

Steering Group Meeting No 16

Venue: Defra, Nobel House
Date: 6th March 2012
Start: 12:00

Present:

Philip Stamp (Defra) – Chair
Clare Adams (Cefas) – minute taker
John Baxter (SNH)
Paul Buckley (Cefas) (PB)
Martyn Cox (Scottish Government)
Matt Frost (MBA) (MF)
John Pinnegar (Cefas)

Jon Tinker (Met Office)
Greg Morrel (Jersey)
Alec Taylor (RSPB)
Hayley Miles (JNCC)
David Johns (SAHFOS)
Graeme Henton (Defra ACC)
Paul Bradley (Defra ACC)

Apologies:

Nafees Meah (DECC)
Colin Moffat (Marine Scotland)
Glenn Nolan (Marine Institute, ROI)
Stephen Dye (Cefas)
Rory Crawford (RSPB)
Beth Stoker (JNCC)
Julian Wright (EA)

Dan Laffoley (Ocean Innovations Ltd)
Kristian Teleki (Seaweb)
Michael Coyle (MMO)
Rob Enever (Natural England)
Simon Baldwin (WAG)
Adam Mellor (AFBINI)

Action Points from the last meeting

No input from the Steering Group was received regarding the UK Climate Projections work and the Steering Group will be emailed to request more information.

Management Group feedback

The Management Group meeting took place, via teleconference, on 27th February.

Finances

Currently a small underspend is forecast for this Financial Year (FY).

The spend profile differs from that predicted at the beginning of the year largely due to work on the Knowledge Gaps paper being recorded against 'ADMIN' and the launch of the Special Topic Report Card falling in the next FY.

Commitments from partners for next year is on track but these will need to be looked at during future SG meetings to ensure that money doesn't dry up in future years. Management Group (MG) to look at managing the budget for 2012/13.

Risk Register

The Risk register was updated. Any issues arising from the Risk Register or any points which are not covered should be fed back to PB. The aim is still to try and reduce the level of the risks.

Key deliverables – Special Topic and CSW

Special topic (Climate Change Impacts on Fish, Fisheries and Aquaculture)

Special topic authors have resubmitted their papers to 'Aquatic Conservation' and a short introductory paper, by the working group, has been accepted for publication.

Still on track to launch the STRC at World Fisheries Congress meeting in Edinburgh (7th – 12th May). MF to deliver talk on STRC at the meeting.

Climate Smart Working

Key activities of group since last SG meeting:

- Update detailed analysis of key risks for each sector in light of new reports such as CCRA
- Telephone interviews conducted with key sector leads
- Responses analysed to see where the most likely opportunities lie and re-contacted sector leads
- 4 page MCCIP sector summary documents produced
- Appropriate adaptation methodologies for use in CSW researched
- Meetings with key sector leads (Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation (SSPO) and British Marine Federation(BMF)) to present suggested approach and to discuss next steps

It is proving difficult to engage the aquaculture industry in CSW. It was pointed out that many organisations are trying to engage with the aquaculture industry, such as the NERC / Defra acidification project, and a joined up approach could be investigated. It was also questioned that if the SSPO was not forthcoming, if other organisations had been approached, in particular the Shellfish Association of Great Britain. The SAGB had been approached but due to funding issues and personnel changes they were not able to contribute – however, this could be relooked at in the future.

The secretariat will be speaking at Aquaculture commons group meeting on 15th March to see if there is interest amongst the industry (eg. BMF). The SG agreed that if no positive response from Aquaculture meeting, then CSW should focus only on Small Ports and Marinas, looking at expanding the geographical scope to include Ireland, as the BMF have been more willing to engage in CSW.

The CSW WG has lost two members due to change of MCCIP representatives and are looking for new members; the time commitment is not great as meetings are held via teleconference. New members are required.

