



- Towards Solent Marine Planning - SoMaP Meeting

8th July 2009 in Winchester at 10.00 am

Minutes

Minutes of Last Meeting (18/2/09)

Outstanding actions noted:

Action: The project still needs to attract further financial partners.

The value of the project is currently £29,160.

Project Progress and planning

SW reminded KM to invite Simon Pengall from Southern Sea Fisheries to the Steering group.

KM also to try again to get PUSH involved in SG.

Action: KM contact Southern Sea Fisheries – Simon Pengall and PUSH

KM took the group through the 7 work packages, to show progress since the last meeting. A copy of the progress on the work programme will be made available on the Solent Forum website.

Work Package 1 – Stakeholder Engagement – This is well underway and a Communications Strategy with a Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been drafted and agreed with amendments. It is specifically discussed in a separate agenda item below.

Work Package 2 – Reiterate national progress on MSP – This has been completed in draft and agreed with amendments. It is specifically discussed in a separate agenda item below.

Work Package 3 – Scoping a Solent Marine Planning System with stakeholders – this is part of the main project which will start in September.

Work Package 4 – Understand the information requirements for a MPS – This has been started and KM is currently working on this work package with the data group. It is due to finish in September. It is specifically is discussed in a separate agenda item below (data group).

Work Package 5 – Agree pilot case studies and use them to test information – This is the only work behind schedule. The group needs to pick and agree case studies. The group spent some time discussing case studies to be used throughout the project and agreed on the following three:

- **Hamble Estuary** – this provides a complete estuary case study of a geomorphologically typical Solent estuary with many land sea planning interactions. The Hamble Estuary is ultimately managed by HCC, has an Estuary Management Plan, has a streamlined consents process, has coastal squeeze issues, and is a key water based recreation centre.
- **Boating Movements** – This theme was picked as the Solent is a very densely used by ships and boats. This case study will test how marine planning will relate to navigation, safety and recreational water use, including ferries, commercial shipping, navy, fishing fleet. It will not specifically examine boat docking/berthing or fishing.
- **Coastal Squeeze** – this is a big issue for the Solent as the low lying coastline is particularly affected by sea level rise. Habitats and coastal livelihoods will be displaced over the next 100 years by sea level rise. The Solent and IOW SMPs are dealing with this. This project will examine how robust a Solent Marine Planning System would be to plan for the realignment of displaced coastal land (as agreed in SMPs) and the further requirement to plan for the loss of inland sites used for realignment. This case study will not be specifically looking at flood risk or the requirement to defend sites.

Work Package 6 – Obtain and map policy information - this is part of the main project which will start in September.

Work Package 7 – Evaluate Project findings and make recommendations – this will happen at the end of the project

JH asked the group for their views on whether Marine Plans should be statutory or non-statutory. The group expressed mixed views. Whilst statutory and enforceable plans were considered simpler, they can be draconian, particularly to smaller recreational users, and difficult to enforce. On balance the group felt that to begin with a non-statutory approach should be followed and statutory instruments considered when other means failed to bring about sustainable management of the coastal zone. It was also felt that the Marine Policy Statements could provide sufficient strength to marine plans.

Action: KM to debate the above question of statutory .v. non statutory approach with stakeholders

Report on work Package 2 deliverables

BM presented the draft output from work package 2. This report reiterates national progress, in particular from Defra and the MFA, on Marine Planning. The report is to be used as a key communication tool for Stakeholder so as to bring them quickly up to speed with what is happening with the forthcoming marine Bill and setting up of the new MMO. The report was very well received by the group and was complimented on being well written and informative. Amendments were suggested and BM will issue a final version shortly.



RG suggested that BM look at the a report which a student produced on behalf of the Solent Forum on how stakeholders wished Marine Planning in the Solent to progress.

Action: KM give BM Solent Forum report on Solent Marine Planning

The SG asked how the report would be updated with emerging policy. KM is developing a SoMaP website and the report will be uploaded onto it. KM and BM will liaise monthly and inset any updates into the website.

Action: BM amend the report and give to KM to upload

Action: BM and KM meet liaise monthly to post updates to website.

Progress of Data Group

KM updated the group on the progress that the SoMaP Data sub-group had made. See box for a summary of the meeting.

The [Data Sub-Group](#) met on 7th May and agreed its terms of reference as;

Advise on a methodology for data identification, collation and visualisation.

The group were able to agree on the level of data required for SoMaP but need to meet again in October or November to consider in more detail how the data will actually be visually represented.

The Data sub-group agreed that the project needed to take a Top-down approach rather than Bottom-up approach. In other words there is a need to frame the type of information to be collected first, rather than employ a scattergun approach of collecting all possible data. Despite this, the project still can list or collate any data on activity that it is provided/comes across. The Eastern Channel MCZ Project will be much more concerned with actually collection national, regional and local datasets and therefore the SoMaP Project can much more usefully target the information it requires to aide planning. The Solent Forum web-site is an obvious first source of information and it already has DISC a metadatabase of Solent coastal and marine studies. Solentpedia is also a good source of plans and strategies in the Solent, listed under the managing our coast section.

