

C-SCOPE Task and Finish Marine Spatial Planning Group
Tuesday 3rd November 2009 – 1 pm – 4 pm
Dorset Room, Colliton Club, Dorchester

<p>Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Chris Pater, Marine Planner, English Heritage • Mike Goater, District Engineer, Purbeck District Council • David Carter, Chairman, Nautical Archaeology 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 • John Hayes, Senior Ranger, DCC Countryside Ranger Service • Patrick Durnfold, Land Manager, Lulworth Estate • Dr Steve Fletcher, Academic, Bournemouth University • Brian Richards, Development and Flood Risk Team Leader, Environment Agency • Malcolm Turnbull, Trustee, Jurassic Coast Trust • David Tudor, Marine Policy Manager, The Crown Estate • Simon Cripps, Chief Executive, Dorset Wildlife Trust • Peter Moore, Group Manager, Environment Planning, Environment Services, DCC • Janette Lee, GIS Analyst, CEFAS • Jen Clarke, Landscape Planning Officer, Dorset AONB • Tony Harris, Senior Landscape Officer, Dorset County Council • Ness Smith, C-SCOPE Project Officer, Dorset Coast Forum • Matilda Bark, Policy Assistant, Dorset Coast Forum 	<p>Apologies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simon Williams, Regeneration and Sustainability Manager, Weymouth and Portland Borough Council • Vincent May, Academic • Victoria Copley, Senior Specialist, Marine Operations, Natural England • Nick Lyness, Wessex Flood and Coastal Risk Manager, Environment Agency • Jim Masters, Forum Coordinator, Devon Maritime Forum • Angela Cott, Brownsea Island Property Coordinator, National Trust • Sandie Wilson, Environment Manager, Portland Harbour Authority Ltd • Richard Stride, Fisherman, South Coast Fisherman's Council • Tom Munro, Manager, Dorset AONB
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1.	<p>Welcome and apologies PM welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced himself as chair of the group and apologised for not being able to attend the last meeting.</p>
2.	<p>Minutes and matters arising PM ran through the minutes, there were no comments and no matters arising.</p>
3.	<p>Update on key MSP elements</p>
3.1	<p>Seascape Assessment update – Tony Harris and Ness Smith NS explained that C-SCOPE team went out to tender for a seascape assessment and perception study that will form one of the GIS layers for the C-SCOPE project. 17 expressions of interest for the Seascape Assessment work were received. The steering group helped choose six consultants who were invited to interview. Two were then invited back to a final interview, one being very innovative and one more traditional. The C-SCOPE team is now in the process of appointing LDA Design, the more innovative of the two companies.</p> <p>TH explained that Seascape Assessment is an extension of Landscape Character Assessment (LCA). Purbeck, West Dorset, W&PBC and AONB all have local LCAs, they all used the same methodology and form a Dorset county LCA.</p> <p>Seascape assessment is a tool for identifying the features that gives a locality a “sense of place”. It is a two stage process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Characterisation: Describe, classify and map marine, coastal and hinterland areas. Includes a desk and field study. 2. Evaluation: Use the assessment data to start planning for change. <p>Best practice guidance is available for Seascape assessment.</p> <p>The LDA Design approach was unique because they have gone further than best practice guidance; they will be looking at the character of the sea bed and water column. Traditionally in Seascape assessment areas are divided into seascape units, LDA be dividing these seascape units into sub groups in order to determine different uses and characters within a seascape unit. TH felt that this approach will give added value to the MSP.</p>

