

C-Scope Task and Finish Marine Spatial Planning Group
Monday 10th August 2009 – 11 am – 2 pm
Committee Room 4, County Hall, Dorchester

<p>Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Chris Pater, Marine Planner, English Heritage • Jim Masters, Forum Coordinator, Devon Maritime Forum • Angela Cott, Brownsea Island Property Coordinator, National Trust • Fiona Wynne, Education Officer, The Crown Estate • Mike Goater, District Engineer, Purbeck District Council • Sandie Wilson, Environment Manager, Portland Harbour Authority Ltd • David Carter, Chairman, Weymouth LUNAR Society • James Feaver, Marine and Coastal GIS Officer, Dorset Coast Forum • Bridget Betts, Forum Coordinator, Dorset Coast Forum • Ken Buchan, Dorset Coast Forum Secretary and DCC Coastal Policy Manager • Peter Tinsley, Marine Conservation Officer, Dorset Wildlife Trust • David Sales, Fisherman, South Coast Fisherman's Council • Richard Stride, Fisherman, South Coast Fisherman's Council • John Hayes, Senior Ranger, DCC Countryside Ranger Service • Vanessa Stelzenmuller, Marine Scientist (GIS), CEFAS • Patrick Durnfold, Land Manager, Lulworth Estate • Tom Munro, Manager, Dorset AONB • Dr Steve Fletcher, Academic, Bournemouth University 	<p>Apologies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simon Williams, Regeneration and Sustainability Manager, Weymouth and Portland Borough Council • David Tudor, Marine Policy Manager, The Crown Estate • Simon Cripps, Chief Executive, Dorset Wildlife Trust • Vincent May, Academic • Victoria Copley, Senior Specialist, Marine Operations, Natural England • Brian Richards, Development and Flood Risk Team Leader, Environment Agency • Malcolm Turnbull, Trustee, Jurassic Coast Trust • Nick Lyness, Wessex Flood and Coastal Risk Manager, Environment Agency • Peter Moore, Group Manager, Environment Planning, Environment Services, DCC
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1.	<p>Introductions</p> <p>KB welcomed all to the first of many MSP T&F group meetings. KB is standing in as chair today on behalf of PM, who is currently on leave.</p> <p>The aim of this meeting was to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • familiarise all with C-SCOPE • discuss the groups vision of MSP in Dorset • discuss the long term work schedule and the work schedule for the next quarter. 	
2.	<p>Overview of C-SCOPE – Ness Smith</p> <p>All policy over the last 3-4 years points towards Marine Spatial Planning, including the Marine Bill.</p> <p>This project has been developed over a number of years and has been through a number of iterations always being considered as an Olympic Legacy project, and the 'next big project' for the Dorset Coast Forum. C-SCOPE today is an Interreg project with partners in Belgium who are carrying out a parallel project</p> <p>Three key outputs of C-SCOPE;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marine Spatial Plan 2. Coastal Explorer Planning 3. Coastal Explorer Interactive <p>The MSP will be for a Marine Management Area (MMA) of the Dorset Coast which covers</p>	

the area from Portland Bill to Durlston Head and out to 12 nm. There was a great deal of discussion in the C-SCOPE steering group about where the boundaries of the MMA should be. This area was selected because

- it includes the 2012 sailing area
- it includes a variety of geology, sectoral uses and users.
- it is a manageable size

Feeding into the MSP will be:

1. Seabed map (in collaboration with Dorset Wildlife Trust)

The seabed in the area is very diverse. At the moment ground truthing with a drop down video and dive surveys are being carried out. We aim to have a habitat map by the end of this year which will highlight areas of particular sensitivity.

2. Land and Seascape Assessment

This is in its early stages. We are going out to tender at the moment with six companies. This assessment will look at the visual capacity of the coast for development by carrying out a perception study and characterising and evaluating the land/seascape. This assessment will formulate a visual sensitivity GIS layer and strategies for each seascape area.

Data Gathering

DCF currently has a volunteer who has been researching national, regional and local policies to be used for the Coastal Explorer Planning Tool. Still some regional and local policies to be collected.

JF has so far collated 260 datasets for the Coastal Explorer Planning Tool; there are 400 possible datasets to be collected in total.

Questions

Q. Is this the only project of its type in the UK?

A. There are several:

1. Solent Forum has a project called SoMaP, but it is on a smaller scale. More information at: <http://www.solentforum.org/forum/SoMaP/>
2. A North Sea Interreg funded project called "Bringing Land and Sea Together" (BLAST) - focusing more on navigation and modelling.
3. Scotland has a great deal more experience in MSP and there are many examples to be found.

Q. There is already a proposal for Finding Sanctuary Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) and a Draft Special Area of Conservation (dSAC) in the MMA area, how does the MSP fit in with these?

A. The MCZs and SACs will form part of the wider MSP. This group will consider MCZs as part of the MSP, and through the DCF there is an opportunity to feed into locations of MCZs. There will be some overlap.

