



Dorset Local Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) Group Meeting

Dorchester Borough Gardens Community Rooms, Dorchester
7 December 2009 – 9.30 am – 1.00 pm

Present

Peter	Dadds	Mudford and District Fishermen's Association
Robert	Channon	Poole and District Fishermen's Association
Norman	Miller	Representing Lulworth Cove Fishermen
Andy	Alcock	Dorset Hand line Fisherman's Association
Dave	Sales	Bridport Commercial Boat owners and Fishermen's Association
Alan	Lander	Swanage Fishermen's Association SSFA
Neil	Richardson	SSFDC
Sandie	Wilson	Portland Harbour Authority Ltd
Eamon	Riordan	Angling Trust Wessex Group
Peter	Tinsley	Dorset Wildlife Trust
Rachel	Waldock	Natural England
Ian	Taylor	Dorset Hand liners Fisherman's Association
David	Cornick	West Bay Sea Angling Club
Colin	Smith	Fish farms
Peter	Gaches	Royal Haskoning
Ian	Taylor	Weymouth and Portland Fisherman's Association
Chris	Caines	Weymouth and Portland Licenced Skippers Association
Dave	Gibson	Weymouth and Portland Licenced Skippers Association
Philip	Higgins	Poole Charter Skippers Association / PDFA
Ness	Smith	CSCOPE Project Officer - Dorset Coast Forum
Bridget	Betts	Dorset Coast Forum
John	Weinberg	Finding Sanctuary

Apologies

1. Welcome and Introductions – Bridget Betts

BB explained who the Dorset Coast Forum are and their role in the Dorset MCZ Group. The group then went round the room and introduced themselves.

2. Finding Sanctuary – John Weinberg

JW gave a presentation that explained who Finding Sanctuary are, their role and structure.

Finding Sanctuary (FS) Project Goal is to plan network of Marine Conservation Zones in the seas around South West England.

And the Goal of the MCZ network is:

- to safeguard our UK's undersea habitats and marine life
- to help ensure the long-term sustainability of marine resources

All information from the presentations can be found in the Dorset MCZ Group handbook.

Q1. FS will be appointing an economist. Will they talk to different industries about costs etc?

A1. FS think this makes sense. We will feed back to FS Project Group that the Dorset MCZ Group would welcome the Economist to come and talk to individuals on the group.

Comment: Concern that MCZs will be no-take zones – like Lundy. Concern that management will be imposed – like for SACs. There was a real concern that:
 For crab fishing off Purbeck. Lundy is a no-take zone. 70% of Dorset Coast is SAC.
 Concern not for now but for 30 years time – sons and grandsons. View that Lundy will be the model – “No Take”
 Fishermen want to know the long-term view – want reassurance that management (allowed activities) will not change
 That the MCZ process will be the same as the SAC one – MCZ is a different process but is seen as the same thing to fishermen.

The group discussed that they:

- o Want MCZs to take economics into account. (SACs were imposed – no socio-economics).

BB and JW gave clarity to the Group that:

- o MCZ lines and the management created together (at the same time by the group).
- o The possibility of aligning some MCZ and SAC boundaries.
- o Management and zone delineation go hand in hand.
- o MCZ – come with recommendations on management. This Group needs to give their viewpoint. Should see this MCZ process as an opportunity to give an opinion.

ACTION: BB to feed back to FS Project Group that the Dorset MCZ Group would welcome the Economist to come and talk to individuals on the group

3. Role of Steering Group - John Weinberg

JW explained that the Steering Group was set up in September 2007 with the aim of bringing together representatives of the main regional marine stakeholder sectors. The FS Steering Group will take an active role in designing the regional network of MCZs and will ensure that decisions are solid, fair, balanced and in line with the national guidance. They are the decision makers who will use the Local Groups as advisors in helping them make the decisions.

4. Role of Local Group and its members – Bridget Betts

BB described the role of the local group and how it relates to the work of the Steering Group. A timeline of the whole process was displayed. There are 4 Local groups (Dorset, Devon, Somerset and Cornwall). They are all of a similar structure,

are facilitated, each have a FS Liaison Officer attached to them and all have the same remit and agenda. They are Advisory Groups to the FS Steering Group.

Q2. When set dates for meetings?

A2. These will be set later in this meeting

Q3. Will Natural England make the final decision on the MCZ locations?

A3. No they will check that Finding Sanctuary has done its job. Natural England will look at with regional and national viewpoints. As long as guidelines and requirements have been met the zones will be as designed. The National Scientific Advisory Committee are keeping a watch on progress so there are no surprises at the end.

