



Cold water coral reefs © BERR, Defra, JNCC

The beginning of November marked the end of Finding Sanctuary's stakeholder data collection. Over 248,000 stakeholder interests have been represented through this work. The outputs will continue to be used by the Steering Group and its Working Groups to plan Marine Conservation Zones carefully, taking people's activities into account. The impressive progress made by these Groups over the past few months is reflected in the second progress report. The Groups will continue to refine their proposals and present a third progress report in February.

Extension For Finding Sanctuary

Finding Sanctuary and the other regional MCZ projects have been granted a three month extension.

According to the revised timeline, Finding Sanctuary's final recommendations will now be submitted to the Science Advisory Panel (SAP) and the Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (Natural England and the JNCC) on 31 August 2011.

For further information, visit our [website](#).

Planning progress

Since the last newsletter in June, the Working Groups have met several times and have begun to select building blocks for inclusion in the developing network configuration. The Steering Group met in October to review the Working Groups' progress and to agree on what to submit as the second progress report. Peter Ryder from the Science Advisory Panel and Victoria Metheringham from the Marine Management Organisation attended the Steering Group meeting and provided answers to the Steering Group's questions.

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The second progress report was submitted to the Science Advisory Panel on the 30th October. The progress report is a snapshot of the Working Groups' work so far, along with additional comments and feedback from the Steering Group. The second progress report contains details of 37 building block clusters which were selected by the Working Groups for inclusion in the developing network configuration.

The developing network configuration meets almost all of the targets for broad-scale habitat and some of the targets for intertidal broad-scale habitat and FOCI (Features of Conservation Importance). The Groups have also begun to develop the accompanying narrative on assumptions, implications and uncertainties which underpin

Over the coming months the Working Groups will spend time refining the developing network configuration in light of feedback from the Steering Group and wider stakeholders. They will also focus on meeting the requirements for areas of additional ecological importance, FOCI and identifying reference areas. The Steering Group will meet again in February to review the Working Groups' progress and to agree the contents of the third progress report which will be completed at the end of February.



If you have advice or concerns about a specific site under discussion, you should contact your representative on the relevant Local Group or Steering Group - details are available on our website.

The second progress report and Impact Assessment documents, along with the Science Advisory Panel's response are available from our [website](#).

Building links with Europe

Finding Sanctuary continues to build on its European links through its involvement in the MAIA project and a meeting arranged at DG Mare (Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries) to introduce some of the key aspects of our work.

A recent MAIA meeting in Lisbon focused on monitoring MPAs and brought together scientific experts from Spain, France, UK and Portugal to develop a more coherent approach to both socio-economic and ecological monitoring of MPAs. Participants visited the Luiz Saldanha MPA and had the opportunity to talk to the managers and rangers who are responsible for it. The next workshop will take place in Devon in 2011 and will focus on the involvement of stakeholders in planning, management and monitoring of MPAs.

A meeting at DG Mare in Brussels was organised through the South West UK Brussels Office, for Finding Sanctuary Chairman, Sir Harry Studholme and Project Manager, Tom Hooper. There was particular interest in the role of the Steering Group; how decisions are taken, how data is used and the role of liaison officers. There was also discussion on how measures would be achieved outside of 12nm and how other European fisheries interests were involved.

End of Stakeholder data collection



At the end of October Finding Sanctuary completed its stakeholder activity data gathering. A total of 901 interviews were conducted between October 2008 and October 2010. This included 569 interviews with individual sea users and a further 332 interviews with clubs, businesses or organisations representing 247,433 sea users. In total 248,002 sea users have been represented through one-to-one or group interviews. A breakdown of interviews is shown below.

The sea user maps have now been updated with the additional data gathered in the last few months. These maps represent the aggregated activity of commercial fishing, recreational boating,

sea angling, charter boats and diving in the Finding Sanctuary region. Data has also been included from the Interactive Map (www.mczmapping.org) website up until October 2010.

