

# Marine Climate Smart Working

Understanding, communicating and celebrating marine adaptation work in the British Isles

## Marine Climate Smart Working: your views please...

### The aim and structure of this consultation paper

The Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership (MCCIP) is expanding its remit to cover the actions we take in our daily lives to address changes from climate change - adaptation - through a new approach called '*Marine Climate Smart Working*'. This consultation paper aims to share our early thoughts on *Marine Climate Smart Working* and invites you to help us shape this new area of our partnership work.

We would be grateful if you could take some time to look at each question, talk to your colleagues and associates and provide us with your views. On September 28th 2010, we will host the British Isles first *Marine Climate Smart Working* meeting in York. This will be a major opportunity to consider what we think constitutes a 'smart' approach to climate change adaptation and what 'forms' of advice are likely to be of most practical benefit to organisations looking to build adaptive capacity.

Please send us your response by completing the accompanying consultation reply form and sending to [Paul.Buckley@mccip.org.uk](mailto:Paul.Buckley@mccip.org.uk) no later than 20<sup>th</sup> August 2010.

By responding to the consultation, you will be eligible to become directly involved for your organisation or sector at the *Marine Climate Smart Working meeting* on 28th September. When submitting your completed consultation form, please indicate whether you would be interested in attending the workshop. Should this workshop be over-subscribed we will select attendees with an eye to representation of different interests across the British Isles.

### Adapting to climate change

Climate change is undoubtedly one of the biggest challenges of the modern age. Through MCCIP's Annual Report Cards on Marine Climate Change Impacts we know that many changes are already occurring in our seas and along our coasts and will continue to do so well into the future.

Climate will not just affect the environment (e.g. the distribution and abundance of wildlife around our shores) but will also influence how we commercially benefit from the seas. For example, rising sea levels are likely to lead to more coastal flooding, changes in storms frequency and intensity may make working offshore more risky and changes in some commercial fish stocks could alter the species that can be caught locally .

## What is Marine Climate Smart Working?

*Marine Climate Smart Working* is a new package that MCCIP is developing to set out in an engaging way how the British Isles is working to address climate change impacts at the coast and in our seas, both now and in the future. We are focussing support from this new partnership work on traditional marine working sectors such as port companies, local groups of small marine businesses situated around a geographical area, as well as vulnerable areas such as estuaries or stretches of coast line.

In launching this work, we realise that marine climate change adaptation work is in its early stages in the British Isles. This is why we are introducing the concept of *Marine Climate Smart Working* to help 'fast track' how we tackle adaptation. It offers an opportunity to explore the issues, challenges and opportunities that may come from putting marine climate change adaptation in place across the country. We are looking to develop an approach that recognises and celebrate achievements in adapting to climate change (Climate Smart Actions), as well as develop a platform to work together to set out and solve problems (Climate Smart Challenges).

As well as developing an informative new report card, the *Marine Climate Smart Working* approach will collate experiences and promote learning from practice. Our intention is to encourage interactive, action learning through developing a network of interested people to aid marine climate change adaptation across our seas.

## Our early thoughts

Our aim is to develop an understanding of what we can, and should do in the British Isles to enhance our ways of life, despite the marine climate change impacts that are occurring and will occur in the future. An important part of *Marine Climate Smart Working* will be to **learn together** about the scale of actions needed to make adaptation a reality. Sometimes it is the fear of the need for big changes that delays action on adaptation when in reality it may be simply having a clearer idea of the kind of decisions need to be 'climate smart' that is needed so we can focus future plans and initiatives. Developing a greater understanding of the real issues involved will be an important outcome of this work.

The MCCIP team will need to build new skills and approaches to develop *Marine Climate Smart Working* and we are therefore interesting in hearing from you what you think might be needed, and who we ought to bring on board. To assist this please consider and respond to the following:

## About you?

We want to get a stronger sense of how you see climate change impacting on your livelihood and to what extent you have had the time, money or inclination to consider how you will adapt to it in your work. These questions aim to find out a bit more about you.

Q1. What do you do for a living?

