



SOUTH ATLANTIC ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING: PHASE II STEERING COMMITTEE

HELD AT SAERI OFFICES, STANLEY

ON 1st March 2017: 13:00hrs – 15:00hrs

PRESENT:

Tara Pelembe (via Skype)(TP)	SAERI Deputy Director (Chairperson)
Neil Golding (NG)	SAERI Project Manager (Secretariat)
John Barton (JB)	Director, Dept of Fisheries
Nick Rendell (NR)	Environmental Planning Dept
Diane Simsovic (DS)	Head of Policy

APOLOGIES

MLA Michael Poole
Paul Brickle

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approval of minutes from last meeting (13th Dec 2016) [All]
2. Actions from last meeting (13th Dec 2016)
3. Revised project timeline [NG, ALL]
 - a. Report against MSP Phase II project targets [NG]
 - b. Discussion of timings of different work packages (Gantt Chart to be circulated)[All]
 - c. Implications of Election to work plan [All]
4. Stakeholder Group [NG]
 - a. Membership & Terms of Reference
5. SAERI 'Boundary Guidance' Draft Document [see attached paper][All]
 - a. Discussion and approval by SC.

6. Draft AFCAS report
 - a. update following comments from Steering Committee [NG]
 - b. Discussion and sign-off [All]
 - c. Next Stakeholder meeting and consultation of AFCAS report
7. Discussion on future MSP strategy [All]
8. Review of actions agreed [NG]
9. AoB

WELCOME:

TP welcomed all to the meeting. No changes were requested to the agenda.

CONSTITUTION:

There being a quorum present, the Chairperson declared the meeting duly constituted.

AGENDA ITEM 1: Approval of minutes from last meeting (13th Dec 2016) [All]

Minutes from last meeting (13th Dec 2016) approved by all.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Actions from last meeting (13th Dec 2016)

All complete, with exception of recirculation of scope of work (SAERI (TP)). NG to re-circulate scope of work to Stakeholder Group [this will be included within minutes of 2nd March Stakeholder Group meeting].

AGENDA ITEM 3: Discussion of revised project timeline

Draft Gantt chart circulated to all. WP1 (AFCAS) discussed later in meeting.

WP2: DS made the observation that the AGs chamber has a very full legislative agenda, and that there may not be the resources to do any significant legislative work. The use of contractors could potentially be explored. JB highlighted that this Work Package is more about what is required, what is already there, what could be achievable under existing legislation. The outputs from this Work Package would then feed into the legislative drafting programme. There is not a legislative ‘drafting’ element captured within this Work Package. TP mentioned about flagging the need for a ‘review’ by the legislative team to QA this review, and for this to be flagged to the legislative team so they would be aware of this requirement. NG clarified that this review would not be a weighty report, but rather a short paper capturing what legislation is there, where the gaps are with respect to the outcomes of the AFCAS report and wider MSP.

AP_2017_03_001 – NG to email PB/Teresa regarding a flag to the legislative team (to provide a heads up of this legislative review requiring some input from them), as they are meeting them tomorrow (2nd March '17).

DS queried whether representatives from Fisheries or EPD should be involved in reviewing this document, and all agreed that this would be appropriate. Current plan was for the review to be undertaken in May, and completed

by end of May; the group thought this was quite ambitious, so NG noted that this may be subject to change depending on how the consultation progresses, but an aspirational target.

WP3: No queries

WP4: Long-term strategy. DS asked who the co-sponsor department was for the MSP Phase II project. JB stated that DNR would likely be the lead department but may include other departments, for example, work involving nature reserves would normally include EPD. All agreed to await final decision until after the Stakeholder consultation, when a clear picture of the requirements should emerge.

DS highlighted that MLAs may accept the completion of the AFCAS report, but then may leave any decisions from the report for the next assembly. DS also mentioned that no budget was allocated in budgets for next FY (from June 2018) to continue the work, so all agreed that ongoing budgets do need to be mentioned in the future strategy options paper. NR mentioned whether funds from FCO Blue Belt initiative could be explored, and group thought this could be an option.

