

Coastal and Marine Environment Working Group Meeting
Wednesday 24th January 2007 10.00 to 2pm
Natural England, Renslade House, Exeter
Chair: Roger Covey

Minutes

Present: Roger Covey (Natural England), Naomi Brookes (Biodiversity South West), Joana Doyle (Cornwall Wildlife Trust), Andrew Whitehouse (Buglife), Ray Perrins (South West Observatory), Chris Davies (NE), Mark Robins (RSPB), Kevin Connolly (EA), Tony Flux (Dorset County Council), Fiona McNie (Cornwall County Council), Douglas Herdson (National Marine Aquarium), Alex Bolton (Torbay Countryside Trust)

Agenda Item	Action
1. Apologies	
Tom Hooper (Finding Sanctuary), Keith Hiscock (MarLin), Richard White (Devon Wildlife Trust), Alan Watson (National Trust), Peter Tinsley (Dorset Wildlife Trust)	
2. Summary of group, progress and reason for meeting	
Group was formed to take forward SWBIP and in particular in implementation, reviewing targets and actions. There is concern that the group is focusing down on individual targets and could achieve more for biodiversity by looking at key policy changes. Aim to review the targets, look at the key issues and work towards these to achieve targets.	
3. Current BIP – targets, achievements and quick wins	
<p>Group ran through current BIP objectives and actions. Discussions summarised below: Objective 1 action - There has been a collective effort towards RSS and marine is well represented. The EiP starts April so now have to ensure it remains in there.</p> <p>Action 3 – There has been a lot of work done in particular on managed realignment by EA and NE. Now feeding into Shore Line Management Plans and the opportunities there. Fairly detailed plans will be produced by 2007. As well as looking at targets this group also needs a means of recording delivery. Are key policies like SMPs delivering actions? Regional level work is not about interfering at the local level but at the regional level to keep a hold on policy and framework and whether it is delivering. Issue raised that SMPs are guidance not a requirement, but the RSS is trying to rectify this. It was felt that SMPs needed statutory component. EA are becoming more involved in coastal flood management.</p> <p>There is a reporting need against these actions. A report card approach is starting to be supported in Partnership. This uses expert opinion on delivery towards marine targets. It could report annually. There was a discussion about the types of targets to use. It was suggested that a combined narrative and data approach would work. There is some information available. BARS is being used more to report LBAP action, there should be a message from partnership about importance of using this to enable biodiversity action across the whole region to be monitored and ensure that policy is working both regionally and locally. Some members of the group wanted to find out more about BARS. NB to</p>	NB

<p>forward web link. Joana to circulate information about BARS from Cornwall. Other sources of data include NBN, also has similar issues to BARS.</p>	<p>JD</p>
<p>Proposal to use a traffic light system approach to reporting with an interpretation of trends. Also to ensure that this information alongside key messages are available to promote biodiversity work to key audiences like planners. The traffic light system would lend itself to looking at policy implications and solutions identification. To start this process it was decide to go through target and flag up key indicators that arise. At the next meeting these will be compared to the information that can be obtained from BARS. Can then question whether this will meet need.</p>	
<p>Action 5 - Need to decide if we are focusing on biodiversity outcomes or on processes that layer over this, i.e. RSS. Group decided it focused on biodiversity outcomes.</p>	
<p>Action 6 - It was felt that Catchment Flood Management Plans should be covered by the Water and Wetlands Sector Group, NB to ask Group if this will be covered in their remit. There is bound to be overlap between groups.</p>	<p>NB</p>
<p>Action 7 - There is good activity across region in delivering work and examples of best practice should be shared to promote further action. This will also provide examples of where BIP actions met. BIP needs a refresh to take this on board and to take out those actions which are no longer relevant.</p>	
<p>Is opportunity mapping being undertaken for the marine environment? A regional project which is aimed at identifying biodiversity opportunities is imminent Do we know the name Roger? How to this forward will be the next step.</p>	
<p>Objective 2 Action 1- 4 – Include Marine Protected Areas under this indicator. There is a lack of agreement on the term bycatch. An indicator is needed on the sustainability of fisheries with a series of traffic light indicators under this. The European Fisheries Fund is a means of achieving some of these indicators. Important also to consider best practice again could be national or global. Also important to remember that this is about condition of stock, the habitat they rely on as well as balance of stock available.</p>	
<p>Objective 3 – Completed in a generic way when DEFRA was trying to source data to support the Marine Bill. The group could look for evidence and seek more background information. Group to identify the worst activity by site and activity, RC to start list and circulate. A process indicator could be used that looks at remedial work taken.</p>	<p>RC, ALL</p>
<p>Objective 4 – Question whether there was sensitivity mapping for seabed. This could be done with some of the benthic activity that is ongoing at the moment. Regen SW produced a SW map looking at wave and tide energy systems. There is also a national ongoing project at the moment which is looking at where the opportunities and constraints are for renewables. It will be coming to the SW soon. Need to find out more about this project and how the group engage with it so they can guide this away from sensitive areas. Important to recognise that different technologies have different impacts, best practice</p>	<p>MR, ALL</p>

