



Marine Climate Change
Impacts Partnership

Marine Climate Smart Working

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

Help shape the future!

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 small changes are already occurring in our seas. These impacts are projected to increase, significantly in some cases, in the coming decades.

Climate change will not just affect the environment and the distribution and abundance of wildlife around our shores, but will also influence how we benefit from the seas, for example as rising sea levels inundate low lying areas on a more frequent basis in some regions, and fish stocks change, altering the species that can be caught.

It is therefore not surprising that adapting to these changes has become a top priority for Governments. But securing widespread adaptation is a priority not just for Governments, but for many other organisations as well, and the recent Climate Change Acts provide a stimulus for renewed action, as do the longer-term interests of business and other organisations. Together, our marine industries are big business in the British Isles, so working and acting together to secure the future is an overall priority.

Despite the demands of this new legislation and policy requiring us to review our adaptation responses, it is widely considered that marine adaptation work is in its early stages in the British Isles. However, some businesses and other

organisations are already responding to the challenges that climate change presents. To help share and document experiences, ideas and achievements, and to 'fast track' development of adaptation, MCCIP is launching *Marine Climate Smart Working*. This new approach will provide a high profile vehicle to explore the issues, challenges, opportunities and achievements in putting marine climate change adaptation in place. We want to draw together experiences to produce a new report card on *Marine Climate Smart Working* that will be as informative and helpful as possible to everyone who has an interest in our seas. This is whether you are in Government, whether you earn a living from it, or if your interests are less direct.

We want to explain for the British Isles what we can do and should do to maintain, sustain and 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 idea of big changes that becomes the problem, when in reality only modest changes to everyday activities are needed. Understanding where adaptation actions are really needed will be an important outcome of this work so that we develop the necessary capacity to achieve this, and so we can focus future plans and initiatives in an appropriate way.

We need your help!

We have already undertaken many discussions and have generated some great ideas on what may help foster and champion marine adaptation in the British Isles. Please become involved by commenting on our ideas at www.mccip.org.uk/csw-consultation.

By responding to the above consultation, you will be eligible to become directly involved for your organisation or sector at the British Isles first Marine Climate Smart Working meeting in York on 28th September. Registration for the meeting will be directly through the consultation pages on the

MCCIP website. Should this workshop be over-subscribed, we will select attendees with an eye to representation of different interests across the British Isles.

This will be a major opportunity to help influence, shape and structure what we can do to champion marine adaptation work in the British Isles.

The consultation will open on 15th July 2010 and close on 20th August.