

## NOTES

### **Marine Spatial Planning for the Falkland Islands**

#### **Steering committee meeting #4**

*May, 21<sup>st</sup> 2015, 9am-11pm (Falklands time)*

*At SAERI, Stanley cottage*



This document compiles the notes and related actions taken during the fourth steering committee meeting for the Marine Spatial Planning project. Six people attended the meeting, including one of the UK-based members of the committee who joined on skype.

#### Attendees:

##### Project team:

- Amélie Augé (SAERI)
- Paul Brickle (SAERI)

##### Steering committee members:

- Bill Dawson (British Navy)
- Ken Humphrey (Falkland Islands Petroleum Licenses Association)
- Malcolm Jamieson (Fisheries Department)
- Ben Lascelles (BirdLife International)
- Andy Pollard (Falkland Islands Fishing Companies Association)
- Nick Rendell (Environmental Planning Department)
- Andy Stanworth (Falklands Conservation)
- Phil Trathan (British Antarctic Survey).

Apologies: Paul Brickle, Bill Dawson, Ken Humphrey, Phil Trathan

#### Items for this meeting were:

1. Greet
2. Previous minutes, notes and actions taken
3. Feedbacks on April workshops (megafauna and MSP)
4. Follow up actions from April workshops
5. Workshop reports to be distributed
6. Stakeholder communication strategy (MLAs, fishery companies, public) + capacity building
7. Policy module – developing the support to initiate MSP
8. Whale distribution project; research assistant, and update on scholarship application for mapping cultural ecosystem services
9. Mapping kelp bed, potential project
10. Next step of MSP funding – start thinking
11. Project webpage to revamp
12. Other items
13. Plans for the next quarter
14. Next meeting (end July?)

## Notes

### 1. *Previous minutes, notes and actions taken*

All actions were completed apart from the sub-polar islands manuscript (this is rolled over) and the policy module (this aspect was discussed at the meeting and a strategy drawn instead).

### 2. *Policy aspect of the project*

Some recommendations for policies need to and will fit within the project (in the 'policy paper').

There is the need to ensure FIG and MLAs are aware of the options of what will come out of the MSP project (an executive summary of the workshop report focussing on this aspect can then be presented to these groups).

### 3. *Berkeley Sound case study*

It was unanimously approved that a case study on Berkeley Sound to showcase what MSP could do and how it would be beneficial would be the best way to engage stakeholders in the process. It could also be used to identify policy issues regarding legislation and inform FIG on how best they could start developing the pathway towards MSP policies.

Berkeley Sound is a hotspot of human activities and will help illustrate potential conflict resolutions (and planning with oil inshore transfer).

It will be also a useful tool to demonstrate to fishing companies how it can help them.

The Berkeley Sound case study should be a priority example (worked on before the end of 2015 to also inform upcoming EIAs for inshore oil transfer).

Berkeley Sound could also be an area for more in-depth whale habitat use as it has been identified as a potential seasonal hotspot for whales.

### 4. *Stakeholder communication strategy*

The following strategy was proposed:

- MLAs meeting: Report back on April workshop and start thinking of what resources and strategies for follow up on the MSP project and its recommendations are needed for implementation. Timing: early June.
- Public meeting to show maps and overlaps of data used for MSP. Timing: may be July.
- Heads of Policy, Fisheries, Environment meeting: With the example of Berkeley Sound and examples of using different existing policies examples from other countries. The main line is that the situation is becoming more complex around the Falkland Islands and that MSP can be the tool to help managing the increasing activities. Timing: as soon as new Policy Head is appointed.
- Public workshop on Berkeley Sound case study. Timing: November, before inshore EIA (Rachael Shucksmith could be invited to come to the Falklands at the same period to help with this consultation and process).

### 5. *Concerns about robustness of data based on sightings for historical and current whale distribution mapping*

In the current absence of any study focussed on whales and the complete lack of whale distribution maps around the Falkland Islands, combined with the fact that near-shore

cetacean distribution was identified as a priority data gaps for MSP (including for several endangered species), the opportunity of gathering, digitising and analysing the under-used sighting data from various sources will give a baseline on spatio-temporal distribution of whales around the Falkland Islands, while studying their recovery pattern.

Concerns were raised about the use of anecdotal sightings, combined with all historical and available data (from whaling records, JNCC spatially-restricted surveys, fishery observer database). The main concern raised was the scientific robustness of the results when they include these kind of data; the results may be used for other process than MSP such as EIA. However, using this kind of data (often an unused resource), when scientifically analysed and assessed, have proven a wealth of resources for data-poor areas. Examples include the following papers (pdf are attached with these notes):

McPherson, Jana M., and Ransom A. Myers. "How to infer population trends in sparse data: examples with opportunistic sighting records for great white sharks." *Diversity and Distributions* 15.5 (2009): 880-890.

Pikesley, Stephen K., et al. "Cetacean sightings and standings: evidence for spatial and temporal trends?." *Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom* 92.08 (2012): 1809-1820.

Torres, L. G. "Evidence for an unrecognised blue whale foraging ground in New Zealand." *New Zealand Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research* 47.2 (2013): 235-248.

Witt, Matthew J., et al. "Basking sharks in the northeast Atlantic: spatio-temporal trends from sightings in UK waters." *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 459 (2012): 121-134.

The results of the study (in particular the areas identified as used by whales around the Falkland Islands) will be presented to the steering committee before being published or made available to other organisations.

#### 6. *Darwin outputs: clarification about the 'policy paper'*

Output 9 of the original Darwin application was "Final report to Darwin and FIG. A policy paper produced for FIG's Environment Committee, the Policy Department and Executive Council for adoption". The term 'policy paper' has been identified since the start as an ambiguous term. The paper that will be produced will inform these groups and make recommendations but these will not be policies. However, the Executive Council will be able to veto the paper produced and the recommendations made. Approval of this document will then allow a move towards implementation of priority MSP recommendations in the Falkland Islands. The adoption of MSP by the Government will be a longer-term process and will have to be driven by the Government. The current project brings some of the scientific tools together for MSP, identify important data gaps, ensure capacity building within the Government, and facilitate a move towards MSP policy development.

A format for the 'policy paper' will be drawn with bullet points to ensure all stakeholders have a clear idea of what will be in this document. This will be done in collaboration with FIG (in particular with the Policy Unit to ensure it is usable by them to draw policies from it) and with the assistance of the Executive Committee and the project Steering Committee.

#### 7. Kelp beds mapping

Several potential sources were mentioned:

- FIDC may have conducted some mapping work (and would likely be interested as exploitation of calcified seaweeds has been proposed as an economic activity to develop).
- Several names of people who were

- Current Falkland environmental students will come back for the northern summer and could be employed as interns to ground truth
- FC may also conduct the 5-year seabird census this year and could help ground trothing
- Yachties would be another source of information

Actions needed (by alphabetical order of who has to actioned them)

| Action   | Who             | Note   | Status    |
|--|-----------------|--|-----------|
| Nick and Amelie to meet with Michael Poole about MSP implications                    | Amélie          |  | Pending   |
| Meeting with MLAs (Michael Poole, Phyl Rendell and Jan Cheek)                        | Amélie          | To organise before 6 June when Phyl will be away for 3 weeks | Asap      |
| Set date for next meeting – early-mid-July   | Amélie          |  | Asap      |
| Draw bullet points of ‘Policy paper’   | Amélie and Paul |  | By August |
| Send a list of environmental students as potential assistants/internship over summer | Nick            |  | Pending   |