Solent European Marine Site –
Risk Assessment & Condition Review

SEMS Management Review Meeting – 2nd February

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Risk Assessment – A Little Background Information

Why?

- Defra has commissioned NE to review the risks posed to EMS' by anthropogenic activities.
- You will remember being consulted on the high risk activities this time last year and on the medium and low risk activities before Christmas. Thank you to those of you who provided comments.

- The following slides will refer to the high risk activities only. The high, medium and low risk activities are currently being reviewed by our National team and therefore may be subject to change.

Risk Assessment – A Little Background Information

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How?

1. Harm Potential
   - Sensitivity to activity (R33 advice)/professional judgement
   - Area of feature that could be affected by activity

Sensitivity	Exposure: Low	Exposure: Moderate	Exposure: High
High	Moderate	High	High
Moderate	Low	Moderate	High
Low	Low	Low	Moderate

Exposure (Area of site potentially effected)

Risk Assessment – A Little Background Information

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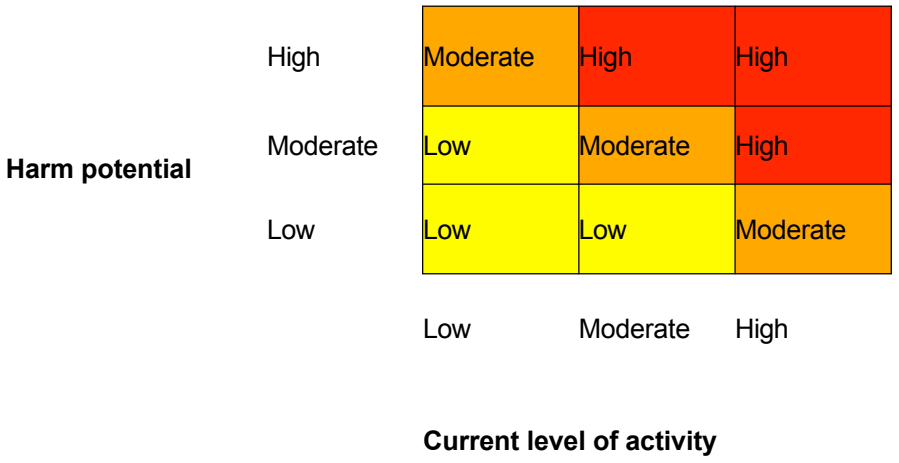
2. Likelihood of Activity
   - Current level/potential to start

3. Management
   - Current level of management/control mechanism

4. Final Risk Score:

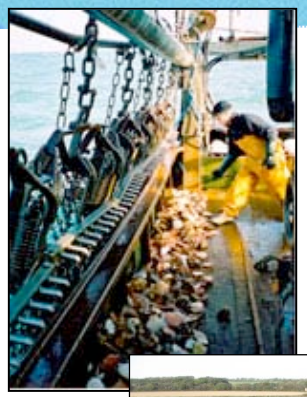


5. Future Action Required

The Outcomes - High Risk Activities

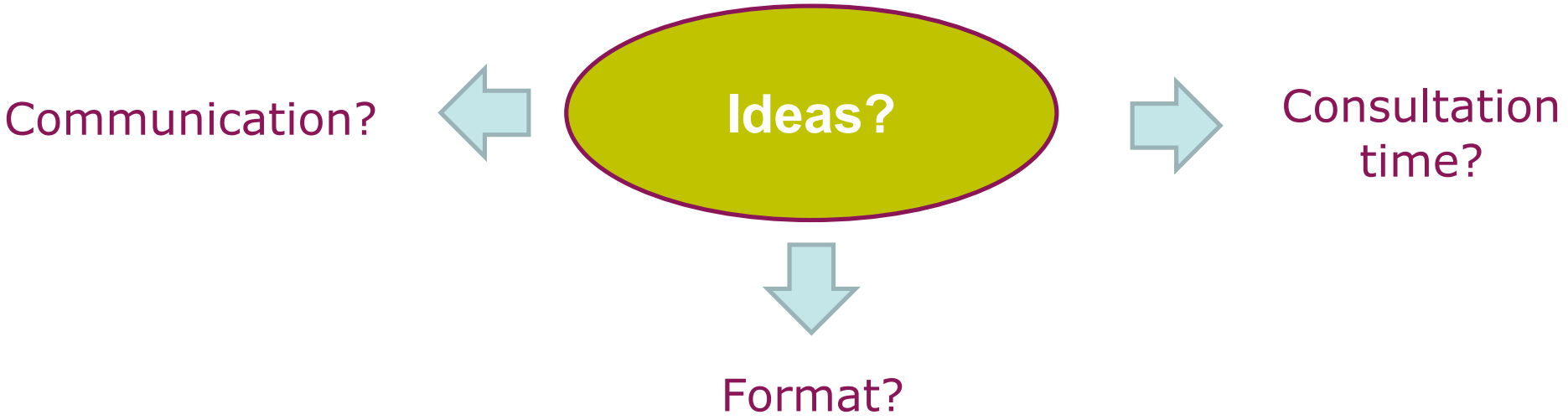
The high risk activities identified were:

- Clam Dredging
- Bait Digging
- Airborne Pollution
- Access (Land-based)
- Coastal Squeeze
- Ballast Water (Introduction of alien species)



Could this process work better?

- I’m aware that only 2 partners responded to the risk assessment consultation in December. If this were to become an annual assessment, what would you like us to take onboard??



Questions??

Condition Review – A Little Background Information

Why?

- In addition to requiring the risk assessments – discussed earlier, Defra wanted us to seek a clear expression of our view with regard to the condition of EMS features.
- This information in the longer term is also needed to contribute to Favourable Conservation Status reporting, inform site management and any future State of the Natural Environment Reports.

- The condition review relates to the SAC only, the next round of reviews will concentrate on the SPAs. I have only recently completed the intertidal condition review and expect that with National input a couple of my judgements may be altered.

Condition Review – A Little Background Information

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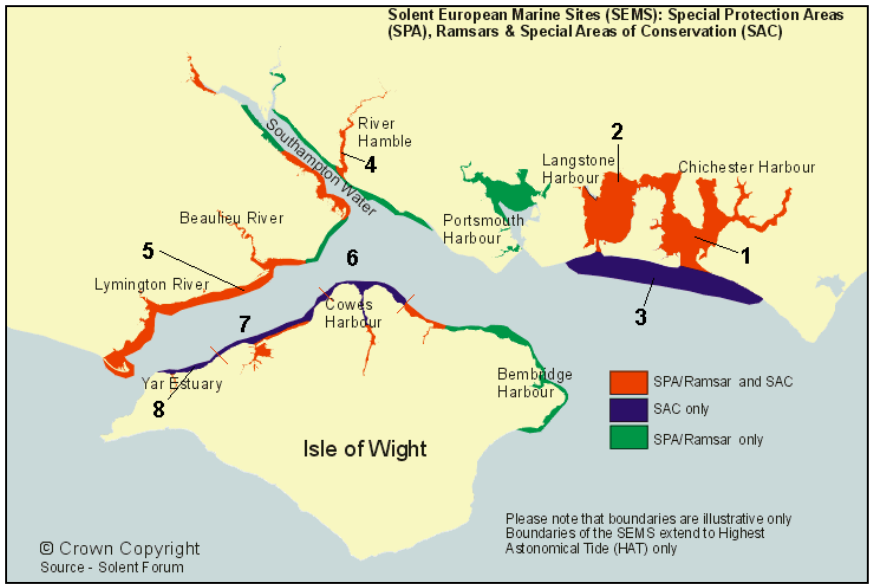
How?

1. Populate condition review feature/sub-feature templates with conservation objectives (taken from R33)
2. Undertake data aggregation exercise – gather together all key information sources likely to be relevant to determining the condition of the feature/sub-feature in question and review their relevance.
3. Undertake unitisation process – identify series of geographical sub-units in order to analyse site more efficiently.



More information on the process used...

4. Reach judgements on condition of features/sub-features with respect to individual attributes across marine units.

5. Transpose judgements into site wide summary table - key pieces of information taken from each feature/sub-feature assessment transferred into a large table (for the whole site).