Q4. Who will be responsible for determining and policing management measures?

A4. This is being considered by the FS Steering Group and we will feed back to this Group.

Q5. In the handbook (and presentation) – Annexe 1 Steering Group Members - Ports and Harbours are listed as being in the Commercial & Industrial sub-sector. They are also a landowner and a Statutory Body. Can the information be updated?

A5. This will be reported to the FS Project Team.

ACTION 1: BB to report this update on Ports and Harbours

Q6 How was it decided who is on the FS Steering Group to ensure its make-up is balanced?

A6. There was a survey of sectors / groups involved and people were invited to apply.

Q7. What if the local group does not reach a consensus on the zones?

A7. The facilitator will try to gain a consensus. If they are not able to, it will be reported to the FS Steering Group that the result was “not able to reach consensus” but result(s) will still be submitted for FS Steering Group to consider. With regard to the FS Steering Group, they will try to reach a consensus but if they are not able to a Government Minister will make a final decision. It would be better to avoid this. The FS Facilitator has written a short paper on this to help the FS Steering Group.

ACTION: BB to email out to Group short paper on decision and consensus building

Q8. We are here to be consulted – but “in-line with national guidelines”. Have the lines already been drawn?

A8. No. There are not any lines on a map already.

Q9. A change of Government is possible. Does any Political Party not support MCZs?

A9. No – they all support the idea of MCZs.

Q10. In the handbook – Annexe 1 Steering Group Members - David Bond claims to represent the Professional Boatman's Association. He does not represent them. He is a member but does not have a mandate to represent them.

ACTION: Bridget Betts to check if this is a misprint or misrepresentation.

Q11. Please explain more about consensus and the steering group / local group.

A11. The Steering Group are the decision-makers. They will pass on what the Local Group decide – any sensible decision from the Local Group should be accepted by the Steering Group unless it is unrealistic. We are aiming for consensus at the Local Group. The Steering Group legally make the decision, the Local Group advises them.

Q12. There needs to be adequate resources for enforcement of the zones. There is no point drawing a line if it cannot be policed.

A12. Agreed. This concern will be fed back to the FS Steering Group.

ACTION : Bridget Betts to raise concern regarding the policing of MCZs to the FS Steering Group.

Q13. The next meeting is in January – can we have the charts before the meeting?

A13. Yes

Q14. Will the Steering Group have met before the next meeting?

A14. No but the next meeting will provide a first opportunity to feed initial areas into the FS Steering Group.

Q15. Will what the Local Group decide be taken to the Steering Group?

A15. Yes – it will go "as is". The Local Group will also be able to see what the Steering Group say – the whole process is transparent.

Q16. Is there a requirement for this group / Finding Sanctuary to designate a particular proportion of the sea / County etc?

A16. The answer to this was held back as a subsequent section of this meeting was to cover this.

ACTION: Bridget Betts - provide project timeline (was on flipchart)

5. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) – John Weinberg

JW gave a clear presentation on MPAs explaining the differences between them. He explained that MPAs are areas at sea where human activities are managed or restricted with the aim of protecting marine wildlife. The UK Government has committed to establishing an 'ecologically coherent' network of MPAs by 2012. The recently enacted Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 has introduced a new type of Marine Protected Area that will be known as a Marine Conservation Zone.

Intertidal areas of SSSIs (intertidal and sub-tidal) could become MCZs with an option of de-notification the SSSI if necessary. Intertidal parts of SSSIs could be part of the MPA network.

ACTION : BB to provide links to all presentations from today's meeting – through FS web site

Comment: Ramsar sites are missing from your presentation.

ACTION: JW to include RAMSAR Sites (Overwintering birds) to the list of European Sites.

Q17. A marine SAC was created off Eastern England. The feature has now gone – was transient - but the designation remains. Will there be a mechanism for the boundaries of MCZs to be changed or removed?

A17. FS understanding is that there will be at least a 6 yearly review.

ACTION 7: BB to feed the wanting of flexibility of the sites to the FS Steering group.

Q18. Concern that information given by fishermen in Weymouth and Portland to Finding Sanctuary was used to determine the pSAC boundary.

A18. JW confirmed that this was definitely not the case although the FS collated data is on the FS website. He stressed that it was purely coincidental and one answer could be that FS collected data on potting activity (carried out on rocky reefs) and SACs are based on the designation of rock/reef habitat from research done over a number of years

Q19. Concern that the pSAC boundary is in the wrong place. Some areas that are not rocky reef are included and some other areas of reef are excluded

A19. This was stressed that this is **Not** in the remit of FS but pSACs are being consulted now so get involved.

