make clear that WG work so far has not incorporated Cornish fishing effort – will now be supplied by CFPO.”
	How is LG data integrated? Local group data should be more explicitly fed into WG process. Not just ‘very useful information’
	Could the WG look at Steve MacKinson’s fishing effort Cefas/Defra – “ecosystem approach”
	How will geological SSSIs be included into the network
	Need to include other socioeconomic factors in identifying areas of search
	VMS Data includes other European fishing activity
	How do we deal with areas where there is lack of ‘mapped’ data but there is anecdotal evidence that activities <u>do</u> take place?
	MOD areas not incorporated in building blocks – management issues should be explored
	Need to check if mobile species within ENG will affect current configurations
Protection Levels / Management Measures	Start considering levels of protection now
	What tools are available in terms of protection levels?
	Enforcement need easy ‘boxes’, manpower and £ - transition funding
Activities	Intertidal collection of species – infralittoral/circalittoral rock – will have impact

Specific Building Blocks / Suggestions	G focus area overlaps with the round 3 renewable wind farm zones
	If FOCI don't fall within BBs, what will happen?
	H1 – potential issues
	H4 – for shipping <u>depending on matrix</u> as need to get around Lizard
	E2 – for shipping <u>depending on matrix</u> if extended N or S
	Building block boundaries would benefit from refinement – address micro-siting of building blocks and incompatibility Matrix Also risk to investors from the BB sites have not been considered
	David Tudor – CE Disagrees with location of MCZ on the Round 3 Windfarms – Find sites of equal ecological merit elsewhere
	G2 to G4 used a lot by recreational users, ref. sites especially would be difficult/controversial/impact livelihoods - May be possible to resolve through management measures? E.g. allowing angling; anchoring in specific locations... - Need as much clarification of 'amber' parts of the compatibility matrix OWG & IWG can record specific details that would make sites more or less 'acceptable' and include that details in recommendations
	How do we choose between sites? - process
	Consider large white areas to west of Scillies re. connectivity. The same can be said for south of the Lizard
	Reference Zones (no take), need to know how to designate them
	Consider traffic separation zones as zones for MCZs – but comment that displaces fishermen into shipping channels maybe MCZs should be in shipping lanes as long as matrix allows
	How will the BB be redefined in light of superior activity information?
	Process: for both IWG and OWG – start with telling PT which areas are least controversial. PT then to see how much of ENG met, then WGs to look at including progressively more contentious sites until targets are met
	Make more explicit <u>link</u> between IWG and OWG work for blocks iA and offshore G block: this is one contiguous area with similar habitats and likely similar use issues (also other contiguous areas). Decisions made offshore depend on IWG recommendations and vice versa.
	Compatibility Matrix
Ensure that ABPmer are aware of concerns that ports/harbours/pilotage/anchorage/shipping/etc. is taken into account in matrix	
Make sure that anchoring is considered by boat size on the FS and national matrices	
Renewable Energy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of compatibility matrix • Co-locate or not? – Question to address • Need clear steer (external) • Have renewables impacted the environment in other countries Some types of technologies will have less impact than others	

General Comments	Difficult to proceed with Building Blocks without knowledge of management measures
	How will international activities be regulated
	How can we resolve cross boundary issues – where another RP has more of a resource ‘to share’? Value in investigating relationships between regional projects resources – i.e. could Balanced Seas absorb more of the high energy resource in the English channel – releasing resource in finding sanctuary for development
	At the end of the MCZ project, will the Local & Working Groups continue so that knowledge/progress/relationships between sectors can continue to make progress & communicate?
	More decisions should be taken by WGs to draw out more discussion – need to identify the problems and try and solve them whilst there is time
	Very happy with work of WGs
	Additionally the EUNIS Level 3 habitats is inadequate basis for relocating valuable economic activity
	Release of this maps into public domain could be incendiary and injurious to business interests