	<p>Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q. DT asked for more information on the best practice guidance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. It was written in 2001 by a range of consultants, funded by Interreg for Irish and Welsh authorities. • Q. SC asked whether you would be able to determine sensitivity of areas from the character assessment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The evaluation part of the assessment will look at forces of change and which areas are sensitive to change. Mapping an area as generically sensitive would not be very useful as it would be too oversimplified. TH would follow EU land and Seascope Strategy and assign different types of sensitivity to different activities. • Q. MT – The fundamental difference between land and sea is tides – how would you take this into account? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The temporal nature of the coast is something that LDA Design did pick up on in their presentations; they also picked up on seasonal and diurnal variations. Will be interesting to see how LDA do this. • Q. MG asked whether geology will be mapped in the seascope assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Geology is a key process that defines character and will be looked at in the field study stage. • Q. SC mentioned that the really interesting information is off the coast and was concerned that the seascope assessment is coming from a very land based viewpoint. SC asked whether the assessment will be looking at biodiversity under the sea and visual appearance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The assessment will look across the sea and down into the water body itself, the seabed and the use of the sea. • Q. The timescale of the assessment was questioned. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. It will be completed by May 2010. • Q. BR – Will the assessment be able to look at seasonality? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Would like to look at seasonality, there is scope with the timescale and resources to look at this. • S. MT mentioned that World Heritage originally considered including seabed as an excellent example of post glacial sea level rise, if the seascope assessment could pick this up it might be very useful in the future for the Jurassic Coast. <p>3.2 Seabed Mapping – Peter Tinsley</p> <p>Data gathering for the seabed mapping is almost over. Some of this was done through an MCA contract and some through the Royal Navy (who were already doing some work relating to the Olympics), they have both been done to the same standard. Ground truthing was carried out over the summer. A total of 85km of seabed transects was videoed. By Christmas all the final data will be together, including the habitat map.</p> <p>PT mentioned that the seabed geology is very visible from the maps and there will be a lot to learn about how the rocks formed. It is possible to link strata in the seabed to strata in the cliffs from this data therefore will generate new understanding.</p> <p>Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q. NS asked PT to confirm whether the habitat map would be received before Christmas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. This depends on what we would like to use the map for, could model from the map. PT's main concern is the Hydrographic Office's formal release of data, which is holding things up. <p>3.3 Offshore Renewables – Ness Smith</p> <p>C-SCOPE put out a tender for an offshore renewable capacity report. This will compile information on renewable technologies, use regional datasets to determine suitable locations for these technologies and overlay hard constraints to produce a final GIS layer that can be used for the MSP. Four consultants tendered for the work, interviews took place and we will appoint this week.</p> <p>Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q. What did consultants say about timescales and tying in with the Round 3 work? (http://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/round3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Round 3 sites from the Crown Estate will not change; this project is in addition to this work. KB questioned the capacity to have additional wind in Dorset but the C-SCOPE project will look into tidal and wave technologies as well. The appointed consultants have been involved in Round 3 work and the MaRS tool. <p>DT from The Crown Estate said that the contractor for the West of Wight Round 3 zone will be awarded over the next two months and that The Crown Estate are keen to help with the C-SCOPE project.</p>
4.	<p>MSP Conference Summary – Key lessons</p> <p>NS gave a brief overview of the lessons learned from the conference –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were a few presentations on the first day about different MSPs around the world and lessons learned. A lot of the EU plans and the Great Barrier Reef plan used zones, whereas both the Clyde and Shetland MSPs were not zoned.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The experience from Clyde was that they had fewer conflicts in their management area than expected; this may also be the case for Dorset. • Long term commitment to plans and continuity were both emphasised in numerous presentations. • The second day of the conference looked at indicators, this was very interesting as the DCF have not done a lot of work with indicators in the past. From the workshop we learnt that we need to develop indicators alongside objectives. We will be looking more at indicators in the next MSP task and Finish Group meeting. • NS mentioned that Mick Bishop from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, who gave a fantastic presentation at the end of the first day, is coming back to the DCF office on Thursday 12th November 2009 to talk more about the C-SCOPE project and his work. NS invited the group to join this meeting if they are interested <p>ACTION: NS to invite members of the group to the Mick Bishop meeting.</p> <p>SC did not see the Clyde MSP presented at the conference as an MSP, more ICZM. SC Also thought that indicators should come after objectives as indicators are a measure of objectives.</p>
5.	<p>Summary of group views from previous task</p> <p>PM thanked the members of the group for their MSP objectives (task from previous meeting). PM has collated these under broad themes and these were presented to the steering group. Following discussion at the Steering Group, a set of guiding principles was derived; these broad principles should be used by the MSP T&F Group when developing objectives.</p> <p>PM handed the guiding principles out and went through them with the group:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An overarching principle to promote sustainable development 2. Evidence – needs to be based on good science with measurable outcomes. The evidence needs to mean something to society. PM commented that SW had sent some thoughtful comments regarding the evidence, that we will not always be able to get sound evidence, need to get best available. 3. Clarity and flexibility – Clear and understandable to a wide range of people, need to be able to adapt to unforeseen circumstances. 4. Accessibility and accountability – locally driven and adopted, stakeholder engagement to create stakeholder ownership. 5. Aligning with other documents – plans and strategies locally and nationally would give added value. Need to be aware of legislation coming out and avoid duplication. Aligning with existing designations in MMA e.g SAC, MCZ, SSSI. 6. Opportunity 7. Legacy and long term sustainability of the product
6.	<p>Vision and objectives for the MSP</p> <p>PM asked the group to discuss the idea of a vision for the project using vision statements from Defra and Dorset Coast Strategy as starting points. The Dorset Coast Strategy is currently in the early stages of review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BR thought that a vision statement would be useful to refer back to but should be done for the sake of doing it. • There was much discussion about whether the vision was for the Dorset Coast or for the MSP; it was decided that a vision for the Dorset Coast is already covered by the Dorset Coast Strategy and would be pointless to duplicate this. The MSP is one of the ways of delivering the visions of the Dorset Coast Strategy. • SC felt that beneath a vision for the Dorset Coast we should have practical aims/principles for the MSP. • Members of the group felt that a vision for the Dorset Coast Strategy (and therefore the MSP) should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A statement about climate change ○ A statement that the people of Dorset should have ownership and a sense of pride ○ An acknowledgement that we have a world class coastline • The group discussed the timescale of a vision. Defra is thinking ahead 20 years, we want to keep a long term vision of 50/100 years to tie in with SMPs. If the vision is this far ahead then it was suggested that there should be interim goals. • MT felt that the reviewed Dorset Coast Strategy vision should provide more focus on marine areas • The Dorset Coast Strategy goes out to 12 nautical miles, same as the MSP. • The group felt that the vision needs to include improvement, not just maintenance. • The vision should also acknowledge climate change; our ability to adapt and continue to make the Dorset Coast financially and environmentally healthy in this change is important. <p>PM then split the group into three sub groups to consider Defra's High Level Marine Objectives for environment, society and economy (each of three subgroups took one section). PM asked each group to</p>

review the objectives in their section considering whether the objectives would:

- be suitable for our MSP
- relate to our seven headline principles
- be suitable for Dorset

Once the workshop had ended, the sub-groups fed back to the main task and finish group.

Workshop outputs

Group 1 – Achieving a sustainable marine society

Objective 1

- A better word rather than appreciate would be “value” or “ownership”.
- Want to plan to ensure that people value diversity on the coast, therefore the objective should include “awareness”, “information” and “education”

Objective 2

- This objective was very confused, need to separate to make two objectives, one about community views, one about erosion and flood risk issues.
- A coastal change objective - the plan should adapt to coastal erosion and flood risk and be flexible.
- An objective for people to enjoy the coast and that the plan should continue to enhance this.
- Plan needs to reassure coastal communities that change is not something to fear and will be planned for – highlight opportunities

Objective 3

- Safety on the coast is an issue brought up in many MSPs. Cannot make the coast and marine environment completely safe though.
- It was suggested that there should be grey areas around zones in the MSP, these grey areas would be areas where we accept that there will be possible crossovers of uses.

Objective 4

- This objective is about mitigating climate change; the local community has got to acknowledge climate change. A perception study of this will be included in the Seascape Assessment.
- Ensure that coastal communities can see that marine renewables could be part of mitigation.
- Encourage development based on best science and evidence.

Objective 5

- The objective covers the point of the whole plan.

Objective 6

- This objective is centred on defence. An objective about liaison with outside bodies such as military and international fishermen could be a more relevant to Dorset MSP.

Group 2 – Achieving a sustainable marine economy

Objective 1

- Infrastructure is in place to support and promote safe, profitable and efficient marine businesses.

Objective 2

- Long-term wealth is generated by the responsible use of the marine environment and its resources.

Objective 3

- Marine businesses are taking long-term strategic decisions and managing risks effectively. They are competitive and operating efficiently.

Objective 4

- Marine businesses are acting in a way which respects environmental limits and is socially responsible. This is rewarded in the marketplace.

Discussion

The Economy group in assessing the Economic High Level Objective presented by Defra (above) quickly disregarded the first bullet believing that this could be covered by an amended version to bullet 2 and that the provision of infrastructure wasn't necessarily a positive objective for the marine spatial plan. It was felt that the objectives should be more about providing the commercial environment for infrastructure to develop.

It was felt that it would be appropriate to initially append the remaining bullet points with the phrase 'The Dorset Marine Spatial Plan' in order to focus discussion and determine if the high level objective were fit for purpose at a local scale. From this the following objectives were developed:

The Dorset Marine Spatial Plan must ensure that the marine environment and its resources are used to maximise sustainable activity, prosperity and opportunities for all, now and in the future.

The Dorset Marine Spatial Plan in order to achieve a sustainable marine economy should be used by relevant and competent authorities to make long-term strategic decisions and manage risk effectively.

The Dorset Marine Spatial Plan should provide support, stability and certainty for future sustainable business development.

During discussions we also considered areas that were not mentioned in the high level objectives, this included coastal community regeneration and providing opportunities for national and international marine industry clusters and trans-national cooperation and the implications of climate change which we regarded as a cross cutting theme for all objectives.

The point was made that there may be issues with the UK Policy Objectives conflicting with our local Marine Spatial Plan objectives, but we concluded that the Dorset MSP would be a means of enabling UK policy objective whilst taking into account the local marine users.

We agreed that these additional areas of discussion were generally encapsulated within the three objectives listed above, and that these covered the areas of DECISION MAKING, OPPORTUNITIES and SUPPORT of Economic activities.

Group 3 – Achieving a sustainable marine environment

- There is an economic benefit to a having a healthy marine environment.
- Links to business opportunities e.g. renewable energy and fishing

Our MSP should:

- Protect the integrity of the ecosystem (expand to biodiversity)
- With regard to natural habitats, spread, range and variety of systems, change within the environment. Need to adapt and take opportunities
- Pressures within the system need to be examined.
- Show a representation of those species and habitats that are pertinent to Dorset :- Biodiversity Action Plan
- To lead the way in developing guidelines
- Education and understanding about environment.
- Linking land and seascape to form a seamless layer (link to policies)
- List of Dorset habitats and species, look at how we are going to protect a representative portion.
- Consider cultural heritage