ACTION: DCF will provide details of the consultation to Local Group members.

Q20. Concern that there is confusion because pSAC and Finding Sanctuary activities are happening at the same time for the same area.

A20. It is unfortunate timing. The job of this group is here to represent interests to Finding Sanctuary.

ACTION: Bridget Betts – feedback concerns on pSAC and MCZ timing and confusion amongst members.

6. Running Meetings – Bridget Betts

BB explained that there will be no chair to this group but a facilitator (the DCF).

The dates of future meetings were arranged:

Agreed Future Meetings are:

2. January – Wed 27th - 9.30 AM

3. May – Thur 6th 6.00 PM

4. September – Thur 30th 6.00 PM

The venues are to be confirmed. It was noted that Weymouth and Portland based-fishermen do not return to port until 5 pm so being nearer to Weymouth is easier for many. Also Weymouth is in the middle of the County.

ACTION: BB to sort out location and email group

Q21. How will the FS steering group reach consensus?

A21. Should be information on the Finding Sanctuary website in a week or two. Bridget has two pages on this and will make them available.

ACTION: Bridget Betts - provide information on consensus by e-mail.

Comment: Please could this group use the correct terminology - charts are of the sea, maps are of the land.

Q22. It was noted that angling and diving charter boats were not represented on the FS Steering Group.

ACTION: Bridget Betts – will raise this however there are some new potential new members since the document was created.

Q22. There are some people who are at sea today who want to come to future meetings – is this okay?

A22. BB stated that it is OK to have 1 substitute but the bringing of an extra person to each meeting would not be possible. It is expected that the individuals on this group will report back and bring ideas from their Association, organisation, group.

7. Interim Ecological Guidance – John Weinberg

JB explained the Finding Sanctuary Interim Ecological Guidance. It was then handed out to the group. These interim ecological guidelines, drafted Nov 2009, are not official Government MCZ or UK MPA network guidelines, and they are not endorsed by Defra, Natural England, or the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. The official national ecological network guidance for planning MCZs will be released in 2010. These Interim guidelines give FS Steering Group and the local Groups something to work with.

Q23. Concerns over timescales for the delivery of the MCZs when only got interim guidelines. The date that the finalised guidelines are promised for only leaves the local group one meeting.

A23. The FS Steering Group Chairman is writing to government to raise this.

ACTION: Bridget Betts – make sure DEFRA statement on why the guidelines are not ready is included in the local MCZ group packs.

Q24: Concerns over level of information in the interim Guidance – overly complex for some.

A24: JW stated that FS have tried to present it simply but appreciate it is complex. He suggested reading the guidelines and then ask JW to come and visit to go through in detail and answer any questions.

ACTION: ALL to read the Interim Guidance and ring to arrange meeting with JW if needed

Q25: Could the Regional Profile be emailed out?

A25: Is very big (too big to email) and is regularly changing. It can be downloaded from the Finding Sanctuary web site. The details are in the Handbook.

ACTION: Bridget Betts – e-mail link to regional profile

Comment: Exeter day seen as a waste of time by some.

Comment: Information presented seen as difficult to pass on to others.

Comment: Keep information as simple as possible please.

Q26: Which nationalities will be affected by MCZs (thoughts around derogation)?

A26: All that fish in an area.

ACTION: BB to feed back importance of derogation to FS Steering group

ACTION: There is a list of questions on the Interim Guidelines from the FS Steering Group. There will be written answers to them? JW to disseminate to local group members

8. Next Steps

BB went through Actions for the DCF and for JW (Finding Sanctuary) and Actions for the members of the group.

ACTION: ALL - Members of the group were asked to read guidelines and look at maps before the next meeting.

ACTION: Bridget Betts / John Weinberg - Provide anything for next meeting well in advance e.g. 2 weeks.

9. AOB

Q27: The proposed meeting timetable does not allow for reporting to the committee of a body that one local group member's represents as they only meet quarterly.

A27. This is unfortunate but we have a strict timetable and we will have to work around it.

Comment: Ness Smith (CSCOPE Project Officer) provided clarification on the CSCOPE project. She stressed that the project is looking at Marine Planning – It is **NOT** creating any more Marine Protected Areas. MCZs and SACs will be layers among many. The CSCOPE Project is **NOT** about conservation but about a balance. She also stressed that the Marine Spatial Plan will not be statutory. She was happy to come and talk to any group to provide more details on the aspects of the project.

Q28: Who will it be down to determine the restrictions / management for Dorset MCZs?

A28: the local group will advice the FS Steering group