Feedback for IWG

Presentation	Reports from IWG need to be more technically focused – clears and easy to follow thread of decisions
	Map out Inshore & Offshore Building Blocks on single map
	OWG & IWG can record specific details that would make sites more or less 'acceptable' and include that details in recommendations
Data Used	Robustness of EUNIS Level 3 & inshore/offshore split questionable
	Encourage more cooperation for sharing data on fishing activity in Cornwall
	Paul Trebilcock on behalf of CFPO: "Make clear that WG work so far has not incorporated Cornish fishing effort – will now be supplied by CFPO."
	How is LG data integrated? Local group data should be more explicitly fed into WG process. Not just 'very useful information'
	Could the WG look at Steve MacKinson's fishing effort Cefas/Defra – "ecosystem Approach"
	How will geological SSSIs be included into the network
	Need to include other socioeconomic factors in identifying areas of search
	Need to understand the detail of what goes on in estuaries – potentially through gaining management plans
	Separate information on compatibility between MCZs and renewable installations iR1: If it turns out that wind pylons/MCZs are incompatible, is there flexibility for movement of sites?
	MOD areas not incorporated in building blocks – management issues should be explored
	Look at iA3 in terms of the licensed area for disposal and similarly for areas near other ports
	IWG to ask local groups for select 'least painful' block from each area to help guide discussions particularly in areas of low fisheries data
	Port/harbour/pilotage/anchorage/disposal grounds need to be mapped & made available
Protection Levels / Management Measures	Start considering levels of protection now What tools are available in terms of protection levels?
	Enforcement need easy 'boxes', manpower and £ - transition funding
	Unknown management measures on draft SAC - are there any that need additional MCZ protection
Activities	Intertidal collection of species – infralittoral/circalittoral rock – will have impact
Specific Building Blocks / Suggestions	Look at importance of iB focus area to see if it is feasible to actually have building blocks there due to high fishing intensity
	Look at more data which is available (e.g. ports) to choose where building blocks should go
	St Ives – SFC by-law on Gill Net for bird protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can this be used as a water column protected area?
	Same for IoS because of existing protection measures already in place
	iA2 & 4 – aggregate site inside them

	<p>Potential for Jan – March closed seas for Scilly Isles</p> <p>Building Block boundaries would benefit from refinement – address micro-siting of building blocks and incompatibility Matrix</p> <p>Also risk to investors from the BB sites have not been considered</p> <p>David Tudor – CE Disagrees with location of MCZ on the Round 3 Windfarms – Find sites of equal ecological merit elsewhere</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West of Isle of Wight renewable site touches iA southern edge • iR1 = Atlantic Array / also G block intersects W7 at Isle of Wight windfarm area including this in early may prompt feedback to help resolve uncertainties. • Has to be clear that the intention is <u>not</u> to stop or undermine the Atlantic Array (explain why site is included).
	<p>Sites modified by IWG (iN2 and iE4) – seems to make sense iN2 will have less impact on mobile gears; (will still include reef but not sediment) than iN1.</p>
	<p>How do we choose between sites? - process</p>
	<p>Reference Zones (no take), need to know how to designate them</p>
	<p>How will the BB be redefined in light of superior activity information?</p>
	<p>Process: for both IWG and OWG – start with telling PT which areas are least controversial. PT then to see how much of ENG met, then WGs to look at including progressively more contentious sites until targets are met</p>
	<p>Make more explicit <u>link</u> between IWG and OWG work for blocks iA and offshore G block: this is one contiguous area with similar habitats and likely similar use issues (also other contiguous areas).</p> <p>Decisions made offshore depend on IWG recommendations and vice versa.</p>
	<p>iA4 & iA5 overlap with the round 3 renewable wind farm zones</p>
	<p>Line fishing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • iH1, 2 & 3 – important line fishing • iK1 & iK2 ok, but eastern side of areas of search is important for various line caught <p>Manacles – high proportion of all line bass</p>
	<p>Keep anchorages as they are as if worth protecting then already in equilibrium with environment – manage to prevent expansion – but recovery is also a requirement</p> <p>Many anchorages have evolved with time & are well established as safe & ‘in the right place’.</p> <p>If anchorages are restricted it has legal implications as has an effect on ability ‘to navigate safely’ (small 500m FOCI should not significantly affect safety)</p>
Compatibility Matrix	<p>Ensure that ABPmer are aware of concerns that ports/harbours/pilotage/anchorage/shipping/etc. is taken into account in matrix</p>
General Comments	<p>Difficult to proceed with building blocks without knowledge of management measures</p>
	<p>How will international activities be regulated</p>
	<p>How can we resolve cross boundary issues – where another RP has more of a resource ‘to share’?</p> <p>Value in investigating relationships between regional projects resources – i.e. could Balanced Seas absorb more of the high energy resource in the English channel – releasing resource in finding sanctuary for development</p>

