



- Towards Solent Marine Planning (SOMAP) - Start-Up Meeting

Royal Southampton Yacht Club
Ocean Village

18th February 2009 at 10.00 am

MINUTES

Introduction to Project

SF welcomed all project partners and introduced the agenda. The project partner meeting forms an initial Steering Group for the project.

KM provided a presentation of the project proposals and introduced a start-up project pack to guide the meeting. The start-up project pack (containing amendments since the meeting) is available with these minutes and will be referred to in these minutes.

The presentation on the project proposals and the proposals themselves are available in the project pack.

Project Finances and Timing

The project is currently valued at £31,620 and a copy of the Project Accounts can be found in the project pack. It is hoped that as the project progresses more partners can be attracted to the project; further money of up to £8,000 is required for the data and visual representation elements of the project. A list of all project partners (financial and non-financial) is shown in the project proposals. Solent Forum will keep the project accounts under the Hampshire County Council system and will present them at Steering Group Meetings.

Some partners will be putting in-kind support, including SCC who are kindly offering officer time to help.

The project will run for 18 months. Beginning February 2009 and ending July 2010.

Action: KM to seek further financial partners

Defra feedback on Marine Bill Progress

SC gave an account of the Marine Bill progress, passing through the House of Lords. The House are particularly scrutinising the bill as it is a framework bill; they see such bills as having the potential to grow without Government control. There are many areas of the Bill that still need to be decided; in particular it is not yet known how many Marine Plans will be required around the country as the criteria for choice has not been made. Projects such as SoMaP will help inform Defra of the likely criteria; areas of high activity such as the Solent may for example be a criteria for choice of Marine Plan scale.

SC also provided an overview of the new Defra strategy – *Strategy for promoting an integrated approach to the management of coastal areas in England*. The strategy explains how the Marine Bill contributes to Integrated Coastal Management. It sets the context of Integrated Coastal Management with other strategies and initiatives including the new regional strategies and regeneration strategies. Estuary Management Plans could be incorporated into Marine Plans.

He emphasised that Marine Planning will be a participatory process, although plans will need to conform or at least not contradict the new national Marine Policy Statements. Identifying the right stakeholders, particularly in Local Authorities, is a challenge; Atkins are currently doing some work via the Local Government Association to identify the right contacts in Maritime Local Authorities.

Local pilots looking towards marine planning such as SoMaP will help Defra understand the criteria and order of marine planning, as well as make an initial start of getting data together, and identifying and involving stakeholders. Other pilots include Dorset c-SCoPE, Entec work (funded EA), NE and CCW, joining marine with terrestrial planning, and some other not yet public.

Project Overview

There was some debate over the project name. The initial name of “Towards a Solent Planning System” was changed to “Towards Marine Solent Marine Planning”. The geographical boundaries of the project was agreed to include the Solent marine and coastal area. This was defined as:

- Eastern boundary – Selsey Bill
- Western boundary – Hurst spit
- Northern boundary – Hampshire coastline and part of West Sussex (in Chichester harbour) to **beyond** high water. To go inland as far as current 1: 1000 floodplain, with adjustments for sea level rise over 100 years.
- Southern boundary – Northern coastine of Isle of Wight (between Bembridge and Needles) to **beyond** high water. To go inland as far as current 1: 1000 floodplain, with adjustments for sea level rise over 100 years.

Despite all of the above, the project is to adopt a flexible approach to boundaries and consider them as blurred. It is to be mindful of coastal processes and following an ecosystem approach. The local Shoreline Management Plans identify the Solent between Hurst to Selsey Bill as a sediment cell. The project is to some extent to consider the suitability of also incorporating waters to the South of the IOW; the character of this “open” coastline is quite different to that of the “enclosed” Solent estuary character.

Introduction to Project Partners

Each partner spoke about the level of involvement they would like in the project:

SW from NE

NE are a major funder and would like to be involved as much as possible. They can provide data to the project in the form of Solent Marine Site information, helping with NE tools and links with other meetings.

RG from HCC

RG would like to be involved as much as possible, particularly in relation to a new EU bid that HCC are partnering named Channel Arc Manche Integrated Strategy (CAMIS); HCC are involved in the Maritime Governance strand of this strategy and this will involve setting-up a cross channel coastal forum. RG was also very involved with the Solent European Marine Site scheme of management and this should help with the project.

TK from EA Solent South Downs

EA can help with their vast amount of data held. In particular flood plain data, tidal data, bathymetry, LiDAR etc. TK would coordinate this, however others would actually provide it. TK may not be suitable contact person throughout this project. May consider others such as Tim Sykes, new coastal officer, John Smith's replacement in Development Control, Kristina Richards coordinating public participation on SMPs. Alison Baptiste is running a regional EA project looking at how to involve people in the planning process; Solent Forum need to link with Alison and Kristina if they wish to develop their idea of offering a stakeholder and community participation service to the EA and others.

