



SOUTH ATLANTIC ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING: PHASE II
STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

HELD AT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, STANLEY

ON 2nd March 2017: 14:00rs – 15:30hrs

PRESENT:

Neil Golding (NG)	SAERI MSP Project Manager
Paul Brickle (PB)	Director, SAERI
Michael Gras (MG)	Dept. of Natural Resources
Jackie Cotter (JC)	FIFCA
Roddy Cordeiro (RC)	Dept. of Mineral Resources
Sarah Croft (SC)	Falklands Conservation

APOLOGIES

Bill Dawson	Ministry of Defence
Ross James	Department of Agriculture
Pippa Christie	FIPLA
Chris Locke	Dept. of Natural Resources
Stephanie Middleton	Falkland Islands Tourist Board
Graham Harris	Wildlife Conservation Society
Adam Cockwell	Workboat Services Ltd
Roy Summers	Sullivan Shipping Ltd
Sally Poncet	Falkland Island Yacht Club/Beaver Island Trust

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Introductions

2. Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) – Phase II – Overview
3. MSP Steering Committee update
4. Overview of the AFCAS work and key findings
5. Planned consultation and next steps
6. AoB

WELCOME:

NG welcomed all to the meeting; he apologised for the relative short notice in holding the meeting, but explained that the Steering Committee felt it was important to share an overview of the findings from the new AFCAS work (Assessment of Fishing Closure Areas as sites for Marine Management Areas) ahead of the planned public consultation, and ahead of **NG** leaving the island for four weeks at the start of March as part of his responsibility as Chair of the Joint ICES/NAFO Working Group on Deep-water Ecology.

NG noted that the bad weather over the last few days had meant that some of the Stakeholder Group members had been called away at the last minute resulting in a significant number of unforeseen, last minute, apologies. No changes were requested to the agenda.

CONSTITUTION:

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

AGENDA ITEM 1: Introductions

There was a round-table introduction from all Stakeholder Group members. **NG** provided some background to his experience in marine spatial planning (MSP). He has worked on a range of MSP projects in the UK including:

- the Irish Sea Pilot Scheme, a pilot for MSP in the UK.
- Implementing Offshore Natura (Habitats Directive) in offshore UK waters, identifying Offshore Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- Developing an evidence base for Marine Conservation Zones in UK offshore waters
- Current chair of Joint ICES/NAFO Working Group on Deep-water Ecology, which feeds into the ICES advice process, providing advice to North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission and the European Commission on the protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs).

AGENDA ITEM 2 - 5

NG briefly discussed the Stakeholder Group Terms of Reference (Annex I), which has been circulated to the group via email ahead of the meeting – only minor queries had been received

through correspondence. **NG** confirmed, as per the ToRs, that the Stakeholder Group was an advisory, not a decision making group. **JC** queried as to the fact that the Steering Committee had reduced significantly in size since the Darwin-plus project, and was composed solely of representatives from FIG departments with no industry representatives. **PB** clarified that the reduced size was agreed by the Steering Committee, was a reflection of the project funders (FIG) and the fact that FIG would be responsible for implementing any of the outcomes of the project

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NG presented (attached as a PDF in Annex II) an overview of where the MSP process had got to, with the previous Darwin-Plus funded project between 2014 - 2016. There was then a slight pause at the end of 2016, and Phase II of the project is now underway (**NG** started in post at the end of January 2017).

The presentation also covered the make-up of the revised Steering Committee established for this second phase of the project. The presentation went on to outline the different work packages involved with Phase II of the Marine Spatial Planning project; the project scope is attached in Annex III. The focus of the presentation was the outcomes of the AFCAS report. The three proposed MMAs (Inshore Falklands MMA, Beauchêne Island MMA and Southern Falklands MMA) were shown. The presentation covered some of the detailed evidence drawn upon to support the recommendations (such as key megafauna species density maps from the April 2015 MSP Megafauna workshop). In addition, examples of some of the proposed management options were also covered.

Finally, the presentation covered the next steps of the project, following the completion of the pre-consultation draft of the AFCAS report. The public consultation phase (lasting approximately 6 weeks) has been scheduled to start on Monday 13th March 2017.