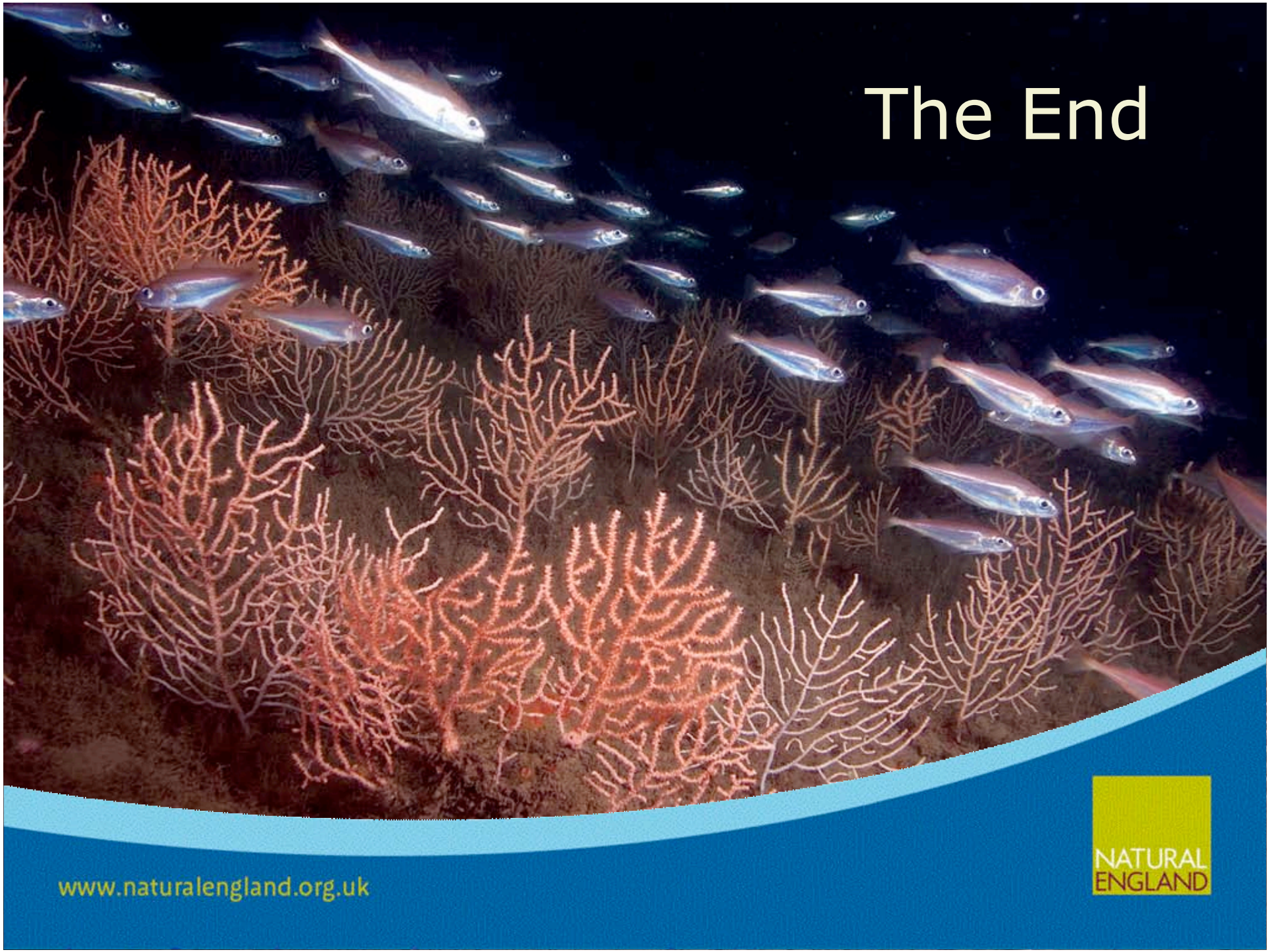
6. Reach integrated judgments on condition of features and sub features based on all attributes across marine units – basically draw everything together to reach a conclusion on:
   - the current condition
   - future prospects
   - contribution to wider conservation status

Don’t worry I have a demonstration!!

An Outcome of the Final Assessment

Annual Vegetation of Driftlines	N/a	Favourable
Atlantic Salt Meadows	Low Marsh Communities	Unfavourable
	Mid-marsh Communities	Unfavourable
	Upper Marsh Communities	Unfavourable
	Transitional High Marsh Communities	Unfavourable
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	Annual *Salicornia/Suaed a maritima* Saltmarsh Communities (SM8 and SM9)	Unfavourable
Cordgrass Swards	Small cordgrass communities	Unfavourable Not assessed
	Smooth cordgrass communities	Unfavourable
	Townsend's cordgrass communities	Favourable
Intertidal mudflats and sandflats	Intertidal Mud Communities	Unfavourable
	Intertidal Muddy Sand Communities	Unfavourable
	Intertidal mixed sediment communities	Unfavourable
Estuaries	Subtidal sediment	Not assessed
Sandbanks covered by water all of the time	Subtidal muddy sand communities	Not assessed
	Subtidal gravelly sand and sand	Not assessed
	Subtidal eelgrass *Zostera marina* beds	Not assessed
Lagoons	Lagoons	Not assessed

This takes into account the feature/sub-features current condition and its future prospects to conclude its contribution to wider conservation status


The End
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