	At the end of the MCZ project, will the Local & Working Groups continue so that knowledge/progress/relationships between sectors can continue to make progress & communicate?
	More decisions should be taken by WGs to draw out more discussion – need to identify the problems and try and solve them whilst there is time
	Very happy with work of WGs
	Additionally the EUNIS Level 3 habitats is inadequate basis for relocating valuable economic activity
	Release of this maps into public domain could be incendiary and injurious to business interests
	MCZs inshore may affect 100% of a fisherman's business
	IWG would like more features specified in the Building Blocks to limit future changes to the blocks – methodology must be clear
	IWG would like consistency in how blocks are defined, and more information prior to the WG meetings

Task 3 - Questions for the WG to address

There were no immediate questions for the WGs to address, other that already recorded.

General Comments:

- General point that there need to be more in-depth discussions at the working groups.
- Sharing of WG maps and discussions will become public via members discussing information with their constituents as early as possible.
- RKP pointed out that SG members must remember that when they are sharing sensitive information with their constituents, they must also include any caveats and 'disclaimers' that go with that information so that it isn't misinterpreted once in the wider public domain.

First Progress Report

Tom Hooper opened discussions regarding the progress report (submission of materials nationally for the first iteration of planning) and how it should be prepared and sent to the SAP, with a short presentation. During which he listed the following points:

- Progress Reports are snapshots of the SG's work to date toward developing MCZ commendations
- Submitted to the Science Advisory Panel (SAP) on/by 30th June, who will feedback to FS by 31st July. Will give feedback on individual sites as well as the network as a whole.
- Submission will be prepared by the PT and will be based on the work of the WGs and this meeting.
- It will include a summary detailing what species and habitats are contained within suggested sites
- It will also include the first iteration of the Impact Assessment written by Rupert Haines².

Questions arising:

Q: Does the Economic Impact Assessment fit with what the FS economist is thinking or policy?

A: It will be half way between the two and will look at the costs and benefits to all sectors. WGs will be feeding into the IA as it develops with Rupert attending WG meetings and also redeveloping the information for each of the sectors with help from SG members.

Q: Would progress report include management measures for each site?

A: At present it would include discussions about management measures that the WG have had, alongside site discussions.

Q: Can we ask the SAP specific questions as well as for general feedback on the proposals?

A: Yes, it is in their terms of reference.

Influencing progress report

Steering Group members discussed the key things they felt should be included in the progress report and were also asked to give the PT guidance on putting the progress report together.

Key Points and Suggestions to include:

- Limited option sites should be included
- Need to highlight the prominence of fisheries, particularly in light of the renewables issue
- Offshore hypothetical network
- Don't think we are at a stage yet to put forward any blocks as suggestions
- Areas refined during WG meetings - can we ask for feedback on these sites, making clear that they have not been universally agreed yet.
- Is this the process that we should be using for the other building blocks as we build the network?

² The IA will not go to the SAP for feedback, as the SAP's remit does not include socio-economic factors. Instead, the IA will be reviewed, at each planning iteration, by Defra economists, to ensure that we are on track in delivering a document that meets all the relevant national requirements for economic IAs.

