

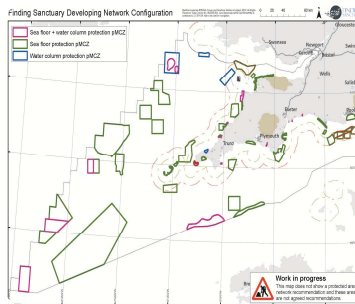


Marine protected areas  
in the Atlantic arc

## Recommendations for international fisheries stakeholders engagement and data gathering for the UK MPAs projects

**JNCC - Sophie Elliott, Johnny Murt, Declan Tobin  
and Cristina Herbon**

Sept 2010



Guidelines

## Recommendations for international fisheries stakeholders engagement and data gathering for the UK MPAs projects



Author: Sophie Elliott, Johnny Murt, Declan Tobin and Cristina Herbon

Contact: Joint Nature Conservation Committee,  
Monkstone House, City Road, Peterborough,  
PE1 1JY, UK  
Tel: +44 (0) 1733 866 927

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# Summary

This summary document proposes recommendations for international fisheries stakeholder engagement developed through a contract let to RK Partnership facilitators and from recommendations made by the regional Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) projects and Natural England. The consultant proposed a phased approach to bear in mind the short time-scale of the Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) project<sup>1</sup>. This consists of:

- Information giving i.e. providing information about the UK MPA projects to international stakeholders;
- Information gathering i.e. obtaining information about the activities of international fisheries stakeholders in the project areas;
- Involvement i.e. engage the international fisheries stakeholders in the negotiation process; and
- Consultation.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information please click on the following link; [http://www.jncc.gov.uk/pdf/MCZProjectInfoDoc\\_v2\\_1.pdf](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/pdf/MCZProjectInfoDoc_v2_1.pdf)

## Information giving

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee's (JNCC) Fishery Liaison Officers, have been identifying international fishery stakeholders who carry out activities in UK waters and have a vested interest.

An introductory letter has been sent to the North Sea, Pelagic and North West Waters Regional Advisory Council (RAC) and international fisheries stakeholders to inform them of the project and to invite them to engage in UK Marine Protected Area (MPA) projects<sup>2</sup>. This has been translated into French, Spanish and German and was sent out (30/07/10) to those international stakeholders identified. Within the introductory letter, JNCC's UK MPA information document and the MCZ Project information document<sup>1</sup> was supplied in French, Spanish, German, Dutch, Norwegian, Danish, Gaelic and Welsh.

Initiation and introductory meetings have already begun through the North Sea, Pelagic and North West Waters Regional Advisory Committees (RAC). Members of the RACs have approached JNCC to be engaged in the process. JNCC will continue to meet with the RACs to update and inform them of UK MPA progress. JNCC is also organising a UK MPA Stakeholder Forum, where by national and international stakeholders will be invited to attend a meeting in England to discuss UK MPA developments. Invitations have been sent to the RACs to identify a representative for each of the RAC regions.

International fishers who wish to be kept up to date with progress can sign up to various MPA newsletters which exist, by contacting JNCC.

## Information gathering

In conjunction with the regional MCZ projects, JNCC have received extra data layers from the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) to provide more detailed country-level VMS information on vessel activity data in UK waters. This is an add-on to the Defra MB106 socio-economic<sup>3</sup> contract.

Further contact is being made with country-specific organisations to provide us with information on the number of under 15m vessels currently operating in UK waters. Country specific meetings are now being organised to inform and discuss with international fisheries stakeholders UK MPA developments. This has been initiated through the Regional Advisory Council (RAC) meetings, for which we have gained support from the members, who are willing to engage and carry forward such meetings.

In addition, FisherMap<sup>4</sup> questionnaires will be taken forward by liaison officers within countries which carry out activities in UK waters. This is specifically aimed at collecting fishing activity data from the under 15m fleet. This will take place using the existing FisherMap questionnaire used for fisheries data collection within the MCZ Project. Stakeholders will also be given the option to use the current MCZ project interactive map to follow progress and feed in activity data.

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<sup>2</sup> For more information please click on the following link; [http://www.jncc.gov.uk/PDF/MPAsInfoDoc\\_v2\\_1.pdf](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/PDF/MPAsInfoDoc_v2_1.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> This contract has identified industry activities being carried out in UK waters by national and international stakeholders.

<sup>4</sup> A questionnaire designed to identify fishers activity in UK waters.

# Involvement, ways forward and options available to international fishery stakeholders

Within the planned international fisheries stakeholder meetings mentioned above, JNCC will be providing detailed information regarding UK MPAs, as well as any other specific items suggested by each UK regional project. JNCC will also be collecting data.

Outputs from the Defra MB106 contract, additional data collected from Cefas and the results from the regional MCZ projects first iterations (first set of draft recommendations on the location of possible MCZs) and the engagement activities of other UK MPA Projects (Scottish MPA Project and the MCZ Project Wales), will help JNCC target those stakeholders which carry out activities in the areas of interest and ensure they are fully aware and engaged in the process.