Q2. Where in the British Isles are you based? Does your organisation deal with mainly local, regional or national issues? [If the answer is local or regional, please state where in the British Isles].

Q3. How many people work in your organisation?

Q4. Are you aware of the Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership? [Please answer yes or no. If yes, please comment in what capacity you are aware of MCCIPs work].

Q5. On a scale of 1-10 (10 being highest), how much do you feel you understand about how climate change might impact on your work? Please explain why you put yourself at this point and what you think would help you move towards 10?

## Adapting your operations to climate change

Climate change is in the news all the time, and because of this it can be hard to get a sense of how important it really is to our daily lives and our work. Having even a detailed knowledge of the likely impacts does not necessarily lead to us adjusting how we work and live in order to adapt to the changes. We think that there may also be a danger of spending money on climate adaptation unnecessarily when much more cost effective solutions that may have benefits in other areas are enough. These questions aim to explain how you and your organisation are responding to climate change and how well developed your adaptation solutions are.

Q6. Are there people in your organisation that deal with climate change issues? [if yes, please give an idea of how many].

Q7. On a scale of 1-10 (with 1 being totally unprepared and 10 being completely prepared), to what extent do you feel your organisation is prepared to adapt to climate change? Please explain why you feel you are at that point? What would help you move towards 10?

Q8. Based on your current level of understanding, what do you feel are the main marine climate adaptation challenges that you face in your work?

Q9. Do you have a current initiative directed towards delivering marine climate change adaptation? If you do please can you describe, summarising the focus, aims, objectives, timescale and resources, and expected outcomes.

Q10. In planning for the future in your work, how far ahead do you look? To what extent is climate change considered in your planning?

## The bottom line

At this time of launching *Marine Climate Smart Working*, MCCIP is acutely aware that the economy has taken a huge downturn and that public sector spending is also being heavily reduced. In parallel to this, adaptation to climate change is a top priority for Governments as are the longer-term interests of business.

We will remain mindful of these financial constraints and also any potential cost saving opportunities in our design of *Marine Climate Smart Working* and respect that many of us will be experiencing financial limitations on our operations. Together, our marine industries are big business in the British Isles so working and acting together to secure the future is a priority. We want to work with you to make sure that any climate change adaptation related interventions that your business makes are done as cost effectively as possible, in partnership where appropriate and without you having to 'go the long way round'. These questions are aimed at exploring how *Marine Climate Smart Working* can be designed in a way that is as cost effective as possible.

Q11. Do you know how to calculate the potential cost to your business of adapting to climate change? If yes, how did you reach this level of understanding?

Q12. Where do you sense your main operational costs of climate adaptation to be? Are you prepared for this?

Q13. How could an approach such as *Marine Climate Smart Working* support you to make efficiency savings to your organisation?

Q14. Do you consider there to be elements of your climate change adaptation planning that are 'commercially confidential'? If yes, how would you recommend we define our boundaries on this matter?

Q15. Looking across the marine sector in the British Isles, who do you think will struggle the most to pay for climate change adaptation?

## Ways of working?

The *Marine Climate Smart Working* approach will include the development of an informative report card that supplies useful practical information and examples of good practice in marine climate change adaptation. We are thinking very carefully about how such a product could be used, who will use it and how to make it of practical relevance. These final questions aim to test the types of *Marine Climate Smart Working* outputs that you would like to see, and how you would like to be involved in this exciting programme?

Q16. What would you like to see in any *Marine Climate Smart Working* Report Card to help aid adaptation to climate change across the marine sector?

Q17. Are there any additional services that MCCIP could develop to help you adapt to marine climate change [for example; training, tool kits, focus groups, mentoring or an action learning programme].

Q18. Would you be willing to invest time or money in a partnership that aims to work collaboratively with you on climate adaptation challenges; or pay for discrete products resulting from *Marine Climate Smart Working*?

Finally, if you have any additional ideas or concerns associated with the design and roll-out of *Marine Climate Smart Working* or would like to get more closely involved in the leadership of this exciting new programme please do provide us with your views and requirements in the box below.

Additional comments...

With thanks and best wishes

*The MCCIP 'Marine Climate Smart Working' Team.*