

# **Scottish Sustainable Marine Environment Initiative Firth of Clyde Pilot Project**

## **Project Update (4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Report)**

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**Caspian House  
Mariner Court  
Clydebank Business Park  
Clydebank  
G81 2NR**

**Tel: 0141 941 0870  
Fax: 0141 951 0869**

## 1 Introduction

The SSMEI Clyde Pilot is aimed at the development and delivery of more integrated and sustainable management of the marine and coastal areas of the Firth of Clyde through an effective and integrated stakeholder-regulator partnership. It aims to achieve this through the creation of a Local Marine Spatial Plan (LMSP) together with improved decision support mechanisms and integrated decision making. These will be underpinned by the application of an ecosystem based approach to sustainable development.

## 2 Funding

Additional funding has been received from a number of sources for the delivery of sub projects that will assist in the production of the LMSP.

Amount	Organisation	Project
£40,000	SNH	Review of Biodiversity in the Firth of Clyde
£10,000	Scottish Executive	SEA
£5,000	SEPA	SEA
£5,000	SEPA	Sectoral Planning

## 3 Sectoral Planning

### 3.1 **Sectoral Sub Groups**

In order to develop forward sectoral plans for integration into the LMSP, voluntary input will be required from sectoral representatives, drawn both from within and outwith the project steering group. To accomplish this most efficiently sectoral sub groups are to be established. A Discussion Paper has been produced for the 4<sup>th</sup> Steering Group Meeting to discuss this further.

### 3.2 **Sectoral Interactions**

After consultation with some of the steering group representatives it has been decided that the Interactions Matrix should be completed in an interview setting with the project team. Interviews are being arranged with the key sectoral representatives to take place in June.

The matrix characterises interactions into five categories: Positive; Neutral; Competition; Conflict; or Incompatible. A description of each category is given in the table below

Interaction	Description
Positive	Where the other (sub)sector has a positive influence on your (sub)sector (e.g. clean water may attract tourists)
Neutral	Where there is no positive or negative impact on your (sub)sector.
Competition	Where there is (sustainable) competition for the same resources or area between the other (sub)sector and your (sub)sector. While there is no conflict at present, it could potentially occur if resources diminished and/or one or both (sub)sectors expanded their level of operation in the Firth of Clyde.
Conflict	Where conflict currently exists as a consequence of unmanaged competition between the two (sub)sectors for access to key resources.
Incompatible	Where there is a fundamental and unmanageable incompatibility between the operation of the two (sub)sectors within the Firth of Clyde as a whole.

## 4 Spatial Management Plan

### 4.1 **Strategic Vision and Higher Level Aims**

A workshop, facilitated by SNIFFER, was held during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Steering group Meeting which aimed to produce an outline draft Vision Statement for the Firth of Clyde. The workshop also

used this outline draft vision to guide the development of draft high level aims of the Local Marine Spatial Plan (LMSP). A report from this workshop can be found on the SSMEI website.

The project team used the outputs from the workshop to develop a draft Vision Statement and High Level Aims, which are being presented at the 4<sup>th</sup> Steering Group Meeting for further discussion and fine-tuning.

#### 4.2 Habitat map

ERT (Scotland) Ltd have been awarded the contract for developing the Seabed Habitat Map for the Firth of Clyde. ERT is an independent marine environmental monitoring and consultancy company based in Edinburgh.

The consultants will also carry out spatial analysis of the distribution of seabed species, such as nephrops and scallops by matching species with their habitat requirements. This will produce maps showing indicative locations of species and their habitats.

#### 4.3 Review of Biodiversity in the Firth of Clyde

This project will collect, collate and review the existing marine biodiversity knowledge for the Firth of Clyde and use this to identify areas of high biodiversity value and gaps in our knowledge.

The outputs of the project will inform the development of the LMSP and future surveys and studies. It will assist decision makers and regulators as well as inform the development of policy in and around the Firth of Clyde.

### 5 Strategic Environmental Assessment

#### 5.1 SEA Sub Group

The preliminary meeting of the SEA subgroup, comprising JED, KT, Robin Edgar and Toby Wilson (formerly Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan Committee, now RSPB) was held on 21 February 2007.

#### 5.2 Environmental Baseline Report

This report will describe the current state and trends in the natural, social and economic environments of the Firth. The report will also identify issues that the LMSP can address and will inform the setting of SEA objectives and targets.

David Ross, SEPA, is leading on the development of this and has produced an outline structure (section, chapter and sub-chapter headings) as well as guidance notes prior to contracts being let for its preparation.

### 6 Common Information Resource

Over 550 references, with hyperlinks to web sources where applicable, have now been included in the information bibliography for the Firth of Clyde. This resource is routinely used by the project team and Firth of Clyde Forum project officer to catalogue, sift and access information.



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