

Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership (MCCIP) Steering Group

Digest of the meeting held on Thursday 31 May 2007, 1100h at the Welsh Assembly Government, Cardiff

Attendees:	AG - Andy Greaves (Chair)	Defra MED
	KH - Kathryn Humphrey	Defra CESA
	SD – Stephen Dye	MCCIP Secretariat
	PB – Paul Buckley	MCCIP Secretariat
	KK – Kathy Kennedy	MCCIP Secretariat
	KF – Kate Francis (mins)	MCCIP Secretariat
	JH – John Hamer (part-meeting)	CCW
	KOC - Kevin O'Carroll	DTI
	RT – Robert Thorpe	EA
	JHa – Jane Hawkrige (part-meeting)	JNCC
	MF – Matt Frost	MECN
	DL - Dan Laffoley	NE
	CWa - Craig Wallace (part-meeting)	NERC/RAPID
	VP - Victoria Paris	WAG
Video-conferencing:	MC – Martyn Cox	Scottish Executive
	LC – Louise Cunningham	Scottish Executive
	JB – John Baxter	SNH
Apologies:	MS - Matthew Service	DARD NI
	BG – Beth Greenaway	Defra MED
	BT - Bill Turrell	FRS
	OW – Olly Watts	RSPB
	AD - Alexander Downie	SEPA
	CWe - Chris West	UKCIP
	ELB - Emily Lewis-Brown	WWF

1. Introductions and minutes and actions of the last meeting

The minutes from 31 March 2007 SG meeting were agreed.

Progress on actions from the last meeting were reported, including:

- MCCIP Secretariat discussions with Defra CESA to secure funds were continuing.
- MCCIP Secretariat had sent letters to the heads of organisations whose scientists had contributed to the Annual Report Card to formally acknowledge their important contributions
- It was agreed to include UKCIP 08 Marine Scenarios on the Autumn Steering Group agenda.
- MCCIP Secretariat would arrange a contract meeting before the next Steering Group.
- An events calendar for MCCIP had been established via the Communications & Outreach Working Group (COWG) and all

Steering Group members were invited to contribute to it.

2. MCCIP activities

The Chairman lead a round-table reporting of activities to promote MCCIP and its outputs within each partner organisation: Highlights included a number of conference presentations and published articles on MCCIP including 'House' and 'Sustainable Development UK' magazine features, promotion at a Scottish Parliament event, and distribution of the ARC at international meetings. Within Defra, the ARC had been promoted as an example of good practice at a variety of meetings and events

It was agreed that the MCCIP Secretariat would inform partners via email when they had contact with the media to allow partners to consider preparing for any potential follow up interest.

3. MCCIP finances

The spend in the first year was reported. The actual spend including staff resource was more than the original forecast of £100k and there was an £8k overspend overall. A number of partner contributions were highlighted as not secured, and those partners to clarify their contribution as soon as possible.

The forecast spend, which was potentially £10k more than forecast income at this stage, was presented, including a breakdown of costs. The MCCIP Secretariat agreed to focus on supplying partners with regular financial reporting and evidence of cost control. It was agreed that the partnership was maturing and was ready to grow, so additional partners should be sought and how MCCIP is funded should be promoted.

4. MCCIP structure refresh

Partners had been consulted beforehand on the proposals. Three Working Groups were to be formed – one for the ARC (ARCWG), one for the development of the Hot Topic concept, and one for Communications & Outreach (COWG).

5. ARC Survey results

The ARC 2006 feedback results collected via an online survey were reported and discussed. Although the sample size was small, results were very positive, and feedback could be used to inform the 2007 ARC development.

There was a broad ranging discussion on the interpretation and potential use of the survey results, and it was agreed that the COWG would take forward the communications issues raised by the results.

6. ARCWG briefing

There was a discussion on the content and process of the ARC. The content proposals reflected the need to save time and cost, deliver some continuity and gain space on back and front to allow for additional information. The proposed new topics were accepted, and it was agreed that the confidence ratings would be split into “now” and “future” ratings.

Discussions centered on how continuity would be maintained, and how regional aspects could be reported without being repetitive. It was agreed that the ARCWG would have the authority to decide on the detailed construction of the ARC, including how to present the regional information. It was agreed that the structure and content of the ARC would be decided by ARCWG and endorsed by SG in outline form.

The need to articulate both the changes in the science (differentiating between detection of change and attributing change) and changes in the evidence was discussed, and it was agreed that “no change” messages would need to be equally clear. It was confirmed that marine, coastal and estuarine interests would be accommodated, which was of interest to a number of partners.

The ARC production process was discussed. It was noted that the plan included more time for the Expert Advisory Panel (EAP) to comment, but that the timescale was still challenging. It was confirmed that the design process would run in parallel with the content development.

7. Special Topic

Various suggestions for the Hot Topic were presented and discussed. In the absence of a concept being articulated and the vision shared, there was no clear consensus on what the topic should be. It was therefore agreed that the Hot Topic concept should be demonstrated using fish and climate, but it was agreed that further discussion was needed to establish the Hot Topic concept.

8. COWG briefing

This item was taken last, and there was insufficient time left to discuss, so it would be picked up by email. The next meeting of the COWG was confirmed as 12 June.

9. UKCIP08 briefing

It was reported that MCCIP was considered the group for UKCIP representative of marine issues. There was a lengthy discussion to determine sensible regional boundaries to feed into UKCIP, which would be followed up outside of the meeting. Comments on what the

scenarios would be used for within MCCIP were sought, and it was agreed that annual measures would be appropriate. It was also agreed to include the requirement for storm surge data, although this would be more for industry than for environmental use.

10. AOB & DONM

The next meeting would be arranged for mid/end October 2007 in Scotland.

The meeting concluded at 1540h.

*K Francis
4 June 2007*