<p>examples are needed to promote the most appropriate technologies. Also a process indicator along the lines of producing a guide with information. Exclusion of MPAs has now been agreed. EIAs carried out have useful survey information and should be directed towards LRCs.</p> <p>Objective 5 – Contingency Plans in place forms an indicator for this section. The Water Framework Directive identifies problems of land management causing pollution down river and looks for solutions.</p> <p>Objective 6 – There is much awareness raising work happening but the question is how to aggregate this, there needs to be more good quality case studies and best practice sharing between practitioners. Could collate number of marine events occurring, but need to know what effect this is having. Tom Hooper is setting up an educator’s network as part of Finding Sanctuary.</p> <p>The Group needs to be ambitious in its aims as there are huge opportunities in the SW. The Regional Assembly produce census material, this may be a route to finding out if the general public knows about the marine environment. Natural England is currently working with MORI to gage public opinion on how the sea is protected. It would be useful if we could get them to SW as information could then be used to show need for marine protection. Who to action? RC will circulate a report compiled by York University which looked at public opinion. This links with awareness raising and training opportunities particularly with the tourist trade which rely on SW coast and marine environment. Group needs to take this forward, to be discussed at next meeting. The National Marine Aquarium Living Coast Project and Torquay Zoo are applying for funds for an Awareness Raising Officer. FM will circulate a MSc project which at the Economic Impacts of Marine Tourism in Falmouth.</p> <p>Issue raised that most of what discussed focuses on targets and processes and does not include species and habitats trends. Also need to include climate change and adaptation, particularly looking at vulnerable species/habitats, adaptation and actions needed. MARclim have some information but mostly coastal species. An indicator relating to invasive/alien species is needed, but needs to be a distinction between range extension.</p> <p>RC to draw together list of indicators and circulate. All to comment on this look and actions and see if there are gaps. RC will also pull together brief on key targets and look at policy and what needs to change to meet targets and threats (i.e. climate change).</p>	<p>RC</p> <p>RC</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>FM</p> <p>RC</p> <p>RC</p>
<p>4. Where do we want to get to? How can we deliver on groups of targets?</p>	
<p>Guidance needed which look the effects on species and habitat from actions for planners etc. MR and RC to pull together a draft.</p>	
<p>A paper will be prepared for a green workshop in March.?? Roger – I missed this part of the discussion can you clarify please.</p>	
<p>5. Discussion on ‘grouped targets’ and key actions</p>	

6. Invertebrates on soft cliffs	
<p>Presentation about the Importance of Soft Cliffs for Invertebrate Conservation given by Andrew Whitehouse from Buglife. Copy of presentation can be supplied on request. There is a regional workshop about this in May in Dorset when the final report will be launched. Details will be circulated by AW. Data from project will be provided to LRCs and NBN.</p> <p>AW will circulate a copy of the report – A Survey of Invertebrates and Vegetation at Selected Soft Cliff Sites in Dorset.</p>	<p>AW</p> <p>AW</p>
7. AOB	
8. Date of next meeting	
Tuesday 15 th May 2007 10.00 to 3pm. Natural England, Renslade House, Exeter.	