JB stated that they were currently expecting SAERI to ‘hand over’ the project onwards from July ’17, when the funding within SAERI effectively stops, although important to bear in mind that DNR do not have budget assigned yet until they know what the forward scope for MSP is. TP flagged this funding gap as a concern. JB said that looking ahead; it may be more about people devoting a percentage of their time to MSP rather than a dedicated post to take MSP forward.

All agreed that preferable to have management plans in place as sites are formally designated, rather than at a later date.

An additional inclusion with the options paper may be the requirement to collect additional evidence before some of these further offshore areas could be progressed.

TP encouraged, and all agreed, to continue the thinking about what should be included within the future strategy options paper throughout these Steering Committee meetings, supplying new information such as from the consultation as and when appropriate, to NG.

AP_2017_03_002 – All agreed to provide NG with thoughts, as and when they arise, for what should be included within the future MSP strategy options paper.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Stakeholder Group

The Stakeholder Group Terms of Reference, and revised membership list, were agreed and signed off by all. All agreed that it was sensible to proceed with a Stakeholder Group meeting before NG heads off to undertake ICES work, despite the short notice and resulting lower numbers, as to delay would mean not having a meeting until April 2017. Just a re-emphasis from TP that the Stakeholder Group has an advisory, but not a decision making function – all agreed. NG to stress this at MSP Stakeholder Group tomorrow. Group also discussed the fact that question about smaller (FIG only) Steering Committee may raise some questions. A smaller Steering Committee resulted from the funding coming from FIG, and also any future work arising from the project would need sign-off by FIG before progressing.

AP_2017_03_003 – NG to stress to Stakeholder Group at next meeting that they fulfil an advisory, not decision-making role.

NG reviewed what was going to be covered at Stakeholder Group with all, including providing a brief background to the process, and the MSP journey so far, as well as running through the key outcomes of the AFCAS report. All members confirmed they were content with what was being proposed for the Stakeholder Group meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 5: SAERI ‘Boundary Guidance’ Draft Document [see attached paper][All]

NG presented an overview of the Boundary Guidance, to be attached as an Annex to the AFCAS report. The Steering Group endorsed the guidance (no changes were recommended) and agreed that this could be provided to the Stakeholder Group.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Draft AFCAS report

NG presented an overview of the AFCAS report including (technical) updates made at the request of the Steering Group at the last meeting. All agreed with the revised proposals. More detailed discussions are covered below.

Regarding the oversight of the MSP and AFCAS process through the various Committees, JB recommended to push ahead with the AFCAS consultation process, before engaging, post-consultation with the Committees. The rest of the Steering Committee agreed.

NR highlighted that it would be useful to present an update at the next Environment Committee (Monday 13th March) – Suggestion that PB could give a verbal update in absence of NG (in UK) – although as PB will also be away, NR agreed to give update. Megan Tierney would attend as a SAERI representative. MP also attends this meeting. All agreed that an update at the following Environment Committee in April (but likely to be pushed back to May) could be useful.

AP_2017_03_004 – NR to provide verbal update at Environment Committee on Monday 13th March , with support from Megan Tierney.

JB stated that the next Fisheries Committee would be 15th June. DS asked whether the Fisheries Committee could be convened early as we would fast be running out of time to get to ExCo with the MSP forward plan, as information would need to get to Committees first – JB confirmed this was possible.

Minerals Committee – NG to liaise with Stephen Luxton or Roddy regarding any presentations at Minerals Committee.

AP_2017_03_005 – NG to discuss with Roddy/Stephen about an appropriate time to present an update on the AFCAS process to Minerals Committee

NG stressed to the group that these proposed boundaries can be subject to change, and can grow as well as shrink as new data comes to light.

JB noted that inshore fisheries closure should be referred to as the ‘3 mile fisheries exclusion zone’.

All agreed that showing the broad scale datasets (such as megafaunal density) to the Stakeholder Group tomorrow (2nd March 2017) would be useful to demonstrate the type of evidence base used to delineate the boundaries around proposed Marine Nature Reserves. All agreed that it was ok to show these revised proposed boundaries for MMAs/MNRs at the Stakeholder Group the following day.

JB highlighted that (pending review of new AIS data), changing the western Jason Islands MNR boundary would be better with the line going north – south from an enforcement perspective. This could be changed post-consultation. Also potential data sources could be investigated for benthic data around areas like the Jason’s, such as SMSG.