The MCZ Project is a stakeholder led process, whereby stakeholders within the regional MCZ project stakeholder groups<sup>5</sup> are tasked with identifying MCZs using the ecological guidance provided. The mechanisms outlined within the options below are MCZ Project specific. For the Scottish MPA Project and the Welsh MCZ Project key stakeholders will be engaged within key stages of the project development and will be able to comment on the progress. JNCC will inform international stakeholders of such development stages through existing communication channels.

## Options will be open to international fisheries stakeholders

**The following options will be open to international fisheries stakeholders to engage in decision making of MCZ Project processes:**

### Option 1 – Become a Named Consultative Stakeholder (NCS)<sup>6</sup>

The regional MCZ projects will be tasked with selecting NCS applicants through applications from stakeholders submitted to the regional projects. Through the NCS process, stakeholders will be able to comment on the iterations, identifying MCZs either through a set format provided or through enhanced access to the MCZ Project interactive map.

<sup>5</sup> Refer to MCZ Project information document; [http://www.jncc.gov.uk/pdf/MCZProjectInfoDoc\\_v2\\_1.pdf](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/pdf/MCZProjectInfoDoc_v2_1.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Please see NCS process document for precise mechanisms by which stakeholders will be able to comment on the regional project iterations.

## Option 2 – Country specific meetings

Country specific representatives will supply the regional projects with comments on the iterations following meetings with JNCC fishery liaison officers. Meetings will be fisheries sector specific, region specific and/ or port specific. This will be adapted according to country specific needs. This will enable increased active engagement and data collection from international fisheries stakeholders. It is still advised that a fishers selected stakeholder becomes a NCS through this process to feed in directly with the regional project stakeholder groups.

## Option 3 – Become a member of the regional MCZ project stakeholder group (RSG)

This option is specific to the MCZ project. International fisheries stakeholders need to be given the same opportunity as UK stakeholders leading to the availability of this option. Stakeholders, including fishers, from other countries will be offered places on the appropriate RSG. If international fishers would like representation on the RSG, they would need to have the same responsibility as national RSG members as well as be able to communicate in English. Travel and subsistence contributions would not be available nor would professional translators. Alternatively, stakeholders may wish to liaise with UK fisheries organisations such as National Federation of Fishermen's Organisation (NFFO) and Scottish Fisheries Federation (SFF) to feed into the RSG.

## Option 4 - Use of existing groups

If the RACs agreed, the option to enabling one of their working groups to be a conduit for UK international stakeholder engagement could be possible. Collective comments from the meeting (including comments on the iterations) would be forwarded to the relevant regional projects by a stakeholder-chosen representative.

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JNCC will not be responsible for identifying international stakeholder representatives to feed into the regional MCZ project stakeholder groups. This will be decided between the international stakeholders themselves and the regional MCZ projects. JNCC will support international stakeholders understand the mechanisms available to be engaged in the development of UK MPA Projects and the mechanisms available to influence the identification of MCZs and development of their conservation objectives.

# Public consultation

The UK Government and the Devolved Administrations will undertake public consultations on all MPA proposals, offering stakeholders the opportunity to submit their comments. Comments can be submitted individually or in groups such as the RACs.

A public consultation will take place after the regional MCZ projects have closed (Oct-Nov 2011). By then, Defra will send stakeholders information on the proposed MPAs and enable them to respond.

Public consultation regarding Scottish sites will take place across three tranches: tranche 1 of sites will go for public consultation by end 2011; tranche 2 by end 2012 and tranche 3 by end 2013.

# MAIA

Marine protected areas  
in the Atlantic arc

## Towards an Atlantic network of Marine Protected Areas

The purpose of the European Marine Protected Areas in the Atlantic arc (MAIA) project is to create a **network of MPA managers and stakeholders**, who will take initiatives on an international level in terms of designation, governance and management. This will be to enhance the **development of a consistent, efficient and accepted MPAs network** in the Atlantic arc.

MAIA is structured in four main technical lines of work:

- *Establishing a status report on the existing MPAs*
- *Setting up common monitoring strategies*
- *Implementing management plans*
- *Involving stakeholders*

MAIA gathers 9 partners from 4 countries: United Kingdom, France, Spain and Portugal, **involved in MPAs designation and management.**

As lead partner, the French Marine Protected Areas Agency, coordinates the project implementation.

### *The 2010 – 2012 Action Plan*

**Organisation of technical workshops** on common MPA management issues in the Atlantic arc.

**Site visits in each partner country** to enhance the sharing of information, knowledge and know-how.

**Overview reports** to compare MPAs' situation in the Atlantic arc.

**Field studies** to be carried out by MAIA partners, promoting the exchanges within the network.

**Creation of a dedicated website**, including a private collaborative space, a document database and a GIS database used to establish a baseline on the status of MPAs in the Atlantic arc.

**Production and dissemination of document resources.**

[www.maia-network.org](http://www.maia-network.org)



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