Q. How will the MSP relate to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO)?

A. The latest understanding is that the MMO will create 10 regional MMA's, therefore the MMO plans will be on a much larger scale. Defra are one of the funders of the C-SCOPE project and will be keeping an eye on what we are doing. It is hoped that the MMO will adopt the local plan.

There is a chance that this plan will be subsumed into a larger MMO plan but this C-SCOPE project is a good opportunity to develop a 'bottom up' local MSP.

Q. DS asked whether the rights of the continental fishermen have been considered in the C-SCOPE project as they have rights to fish beyond the 6 nm zone and therefore within the MMA. With CFP reforms there is a possibility that by 2012 continental fishermen would be able to fish up to the shore line.

	<p>A. The MSP would have no control over continental fishermen as this is an EU issue but it is hoped that through the C-SCOPE project we will be able to highlight this issue with central government.</p> <p>Q. KB asked for an input from VS</p> <p>A. Cefas has been doing some work for Defra suggesting possible MMAs, would be interesting to see how the areas suggested compare to the C-SCOPE MMA. Defra is also looking at sensitivity as an issue.</p> <p>Q. Will the seabed mapping look at geology, plant life and munitions on the seabed? Anything on currents and salinity?</p> <p>A. C-SCOPE does not plan to look at munitions on the seabed. JF has some data on currents and salinity but any further guidance on this would be welcome.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>MSP Presentation – Ken Buchan</p> <p>KB started by questioning why we need an MSP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No planning system below low water mark • Existing regulation is fragmented • No local ownership at sea • Increased development pressures on coast <p>There are numerous definitions of an MSP and KB gave some examples:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Loch Eriboll Fish Farming Framework plan: A Policy based MSP that focuses on aquaculture 2. Two Brooms Coastal Plan: A more integrated approach which tried to tackle wider policy areas such as water access, fisheries and water and land based recreation, nature conservation. Also Policy based. 3. Loch Fyne Project: Policy Zone MSP, used GIS mapping and created a compatibility assessment matrix. 4. Great Barrier Marine Park: An zone based MSP based on eight zones, ranging from the least restrictive “general use zone” in which shipping and most commercial fishing are allowed, to the most restrictive “preservation zone” where virtually no use is permitted. Produced zoning maps and an activities checklist. 	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Discussion: How do we expect the C-SCOPE MSP to look?</p> <p>Zones or policies?</p> <p>NS opened this discussion by asking whether the group preferred zoning or policy based MSPs. Some found the policy based MSP too prescriptive and it was stated that the Barrier reef model is more strategic and therefore more appealing.</p> <p>JM felt that the Barrier Reef model was more approachable, very clear and easy to follow. RS was more inclined towards policies, however others thought that policies could be too specific and create more conflict.</p> <p>Zones are seen as more public friendly and policies more planner friendly.</p> <p>VS sees zoning as a final step after you have an MSP.</p> <p>If we go down the zoning route we could create a commercial zone, a conservation zone, a compromise between sectors.</p> <p>SW mentioned the MSP created within Portland Harbour, which had a set of policies supported by zoning maps. The policies vary in how specific they are such as a general policy on renewable energy to a specific policy on sinking ships for a wreck site. SW has found that even with an MSP, you still have to go through the due process and consult as you would with any other development. There have already been examples of conflict in the Portland Harbour with the dSAC conflicting with the commercial zone. NS mentioned that the C-SCOPE project team have been considering developing an interaction matrix for the C-SCOPE project similar to the one used in the Firth of Clyde MSP.</p> <p>Integration of terrestrial and marine</p> <p>Coastal zone issue, overlap of land and marine policies. Group would like to integrate the</p>	

two. It was suggested that the group cherry picks the best bits of terrestrial policy for marine policies. The group then discussed the landward boundary of the MMA further, could be a blanket 1 km inland or a 'sense of place' such as the Ridgeway. It was suggested that land and sea planning integration is a missing area in planning and could become an outcome of the project.

Control?

The question of what are we trying to control was asked. What type of activities? We will look at the policies that are in place, a lot of work has already been carried out in the background on this by our DCF Student volunteer.

The MSP will not control activities per se, it may guide the spatial distribution of activities to reduce conflict by creating strategic zones. It will only have regulatory power if it adopted by the MMO. We may wish to consider any activities which require some control as the project develops.

Timescale

The timescale of the project was considered. It was suggested that the MSP should consider the long term impacts of climate change on the coast.

DS commented that in October/November the Marine Bill will be in place and asked the group to consider whether we are jumping too far ahead too early, should we be waiting for some more guidance on what Defra is looking for?

VS is currently leading a project on practical tools for MSP for Defra and she understands from Defra that they are not really clear on how they will go forward with marine planning, therefore we have an opportunity to influence this.

BB gave the example of the Dorset Marine Database which DCF developed and was used nationally as the template for the marine recorder. This example illustrates how it can be good to be ahead of the game.

It was commented that we should be more ambitious with the objective and lengthen the timescale in order to consider other developments like the SMPs.