- Highlight that the building block around the Atlantic Array was deliberately chosen to establish whether a windfarm (with its restrictions on other activities) can be considered compatible with any of the goals of the ENG, in which case an MCZ and a windfarm could be located in the same place.³
- Put forward the IoS local group suggestions as these have been agreed locally with details of what management measures have been suggested for them - ask SAP for feedback on this
- Agreed to put forward block A4 from Offshore WG for feedback
- **Do not** put forward next working group meeting comments, only what's been agreed at the SG
- Provide commentary on sites which have been discussed during WG meetings to the SAP
- Explain the process through which the building blocks were identified and the role the Local Groups had in contributing to this
- Point out that the fisheries are so far the main interests that have been considered in designing where the building blocks should go
- As it is a public document it would be useful to reiterate the timescales we are working to and the restraints of data we are working with (e.g. modelled/unverified)
- Need to remember that there are 2 audiences for the progress report, and in order for it not to be misinterpreted, we need to include non-technical data/info so that the rationale is understood
- Make it clear that the building blocks are not suggestions at this stage
- Question to include for SAP: Having seen our progress report, what can we do to help the SAP provide more useful feedback next time?
- Point out the assumptions we have been working to and what degrees of certainty there are for each
- Be explicit about the work that has been done by the Project Team and what has been done by the Working Groups
- Identify areas that are not controversial
- Make it clear what status of building blocks is, i.e. we don't need all of them
- Give full picture of approach & discussions and progress made
- Add caveat of 'we can change our mind'
- G, H & I blocks - aware we need to include some but still undecided which ones...controversy will be resolved late on in iterations 2&3
- Include modified IWG blocks on form
- Include IoS suggestions
- Included progress of WGS subsequent to SG with caveats
- Intro that contextualises the maps as a tool of discussion and not as a progress report - that there is an expectation that the maps will change
- MCZ and windfarm collocation requires further research and an absolute public statement regarding the issue from Finding Sanctuary
- An audit of data that has been collected and a list of data/information that is missing but considered essential e.g. Compatibility Matrix & Cornish Fishing data

³ The building block and focus area around the Atlantic Array generated a lot of discussions at the SG meeting. It is worth re-iterating the following, as was done verbally on the day: the PT have had contradictory guidelines and advice on whether MCZs and windfarms are compatible. None of this has been formal advice, and we would like to get to the bottom of this issue. Including the building block around the Atlantic Array aimed to generate discussions around the suitability of this area within the SG, as well as to get clearer scientific feedback from the SAP, and policy guidance from national partners. The building block was drawn based on the assumption that the Atlantic Array will go ahead as planned, and there is no intention within the PT to use the potential location of an MCZ as a reason to argue against windfarm developments going ahead in this area.

- Compatibility of activities within MCZs i.e. renewables where areas of possible collocation exist
- Include commentary on contentious areas
 - Lesser contentious areas
 - Need for further info
 - Minutes of WG and SG meetings are the best source of this
- No definite statements are made as to the location of sites - except where the removal of reference areas is concerned. These will be left to last, when the Project Team will then investigate these sites
- That the maps are a PT product, but the commentary surrounding the maps is a product of the WGs
- The more detail we go into for the 1st progress report (first iteration), the more detailed the feedback from the SAP will be.

Questions for the SAP to answer:

- What is the SAP's opinion of the process - areas of search and the Building Blocks - this needs to be clearly defined.
- Should we focus on everything at once, rather than dropping new bits in progressively? Species may be more location specific so lead habitats identification
- What does the SAP think about the relationship between inshore Vs offshore, our process and bringing things up
- How SW ties into:
 - other RPs - compatibility in terms of 1) process; 2) outputs
 - Internationally - consistency and connectivity at regional sea scale
- If sites are in for connectivity reasons, given that connectivity is a secondary factor, do we really need it particularly when all requirements of feature X are covered?
- Are the focus areas broken down appropriately?
- Can you provide targets for requirements for water column feature protection as it is not currently detailed in the ENG as at present sites for protection are focusing on benthic features as there is more guidance on this
- We would like the SAP's feedback on the compatibility matrix asap as we don't feel that we can put forward sites without it.
- To comment on offshore building blocks/focus areas in terms of connectivity - are they appropriately spaced
- Are there any specific areas that the SAP think should be included that haven't been by FS, and if so why would they select them.
- Couple of offshore water column building blocks that were contentious during meetings - does the SAP think they are in the best location to protect those features (incl. Fronts and bird aggregations?)
- How accurate does the SAP think EUNIS Level 3 habitat data is?
- Can the SAP rank sites in order of ability to meet guidance for feedback to FS
- Is it feasible to designate a windfarm area as an MCZ and whether they would be compatible
- Clearly identify gaps in the network both for spatial connectivity and meeting ENG targets
- Working with data which is not 100% accurate, how do we manage the risk when it comes to interpreting what we have in terms of management measures? (e.g. in iB focus area, the EUNIS Level 3 data shows there is one type of habitat when local fishermen know there is something else there)

- Project team needs to ask itself what we can get/ask the SAP in order to make progress in following WG meetings
- What percentage of sites needs to be designated that promote recovery?
- What degree of change is permissible and how is that viewed?
- Gap analysis consideration of whole - SACs and MCZs - separate or as a whole?
- If we selected on out of each Focus Area, how would we do?
- We would like feedback on the white areas
- What level of compromise with ENG targets will be acceptable?

Additional Comments/Suggestions:

- Useful to provide within the report how BB came about, rationale and what info was considered
- Separate out what was suggested by the PT and what came out of the WGs
- Put forward the least controversial sites to the SAP
- Sites suggested by the WGs in upcoming meetings should be included with the caveat that they haven't been agreed upon by SG
- So far commercial fishing has been considered the most when constructing BB, but need to state that other sectors activities will be taken into account later
- Inshore areas will need more attention to details than offshore
- Need caveat that SG might change its mind on some sites and therefore haven't finalised anything yet
- Ask for more specific targets for water column protection
- Audit of current state of knowledge used in decision making process thus far, and also what information is available but has not been used yet.

Guidance for the Project Team on putting the progress report together

- Better to ask the SAP specific questions rather than pretending to make network/site suggestions
- Put progress report together with a wider England/Scotland/Wales perspective
- Differentiate between the areas that are mostly agreed upon and those that there is little flexibility on, but are highly contentious.
- Make it as simple as possible using colour coding to show what sites have been noted by WG as advantageous/disadvantageous/not discussed at all
- Need to remember that report is going to a technical and non technical audience, therefore need to ensure it cannot be misinterpreted
- Network suggestion should be complemented by commentary on how this fits into south west
- Colour coding for what was noted by IWG as:
 - Advantageous
 - Disadvantageous
 - Those not considered
- A table summary of each site, what was agreed and not agreed
- Stripping out only those sites that are not agreed
- Look at what we've got, then what we have and then what we need
- Will they get zoomed versions of sites?

- Make it simple - tables, bullet points, graphics
- Only looking at representative
- Better to ask the SAP specific questions rather than put forward sites that haven't been agreed
- Highlight that the focus of the work to date has been on EUNIS Level 3 habitats and only taken commercial fishing into account (not complete data set) - so will become more complex when we start looking at FOCl and take other socio-economic data sets into account
- Progress against habitats - calculations/stats
 - Blocks agreed in principle
 - Blocks that are contentious but that are acknowledged that because there is limited flexibility on some features, some of them will need to be included
 - Focus Areas - flexibility (these are the building blocks)
- Include targets list, include existing protected areas
- Maybe after meetings $\frac{3}{4}$ have joint meeting of IWG and OWG (not SG setting as is not WG)
- Work out (Louise's own idea):
 - % of all blocks together
 - % of white area
 - % of network option
- Important to think about audience -
 - SAP technical
 - Wider public & stakeholders need clear communication
- Local group information should be represented on the maps
- IWG_16d and OWG_17 should be included and possibly map of round 3 windfarm sites
- Would like FS discussion/modelling on how future use of renewables in the SW will impact on MCZ designations

