

A CMS Conference

Managing UK's Marine Natural Resources Priorities, Barriers and Solutions

28th November 2013 SOAS, London

The Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009 set out important new provisions for the management of our marine natural resources including marine conservation zones and marine spatial plans. In addition to this the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive is also highlighting important areas where progress is being sought. Whilst recognising that we are learning and working our way through these new programmes a host of difficult issues are arising from the implementation process. The aim of this conference is to discuss a number of key issues affecting marine natural resource management, and as an outcome prepare some clear statements of how progress might be made.

For details of the standard sponsorship package contact Bob Earll on 01531 890415 or bob.earll@coastms.co.uk

Please circulate to colleagues who may be interested

Managing UK's Marine Natural Resources - Priorities, Barriers and Solutions 28th November 2013 SOAS, London

Introduction The Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009 set out important new provisions for the management of our marine natural resources including marine conservation zones and marine spatial plans. In addition to this the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive is also highlighting important areas where progress is being sought. Whilst recognising that we are learning and working our way through these new programmes a host of difficult issues are arising from the implementation process.

We seem to be tying ourselves up in knots in the implementation of parts of the Marine & Coastal Access Act and in particular on MCZ's.

Where solutions need simplicity and clarity of purpose we seem to be pursuing unattainable concepts and aspirations.

A major consequence of this is procrastination and unnecessary complexity; we are wasting a great deal of time and resources at the very time when Government and the country can least afford it.

At the same time signs of serious ecological damage - fishing down the food chain - are being ignored and it could be argued that we are not securing the legal intent of the Marine & Coastal Access Act (MCAA) or other legislative drivers in particular Marine Planning and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

The speakers at this conference share these concerns and a desire to develop common ground so that real progress can be made.

The aim of this conference is to discuss a number of key issues affecting marine natural resource management, and as an outcome prepare some clear statements of how progress might be made.

Objectives

To have focussed discussions on a number of key issues facing the management of marine natural resources including marine conservation and fisheries including:

- What happens to marine ecological systems when damaging activity is stopped? Restoration and recovery
- Is *feature* led marine conservation practical?
- Ecological coherence for Marine Protected Areas in the UK
- What are the barriers to '*unblocking*' the MCZ process in England? What should be done next?
- Marine planning: How has the first marine plan treated marine natural resources – fisheries and marine conservation? What lessons can we take from the marine conservation and fisheries parts of the plan?
- Not embedding *fishing down the food chain* in current policy
- Dogger Bank – Making the case for Integrated management

- To highlight consequences of particular actions, barriers and solutions to these issues

- To try and produce clear statements that help resolve and move these important issues forward

Programme

9.00 Registration and refreshments

Chairman: **Keith Hiscock** Marine Biological Association

9.40 – 9.50 **1. Introduction:** *Speaker to be confirmed*

9.50-10.25 **2. What happens to marine ecological systems when a damaging activity is stopped? Recovery and restoration and the dynamics of ecological change**

Jean-Luc Solandt Marine Conservation Society
Presentation 9.50-10.05 Discussion 10.05-10.25

This is a basic marine ecology question but much of what we are attempting to do in routine marine management from licencing, monitoring and marine conservation flies against the realities and dynamics of marine ecological systems. It seems as if we think that maintaining a marine ecological *status quo* is either possible or desirable. This session will look at the marine ecological realities that we must recognise and accommodate in management decision making.

10.25 – 11.05 **3. Is *feature* led marine conservation practical?**

Sue Gubbay Independent consultant
10.25 – 10.40 Presentation 10.40-11.05 Discussion

One of the reasons why the MCZ process has stalled is the almost exclusive emphasis on a ‘feature led approach’. This includes an apparent desire by Government to not only require every MCZ to have their ‘features’ listed, mapped and but also individually managed. This flies in the face of the fact that once protected, species and communities will change, that many features, eg fish, dolphins, *Sabellaria* reefs move, and that taking features thinking to ever finer levels is simply unmanageable in practice. This session will explore more ecologically sound approaches to using ‘features’ in marine management.

11.05 – 11.45 **4. Ecological coherence for Marine Protected Areas in the UK**

Peter Jones & Louise Lieberknecht University College London
11.05 – 11.20 Presentation 11.20-11.45 Discussion

One of the most important issues at the moment is how we are applying the idea ecological coherence in establishing networks of MPAs. There are various ideas about what this means and how this might be achieved but they also show how this concept can become very complicated very quickly. Whether we have the knowledge or the capacity to deliver this concept is still hotly debated. This session will set out the issues and their consequences with a view to highlighting practical steps that can be taken moving forward.

