

# **Marine Environmental Programmes**

## ***Cross Cutting Issues & Decision Making***

**June 7th 2011 SOAS London**

The aim of this conference will be to identify and understand the key issues of concern that cut across many of the major programmes of work, learn from recent practice and see whether these issues can be resolved and taken forward. The strong core running through these topics focuses on decision making in practice.

The topics to be covered are:

- How do the different Directives and Legislative initiatives fit together?
- Management objectives and measures - including target setting
- Lack of data and decision making
- Participation and engagement of stakeholders
- Cumulative and in combination effects
- The Habitats Directive development & fishery issues

**Sponsors: MMO – Marine Management Organisation**

**Sussex, Kent and Essex and Eastern IFCA**

**For details of the standard sponsorship package contact Bob Earll on 01531 890415 or [bob.earll@coastms.co.uk](mailto:bob.earll@coastms.co.uk)**

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## **Introduction**

There are at least 6 major programmes of policy work and implementation underway at present, including CFP Reform, MSFD, Marine Planning, Marine Licencing, MCZ implementation and Round 3 Offshore wind development as well as many routine projects. These are increasing the complexity of management and all are set in a context of reduced funding. How much will austerity force us to take a hard look the way we work in the marine environment?

Implementation across these programmes increasingly involves cross cutting methodologies and issues which themselves are changing very quickly. This conference will cover six topics involving both presentations and debates for each of the topics. Our research has identified these issues to be particular concern at both a national and local scale with a strong common theme of decision making running through these.

The aim of this conference will be to identify and understand the key issues of concern that cut across many of the major programmes of work, learn from recent practice and see whether these issues can be resolved and taken forward. The topics of concern include:

- How do the different Directives and Legislative initiatives fit together?
- Management objectives and measures - including target setting
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The discussions will address, the understanding of the key underlying issues, lessons to be learnt and how issues might be resolved not least in relation to routine decision making. The emphasis of the debate will clearly differ between topics but we will also look for points in common

## **Programme**

### **Format**

- The topic order and their time allocation reflects the priority these issues have been given
- Each topic will be started with two presenters highlighting key points for 10 mins each
- This will be followed by discussion sessions – the duration of these varies during the day – audience participation will be facilitated
- The outputs clarifying issues of concern, learning points and how these can be resolved or rationalised will be summarised by chairmen

Speakers to be confirmed = TBC – in those in **bold confirmed**

### **9.40 Introduction to the day and morning session**

**Session 1** Chairman: **Stuart Rogers** Cefas

#### **9.45 – 10.45 How do the different Directives and Legislative initiatives fit together?**

Time allocation: 2 x 10 minute presentations followed by a 40 minute discussion

**Mike Elliott** IECS University of Hull

**Naomi Matthiesen & Terence Ilott** Defra

This issue is currently raising questions both for policy makers and those implementing policy at a national and local level. The new programmes of legislation, Marine Planning, MCZ's and MSFD add further complexities to the way we manage the marine environment. All sorts of diagrams are in circulation. It is not at all clear which piece of legislation takes precedence and then who is finally responsible. There is considerable hope that marine planning will help with this process; is this misplaced? This session would scope this issue and highlight key questions.

#### **10.45 – 11.45 Management objectives and measures - including target setting**

Time allocation: 2 x 10 minute presentations followed by a 40 minute discussion

**Steve Hull** ABPmer

**Peter Barham** SUDG

What do we need to do to achieve sustainable use? How are defining our objectives and then the measures that are needed to meet this aspiration. What targets are we trying to meet with environmental programmes? How do we define these? Whose vision? This debate is at the core of the MCZ, MP, MCZ and CFP process. Unless there is a clearer understanding of the objectives and then the measures that will be needed to deliver these it is difficult to engage stakeholders meaningfully. This issue is, for example, at the heart of the challenge of co-locating wind farms and MCZs. Who decides and when? Does it all have to come to site by site decision making or is there a more effective way forward?

11.45 – 12.30 Refreshment Break

Session 2 Chair: **Ceri Morgan** MMO

12.30 – 13.20 **Lack of data and implications for decision making**

Time allocation: 2 x 10 minute presentations followed by a 30 minute discussion

**Andrew Birchenough** Cefas - Approaches to assessment and decision making with available information

**Jamie Moore** The Crown Estate Spatial and use of development data

The MCZ process is the latest programme to run into the 'lack of data' argument or put another way '*decision making with available information*'. This has always been a reality and it would be valuable to understand what the general rules for this are. There is also the issue of genuine data gaps and the priority that might be placed on filling these. Recent work on the use of multi-beam and stakeholders to fill activities gaps at a local level are interesting developments but it would be helpful to understand the priorities in this area. There is also the question of information use from routine monitoring especially with new developments and technologies and how this is captured and used.

13.20 -14.10 **Participation and engagement of stakeholders**

Time allocation: 2 x 10 minute presentations followed by a 30 minute discussion

**Carolyn Cadman** MMO - Marine Planning

**Diana Pound** Dialogue Matters - Lessons from marine projects

The use of participation techniques with stakeholders in the delivery of programmes is becoming more common place. What lessons can we take from Marine planning, MCZ process and marine projects to make this more effective in future? This session would look at the practical benefits for cost effective delivery.

14.10 -14.50 Refreshment break

Session 3 Chairman:

14.50 – 15.30 **Cumulative and in combination effects**

Time allocation: 2 x 10 minute presentations followed by a 20 minute discussion

**Steve Freeman** PMSS

**Dickon Howell & Ashley Holt** MMO

With the scale of developments underway the issue of cumulative and in-combination effects is once again becoming 'a challenge'. How is information to be marshalled to answer this problem and what is the role regulators in this context. It raises the issues of data and decision making. The need to deal with this in the pre-application licence process is also a developing question.

15.30 – 16.10 **The Habitats Directive: - Development & Fishery issues**

**Peter Barham** The Habitats Directive - SUDG – Development

**Euan Dunn** RSPB The Habitats Directive and Fisheries Issues

The Habitats Directive has been in place for over 15 years and gradually custom and practice and case law have developed. However, there are a range of issues that continue to cause problems. For developers the way that precaution and uncertainty is dealt with is problematic - clarity of management objectives – appropriate assessment – Imperative reasons of public interest continue to raise issues. In relation to fisheries, the role of the Commission - the need for top down guidance - the ongoing bottom-up complaints repeatedly covering the same issues are all a continuing sources of frustration. There is also a debate about the relationship of the Habitats Directive with the MSFD. Can these be resolved or are we just stuck with them forever?

16.10 -16.15 Conclusions and Next steps Refreshments

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**The Venue:** The venue is the Brunei Gallery lecture theatre, The School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS), Russell Square, London. This is a newly refurbished air-conditioned lecture theatre, with all the modern AV aids and professional projectionists. Accommodation: There is a very wide range of accommodation available in the area and delegates will receive a hotel list when they book.

**Conference fee:** £135 + VAT £27.00 = £162.00  
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**Further details from Bob Earll: Phone / Fax 01531 890415** Joining details – maps, directions and hotels – programme are on the CMS website: [www.coastms.co.uk](http://www.coastms.co.uk) or Email: [bob.earll@coastms.co.uk](mailto:bob.earll@coastms.co.uk)

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