Marine Conservation Society membership application

Tom Hooper gave the background and reasons for MCS membership of the Finding Sanctuary Steering Group. The group discussed the issues surrounding the MCS joining the SG:

- Many SG members requested that if MCS were offered full membership of the FS SG that the caveat that they agree to abide by the SG protocol be a condition of their membership - as it is for all SG members.
- Tom Hooper told the SG that MCS has already written to FS stating that they would adhere to any protocol
- Some members were concerned that MCS could disrupt the running of the SG
- Other SG members didn't think MCS would sway the group one way or the other as the SG as a whole is very strong.
- Some SG members pointed out that their previous dealings with MCS had not been on favourable terms and they worried that this would affect the group as a whole.
- It was questioned why MCS should be given a place when Marinet were not.
- There were concerns raised about the already large size of the FS SG in comparison with that of the other Regional Projects.
- Several members asked if it was possible to request a particular person to represent MCS on the SG. Dominic Flint, who is well known to many members and is local to the south west was suggested as someone that SG members might be content with.
- RKP pointed out that the SG were going to be treating MCS unfairly by making them jump through hoops to prove that they would abide by the SG protocol, when other members had not had to do this.
- It was highlighted by SG members that out of all of the SG members, only 4 had written to object to MCS being offered a place. The process for new SG members meant everyone had the opportunity to write objections. The 4 were all from the commercial fishing sector so it was noted that it was this sector that had raised the objection, no other sectors had.
- Some SG members asked if the MCS being offered membership would be put to a vote, to which the response was no, as this goes against the SG protocol.
- Questions were asked about the value of having the discussion if the objections were going to be ignored. RKP pointed out that they had not been ignored by the fact that the group spent over an hour of their time talking about it to see if there were any ways the reasons for the objections could be overcome.

The Group **AGREED** that:

- MCS should be offered a place on the Steering Group and that they be asked to note and abide by the SG protocol.
- That the SG would particularly welcome Dominic Flint to be put forward as the MCS representative

Miscellaneous queries and comments

Questions:

Q: What happens if one site has to be removed/changed - does this mean the entire network suggestions will have to be reconfigured?

A: Depends on the site, if it's very large, then many features may lose some degree of protection

Q: How will we work out cross boundary issues where two groups are trying to propose areas that overlap - is there any scope to trade features & targets with projects that have large amounts of one particular habitat?

A: No, ENG is written in a way that does not allow this to happen, ensuring that features (where they exist) are represented biogeographically i.e. a little bit in each regional projects area.

Q: We need to know whether wind farms are compatible with MCZs as risk that you could have displacement to bottom trawling caused by MCZ and also by an adjacent wind farm - who will decide this?

A: There is already an action from the WGs to clarify this point, we haven't had a response yet, but will work on it. This ties into the work being done on the compatibility matrix.

Comment:

It is irresponsible of Finding Sanctuary to nominate MCZ in areas earmarked for renewables on the basis of stimulating discussion because in the current financial market this could scare off investors.

Next Steps

Steering Group meeting dates

The next two Steering Group meetings are:

- October 7th. All day, in Exeter Corn Exchange
- February 10th 2011, venue to be confirmed

What to tell / feedback to SG member's constituents

- RA – need to highlight that all of this is a work in progress and each member needs to make it very clear to constituents.
- will be feeding back to Cornwall MCZ Local Group members

Actions

Action	Who	By When
Circulate details of National webGIS to ALL SG members	TH	11th June
Put together rationale for inshore and offshore building blocks and send to ALL SG members	LL	
To better explain how the various compatibility matrices that are being developed both regionally and nationally with regard to each other	TH	
Clarification on transboundary issues and how we will work with the other RPs and the Welsh process (very different)	TH	
To feedback to those higher up, the difficulties that the SG and WGs face in not having detailed guidance with regards to management measures	TH	
To get in contact with Paul Trebilcock for mobile and static activity data for ALL vessels from the CFPO data to be shared with the WGs	SL	

