



Stakeholder Engagement, Facilitation & Mediation

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Irish Seas Conservation Zones Process Group meeting

REPORT

Meeting: 1st April 2011

Report: 4th April 2011

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Attendees

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|----|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Greg Whitfield | Irish Seas Conservation Zones project team |
| 2. | Fran Moore (part of meeting) | Irish Seas Conservation Zones project team |
| 3. | Matthew Sutcliffe (part of meeting) | Irish Seas Conservation Zones project team |
| 4. | Chris Lumb | Natural England |
| 5. | Julie Drew | Renewables UK |
| 6. | John Amery | Recreational fishing |

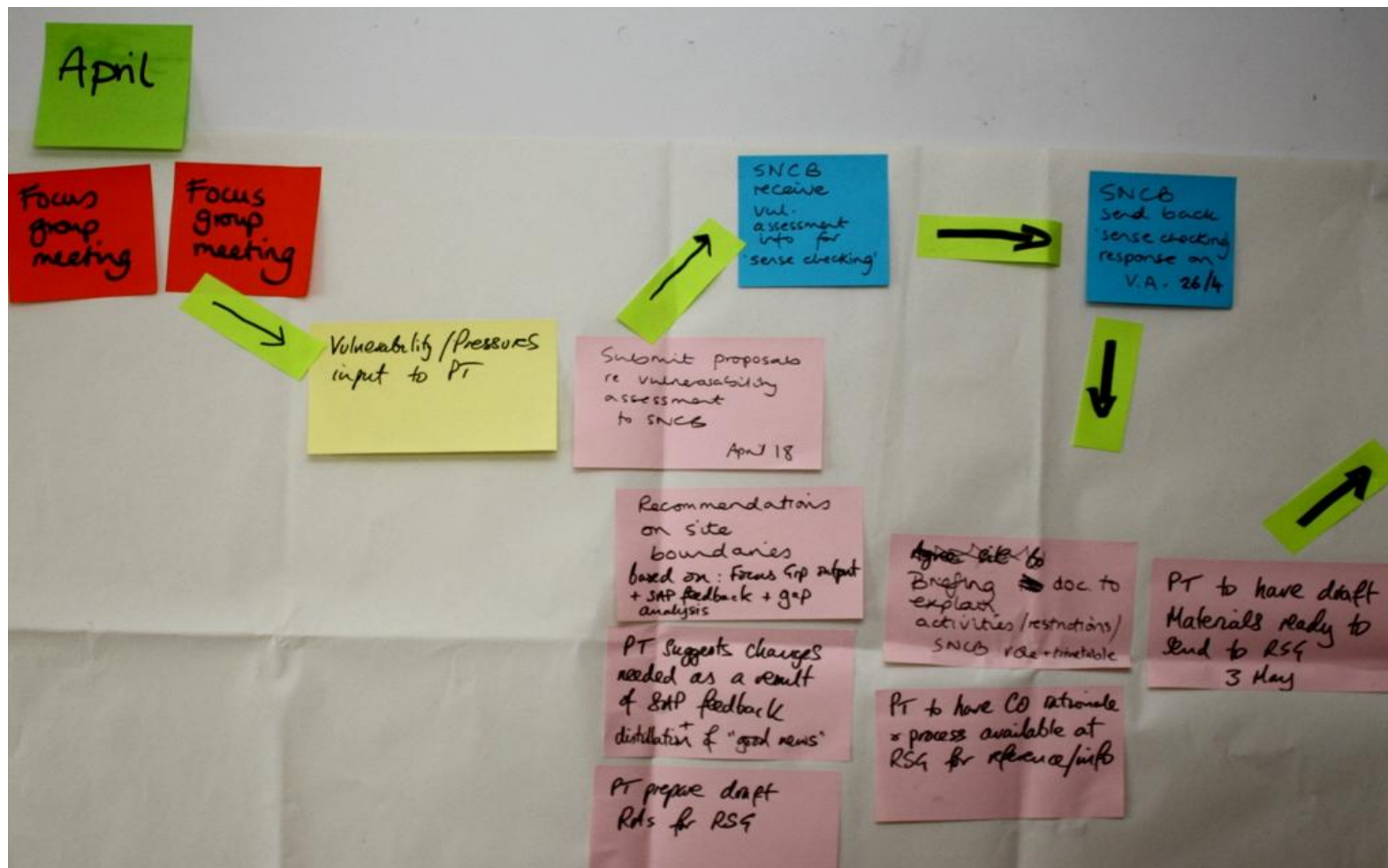
Agenda

10am	Start Review & Agree Agenda
	The Process Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role • Membership and make up
	Review of Process / Work so far <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A look back at the last RSG meeting to reflect on what went well, what needs to change / be done better or differently next time • Reflecting on the recent site specific meetings to see what we can learn for the next stakeholder meetings
11.30	Break
	Process Planning To help plan & develop the Project Timeline including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Process from now to the end of the project • The format of the final report • Working on Conservation Objectives, Management Measures & Reference Areas
1pm	Lunch
	Process Planning (continued)
3pm	Break
	May RSG A first look at priorities for the agenda
	Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree any actions • Agree what to say to the RSG etc.
	Reflection and evaluation On how the meeting has gone
4pm	Close