The information to be targeted is Statutory and non-statutory plans and policies for a whole range of sectors operating in the Solent. Each plan or policy will be assigned a geographic boundary/polygon. The outputs will be a Solent Map showing each of these sectors and policy constraints to development/usage – It will include textual information showing policy. Maps may show boundary information, textual policy, jurisdictions, orders and bye-laws, codes of conduct for less organised sectors. Policy information may include metadata on it such as: How policy agreed, how frequently reviewed. In the case of development policies, information may be sought on what plans are made by sectors and to what degree plans are assessed. Links to available activity data can be made – Solent Forum will work closely with the EC MCZ Project to collate any links. For the three case study areas, more detailed information can be collated if necessary particularly to demonstrate land sea interactions

The approach of mapping policy information would be similar to that taken by two projects discussed:

1. North Wessex AONB Project – managed by Geodata
2. ABP Mer project with Local Authorities and Flood Fisk Management, to avert risk

The information would need to be gained from each sector using some sort of audit. KM needs to spend time writing an outline of the questions required from this audit. Prior to conducting any research, information will be gleaned from desk research sources such as Solentpedia, DISC , and the Solent Forum(SF) Marine Consents Guide (MCG).

The Group felt that the next stage it could guide would be a means of representing the data collected. At this stage the group would consider interactive web-based GIS, the need for bathymetry/topography, spatial representation in the water column, stitching land/sea datum's, resolutions etc. It was generally felt by the group that detailed data considerations of bathymetry/topography, water column and stitching of land to sea may be unnecessary as the focus should be on policy mapping. It might be useful to think how a planner may want to interrogate the data, what questions may be asked. The SoMaP Steering Group should be asked how they would wish to use such a planning tool to help properly build it. One method of doing this would be set-up user groups for each of the 3 pilots, to test

The Steering Group agreed the above approach. It was agreed that the system should be structured in the way a planner might make a decision, using a decision tree and hierarchy. The system may be used by planner or developers. Planners could be categorised into a/ early stage policy planners b/ plan makers 3/ development control. The SG also agreed that the project should gather metadata and ask the following: How hard data was to collect, gaps in data, problems getting data for each case study and why,

Action: KM to start producing an Audit of questions, thinking through a planning decision hierarchy based on the above.

Action: KM to include questions to collect metadata

CH from Geodata then provided a demonstration of the two projects mentioned above (North Wessex AONB Project and ABP Mer Project). Both systems were discussed and the SG agreed they offered the right approach.

The North Wessex AONB project built by Geodata for HCC was particularly appropriate as it provided a means of spatially searching for policy information, although wholly land based. It is in effect an automated management plan. It cost approximately £10,000 to develop. The SG agreed that KM should meet with Geodata to further discuss how a similar system could be built for SoMaP and the associated costs and timings.

Action: KM meet with Geodata to discuss the resources to build such a system

SWells explained how the E Channel MCZ project, now know as Balanced Seas Project, will be handling data collection. In particular it will be obtaining some software which will allow drawing on maps, so that stakeholders can show their activities. This tool will cost around £150,000. it is a multi stakeholders decision making tool and allows the setting of criteria and weighting. KM and SWells will liaise throughout the project to ensure that each project complemented the other and that different information was sought from stakeholders.

Action: KM to regularly liaise with Balanced Sea Project team to ensure project synergies.

Communications Strategy

KM took the group through the draft communications strategy. The SG agreed the draft strategy. KM to amend the strategy to include stakeholders such as Steve Fletcher at Bournemouth University, to help scope a methodology of how effective communication can be made to Solent communities and the public on the new marine planning system.

Action: KM to include Bournemouth University in the strategy and the need to scope out a community/public engagement strategy

Action; KM to upload amended Communications Strategy to SF website

Dates of Next Meeting

Date agreed as 5th November 2009. Venue in Winchester TBC.



Project Partners – Invited to meeting

Funding Partners	Contacts (First and second)	Attended Y or N	Contact
Solent Forum	Karen McHugh Rhian Edwards	Y Y	01962 846027
Environment Agency	Tim Kermode Caroline Price	Y N	01903 832516
Defra	Steve Collins Jesse Honey	N Y	0207 238 4327
Hampshire County Council	Rachael Gallagher Lucy Sheffield	Y N	01962 846925
Southampton City Council	Bernadine Maguire Rob Crighton	Y N	023 8083 2403
Natural England	Sarah Wiggins Chris McMullon Graham Horton	Y Y Y	02380 286434
Non Funding Partners			
GOSE	Julie Price Liz Pinn Carol Ward	N N Y	01483 884837
SEEDA/Marine South East	Stephen Sharp Jonathan Williams	N N	023 8076 6751
West Sussex County Council	Catherine Chapman Glen Westmore	N Y	01243 753844
Portsmouth City Council	Mike Allgrove	Y	02392 834302
Isle of Wight Council	Dave Moore	Y	01983 823552
Crown Estate	David Tudor Jamie Moore	N N	020 7851 5071
Geodata	Chris Hill	Y	023 8059 2719
E Channel MCZ Project	Sue Wells	Y	01622 221073
Dr Steve Fletcher	Bournemouth Uni	N	(0) 1202 966737