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
BB	Building Blocks - areas created by Finding Sanctuary Project Team to focus discussions at OWG and IWG meetings
CFPO	Cornish Fish Producers Organisation - represented on FS SG by Paul Trebilcock
ENG	Ecological Network Guidance
EUNIS L3	EUNIS level 3 habitats (the broad-scale habitats listed in the Ecological Network Guidance)
FOCI	Features of Conservation Importance - habitats and species listed in the ecological network guidance as features of conservation importance.
IA	Impact Assessment - Assessment being carried out by Rupert Haines, Finding Sanctuary Economist looking at the socio-economic impacts of any suggested MCZs - this document is constantly being revised
LG	Local Groups
MCZ	Marine Conservation Zone
PT	Project Team - usually attributed to actions carried out by the Project Team as a whole
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation
SG	Steering Group
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
WGs	Working Groups - subgroups of Steering Group, looking at MCZs in more detail. Report back to main SG
OWG	Offshore Working Group - looking at sites outside of 12nm out to the edge of the FS project boundary.
IWG	Inshore Working Group - fulfil the same role as OWG, but for the waters within 12nm
FS	Finding Sanctuary
WG	Working Group
PG	Process Group

Agreements and Decisions - Summary

Regional and National Update

- Tom Hooper has agreed to circulate details of the national data collection tool to all SG members for them to pass on to their constituents.

Process Group Recommendations

- The SG agreed to all the recommendations from the PG.

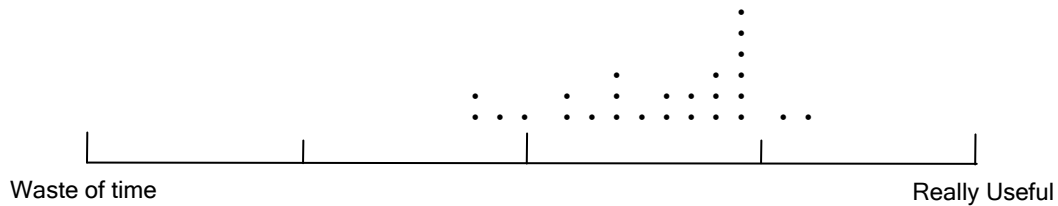
Process Discussion - MCS Membership

- MCS should be offered a place on the Steering Group and that they be asked to note and abide by the SG protocol.
- That the SG would particularly welcome Dominic Flint to be put forward as the MCS representative

Evaluation

Steering Group members were asked to complete an Evaluation Feedback Questionnaire. They were asked two questions regarding how they felt the meeting had gone. The results are shown below.

1. How useful has today's meeting been?



The most useful part for me was...

- Able to deal with some quite specific issues, which we have been waiting for for a while. Feels like we're starting to see positive progress
- Useful things have been raised for the WGs to focus on
- Whoever decided who should sit at each table, did a good job. (sectors were mixed up, but that was it?)
- Should members of the project team be able to put blue dots?

How could the meeting have been better?

- More sandwiches at lunch
- Would have been helpful to have considered more of the socio-economic data, although understand why we haven't at this point.

2. How are you feeling about the progress of the work?



Comments (if any):

- We're communicating more and better
- Awful lot of places where we do find common ground, even though we are all very different - not yet standing behind the barricades.
- Working in small groups intensively with sectors that differ with your own, seems to have built consensus.
- We have made progress, but think that there are more difficult times to come.

What would give you more confidence

- Concern is that there are still a lot of questions that remain unanswered - primarily the management measures - with the deadline so close.
- Project isn't a problem, is the wider policy and timeline that is the problem
- Still a lot of issues to be resolved, we've agreed the easy issues, but are still dancing around the difficult issues. Also, are small part of wider process that could completely change what we're doing.