11.45 - 12.30 Refreshment break – sandwiches

Chair: Peter Barham Independent consultant

12.30 – 13.10 5. What are the barriers to ‘unblocking’ the MCZ process in England? What should be done next?

Tom Hooper RSPB
Presentation 12.30-12.45 Discussion 12.45 – 13.10

By any measure the Government’s attempt to deliver the MCZ process has stalled. This is not what Parliament intended but it suits various other interest groups such as the fishing sector very well. The next steps are very unclear as Government deliberation on this issue continues. This session will outline a range of options.

13.10 – 14.10 **6. Marine planning: How has the first marine plan treated marine natural resources – fisheries and marine conservation? What lessons can we take from the marine conservation and fisheries parts of the plan?**

13.10 – 13.25 15 min presentation – **Ruth Barber** Marine Management Organisation

13.25 – 13.40 15 min presentation – **Richard White** The Wildlife Trusts
Discussion 13.40 – 14.10

One of the major developments of the MCA Act was marine planning. Now that the first draft plan has been published for the East Coast what lessons can we draw in relation to marine conservation and fisheries? The pre-meeting publicity will encourage delegates to read those parts of the plan in particular.

<https://www.connect.marinemanagement.org.uk/consultations/consult-draft-east-marine-plans> This session will explore what the East Coast Plan has to say about marine nature conservation and fisheries from the plan makers and NGO perspective and seek to highlight lessons that can be taken forward to future plan areas.

14.10 – 14.40 Refreshment break – cakes

Chair: Steve Hull ABPmer

14.40 – 15.20 **7. Not embedding fishing down the food chain in current policy**

Callum Roberts York University

14.40 – 14.55 Presentation

14.55 – 15.20 Discussion

Analysis of fisheries statistics first in the Clyde and more recently in the Irish Sea (Roberts, Thurstan *et al*) have shown that for these regions there is a very serious situation. We have in effect allowed 'status quo' policies to favour *Nephrops* ('prawn' – 'shellfish') fisheries to decimate what was left of white fish stocks. The white fish bycatch of prawn fisheries is essentially preventing the recovery of the whitefish demersal stocks in these areas. The damage to the seabed is also exacerbated by extensive scallop dredging in these areas.

This begs the questions of how fisheries decisions affect wider management and *vice versa*. What role does marine planning have to play in setting out a vision for the balance of our fisheries - the mix of key stock types – white fish, prawns, and sandeels in terms of the status quo and for this mix in the future? Secondly how will the Marine Strategy Framework Directive descriptors – for seabed integrity – ecosystems and fisheries be integrated to ensure that we do not lose key elements of the food chain?

15.20 – 16.00 **8. Dogger Bank – Making the case for Integrated management**

David Goldsborough Van Hall Larenstein, University of Applied Sciences, Leeuwarden, Netherlands

15.20 – 15.35 Presentation 15.35 – 16.00 Discussion

The Dogger Bank is an emerging example of how our thinking on marine management is developing in a European context. It is in the first marine plan for the East of England. It has fishery and renewables issues. Much of it has been designated SAC with 4 Countries [Denmark, Germany, Netherlands and UK] responsible for 4 different SACs. This can be seen as a test bed for a range of natural resource management issues, including marine conservation and fisheries as well as the use of marine planning and the MSFD. This session will explore the emerging lessons from trying to manage this area.

16.00 Concluding Comments

16.15 Close and refreshments

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Communications and Management for Sustainability (CMS) CMS have been running this type of event since 1993 supported by a wide range of organisations. The conference series is based on assessing the coastal and marine constituencies' views and then organising events which appeal to multi-sectoral audiences.

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:	£125 + VAT £25.00 = £150.00
Group rate (3 or more people booking together)	£ 110 + VAT £22.00 = £132.00
Concession rate*	£ 95 + VAT £19.00 = £114.00
Post-graduate Student rate (Full time) & Retired rate:	£ 60 + VAT £12.00 = £72.00

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- The fee includes food and refreshments and the conference papers
- Delegates with special needs should make this clear on booking

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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](#) or Email: bob.earll@coastms.co.uk**

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