MCCIP Evaluation Report

The Evaluation Report was handed out at the meeting and any comments should be returned to the Secretariat. As this was the first evaluation report it included all MCCIPs products. In the future, the report will be produced annually in time for the Spring Steering Group Meeting

The report covered

- Annual Report Cards / Special Topic Report Cards
- MCCIP website
- Newsletter

- Uptake / influence of products
- Future evaluation

Comments / issues raised at meeting:

- Independent Evaluators summary table – could the “No”s in the final column be changed to “No data available”?
- Concerns that the overall opinion of the report cards had gone down; however, the quality of the science was seen to increase over the same period, although the % of responses to ‘poor’ quality of science had also increased.
- Response rate to the report card questionnaires was relatively low and it was questioned how much confidence can be put in the results.
- Was the drop of number of respondents to each question throughout the questionnaire normal compared to other surveys? [SurveyMonkey research predicts a 9% drop for surveys of the length MCCIP used, MCCIP had a 40-50% drop – CA]
- Why does MCCIP not have a Wikipedia page? SG agreed that there were no concerns with MCCIP having a Wikipedia entry.
- MCCIP Partners should look at if they have a link to the MCCIP website within their own website / intranet.

It was agreed that the evaluation report could be available on the website, once finalised, but would need to make sure that the caveat regarding the small sample size for report card responses is prominent.

Knowledge Gaps

The Knowledge Gaps paper has been submitted to the MSCC and their comments have been addressed. The finalised paper will be presented at the next MSCC meeting at the end of March and this opportunity will be used to explore whether MSCC would work with MCCIP to undertake a priority setting exercise and help identify wider opportunities for using the paper.

The paper was introduced at a recent NERC workshop on climate change knowledge gaps on UK shelf seas. It is intended that the knowledge gaps paper will be updated periodically, usually after the launch of the full report card. Thought will need to be given to how to indicate where gaps have been filled as this is an important part of the process.

It was suggested that a paper to be submitted to a journal could be written and agreed that there should be a soft launch - to our mailing list and by advertising this through our partner organisations

Presentation: Overview of findings from the CCRA marine sector report (John Pinnegar) and moving towards a national adaptation programme (Paul Bradley, Adapting to Climate Change (ACC), Defra)

Paul Bradley gave an overview of the process for moving from the Climate Change Act 2008 to the National Adaptation Programme (2013)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climate/government/>

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climate/government/risk-assessment/>

The Secretariat has produced a summary of the marine content in the Devolved Administrations reports and will circulate to SG.

John Pinnegar then gave a presentation on the marine sector of the CCRA.

<http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=CCRASummaryMarineandFisheries.pdf>

<http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=CCRAfortheMarineandFisheriesSector.pdf>

Presentation: MCCIP special topic – what can we expect?

Paul Buckley and Matt Frost gave an update on the Special Topic Report Card.

- Report card & papers to be published in May.
- The report will be a 12 page document focusing on Distributions, Management, Socio-economics and Wider (global) issues
- One MCCIP press release will be prepared which can then be used on partners website rather than each partner releasing their own press release. Need to contact World Fisheries Congress press officer (JP to provide details) to ensure launch is considered for their press releases.
- Report Cards will be available at various Stands at the WFC rather than be included in the Delegate bags; a flyer may be included in the delegate pack highlighting the launch.
- Attendees ratio – approx 1 (UK) : 2 (overseas); industry representatives are being encouraged to attend through reduced rates. The audience should be considered for any flyers / talks

AOB & DONM

SG Comms Activity

Any MCCIP activity by partners should be sent to the Secretariat.

Guidance on providing MCCIP support for other products / initiatives

In response to the recent enquiry to use the MCCIP logo by a contributor to the Report Card, the Management Group will come up with criteria as to who can / can't use the logo and circulate for comment to SG.

ARC WG

Work on the Annual Report Card will begin soon and volunteers are required to help – there is a large time commitment (approx 20 days – a lot of which will happen towards the end of the project – and includes travelling).

Future Presenters

- Update of Marine Adaptation plans for next SG afternoon session – National Adaptation Plan actions
- RSPB update on climate change in relation to seabirds (potentially next March)
- Projections (Jon Tinker) – again next March
- UK Ocean Acidification Project / EPOCA