

C-SCOPE Project Steering Group

Notes of Meeting held on the 15th July 2009 at the Rowling Room, Dorchester

Present

Bob Huggins	BH	DCF Chairman
Andrew Hignett	AH	Portland Port
Ken Buchan	KB	Dorset County Council
Rachel Waldock	RW	Natural England
Tony Flux	TF	National Trust
Sandie Wilson	SaW	Portland Port
Sally King	SK	World Heritage Team
Vincent May	VM	Bournemouth University
James Feaver	JF	Dorset Coast Forum
Ness Smith	NS	Dorset Coast Forum
Neil Watson	NW	Environment Agency

Apologies

Peter Moore	PM	Dorset County Council
James Weld	JW	Lulworth Estate (landowner)
Peter Tinsley	PT	Dorset Wildlife Trust
Sarah Bentley	SB	AONB
Simon Cripps	SC	Dorset Wildlife Trust
Malcolm Turnbull	MT	Jurassic Coast Trust
Nick Lyness	NL	Environment Agency

1. Welcome

Bob welcomed the SG and gave apologies.

2. Minutes of previous meeting - review minutes and actions

KB explained that the C-SCOPE team had discussed the Marine Management Area boundary, and decided that moving the eastern boundary to Old Harry Rocks would cut through Swanage Bay, which would prove problematic for the MSP. The boundary will therefore remain the same. VM pointed out that for future evaluation, it's important to identify the implications of where boundaries are drawn i.e. arbitrary boundaries versus those designed to meet the real dynamics of the system. BH added that while the boundaries were set because the pilot project had to have some limits, where there are impacts and/or activities outside the boundary, it is in our interest to build them into the system.

There was a discussion about the Project launch in Belgium. VM said that the misunderstanding in the joint workshops illustrated the challenges of European partnership working, and that we need to ensure people are briefed on this before future events. KB said he will make this point at the PMC meeting in August.

VM bought up the subject of a press release made by DWT about the seabed mapping project, which he was not notified about. KB noted that we will have to be very careful about press releases in the future.

BH asked if the Project is running to time. KB and NS both agreed that things were running according to schedule apart from the MMA document, which should return to schedule soon. BH also asked about the risk register; KB said this is currently with the Belgian partners.

Actions: NS to contact the DWT press officer to ensure we coordinate future press releases related to C-SCOPE.

3. Project update

NS gave an update. Major developments are:

- New part-time policy assistant – Matilda Bark
- 2 volunteers – Joe Lockhart – policy research, James Yonge – MMA background research
- Launch event 29th-30th April
- Four task & Finish Groups up and running. Communications Group had first meeting on 15th June. Other groups meeting in August.
- Draft Communication Strategy going to Belgium for their input
- Seascope capacity report EOI document went out 18th June – deadline for returns 20th July 2009
- Offshore renewable capacity study EOI – draft stage, will go out to steering group.
- Six month project report – almost complete and going to Belgium for their input.
- Gathering of GIS datasets has continued. Thanks to Steering Group members that have contributed. The number of datasets captured currently stands at 228. Review of data sets quality/quantity/categories on Friday.
- DWT met with Seastar yesterday to identify some features from the acoustic data and to draw up some survey lines. The ground-truthing survey will start at the end of next week (as the ranges close for the summer break)

JF presented a series of maps to illustrate the breadth of data gathered so far. This stimulated a lively discussion about how data will be presented and perceived by both professionals and the general public. TF said that a presentation by Alison Baptiste of the Environment Agency illustrated that pop-up speech bubbles on interactive maps was a good way of presenting complex information. BH gave an example of a previous project which observed how people actually interact and perform tasks on computers, which might be useful when developing the C-SCOPE tools.

TF pointed out that we need to ‘harmonise’ with other tools in development, and KB confirmed that C-SCOPE has links with The Crown Estate (MaRS) and CEFAS. VM

mentioned that the dynamic element and shifting boundaries of the marine environment was important to consider.

BH asked if we are collecting data outside of the MMA area. JF replied that as long as the data was available, and time/budget weren't a restraint, national, regional and local data was being gathered; allowing the project to roll-out to the rest of the Dorset Coast in the future. SaW asked about the cost of data, and JF replied that where possible the original source of the data was tracked down, which kept costs down; although some data has had to be purchased. SK asked if the data was available to others; JF said it could be, but sometimes only in map form, not the original data. BH asked about how we will deal with external requests for data, JF said the meta-data contains information on copyright and refers to the data source.

4. Programme for next quarter

NS gave a brief rundown of work to be conducted in the next three months:

- Task & Finish Group meetings
- Ongoing research – policy and MMA background
- Draft MMA background document – July/Aug
- Evaluation for Seascope consultants/appointment end of August
- Offshore renewable EOIs
- MSP/indicator conference – 19th/20th October

5. Financial Update

KB said that the in-kind agreement with DWT was now sorted. He also informed that due to delays in appointment of a First Level Controller, we are putting the first two financial claim periods together. There have also been problems obtaining financial documents from DWT, but in future Mark Foxwell will spend a morning per month at DWT to obtain the necessary documentation.

