Developing Fisheries Management Measures for Natura 2000 SAC sites in UK Offshore Waters

• Stanton Banks and Haig Fras case studies

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Presentation overview

- Stanton Banks and Haig Fras Site of Community Importance (SCI);
- The pilot site fisheries management workshop undertaken through the MAIA project;
- Next steps to identify Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) fisheries management measures for the sites;
- Lessons learned;
- Identifying voluntary management measures for inshore Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) in Scottish waters.
Stanton Banks Site of Community Importance

- Adopted by the commission in 2009 as a SCI for its bedrock reef following consultation

- Conservation Objective of restore to favourable condition, subject to natural change
Haig Fras Site of Community Importance

- Adopted by the commission in 2009 as a SCI for its bedrock reef following consultation

- Conservation Objective of restore to favourable condition, subject to natural change
The Marine Protected Areas in the Atlantic Arc Project (MAIA)

WP3: Supporting the identification and development of MPA management measures

‘Towards a network of Marine Protected Areas in the Atlantic arc’
Stanton banks SCI Fisheries Management Measure Workshop

• Discussed various management options
• Looked a Zoned proposal in detail
• Actions:
  – To discuss the site and impact with potters
  – To look at possible management boundaries with new survey and fishing data
Possible management options discussed
- Zoned management explored in more detail
- JNCC and MMO to re-examine detailed VMS data in relation to new survey data
Next steps

• Providing information on site and fishing activities to answer the eleven question identified within the Natura 2000 CFP fisheries management guidance

• Re-meeting stakeholders that attended the workshops

• The management authorities to write proposals for the SCIs management measures

• Meet with NWWRAC

• Formal public consultation

• Submission of request for management measures to EC
EC Natura fisheries management measures under the CFP guidance

- A scientific rational of the site and detailed description;
- Threat to habitats and species from human pressures;
- Details of fishing activity occurring in & around the site.
• Proposed fisheries management measures to maintain the habitats features in favourable condition;
• Control measures required for the site;
• Measures to monitor and assess the site;
• Evaluation of possible displacement.
Lessons Learned

• Start with an open mind within boundaries
• Improve access to VMS data
• Fishermen not their representatives
• Schedule workshops to suit them
• Access fisherman’s electronic data before
• The value of practical environmental knowledge
Statutory vs Voluntary

- Method of protection not important
- Risk of irreversible damage
- Conservation of features paramount
- Stakeholders have to buy-in
Statutory

- Legislative backing
- Legal system
- Rigid design
- Essential offshore
- Single sector issues

- Stakeholder anger
- Long CFP process (offshore)
- Legal action cannot repair damage
Voluntary

- Beneficial inshore
- Multi sector
- Allows buy-in
- Local influence
- Flexibility in design
- Self policing
- Article 6 still applies

- Rotten apples
- No legal remedy
Voluntary case study

- Sound of Arisaig SAC
- Extensive dense maerl beds
- All located in water <20m
- Highly sensitive to disturbance
- Very slow recovery
- All types of fishing potentially damaging
Incorporating local knowledge

- No creel fishing target species on maerl
- Scallop dredgers fishing >20m depth
- Hand diving
  - Razorfish <15m, Scallops 15 to 30m depth
Outcomes

• No measures for creel fishing
• Voluntary exclusion of dredging <25m
• New moorings to avoid Maerl beds
• Presumption against extraction of sand
• Education for recreational users
• Research into fish farm impact on Maerl
• Informal diver monitoring
Thank you for listening

Further information regarding MPA developments across the UK can be found on the JNCC website: www.jncc.defra.gov.uk/marineprotectedareas

Useful email addresses:
- MAIA Project - maia@aires-marines.fr
- Natura SCI information - http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4534
- Marine Scotland webpage – www.scotland.gov.uk/marinescotland

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