SC from Defra

Would like to be as involved as possible. He can input by providing emerging policy information. He can help coordinate the project with the Marine Plan Implementation project. The EO and the Chairman for the new MMO are currently being recruited and their new offices are planned for Newcastle some time in 2010. In the meantime, a shadow planning team may be set-up in London in October 2009. The Defra MMO implementation team are planning some promotional material and publicity for MMO and MSP – it is hoped that this will be available in April 09

It is not yet known how many marine plans there could be and could range from between 10 to 30. Yet to be determined how many MMO regional offices/teams there will be.

SS from Marine SE

Marine South East can link with SEEDA. They provide a monthly newsletter to 2000 marine companies. They can help disseminate information on the project to marine industries.

DM from IOW Council

IOW Council have submitted the Island Core Strategy and a the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. They are also delivering the IOW Shoreline Management Plan, approximately 6-12 months away from consultation. E Yar strategy is nearly resolved. Regeneration plans for Medina and Ryde.

BM from SCC (Sustainability team)

BM can devote her time to the project to work alongside the project officer. She has the weight of her team behind her; this includes planning ecology, sustainable development, climate change and energy mgt. The sustainability team work alongside the planning team. SCC do not have a coastal engineer employed, rather they use the services of Capita; they have plans to link with NFDC engineering team.

JM from Crown Estate

As CE are large landowners of foreshore and seabed they have a great deal of data on ownership areas/coastal assets and on resources to be found on the foreshore and seabed. They also plan for the use/licensing of these resources by other parties.

In particular they have 5 or 6 GIS systems to cover offshore and coastal areas/assets. They have their Marine Resource System (MARS) which allows them to plan the use of offshore assets. They are currently dealing with round 3 of bids to let offshore renewable energy resource. The planning round should come together around March/April 09. They also have a system named COWRIE (Collabrative Offshore Wind Research into the Environment), managed by Geodata. It is not clear how SOMAP can use Crown Estates datasets and this can be further explored with JM and his colleagues.

Jamie Moore – Marine Planning, data systems and MARS

Hannah Cherry – Stakeholder Engagment team

David Tudor – Marine Policy

JM can particularly help SOMAP with its methodology for data collection and visual representation.

CH from Geodata

CH is involved with managing data on a number of projects including:

- Channel Coastal Observatory – Geodata manage servers
- SG4E
- COWRIE – includes offshore renewable round 1 and 2 data. When obtaining a FEPA licence, this is an opportunity to collect activity data from communal good.
- MEDIN – Marine Data Archive Centre, which Defra and other can gain access to environmental data. Data portal to UKHO and others.
- Marine Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund – funding Geodata to obtain commercial information.
- North Wessex AONB – database by sector to spatially represent policy and other information

Other Partners to approach

It was agreed that GOSE and Partnership for Urban South East (PUSH) (Stuart Jarvis), West Sussex County Council, and Portsmouth City Council (Unitary) should be invited as project partners.

It was noted that Solent maritime local authorities were not part of the steering group. KM had invited the Unitary Authorities and HCC to represent the LAs. She also had put in Solent Forum support to the project to ensure that Solent Forum Members (which include all Solent LAs and Harbour Authorities) could influence the project. KM felt, that that the Steering Group should be of a manageable size and that LAs would not be overlooked in any way; the whole reason for the project was to involve all Solent stakeholders in the process of collecting Solent data and contributing to the concept of marine planning; in this way LAs would be a stakeholder group targeted within the project. The project already has a draft Communications Strategy and this includes a Stakeholder Engagement Plan which will show how each and every Solent stakeholder will be involved in the project.

The group decided that a letter should be sent to all Solent Forum members announcing the project and how stakeholders would be approached; in the meantime the letter would ask organisations to contact the Solent Forum if they wished to get involved in advance, also calling for financial contributions and expertise. Requests for involvement can then be processed by the Steering Group and agreed as part of the project's communications strategy; in this way further organisations can be brought into the Steering Group if appropriate.

Action:

KM to capture partners contributions into the Communications Strategy

KM to compose letter to Solent Forum members and to Southern Coastal Group/SCOPAC and circulate amongst SG for approval. Letter to be sent out to all members.

KM to invite GOSE, PUSH, W Sussex CC and PCC onto SG

Data and Visual Representation

The main project output will be a database and means of spatially representing the data.

The Project Pack includes a table which lists a number of useful datasets.

It was agreed that a Project Sub-Group would be formed to help steer the data elements for the project. This team will comprise: Crown Estate - Jamie Tudor, Geodata - Chris Hill, NE - Sarah Wiggins, Defra – person to be confirmed, EA – person to be confirmed, CCO (Travis Mason) and ABP Mer (Stephen Hull). Help from HCC – Mike Proctor.