1. Process Planning

The group developed a process plan, containing key milestones and actions between now and [August] This is shown below (photos)

1.1 April 2011 process



1.2 May & June 2011 process



1.3 July - Sept 2011 process



2. Reflections on the new situation

Rob Angell offered the group an opportunity to make any comments on the situation of having had to change facilitators at this stage in the process. A wish was expressed that the new 'regime' would help ensure that the project as a whole is more evidence driven than hitherto. The need to pick up on what has already been achieved, and not 'start from scratch' was agreed to be critical.

The fact that RKP are the facilitators of another of the regional projects was seen as reassuring and will assist the process of learning from across the projects and learning from each other. Rob explained that he didn't have influence in ensuring national consistency, but could definitely bring learning from RKP's work with Finding Sanctuary.

RKP role

Rob explained that as process consultants, we can only advise and guide. We can't make decisions for stakeholders, only help them to make decisions as effectively as possible. RKP will rely on good information coming from the Project Team, Process Group and others, then use it to design process and meetings, working collaboratively with the necessary stakeholders.

Rob further clarified that the Process Group can give ideas about RSG meeting design, but RKP will work, at a finer level of detail with the Project Team, on the final design and will have final say over that design.

Rob clarified that RKP are not part of the project team, nor will they dictate at any time, what must happen.

3. Process Group: Role and remit

Following on from above points, the group agreed that its role and remit over the remaining time of the project was:

- To support the project team and RKP in designing and reviewing the overall process for the ISCZ process
- To provide ideas and input to the design of RSG and any other stakeholder meetings
- Continue to deal with any issues of representation that arise

Membership of the Process Group

People who have indicated willingness to be on the Process Group in the past:

Chris Lumb	Natural England
Julie Drew	UK renewable
John Amery	Angling
Ron Graham	Commercial fishing
Dave Dobson	NW IFCA
Andrew Gouldstone	RSPB
Graham Ford-Keates	MMO
Greg Whitfield	Project Team

The group discussed membership for the group from now on and **agreed to** keep the membership the same as it has been.

4. Review of process/work so far

The group discussed a number of aspects of work done to date and what they want to see happen from now on.

3.1 Review of process work so far

- Small group work was often useful and positive
- Decision to have the focus group meetings was a good one eg allowing more involvement from renewable sector, who only have one representative on the RSG

3.2 Review of last RSG meeting

- After working on boundaries in small groups, there was whole group discussion and that was good, because not all sectors can have their voice heard within each small group, but the whole group, each voice could be heard.
- Different sectors seemed to all appreciate being able to express their views in front of everyone, as opposed to only in small groups.
- Plenary discussion builds common understanding and shared ownership of the task and problems that the group as a whole have to address.

3.3 Review of Focus Group meetings

- Could have had more plenary discussion eg shared ownership of what was going forward from the meeting to the RSG and project team. But acknowledgement that for the project team, asking them to facilitate such a discussion in a large group, is very big ask.
- Focus Groups were set up because RSG members felt that they had inadequate expertise and local knowledge to reach good decisions. The meetings so far suggest that this aspect of the process has worked.
- However, the status of suggestions made at the focus group meetings needs to be considered, because the lack of any drawing together of results at the end of the meeting means that effectively the results are a set of individual comments.
- There were certain points that received complete support, and these can go forward to RSG with confidence in terms of representing a consensus viewpoint from that meeting.

3.4 What needs to be done differently?

- Make the evidence more available, between and at meetings, eg as done at the Focus Group meeting
- Repeated concerns that the overlays are not available, to help make sense of maps and sites. For example, repeated requests for [decca] lines. (Action logged on this).
- Some sessions have felt rushed
- The voting system, eg for boundaries, doesn't seem fair.
- The process, as opposed to evidence driven nature of the work done to date, including the voting, has led to some odd decisions on sites. However, in the light of process planning done during the meeting, it was agreed that realistically, the only revisiting that can be done is through anything that comes up from the second round of Focus Group meetings.
- Find ways to help present the bigger picture of the network as a whole, so people can understand things like connectivity and how the network intersects with other protected areas. Anything that reminds people of the overall purpose of why we are doing this process. Another example is a digestible version of the report to SAP.
- This kind of material needs to be presented to RSG members in advance of their meeting.

