

Steering Group Meeting No 21

Venue: Nobel House, London

Date: 28th October 2014

Start: 12:00

Present:

Simon Baldwin, Welsh Assembly Government
John Baxter, SNH
Georgia Bayliss-Brown, Cefas (Secretariat; minutes)
Paul Buckley, Cefas (Secretariat)
Darius Campbell, OSPAR (Speaker)
Adam Cook, MMO
Tarquin Dorrington, Defra
Alexander Downie, SEPA
Stephen Dye, Cefas (Speaker)
Matt Frost, MBA/MECN
Steve Hall, NOC
Vanessa Hernaman, Natural England
Sarah Hughes, Marine Scotland
Rob McCall, Natural Resources Wales
Philip Stamp, Defra
Beth Stoker, JNCC (Speaker)
Jon Tinker, Met Office
Narumon Withers Harvey, Defra
Julian Wright, Environment Agency
Ken Wright, DECC

Definitions:

ARC	Annual Report Card
ARP	Adaptation Progress Reporting
BP	Business Plan
CCRA	Climate Change Risk Assessment
CSW	Climate Smart Working
FY	Financial Year
MG	Management Group
mpa	marine protected area
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
MTR	Mid-Term Review
OAC	Outreach and Communications
REF	Research Excellence Framework
SG	Steering Group
ST	Special Topic
ToR	Terms of Reference
UKOA	UK Ocean Acidification Programme
WG	Working Group

Apologies:

Emma Barton, Environment Agency
Kathryn Dawson, Natural England
Martin Edwards, SAHFOS
David Johns, SAHFOS
Kevin Kennington, Isle of Man Government
Dan Laffoley, IUCN (DL)
Karen McHarg, Isle of Man Government
Greg Morel, Jersey Government
Lynsay Ross, Marine Scotland
Phil Taylor, RSPB
Bill Turrell, Marine Scotland

Other invitees:

Glen Nolan, Marine Institute
Adam Mellor, AFBI
Steve Smith, States of Guernsey
Alec Taylor, RSPB

Action Points from the last meeting

Minutes from last meeting had been previously agreed via circulation – no comments were received.

An update of actions (SG 05-14) was circulated prior to the meeting. One action was discussed at the meeting, and all other topics are covered in the relevant agenda items:

CCRA 2017 - A meeting was held at Defra on 27th October bringing together Defra agency staff as part of an 'expert group' to review the draft methodology and chapter structures have been sent to this group for comment. As there is no marine chapter, the Secretariat is emphasising the need to cover marine and take account of updated marine projections.

Management group feedback

Finances and risk register provided in the papers (SG07-14).

Finances – The finances presented at five months into FY 14/15 (up to 31st August 2014) show that there is an approximate £20k under spend (£57,748 spent; 30% of the budget) if spend was consistent over the year. Work on the ST and CSW deliverables is increasing and, projecting forward, we can expect to spend the full amount budgeted for this FY (£185,219).

The negative figure in "Evaluation" is because work on the MTR was deferred to this FY. There is spend on ARC work in a non-ARC year because work on DOIs and finalising letters of thanks to the authors was completed in this FY. With a Deferred Income of £63,443 at end 13/14, if the budget is met for 14/15 (£185,219 spent), we will have £31,224 remaining in the budget at the end of 14/15, and as rules currently stand at Cefas, there is some dispensation to carry this over to next FY. The amount being carried over is steadily declining so eventually we could find that there are no longer the funds to support the work and as we approach this Phase of MCCIP, we need to work on securing funds for the future.

Risk register – Three risks have been changed since the last SG. At the MG, it was determined that the risk associated with "Delivering products that are not seen to have value outside of our own organisations" and "Loss of interest in existing products" was too pessimistic and hence both likelihood and importance are "medium" risk. In addition, a risk of a "lack of connectivity with related key initiatives" has increased from "low" to "medium" after the Secretariat received comments that MCCIP was not connected to their Scottish indicators work.

Responding to recent developments in the ST, The chair of the ARC WG (MF) suggested that a further risk should be added to the Risk Register to reflect that sometimes the timings of deliverables can be delayed as a result of various circumstances. It was agreed that this should be added to the Risk Register.