The maps will be used by the Finding Sanctuary Steering Group to help inform Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) planning decisions. The Finding Sanctuary Steering Group are currently exploring how to meet a number of ecological targets and need to understand what implications there will be to the sector group that they represent. The data will also be used during the development of the Impact Assessment. We are asking sea users to evaluate these data sets for the degree to which they represent a realistic picture of their activity, the distribution and intensity of use across the region.

If you would like to participate in evaluating the maps, visit our [website](#).

Summary of Stakeholder Interviews

	No. individuals interviewed	No. of clubs/ organisations/ business interviewed and no. people represented	<i>Total no. of interviews</i>
Boating & Watersports	143	209 representing 227,193	352
Charterboat operators	57	9 representing 29	66
Commercial fishermen	257	5 representing 51	262
Divers	31	36 representing 14,323	67
Sea Anglers	75	72 representing 5,827	147
Wildlife enthusiasts	6	1 representing 10	7
Total	569	332 representing 247,433	901

New Guidance on Reference Areas

Natural England and the JNCC have issued some draft guidance about Marine Conservation Zone Reference Areas. Each broad-scale habitat type and Feature of Conservation Importance should have at least one viable reference area. In the Ecological Network Guidance, Reference Areas were described as areas where all extraction, deposition or human-derived disturbance is removed or prevented. The new draft guidance provides more clarity on which activities could be restricted in Reference Areas, and which could continue.

[Click here](#) to read the draft guidance on Reference Areas.

Meet a Steering Group member - Rick Parker

What sector do you represent on the Finding Sanctuary Steering Group?

I represent the Professional Boatmans Association which covers any commercial charter vessel i.e. diving, angling, survey etc. I've also brought to the Working Groups issues from the Devon and the Cornwall group, Ports, diving and the views of the Sea Torbay forum.

As a member of both Inshore and Offshore Working Groups, how do you think the groups are progressing?

When we started the Working Groups, I thought it would be a bit of a rubberstamping exercise - that the project team would be asking us to just go along with their initial suggestions, but it has not happened like that at all. It has been a fair process to all sectors and the Working Groups have developed a good working relationship. We have worked on the building blocks individually and have pared down the network to what we now have today by taking into account the different issues raised by all sectors in the Steering Group.



In your view what is the Finding Sanctuary project as a whole doing well and what could it do better?

There is a huge amount of information and data that comes into Finding Sanctuary and needs to be digested and then inputted into the Steering Group and Working Groups. Over the time I have been participating in Finding Sanctuary I have become more aware of the challenge of getting this large amount of information across. The project team manage to do this very well. On a negative note, I was disappointed in the recent press that Finding Sanctuary received in a regional newspaper, which did not reflect the consideration that is being given to all sectors. This negative article reflects badly on the process and the people within it.

Diary Dates

January

- 12th Jan: Somerset Local Group meeting
- 13th Jan: Joint Inshore and Offshore Working Group meeting
- 20th Jan: Cornwall Local Group meeting
- 25th Jan: Dorset Local Group meeting
- 26th Jan: Isles of Scilly

February

- 1st Feb: Devon Local Group meeting
- 10th Feb: Steering Group meeting

March

- 9th March: Joint Working Group meeting

April

- 7th April: Steering Group meeting

Useful Links

- [Finding Sanctuary second progress report](#)
- [SAP response to the second progress report](#)
- [Reports from Finding Sanctuary Steering Group, Working Group and Local Group meetings](#)
- [Finding Sanctuary timeline and meetings calendar](#)
- [Finding Sanctuary summary of Ecological Network Guidance](#)
- [Ecological Network Guidance \(Natural England & JNCC\)](#)
- [Draft Guidance on Reference Areas \(Natural England & JNCC\)](#)

Links to Regional Projects

- [Balanced Seas](#)
- [Irish Sea Conservation Zones](#)
- [Net Gain](#)

PROJECT PARTNERS

