

Stakeholder engagement North Sea Maritime Forum Proposal

Working together to Manage the resources of
the North Sea

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Project Development

Background and aims

- Unprecedented changes have been taking place within the North Sea in recent years. As a result of new developments the resources of the North Sea are coming under increasing pressure, and the North Sea itself is becoming increasingly congested

Working Together to manage the North Sea

- 2000 North Sea Fisheries Partnership
Partnership of Scientists and
Fishermen from all countries around
the North Sea including Norway

Working together to Manage the North Sea

- 2004 North Sea Regional Advisory Council was formed, modelled on the North Sea Partnership
- 2009 Work started on the next step of Stakeholder Engagement, development of North Sea Maritime Forum

Initial steps to NSMF

- **March 2010 Stakeholder Conference – Newcastle.** “Working together to Manage the Resources of the North Sea” funded by DEFRA
- **Main Conclusion** -Establishment of a North Sea Forum

Background

- **Gijon Workshop – Stakeholder Engagement**
- **May 2010 funded by North Sea Commission**

Similar Conclusion – Need to bring all stakeholders together to overcome any conflicts and address future challenges e.g. congestion, renewables, spatial planning, north sea grid.

Background

- **Edinburgh Seminar 28 August 2011** – Final stakeholder consultation before preparing Project proposal
- Funded by Marine Scotland and NSC
- **Main Conclusion** – Formation of North Sea Maritime Forum to addresses the challenges facing North sea stakeholders
- **Stakeholder driven**

Speakers – Edinburgh Seminar 28 August 2011



conclusion

- The establishment of the NSMF would be an outstanding, future orientated instrument to develop a sustainable regional sea. The Forum would bring together all stakeholders engaged in, on and around the North Sea by establishing a transnational partnership working to support coordinated marine spatial planning and use of the resources.

- We must create a space or forum where we can develop and identify common interests, promote accessibility to information and develop cooperative proposals which can then be used to influence and support governments and other decision makers.
- Such a forum is required to promote discourse and engagement between all users of the North Sea. The North Sea is an ideal sea basin for piloting such a forum,

Geographical Area

- The North Sea Forum will encompass the North Sea basin, although there are presently no Norwegian partners, it is envisaged that Norway be active observer and on completion of the Pilot, become members
- The Forum will play a major role in ensuring the long term sustainable development of the North Sea through partnership working e.g. development of North Sea Grid, implementation of MSFD

Membership

- Belgium - ILVO – SVDO
- Netherlands - Vis Ned IMSA Vattenfall
- Denmark - Region Nordjylland (NSC), DTU Aqua,
Danish Wadden Sea Forum
- Sweden – Vaastra Gotaland Region, Halland Region
- Germany – Wadden Sea Forum, BUND
- UK – NFFO/SFF, Oil & Gas, Mainstream, Marine
Scotland and DEFRA
- NGOs – Birdlife International, WWF, Client Earth

Observers

- Observer status to National Administrations, the EU Commission, the EU Parliament, and countries including Norway and some Baltic States including OSPAR, MMO.
- A main ethos of the Forum is to ensure that all partners small or large regardless of financial contribution share equal responsibility within the Forum.

NSMF WORK PLAN

Main Forum

- The Main Forum will meet 3 times per year.
- The Main Forum meetings will bring together all of those involved in the Pilot NSMF and encourage other stakeholders engaged in, on and around the North Sea. It will provide the opportunity for in depth dialogue on specific relevant issues.

NSMF Ministerial Conference

- One of the Main Forum meetings, will be held in conjunction with NSC/Northsea Programme Joint Annual conference, and will invite North Sea Ministers to discuss and prepare a Ministerial Declaration on a specific issue e.g. North sea Grid.

Inter Sectoral Groups

Energy and Marine resources

- Oils & Gas
- Renewable Energy
- Fisheries
- NGOs
- Training
- Science
- Carbon Capture

Integration of Transport with other activities

- Ports
- Shipping
- Shipbuilders
- Mariners
- Leisure Activities

Science/research

- Data Gathering
- Climate
- Developing technology
- Innovation

Tourism and Community Use

- Sea Anglers
- Leisure Craft
- Beaches
- Communities
- Local and National Agencies

AD Hoc Focus Groups e.g.

- Decommission installations
- Pollution Issues – noise – EM
- Fishing within restricted areas
- Geographic issues

Forum aims

- The aim of the North Sea Maritime Forum is to establish a long lasting stakeholder platform to identify opportunities and to develop a common perspective for the North Sea and its coastal areas. Further, the Forum aims at sound capacity building and conflict resolution strategies through transnational partnership and a common perspective for the sustainable use and accessibility of our resources in the North Sea

Forum goals

- The North Sea Forum will be a new and vital tool to help reach the following goals:
- Facilitate the Development of North Sea Grid
- Avoid serious congestion
- Achieve co-ordinated spatial planning
- Resolve conflicts between sectors etc.

NSMF Ministerial Conference

- It is planned to hold a Ministerial Conference in conjunction with the North Sea Annual joint Conference
- The aim of this conference is to bring together North Sea Ministers to discuss and prepare a Ministerial declaration on a specific issue e.g. the first conference could address the development of North Sea Grid

NSMF – FUTURE

- There is growing interest in the development of Stakeholder engagement e.g. PISCES/Celtic Seas Partnership, Irish Sea Maritime Forum and North sea Maritime Forum.
- Moving towards a more strategic and organised approach to stakeholder participation.
- Implementation of Marine Strategy Framework Directive

Future

- Co-operation between all regional fora, to share information, avoid duplication of effort e.g
- PISCES MSFD Guidelines can and should be adapted for use in any REGIONAL FORUM, they were developed by stakeholders

Toby Roxburgh – “Consult once - use the response many times”

North Sea Maritime Forum

- NSMF will be first Regional Sea Basin Forum
- NSMF will become a Body Pursuing Community Interest, thus securing future long term funding!

North Sea Maritime Forum

THANK YOU

ANY QUESTIONS?