The SG agreed to these amendments.

The Secretariat have received many positive responses from ARC contributors after receiving their letters of thanks and this supports a decision to drop the likelihood of partners disengaging to "low/medium" in the last year. This action offers contributors valuable evidence to support their REF assessments, next taking place in 2020. The Phase III Business Plan considers this in the Evaluation Framework, as often activity referring to MCCIP materials, work of the authors or utilising the

concept approach, is not picked up in Evaluation, measures to collate this information will be put in place an initial action of Phase III.

Key deliverables

Special Topic - The initial concept for the Report Card was that it would be based on three papers and an introductory paper submitted and accepted by *Aquatic Conservation*. This process has been more difficult than last time. The ARC WG recommended a post-election launch as a high-quality product is a better option than to compromise the quality of the information. It was agreed that June 2015 would be the most appropriate month to launch the Card, once new ministers are in position. There was some concern that there are limited committed funds after March but the WG advised that the bulk of the work will be completed in this FY and deferred income can be used to print, launch and present the Card. TD said that the MCCIP contract could be considered for extension to allow for these activities.

The ARC WG asked that SG members suggested possible launch options. It was thought that the rescheduled UKOA final event may be occurring this Summer. It was also noted that there may be some overlap with LWEC's report cards to consider.

Climate Smart Working - We are currently working with Seafish to support their development of an ARP as part of the CCRA. The CSW WG have helped facilitate a couple of workshops including a well-attended Sustainability Committee meeting for the Scottish Fishermen's Federation Meeting in Aberdeen and more recently at an Importers Forum. The ARP will be completed by March 2015 and an MCCIP-branded Card will be created to communicate this work to non-specialists. There are still some challenges – whilst the engagement with trade associations is good when you find enthusiastic carriers within them, we still need to identify future CSW projects and to be effective we need people (SG members) and a WG Chair to assist.

The membership of the CSW WG was discussed and it was felt that as topics vary with the every industry involve, the membership of the WG should be relatively fluid. Discussions into inviting a new partner, to strengthen our adaptation capability, to join MCCIP were made and shall be followed up.

With respect to the last CSW Card on marine leisure, BMF are still keen to carry the work forwards. The Secretariat recently received a phone call from the RYA wanting to use the contents of the Card to form the basis of their presentation at the Boat Show, illustrating that there is value in, and a need for, the work being produced.

Some ideas for future topics were provided. It was noted that the offering for MCCIP is difficult because it is only UK.

Website – There had been some concern at the last MG meeting that the MCCIP website would have to migrate to an alternative server as Cefas migrates to GOV.UK. The current status is that the MCCIP website will remain at Cefas but there was a brief mention of overheads being charged. The SG felt that MCCIP is already charged overheads when paying FEC on staff time and hence this should not happen. The Secretariat will keep the SG and MG updated with progress and if required, there is a likelihood that the MBA would be open to discussing options to host the website.

Evaluation – A brief evaluation of last FY, as a supplement to the MTR paper, has been drafted to ensure longevity in the data collected on dissemination activities. A short summary was provided to

the SG and they have been asked to provide comments on the paper, so that it can be finalised and signed off.

Phase III Business Plan

A Working Group was set up to develop the Phase III Business Plan. Using the findings from the MTR, the WG asked what MCCIP needs to do differently in Phase III. The content and structure were outlined and after a few iterations a draft (SG 09-14) was provided to the SG for discussion.

Fundamentally Phases II and III are not very different yet the costs have increased slightly and the objectives have been tweaked to better reflect the maturity which the partnership has now reached. The objectives are such that we wish to:

- Gain a better understanding of stakeholders to continue to improve products and services,
- Think again about who we are trying to reach touching on international engagement and who we would like to approach,
- Develop a role of strategic partners,
- Think about succession planning to bring in new members to get involved to ensure that we can continue,
- Develop a more ambitious communication plan and re-establish a communications group,
- Continue to advance the science with new authors and new topics.

The aim is for the BP to be signed off by end December 2014.