VS commented that the longer the timescale of the project, the more you need to be adaptive and able to change policy quickly. It is important to have the tools to allow a quick response.

Communications with public

The public's attitudes towards development will change with time, therefore we need to keep attitudes layers separate to the physical layers. In terms of reviewing the MSP, it was decided that every 3-5 years would be appropriate to review public aspirations and attitudes.

One other problem could be that when zones or policy areas are put on a publicly available map some people may think that because area have been designated as suitable for certain developments, that these development would happen. Therefore we need to make a judgement on what is made public. However, it was brought up by JM that some of this funding is paid for by the tax payer; therefore JM questioned why we are making a tool for planners?

Marine Regulatory Authorities

There are a number of regulatory authorities that cover different marine issues e.g. EA covers oil spills. C-SCOPE cannot change this but we need to identify all the bodies and what they all cover. One of the ideas behind the MMO is to reduce the number of bodies to consider and to simplify licensing.

Coastal Access part of Marine Bill

	<p>Q. Has the Coastal Access part of the Marine and Coastal Access Bill been considered in the C-SCOPE project?</p> <p>A. This has not really been considered. Dorset is seen as ahead of the game at this but there may be issues with rollback of the South West Coast Path.</p> <p>TM suggested zoning areas where people can get to the coast easily with the least impact. The Coastal Corridor action plan could also link in with this in terms of transport, land use and recreation.</p> <p>Objectives of the MSP</p> <p>It was acknowledged that the objectives of the MSP will be hard to determine, this will something the group works on over the next couple of months. Suggestions so far include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SW suggested that objectives should consider economic, nature and society in balance therefore have sustainability at the core of the objectives. • The plan should aim to highlight opportunities for development in all sectors. <p>Other comments</p> <p>It was recommended that C-SCOPE should look at Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks in order to determine whether they are positively promoting or actively discouraging terrestrial development in the MMA.</p> <p>There is only hard geology in the MMA, it was suggested that the group considers including some soft geology.</p> <p>Discussion Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to investigate interactions in more detail • Idea of zoning is more understandable to wider user groups • Need to define objectives 	
5.	<p>Work schedule for next quarter</p> <p>The C-SCOPE project will end in Dec 2011. KB pointed out various aspects of a the MSP Project Gantt chart:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seabed mapping was started in July 2008 and will hopefully be completed by Dec 2009. • In November several community planning surgeries are planned. These will be a series of evening meetings along the main villages/towns of the MMA in order for the public to have an opportunity to feed into the MSP. It would be useful for members of the MSP Task and Finish Group to be involved in this. • Land and seascape assessment contract will be starting in Sept/Oct 2009 and will end May 2011. This has been extended to enable the contractors to capture visitor and locals perceptions during the Easter Holidays. • Will look at interactions matrix to determine where the conflicts are and hopefully this will clarify zoning. • Policy development will take place roughly between March 2010 and Oct 2010, will play this by ear. • The Draft plan needs to be completed by the end of next year and will then go out to consultation. <p>Over the next quarter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This MSP Task and Finish Group will also be the steering group for the Land and Seascape Assessment therefore NS may be passing things in front to the group to view. Anyone who has a particular interest in getting involved in this, please contact Ness Smith on 01305 221698 or ness.smith@dorsetcc.gov.uk. • BB suggested that all members of the MSP group write down a short paragraph that explains what they think an MSP is and a couple of possible objectives for this group. This would help ensure that the group is working together towards the same goal. <p>Action: NS will send out email with some questions to consider, all to respond by 28th August 2009.</p>	ALL

	<p>NS explained to the group that she will be communicating between meetings via email and may have additional task for the group to carry out.</p> <p>MSP DCF Conference 19th and 20th October 2009 at Portland Heights Hotel. If you are interested in attending please contact Matilda Bark on 01395 224833 or m.bark@dorsetcc.gov.uk</p> <p>Next meeting date - will be sent out via doodle.</p>	
6.	<p>AOB</p> <p>DC shared his concerns that anglers and the diving industry are not represented on this group, he feels it is important that they are heard as the diving industry is in economic difficulty at the moment in Dorset. NS pointed out that there will be the opportunity in the public meetings for their voices to be heard. It will not be possible to have a representative from all on this group; otherwise the group would be huge. However, it is possible that Dorset Marine Network could represent these groups. Diver and anglers will be represented through communications on the interaction matrix and anglers will be represented on the Dorset Marine Conservation Zone Group. This led on the AC emphasising the need to consider economic and financial impacts in the MSP, this is big part of AC's work on Brownsea Island.</p> <p>BB suggested JF give a presentation at the next meeting focusing on the GIS layers that he has been working on.</p> <p>DS asked for the seabed mapping boats to give more notification and liaise with fishermen when they next survey. PT acknowledged this request and pointed out that the biological survey boats used in the next stage of the seabed mapping will be done with much smaller boats and will hopefully be less disruptive.</p>	