AP_2017_03_006 – NG to check AIS data regarding vessel activity, and if appropriate, revise Jason Islands boundary to run north-south, post consultation.

NR made observation that some data suggests that species density for some megafauna is high even outside the proposed areas, so the question may come up about why aren't areas larger. NR asked about whether boundaries, as currently proposed, would be appropriate for maintaining a safe distance for large vessels such as tankers. JB stated that having a MNR in place would give a stronger argument for imposing a wider 'large vessel' exclusion zone to be established; for example local and international notice to mariners. NG noted that this may be something to consider in the future options paper.

NR and JB also flagged up possible issues around sheltering for fishing vessels (may not be received favorably) – they are currently recommended to be excluded from sheltering within proposed MNRs. This needs investigating further post-consultation.

AP_2017_03_007 – NG to investigate potential appropriate anchoring areas, post consultation, with experienced mariners.

JB asked what was happening regarding proposals for the Burdwood Bank area. NG stated that this was being proposed as the wider Southern Falklands MMA, and with a MNR around the 200m Burdwood Bank itself.

NG sought a consensus view of what the Steering Committee saw happening for the AFCAS consultation process. JB had questions about what form this might take – e.g. a list of questions, flagging issues, sending out the document and asking for views? NG clarified that a series of question would accompany the consultation – and agreed to develop a consultation pack, and draft/circulate proposed questions to the Steering Committee.

DS stated that this needs to be a real consultation – so canvass for views, and more importantly, take note of views, rather than “this is what we are going to do”.

NG confirmed that consultation will be public, with hard copy reports available/ coverage on website/press release/lodge copies at banks & post offices etc.

AP_2017_03_008 – NG to draft a series of consultation questions and some wider background documentation and circulate to Steering Committee for sign-off, by Friday 10th March.

At this point, DS had to leave the Steering Committee meeting for a prior engagement.

All agreed and happy for the consultation to go live on Monday 13th March 2017. SAERI agreed to arrange for consultation to go live in NG's absence in UK. NR flagged that also important to inform the Stakeholder Group of the planned start date of consultation at meeting on 2nd March. SurveyMonkey was proposed as a way to run the consultation online.

TP requested confirmation that it was ok for SAERI to run the public consultation, and JB confirmed that this was the case. JB confirmed that SAERI were leading on the process (the AFCAS project) until June/July 2017.

NG stated that with all Steering Committee (including MP) receiving, and signing off the consultation pack, this would enable all to approve the final products before they are publically released, and would in effect be an authorization to proceed with the public consultation.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Discussion on future MSP strategy [All]

NG highlighted the point TP made earlier about 'banking' ideas about future strategy options as they are discussed at various meetings, so that a list can start to be compiled of relevant areas for inclusion, and requested any thoughts from the Steering Committee.

AP All to send further ideas for the future MSP strategy options paper to NG

TP sought confirmation that following the lull after Amelie left, the Steering Committee was content with progress to date. All were content with progress.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Summary of actions

Action No	Details	Current state
AP_2017_03_001	NG to email PB/Teresa regarding a flag to the legislative team (to provide a heads up of this legislative review requiring some input from them), as they are meeting them tomorrow (2nd March '17).	Complete
AP_2017_03_002	All agreed to provide NG with thoughts, as and when they arise, for what should be included within the future MSP strategy options paper.	Pending
AP_2017_03_003	NG to stress to Stakeholder Group at next meeting that they fulfil an advisory, not decision-making role.	Complete
AP_2017_03_004	NR to provide verbal update at Environment Committee on Monday 13th March, with support from Megan Tierney.	Complete
AP_2017_03_005	NG to discuss with Roddy/Stephen about an appropriate time to present an update on the AFCAS process to Minerals Committee	Pending
AP_2017_03_006	NG to check AIS data regarding vessel activity, and if appropriate, revise Jason Islands boundary to run north-south, post consultation.	Pending
AP_2017_03_007	NG to investigate potential appropriate anchoring areas, post consultation, with experienced mariners.	Pending
AP_2017_03_008	NG to draft a series of consultation questions and some wider background documentation and circulate to Steering Committee for sign-off, by Friday 10th March.	Complete

AGENDA ITEM 9: AOB

There were no AOB items.