During the presentation, **MG** provided some further information regarding the different types of Fishing Closure Areas shown in Slide 8.

There was a subsequent group discussion regarding aspects of the AFCAS proposal, including the evidence base used to underpin the boundary proposals as well as some discussion regarding the draft proposals for management, such as for restricted sheltering around Marine Nature Reserves and Beauchêne. **NG** clarified that the full AFCAS consultation draft would be available at the time of the consultation following sign-off by the Steering Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 6: AoB

There were no further items discussed under AoB.

Annex I:

Click below for a PDF of the MSP Stakeholder Group Terms of Reference circulated to the group on 23rd Feb 2017



Falkland Islands Marine Spatial Planning (Phase II) Stakeholder Group (MSPSG) – Terms of Reference

1 Background

Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) is the process used to develop a strategic plan for the co-ordinated management of the marine environment, with a holistic and ecosystem-based approach to managing activities and development. The Falkland Islands currently are working towards this co-ordinated marine management approach. The foundations of MSP in the Falkland Islands (Phase I) commenced with a two-year Darwin Plus funded project between 2014 and 2016. The development phase (Phase II) of the project is now underway, and aims to develop the MSP process and plan for its long-term implementation within the Falkland Island Government (FIG). As part of the Falkland Islands MSP process, gaining and maintaining stakeholder support is a priority for the project team and Steering Committee.

2 Purpose

The purpose of the Marine Spatial Planning Stakeholder Group (MSPSG) is to support the MSP process by providing a place to share information and address strategic issues of relevance to MSP in the Falklands.

The MSPSG aims to coordinate and disseminate the collective views of the various stakeholders.

The MSPSG gives the MSP project team the opportunity to engage with Stakeholders and provide information about the aims and progress with Phase II of the MSP project, in order to promote shared understanding of key issues and concerns.

The MSPSG provides Stakeholders with a forum to discuss issues and disseminate views between sectors across the Falkland Islands. The MSPSG is an advisory, not decision-making group for the MSP project.

3 Functions

While in no particular order, the Marine Spatial Planning Stakeholder Group (MSPSG) is established to:

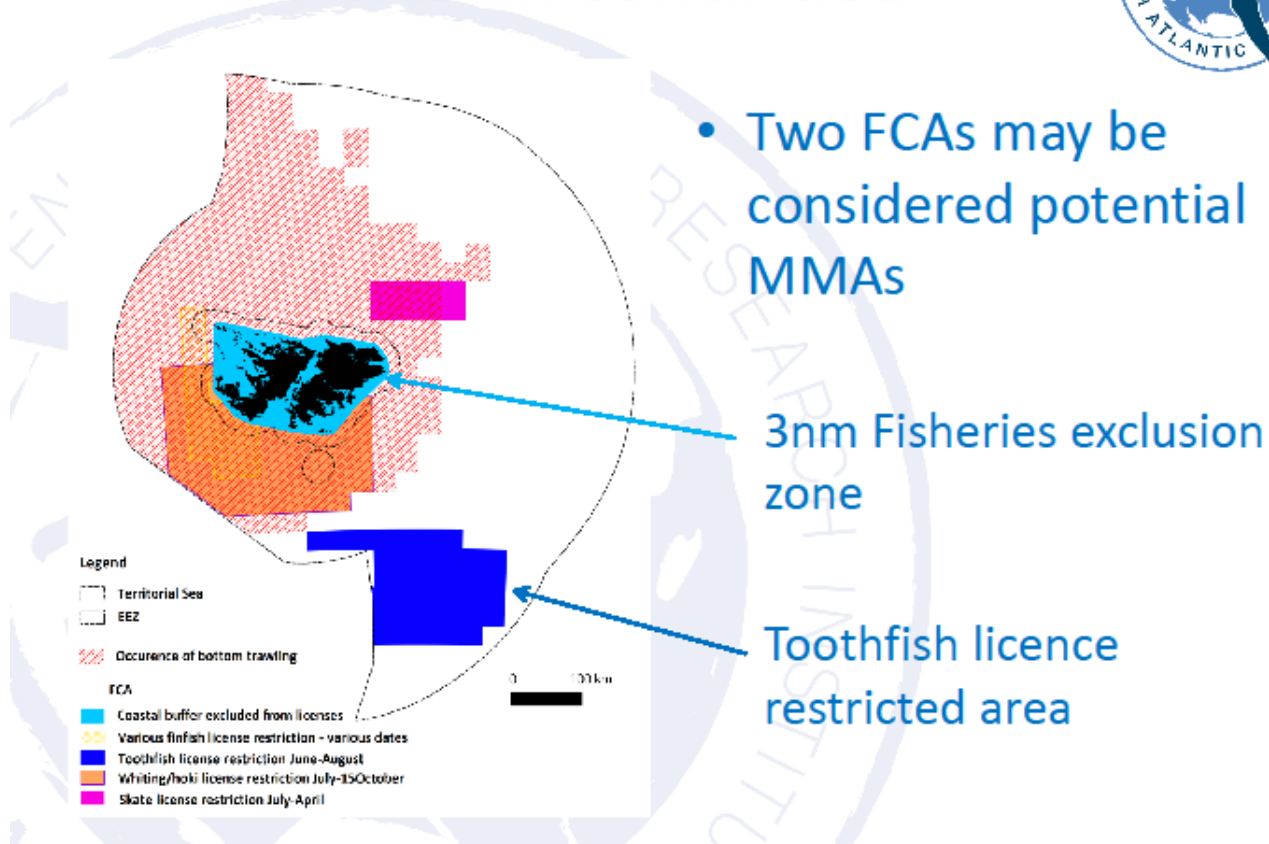
- Promote transparency and understanding of the Marine Spatial Planning project;
- Discuss the concerns of Stakeholders with respect to MSP proposals being tabled, and forward them to the MSP Steering Committee;
- provide a mechanism where Stakeholders can submit new information for consideration in the MSP process;

Annex II:

Click below for a PDF of the MSP Stakeholder Presentation



AFCAS continued



Annex III

Click below for a PDF of the MSP Phase II Scope of Work



SCOPE OF WORK

Marine Spatial Planning Phase

Period July 2016 to June 2017

----- Beginning the Development Phase (Phase 2) -----

Approved by MSP Steering Committee on 13 October 2016

A Background

Defining the concept of Marine Spatial Planning

- MSP is the continuous science-based, stakeholder-driven process used to develop coordinate marine activities and regularly update a strategic plan for co-ordinated management of the marine environment for the future, with a holistic and ecosystem-based approach of managing activities and development.

Marine Spatial Planning in the Falkland Islands

- The Falkland Islands Government has made one of their actions in the Islands' Plan 2014-2018 to "Implement a marine spatial planning framework ..." and, in December, the Executive Council (ExCo) has agreed to support the implementation of an MSP process, including the production of an MSP Plan, subject to a fine-scale framework.

What have we done in relation to Marine Spatial Planning in the Falklands so far?

- Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) was initiated in the Falkland Islands through a 2-year Darwin Plus project (July 2014-June 2016) that provided the first set of tools and a framework for implementation. The framework was submitted as a paper to the FIG Executive Committee and described a 3-phase process for implementation:
 - Phase 1: Foundation (Darwin Plus project) – *completed ✓*
 - Phase 2: Development – *this proposal begins this phase*
 - Phase 3: Operation – *the future*

B What are we going to do now?

- *FIG has provided a £30,000 fund for the financial year 2016/2017 to continue the MSP process and begin Phase 2 in the short-term with an extra £5,000 from the Fisheries Research Budget.*
- *With this funding we are going to:*
 1. Conduct an MSP case-study project AFCAS (see below Section E for detailed work plan and products) to demonstrate a quick win/early tangible result (WP1)
 2. Review current legislation needed for MSP implementation (WP2)
 3. Continue stakeholder engagement (and support FIG setting this up for long-term) and maintain and update of MSP tools (GIS database, webGIS and webpage) (WP3)