Presentation: OSPAR and Climate Change

OSPAR is an intergovernmental agreement consisting 16 contracting parties looking at the coastal and open ocean North-East Atlantic. When it comes to climate change, it appears that these Contracting Parties had struggled to know how to react in terms of policy to the issue of future conditions due to climate change: This was likely to be due to climate change being seen as something for the far future rather than a pressing current issues requiring immediate action; in addition, with many drivers to consider and high uncertainty future scenarios difficult to model. It appeared also that the relevant specialists were not attending meetings to make the appropriate links. Accordingly, OSPAR's parties agreed to re-introduce the issue to the OSPAR thematic Committees to explore relevant issues.

OSPAR decided to look at the varying geographic impacts of climate change across the OSPAR Region. What other organisations are doing would also be of relevance to avoid duplication. (Arctic Council activities were provided as a good example of this). They decided to coordinate issues across OSPAR and will include a chapter on climate change in the Quality Status Report in 2021. They set up a joint ICES-OSPAR group on Ocean Acidification (OA) and this group will soon be making recommendations on what OSPAR should be doing to better assess OA. They are also will need to investigate how to deal with risk and uncertainty and hope that this will be a tool to engage a little more.

They have a number of committees who take forward different elements of the work areas. They have committees set up to look at a number thematic strategies with varying relevance to climate change; namely Biodiversity, Impacts of Human Activities, Eutrophication, Hazardous Substances and Eutrophication, and Radioactive Substances, and Offshore Industry. This allows OSPAR to look at topics such as ocean acidification, invasive species, marine protected areas, Blue Carbon,

cumulative impacts and also consider how the Marine Strategy Framework Directive should take these issues into account.

The committees have been mandated to consider in more detail how their work should integrate climate change impacts/adaptation.

Are there ways to spread the MCCIP model? Are the messages pretty much the same for all EU countries? If not, how do we replicate MCCIP elsewhere – can OSPAR help?

Presentation: European Environment Agency (EEA) and Climate Change

An agency of EU, the EEA provide sound, independent information on the environment to inform policy; strive to be a leading knowledge centre; and also support sharing and capacity building in field of the environment and climate change.

The EEA has a number of European Topic Centres (ETC) – made up of a selection of partners. The ETCs cover air pollution and climate change mitigation; climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation; inland coastal and marine waters (JNCC are lead partner); spatial information and analysis; biological diversity (JNCC are a partner); and, sustainable consumption and production.

Many reports are available from the EEA's website, including for example: an indicator-based report on "Climate change, impacts and vulnerability in Europe 2012". This report has a similar layout to MCCIP, it is based on a number of indicators (including SAHFOS plankton indicators).

MCCIP could contribute evidence for the following EEA work: indicators, climate change reports, and future EEA Marine Assessment Reports.

Presentation: North Atlantic and European scale climate predictions on management timescales

Opportunities to forecast to the next season are rapidly developing using decadal predictions and using the ocean's memory through SST/AMO/mixed layer depth/freshwater balance. It is still a research area but some research projects are finding that they can estimate waterbird breeding success as a result of these developments. A further question could be whether monitoring data can be used with this reanalysis to determine prevailing conditions. The temporal and spatial scales of these methods fit in with political timescales e.g. GES achievement and EU/CP2 regions, respectively. One could even apply it in marine planning – if it takes 10 years to build an engineering project, then you could use this to predict how much is invested in mitigation measures at the building phase.

There will be a workshop on this work in Jan/Feb 2015 where attendees will explore what marine uses there are for these processes; which marine users could benefit from these products; and, how these reanalyses and forecasts can be drawn into marine decision-making.

AOB and DONM

WG Membership - One item was that there is concern that SG members are not volunteering for WG activities. In the Phase III Business Plan, a new WG was been proposed, covering Outreach and Communication activities. We are looking for members who are not already committed to a WG to take a place on this or offer their help to another WG so that we can instil some success planning into delivery of key MCCIP products.



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DONM - The next meeting will take place in London in March 2015/16 and a Doodle poll will be circulated to finalise dates.

GBB
12/11/2014