6. Task & Finish Group Chairs

NS gave a quick review of the Task & Finish Group recruitment process and highlighted the difficulty the DCF team had experienced finding suitable Chairs. She informed that Rachel Sadler, Assistant Chief Executive of the Weymouth & Portland Sailing Academy, had agreed to be Chair of the Interactive Group. There were no objections to this. NS was acting as temporary Chair of the Communications Group, and KB for the Explorer Planning Group. It was agreed that both would step down when suitable replacements were found.

There were initially two nominations for the MSP Group chair: Victoria Copley (Natural England) and Andy Price (), the latter being unable to take on the role. Peter Moore, Environment Policy Group Manager for DCC, had been approached by the C-SCOPE team and was willing to be put forward as a potential Chair. SaW asked about Peter's background; KB, BH and SK all informed that Peter had a strategic/policy background and was a strong Chair. KB said it was important for this Group to have someone who appears to be neutral, and that perhaps Victoria Copley was seen to have too strong a connection to environmental issues. TF agreed that C-SCOPE

shouldn't be perceived as a conservation project. VM also agreed the Chair should be seen to be independent. It was agreed by BH and VM that if Peter were Chair, he would have to declare any DCC interests if they came up against C-SCOPE business. It was unanimously agreed that Peter was the right choice for Chair, and that he would be asked to take on this role.

KB suggested that Chairs be appointed for one year initially, and this was agreed. He also mentioned a potential conflict of interest with Alan Frampton from Halcrow, who is a member of the Coastal Explorer Planning Task & Finish Group. It was generally agreed that this shouldn't be a problem, and BH said it was the Chairs' responsibility to be aware of potential conflicts of interest, and that no DCF member should be excluded. TF said on balance that industry/business members would be more likely to contribute far more than they take away.

A Chair for the Coastal Explorer Planning Task & Finish Group had not been identified. SaW asked if Victoria Copley could be asked to Chair this group. KB said it might be good to have a planner/policy person as this was a more technical group. SK said that a Chair might be more apparent after the first meeting.

Actions: NS to ask Peter Moore to take on the role of Chair for the MSP Task & Finish Group. NS to approach Victoria Copley to see if she would like the opportunity to Chair the Coastal Explorer Planning Task & Finish Group. Steering Group members to come back to NS with potential chairs for the Coastal Explorer Planning Task & Finish Group by Friday 24th July.

7. Project Management Committee meeting input

KB asked if the Steering Group if they had any comments/input for the next PMC meeting. There was another discussion about the launch event, and the 'walk-out' of the Belgian technical experts at the joint workshops. VM pointed out that engaging GIS/technical people was always difficult. It was generally felt that cross-cultural issues should be discussed at the PMC.

KB asked for themes/locations for a PMC field visit on the 18th/19th August 2009, to which the Belgian partners, DCC Coastal Policy Team and Steering Group members would be invited (around 10-15 people). He said Portland Port and coastal defence had been considered. SaW and AH confirmed they could arrange a Port visit, and SaW recommended the Marina would be worth visiting. RW suggested Chesil Cove and the north shore of Portland Harbour would be suitable for coastal defence issues, and NW said Portland Gas, cables from potential offshore energy the Portland Harbour MSP and the Olympic tie-in would also be interesting areas to look at. TF suggested that Richard Edmonds from the Jurassic Coast WHT would be a good person to approach for the geology/coastal defence issues. VM was unavailable to take part, but NW would be available on the afternoon of the 18th.

Actions: SK to speak to Richard Edmonds. Steering Group to come back to KB or NS with any other points they would like to be discussed at the PMC meeting, and/or suggestions for the 18th/19th field visit.

8. October Marine Spatial Planning Conference

KB and NS ran through the potential agenda for a two day MSP and Coastal Indicator Conference to be held on 19th/20th October 2009. KB said that devising a set of Coastal Indicators for Europe was an element of the C-SCOPE project, and that Indicators were also being considered by Defra; hence the need to include them at the conference. A discussion about Indicators and their use in MSP followed. TF suggested a more suitable title might be 'suitable indicators of change'. VM commented that 'spatial indicators' might be more useful and that monitoring trends/patterns would highlight areas that need addressing. KB said the focus of the conference would be integrating indicators into the MSP.

BH asked if there would be a cap of numbers for the conference. KB confirmed this would be 100-120.

Action: Steering Group to feedback comments/suggestions to KB or NS about the format and content of the conference by Friday 31st July.

9. Workshop to determine Task & Finish Group work plans

NS ran a workshop to address governance issues between T&F Groups and the Steering Group, as well as how to approach the first T&F Group meetings. Time was tight, but some useful conclusions were reached. These will be made available to Steering Group members at a later point.

10. AOB

RW announced that an informal dialogue was to open for Dorset marine inshore SACs, and the potential areas identified were available to view online at <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/marine/sacconsultation/default.aspx>
These areas can only be challenged on scientific grounds.

KB gave the dates for the next two Steering Group meetings as **Wednesday 14th October 2009 and Wednesday 13th January 2010**, both at 2pm.

TF raised the issue of poor attendance for this meeting, which was a concern at this early stage of the project.

Action: NS to draft email on behalf of BH to remind people of their commitment to the Steering Group. NS to keep SG engaged by sending brief monthly updates.