Important datasets mentioned

- HCC coastal access datasets
- WFD datasets – derogations where allowed to continue damaging activities if socio-economics outweigh means of putting it right
- Defra and its MMO teams are currently scoping the GIS requirements for Marine Spatial Planning; they are considering how the Government's GIS can be used and how SPIRE the EU directive on GIS is integrated. CEFAS are currently aiding Defra by helping develop tools for the new MMO (Sam Haylen is the Defra contact), as well as developing a sustainability appraisal system, This is particularly aimed at a regional scale, rather than sub-regional scale.
- Crown Estate comprehensive data sources

Examples of projects which spatially represent data

- N Wessex AONB Project – disaggregates policy information and maps it. Collates environmental, socio and economic data. Takes you through the habitats regulation process. Used as a screening for PUSH
- Humber Estuary Management Plan – model for pooling data (Kate Sanders contact)
- Solent Forum DISC – catalogues reports and information in the Solent and provides a grid reference.
- Irish Sea Project – look at it as a model for sources

Need to decide on what data to be collected.

- Policy data for each sector to be sensibly categorised. Metadata about policy data to be collected and therefore a list of questions required such as 1/ has the policy been agreed and how
- Hierarchy of policy – national, local

- Work out what other data needed. What is essential, what is aspirational. What is national, what is local
- Reference more detailed data already available rather than collect it
- Understand how to link the datums of datasets collected
- Understand what Local Authority data is held. Work out what questions to ask. Link with ENTEC study which is trying to identify respondents within LAs for MSP – Steve Collins. Think of Local Strategic Partnerships and local indicators. Who in LA links with sea fisheries committee and IFCA's. HCC sits on Southern Sea Fisheries Committee.
- Collect LA flood risk mgt and erosion data. Mike Wheeler at Gosport BC – Mike is retiring
- Obtain PUSH data such as SFRA – thinks of its importance as a Multi Area Agreement. (Ian Burt)

Action: KM to set-up Data Group and first meeting. Set agenda to take all issues discussed forward

Project Governance and Project Milestones

Agreed:

Project Manager	Karen McHugh
Project Steering Group	Project partners attending this meeting (with possibility of including more)
Project Officers	Bernadine Maguire Rhian Edwards Karen McHugh

Project milestones agreed:

18 month project. First 6 months project planning and then last 12 months (from August 09) employ a project officer for 2 days per week to complete all the work. In the meantime Karen McHugh and Bernadine Maguire to work on project planning.

Start-up	18/2/09
Planning	02/09 – 07/09
SG meeting	June/July 09 (further meetings to be agreed)
Final outputs	July 2010

See agreed work programme (in Project Start-up Pack) for detail.

Action:
KM to set-up Project Officer Planning Meeting with Bernadine Maguire asap

Communications Strategy

The importance of producing a Communications Strategy to contain an agreed Stakeholder Engagement Plan was agreed.

The importance of reaching Local Authorities and the Southern Coastal Group was highlighted.

The importance of reaching the public/communities was highlighted. This project does not include a methodology to do this. It was agreed that the project would at least scope a methodology to include communities/ public.

It was agreed that the SG would help form the right message to provide to stakeholders. To be led by Defra

It was agreed to produce a newsletter every 6 months to explain progress on the project. This to be included in Communications Strategy. SF Meetings, Solent News and SF web-site also to be used to promote project.

A draft Communications Strategy can be found in the work pack.

Action:

KM to produce a second draft Communications Strategy and circulate it to the SG for approval

KM to draft a form of word for communications with Defra Steve Collins

Project Planning and work allocations

KM has categorised each of the tasks included in the project proposals in a work programme. This Steering Group updated this programme and it can be found in the work pack. This forms the basis of the project actions and shows what will be done by whom and when. There are 7 work packages with sub-tasks. Broadly speaking project planning will take place between February 2008 and July 2009, and the actual work populating that matrix with data will commence August 2009 and finish July 2010.

Dates of Next Meeting

The SG were keen to meet again during the project.

Action: KM to set a meeting to conclude the project planning phase in June/July 2009.

Project Partners (Steering Group)
(Names in light grey indicate back-up to main contact)

Funding Partners	Contacts (First and second)	Contact	
Solent Forum	Karen McHugh Rhian Edwards	01962 846027	
Environment Agency	Tim Kermode Tim Sykes	01903 832516	
Defra	Steve Collins	0207 238 4327	
Hampshire County Council	Rachael Gallagher Stuart Roberts	01962 846925	
Southampton City Council	Bernadine Maguire Rob Crighton	023 8083 2403	
Natural England	Sarah Wiggins Chris McMullon/Paul Gilliland	02380 286434	
Non Funding Partners			
Crown Estate	Jamie Moore David Tudor	020 7851 5071	
SEEDA/Marine South East	Stephen Sharp Jonathan Williams	023 8076 6751	
Isle of Wight Council	Dave Moore	01983 823552	
Geodata	Chris Hill	023 8059 2719	
E Channel MCZ Project	Sue Wells	01622 221073	apologies

Chair			
Bournemouth University	Dr Steve Fletcher	01202 966737	