

## NOTES

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

#### **Steering committee meeting #1**

*August, 4<sup>th</sup> 2014, 12pm-1.30pm (Falklands time)*

*At SAERI, Stanley cottage*



This document compiles the notes and related actions taken during the first steering committee meeting for the Marine Spatial Planning project. Ten people attended the meeting, including two UK-based members of the committee (Phil and Ben) who joined on skype.

The project background (below) and the project framework (flow-chart found at the end, Figure 1) were provided to attendees as well as the project application to Darwin Plus.

The next meeting of the steering committee will tentatively be organised late October or early November 2014 (if possible prior to workshop #1, and depending on people's availability).

#### Attendees:

##### Project team:

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

##### Steering committee members:

- Paul Brewin (Fisheries Department)
- Michael Harte (Falklands Conservation)
- Ken Humphrey (Falkland Islands Petroleum Licenses Association)
- Malcolm Jamieson (Fisheries Department)
- Ben Lascelles (BridLife International)
- Andy Pollard (Falkland Islands Fishing Companies Association)
- Andy Stanworth (Falklands Conservation)
- Phil Trathan (British Antarctic Survey)

#### Project background:

There is currently no marine spatial planning around the Falkland Islands at the exception of temporary fishing closure areas. The Falkland Islands Exclusive Economic Zone is rich in marine biodiversity, including globally threatened seabirds and marine mammals. With an increased level of human activities in the ocean around the Falkland Islands, in particular for oil exploration, but also for shipping traffic, commercial fishing and tourism, the need to identify and manage areas sensitive to risks of conflicts between different human uses and/or with marine wildlife has been identified as a priority for the Falkland Islands Government. Marine spatial planning (MSP) is a tool used to resolve these conflicts and ensure sustainable use of the marine environment.

The project will contribute towards integrated land and sea zoning and management, including for the potential ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity by the Falkland Islands.

The project has started in July 2014 and is funded for 2 years through a Darwin Plus grant.

## Items for this meeting were:

1. Greet and introductions
2. General vision and objectives for the project
3. Intended project timeline and outcomes
4. Terms of reference of steering committee
5. Project webpage on SAERI website  
<http://www.south-atlantic-research.org/research/current-research/80-marine-spatial-planning-for-the-falkland-islands>
6. Workshop #1: "MSP for FI: Why, who, when and how?": stakeholders and aims
7. Other topics as needed
8. Next meeting

## Notes

### *1. Greet and introductions*

Each attendee introduced themselves and detailed their expertise and current position and organisations. The committee represents a good range of the main stakeholders in the Falkland Islands and scientists and managers with experience in marine spatial planning, the marine wildlife and habitats and human activities in the Falkland Islands' waters.

### *2. General vision and objectives for the project*

The steering committee agreed with a general vision for the project as follow: This project is science based and will provide objective scientific tools to the Falkland Islands Government and all stakeholders to make informed and effective decisions regarding MSP. The main two objectives of the project are to 1. Gather all available spatial data needed for MSP and 2. Prepare a policy document for the Falkland Islands Government (FIG) detailing a framework for MSP in the Falkland Islands.

### *3. Project timeline and outcomes (Figure 1)*

The general timeline and outcomes of the project were accepted by the committee as per the project framework in Figure 1.

It was pointed out that MSP in the Falkland Islands has the potential for using novel approaches due to its geographical and environmental situation and, in particular, the current inexistence of planning or legislation for multiple marine uses.

- **Legislation and policy**

Legislation and policy were identified as important elements for MSP that may not be sufficiently represented in the current framework of the project. There is currently no overall legislation for the marine environment with only very specific aspects currently addressed. Legislation and policy need to be better integrated in the overall project and, at least, considered throughout.

Malcolm pointed out that there is a process under way towards some marine legislation for the Falkland Islands and the MSP project could feed into this process if timing works out. Due to time restrictions, the legislation aspect will be mentioned but may not be fully considered.

During the data gap analysis, there may be the possibility to identify legislation and policy as an important missing study and a potential side project focussing on this aspect could be sought. Malcolm, due to his link with the current legislation process, can act as the representative for legislation on the committee.

Nick Rendell from the FIG Environmental Planning were identified as the best contacts to make progress towards included legislation within the MSP framework as part of the project. Nick has already been contacted and is interested in being involved in the project.

- Data gaps

Regarding data gaps, a robust process must be used for this step so that the most important data are identified. Further proposals to acquire data should be thoroughly designed so that data are useful and can be integrated within the MSP framework.

Data gaps can be related to any aspect of the project including for environmental data such as wildlife tracking, habitat mapping and oceanographic modelling but also for socio-economic data and legislation.

- Military interests and data in MSP

The military was recognised as an important missing stakeholder on the steering committee. The military personnel can have access to a wealth of data that may be a high relevance for MSP (e.g. shipping data).

Phil pointed out that it would be good to have an idea of where army boats operate. The military should certainly also be involved in the MSP process as they will likely need to identify marine areas to put aside for their exercises. A military representative on the steering committee was agreed by all as a crucial addition if possible. If this is not possible, it would be at least beneficial to determine how best to include the military in the MSP process, and making contact with relevant authorities in the military will be an important step for the project.

- Human well-being/"happiness" in MSP

MSP is an integrated tool for managing the marine environment and it was pointed out that "people's happiness" could be an effective inclusion in an MSP process. Water quality is an example of effects that can be managed through MSP and affect "people's happiness". Historical/cultural important sites can also be related to "people's happiness" and integrated in MSP.

- Steering committee and project partners

The steering committee should stay as consistent as possible throughout the life of the project and addition to this committee should be restricted to the early stage. Project partners can be added at any time if they have relevant information, knowledge or data for the project.

