

Coastal and Marine Working Group
Renslade House, Exeter
26th September 2008

Attendees – Roger Covey (Chair, Natural England), Gavin Black (Natural England), Tom Hardy (Cornwall Wildlife Trust), Pippa Hoskin (?), Matt Hamilton (Avon LBAP), Naomi Brookes (BioSW)

Agenda Item	Actions
1. Apologies	
Alex Bolton, Helen Booker, Douglas Herdson, Rebecca Seaman, Richard White, Andrew Whitehouse	
2. NERC Marine Guidance	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200 copies of guidance was printed, but NE have now secured funds to print a further 500 copies. Group discussed who would receive these documents. Decided to focus on non-conservation sector, although copies will be sent to others for information. Group drew up contacts list. • Cover note to be drafted (Action NB and RC) to include with document to capture why guidance sent. To be joint letter from NE and BioSW. • Action: RC to send NB a list of county marine NE contacts and NB to circulate a list of LBAP contacts to these to ensure any queries can be adequately dealt with. • Any estuary rep's to get NERC as an agenda item on Estuary Partnerships to discuss and raise awareness. • Press needed to publicise launch. Action: NB and RC to work with Martin Gershon to draft. This to be circulated to all relevant press when guidance circulated. • Next step needed was a presentation about NERC Duty as resource for use by advocates needs to be drawn up. Action: Richard White to draft. 	<p>NB/RC</p> <p>RC/NB</p> <p>NB/RC/MG</p> <p>RW</p>
3. Update on Draft Marine Bill	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Committee examined evidence in June. Conclusions from this are on website and useful to review (Action: RC to provide link). These focus around a need to clarify deliverables/strengthen duty (?), partnerships and funding need to be on stable footing, European dimension needs consideration and Duty to designate MCZs should sit with state and not NE. • Government response due Sept 08 – check Defra website for further information. Also should be in Queen's Speech in November – lobbying to ensure it is. • At present there is no role for the group. 	
4. Update on Lyme Bay	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lyme bay closed since mid-July to scallop dredging and otter trawling through statutory instrument. Still open to potting. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devon has a closed season for scallop dredging until 1st October, when re-opens concern from Sea Fisheries Committee's about where scallop dredgers will go. • There is an extra monitoring to see if there is impact elsewhere. There are reports of displaced activity already despite closed season. More facts would be useful. • Defra have let a contract to Plymouth Marine Partnership to look at changes in reef habitats via monitoring of a variety of species. This will also look at socio-economic impacts, genetic diversity of pink sea fans, scallop numbers (in are and out with), and ecotone survey. Of interest because of SACs etc. • There is tension because of this work with fisheries. They felt MDAs were going to be implemented through Finding Sanctuary Process, and there is feeling that if biodiversity will trump them what's the point of getting involved. There is a need to get fisheries back to table as SAC consultation about to happen – informal consultation beginning December and followed up after this. • The mobile gear sector has been impacted by closure, but liners, potters, netters can continue activities in area, and may get better catches. Need to work with them on this and discussion on SACs as may have benefits to them. • There has also been impact on Finding Sanctuary – but mainly in Devon. • Need for strong message from Minister. • There was discussion around difference between MCZ and SAC. MCZs take a socio-economic view whereas SNA defined by biodiversity. Not clear if MCZs will cover full suite biodiversity habitats – JNCC working on this. Fisheries have concerns about economic impacts. Pushing NERC Duty guidance to Sea Fisheries Committees will help. 	
<p>4. Sustainability South West (SSW)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSW wants to get more involved in marine work. They completed a sustainability appraisal of SW Fisheries, which was not favourable. • RC suggested that they complete a sustainability appraisal of SW Fisheries – impartial review of good practice, accreditation and work with retailers to sign post action and impartial way of getting fisheries on board. This will be taken to SSW board in October. Action RC to update group. 	RC/ERH/NB
<p>5. Regional Observatory – Marine data availability</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SW Observatory is network of experts – this includes local intelligence network and thematic network of which there are 6 modules which includes Environment. Produce Annual Report which advocates that all policies in SW should be based on best available evidence. For more info see http://www.swo.org.uk/observatory/home-1/introduction.shtm • Marine data captured in biodiversity section and under marine section. Discussion around whether this was adequate and if 	

<p>interpretation sufficient. It does show some long term trends but there are gaps – CEFAS website includes info on spawning stock biomass that might be useful and fishing sensitivities map. More reference to BAP species and habitats such as eel grass may be useful, as would something around Nature Map/BAP. No information around near shore/Finding Sanctuary. Suggestion that marine monitoring could use traffic light system – better for subjective data. CEFAS, Seasearch (Pink Sea Fan), Coastal Observatories, Charting Progress could give some baseline data/contextual info. Feeling that if we want to change policy then need to underpin with robust evidence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-native species are being monitored, Doug Herdson has a national fish database to monitor fish moving into our seas/ monitor climate change, this may also be useful to include in any monitoring report. • Regional Observatory would need to know where to get data, how often it is updated, can it be extracted from national and regional monitoring programmes and are their local versions, interpretation and priority. • Other sources of potential information include – bird’s data from WEBS count, Seabird survey from RSPB, Shellfish Water Quality from CEFAS. • Action: NB and RP to pull together list of potential data and where available. People to then comment on this. This will then feed into State of Knowledge of Marine Environment to give an idea of where we were and where we are now. Survey data needs to be mapped to show gaps. Action: GB offered to do this. 	<p>NB/RP</p> <p>GB</p>
<p>6. Updates</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TH reported that Joana Doyle seconded to Finding Sanctuary. • PH spoke about recreational boating infrastructure auditing and footprint at Fal/Halford. Survey completed to quantify habitat change around infrastructure. Methodology could be used elsewhere. • Action: GB will provide NB with updated SW marine/coastal habitats and species. • Possible need to review membership of group – should group look at extending its brief to include environment and not just biodiversity – RC/NB to consider. 	<p>GB</p> <p>RC/NB</p>
<p>7. Date of Next meeting</p>	
<p>The next meeting will be held on Friday 6th March, 10.30am to 13.00pm at Renslade House, Exeter. Possible topics: Nature Map and Marine Biological Association to discuss data.</p>	