

Meeting No 2: 7th December 2006**Decision Support Mechanisms**

Introduction

The Clyde Pilot has been tasked with delivering improved decision support mechanisms and integrated decision making within the firth of Clyde. This work stream is intended to run alongside the development of the Local Marine Spatial Plan (LMSP).

However, during the Clyde Forum Annual Conference a large number of the delegates expressed concern that the time frame for the development of the plan may not be realistic. Prioritisation of the resource is of the utmost importance in this first 18 month period. This paper puts forward a proposals on how to take this work stream forward that would enable the best use of the resources available.

Original Clyde Pilot Project Proposal

The original Project Proposal contained the milestones as set out below.

1. Review existing arrangements - Investigate decision-support mechanisms with statutory bodies and stakeholders to improve existing procedures with the aim of reducing duplication and improving efficiency.
2. Review expected regulator developments – Impacts of Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Bill, UK Marine Bill and possible EU Marine Strategy Directive.
3. Evaluate potential improvements – Looking at opportunities to make decisions more quickly and effectively.
4. Adopt and trial new decision making measures - Through discussion with the steering group, adopt and trial measures for promoting integrated sustainable decision-making within the existing statutory framework
5. Monitor Changes to decision making process - Evaluate changes in the decision making process employed by different sectors during the project.

Revised Proposal

It is proposed to deliver this work stream in two parts during the second half of the Pilot Project in the form of;

1. A Focused Study – Milestones 1-3
2. The Development of a Decision Support Tool – Milestones 4 & 5

Focused Study

It is proposed to carry out a focused study on the most common decision making processes, i.e. those where efficiencies and streamlining would benefit the regulators and consultees the most. This review will look at aquaculture, marinas, moorings and marine engineering works and the regulations, licensing and decisions made around these. This will incorporate Food and Environment Protection Act (FEPA) licenses, Costal Protection Act – section 34, waste management licenses, discharge consents as well as development consents.

A review of the existing relationship between the regulators and consultees will be considered, looking specifically at what information regulators and consultees

require, from each other and from developers. It will also look at how this information is used and improvements that could be made.

The study will not look at decision mechanisms for marine renewables, oil & gas pipeline or submarine cables for electricity and communication. Also the Inshore Fisheries Framework has set up the local Inshore Fisheries Groups (IFG) and it would be more appropriate for the Clyde IFG to look into decision mechanisms relating to inshore fisheries.

Decision Support Tool

Discussions have taken place, initially with SEPA and SNH, regarding a possible tool that would use the data collated in the process of developing the Local Marine Spatial Plan. This Decision Support Tool (DST) would help streamline the consultation and decision making process.

The DST will offer a web based GIS Tool that both regulators and developers could access. It provides developers with the initial constraints information to enable them to decide if an investment should be made in an application to carry out a particular activity in a certain area. The tool would also provide them with a report detailing whom they should approach for the relevant licenses and consents for that particular development. For the regulators and consultees it would provide efficiencies through all the information being located in one place.

Timeline

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Data Collection | - As part of LMSP development |
| Produce Detailed Proposal | - August 07 |
| Achieve Buy in From Regulators | - December 07 |
| Allocate Resources | - January 08 |
| Develop Web based GIS DST | - January – April 08 |
| Trial DST | - May 08 |
| Launch | - June 08 |
| Monitor and Review | - June 08 – June 09 |

Discussion Points

The steering group are therefore asked to consider the following questions;

1. Do you agree with the revised proposals?
2. Should the scope of the review be even more focused?