#### *4. Terms of reference*

The committee members agreed that the role of the committee is to monitor the project and ensure it has the right trajectories and strategic decisions to deliver the expected outcomes. Members will also be asked to participate in some of the workshops. The project team will, at

least, report to the steering committee quarterly via a report by email and inform the committee of changes affecting the project progresses.

The steering committee will meet with the project team each quarter for the first year and every 6 months in the second year. This can however be amended as the steering committee sees fit. The steering committee members will also communicate with the project team on individual basis or as small groups on particular relevant topics.

#### *5. Project webpage*

The committee agreed that the webpage will be a good tool and are happy to be represented on this page. Ken emphasised that the project team needs to come up with a strategy to ensure that the page is read and used. The link to the page will be widely distributed through the steering committee and project partners, and through their organisations if appropriate. Updates on the project will be uploaded on the page regularly and the page will be padded up with illustrations.

#### *6. Workshop #1 discussion*

It was agreed that the list of stakeholders as attendees at the workshop needs to be thoroughly thought about and be inclusive of all stakeholders that may have interests in the marine environment, including economic, historical and social interests. The suggestions were to possibly organise a more "public meeting consultation" and later target specific individuals in break-out groups (one or several) during workshop(s). The public session should include local companies only (such as the fishing companies, oil companies, charters companies, expedition boat companies, other tourist operators, community members etc) and would take place in a large meeting room. A summary of the outcome of this public session could then be produced and presented at the workshop (one or more depending on how many people are identified) that would gather a restricted number of people (maximum 12) in a video-conference room.

The length of the public session and workshop session is to be determined once the appropriate method and stakeholders has been identified through consultation with the steering committee.

The draft list of stakeholders will be circulated to the steering committee so that all relevant stakeholders (companies and individuals) can be identified. Fishing companies, in particular, should be involved (Andy P. can act as a representative for these companies on the committee but it would be good to interact directly with them for the workshop).

Stakeholders' involvement is primordial for MSP process and hence, a best practice protocol to keep them on board should be drawn to ensure that they are kept up to date with the project (possibly the website) and connected to the process.

BAS at Cambridge has videoconferencing facilities that can be used but Phil will have to check dates etc as the facilities may be very busy with refurbishment activities.

## 7. Other topics

- Other MSP projects or data that could be useful

MSP for the Patagonian Shelf Region. As this is done by Argentines, it includes the Falkland Islands and it would be very valuable to obtain some information/data from this research. John Croxall used to be on the committee for this project but he has now stepped down. Falklands Conservation still has a seat and Andy represents the organisation.

Phil and Ben are involved in a project of habitat modelling for penguins and there will be a workshop for this project in Cambridge in May 2015.

- Scale for wildlife studies versus spatial planning

Andy P. pointed out that MSP should also be inclusive of an international perspective. Fisheries for instance can be affected by activities in neighbouring areas. Similarly, if the Falkland Islands marine habitat is identified as internationally important for ecological reasons, there will still be the need to ensure that it can still be sustainably exploited.

Ben followed up on this topic by pointing out that ecological studies (such as the multi-species tracking analyses) should be done at an ecological scale in relation to animal movements, not economic boundaries. However the MSP will have to be done at the economic/administrative boundaries and the results from ecological studies adjusted to that scale for MSP.

During the first and second workshops, there will also be discussion about the topic of the terrestrial coastal areas and, whether and how these near shore land areas should be included in the MSP.

- Marine Management Areas (MMA)

This term should be used by all project team and steering committee members as the outcome of MSP in the Falkland Islands. These MMA can be designated shipping areas, fishing areas, restricted military areas, marine reserves and other types of areas managed to avoid conflicts between different human uses and/or environmental values.

## 8. Next meeting

Phil is away from 20<sup>th</sup> October until around 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Andy S. will be away from around 20<sup>th</sup> October to 20<sup>th</sup> November. Michael Harte will be away too so there will be no available rep for Falklands Conservation for this period (Sarah will likely be away too).

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

Action	Who	Note	Status
Get a contact for the military to enquire about data and if a rep can join the steering committee	Amélie Augé	Anyone who has a contact please let me know	Pending
Add illustrations to the project webpage	Amélie Augé		Pending
Update the project webpage with new material from the project regularly	Amélie Augé	Anyone can suggest or prepare something to add if related to MSP	Ongoing
Email to steering committee a draft idea for workshop #1 and draft list of all stakeholders that should be included	Amélie Augé		Pending
Create Doodle pole for next meeting (and give link for people who never used Doodle before!)	Amélie Augé		Pending
Follow up with Nick on his involvement in the project, potentially as an observer at the steering committee meetings at least (but he will also be involved with the workshops)	Amélie Augé and Paul Brickle	Nick and FIG environmental planning will be the assessor of the MSP project and hence may not be directly involved in the steering committee.	Pending
Try to see if we can coordinate the workshops in Cambridge in May 2015 between MSP, GAP and penguin habitat modelling	Amélie Augé, Phil Trathan, Ben Lascelles and Megan Tierney (GAP project)	Megan to contact Phil	Pending
MSP Patagonian shelf region: Need to see if we can get access to data or collaborate	Andy Stanworth		Pending
Spread the webpage link to all stakeholders and other organisations	Everyone	Once it is a be more developed	Ongoing
Email details of legislation work for FI that has been discussed	Malcolm Jamieson		Pending
Book videoconferencing facilities at BAS Cambridge	Phil Trathan	When date is set for workshop or meeting	Pending
Documents and contacts about penguin habitat work to pass on to Amelie	Phil Trathan, Ben Lascelles		Pending

Figure 1 Project chart-flow showing the framework of the project based around the three main workshops (blue) with the main project steps (green) and intended outcomes (red). This is an evolving document and it will be updated as needed to reflect modifications.