5. Process planning discussion: points arising

Deadlines discussion

- The group discussed what level of flexibility may exist regarding the June 1st deadline for submitting a final report. There was agreement that the emerging sense from Defra, was that:
 - Boundaries of sites, (bar final tweaking) should be firmed in time for the June 1st submission deadline, including reference area
 - Alongside that, a 'softer' form of report could be submitted, comprising update on developments to the network and answers to questions raised by the last SAP feedback.

Management measures

- Management measures will only be proposed by the RSG, as it is beyond their remit to do more than this.
- However, RSG will need to put forward their best agreement on what needs to be managed (activities restrictions and implications),

More Focus Group meetings

The group discussed possible outputs that could be achieved by a second round of Focus Group meetings, and these were **agreed to** be worthwhile. In addition to the process outputs that could be secured, it was felt that offering local stakeholders a further opportunity to engage with the project represented real 'added value'.

Sectoral meetings

Rob asked for views on whether there was a need to have one or more sectoral meetings (eg renewable / infrastructure projects). **It was agreed** that at this stage, not at the regional level but there *is* a need for at least one national sectoral meeting. This has been acknowledged recently, and a meeting for energy industry stakeholders, with DECC, is being actioned by Rebecca Clarke, Natural England, to iron out some uncertainties and remaining issues.

July RSG meeting

It was agreed that at the July RSG:

- some sort of "sign off" process is gone through for each pMCZ
- it be made clear to stakeholders that this is their last opportunity to give their input to the recommendations going forward from this project

This means that the papers have to be sent out in good time before the July RSG meeting, to allow people to do liaison with their constituencies. But they will also need to understand that at the RSG, changes can be made.

6. May RSG Meeting

Outcomes to achieve:

- Agree that there will be no new site proposals or major boundary changes, subject to any final 'tweaks' needed as a result of SAP feedback and conservation objectives
- Agree Reference Areas
- Understand activities restrictions and their implications, including role of SNCB in 'reality checking' ideas put forward by ISCZ to date; (this is a 'warm up' to allow people to understand the topic in advance of having to make decisions at following RSG meeting).

Project team tasks /documents required in run up to May RSG.

All to be sent out to RSG by May 3rd

- **Recommendations on site boundaries**, based on Focus Group suggestions, SAP feedback & gap analysis,(if needed).
- Suggested **changes required as a result of last SAP feedback**, and distillation of 'good news'
- Briefing document and/or presentation to explain **activities/restrictions** topic, and **role of SNCB** in reality checking
- Have **conservation objectives rationale and process** available at RSG meeting, for reference and information

7. June Focus Group meetings

Agreed to aim to hold them in weeks beginning June 6th and 13th

Outcomes to achieve:

- further input and thus closure on any site boundaries not agreed at May RSG
- For any new sites:
 - Final boundary
 - Check and get feedback on conservation objectives
- Explore management measures
- Consider which activities will need to be managed
- Confirm our understanding of existing management eg is there a shortfall in the current management arrangements?
- Consider management measures toolbox, and use this to develop recommendations for July RSG. (MMO & IFCA therefore need to be invited)
- Consider the potential displacement of activities as a result of an MCZ
- Get feedback on presented work in progress on Impact Assessment

8. July RSG meeting

Outcomes to achieve:

- Address SAP feedback and 'sign off' recommended changes arising from it
- Finalise conservation objectives
- Agree activity restrictions and implications
- Propose management measures
- Agree final network, including site boundaries

Project team tasks /documents required in run up to July RSG.

All to be sent out to RSG in plenty of time to allow for RSG members to digest and liaise with colleagues if they wish.

- Suggested **changes required as a result of last SAP feedback**, and distillation of 'good news'
- Proposed **conservation objectives**
- Proposed **management measures**
- Proposed **activity restrictions and implications**
- Proposed **final network**, including final site boundaries

9. Points agreed

- End the voting system as a means to reach decisions and recommendations
- For the next two Focus Group meetings, project team to seek to draw out any points on which there are consensus. This will include making clear to participants that any consensus points going forward to the RSG will carry greater weight than individual points.
- That there should be a second round of Focus Group meetings, with the aims as set out in [section X] of this note. Assumption is that the meetings will be on the same geographical basis as before, but this could be worth rechecking, particularly if any new site seems likely to arise by May RSG. Meetings should be held during weeks beginning June 6th and 13th.
- Not to hold any regional sectoral meetings.
- Some kind of celebratory end event (at the completion of the project) would be really good.

10. Actions

What	Who	By when
Get decca lines overlay put on the interactive pdfs for use at the meetings and / or as an acetate to overlay on paper maps Bring decca lines up on GIS	Greg	
Remind RSG of May meeting date and venue, and give them new date for July RSG, by email	Greg	April 4th
Book venues for June focus group meetings	Mathew	By 15 th April
Sort out invitations for focus group meetings. This will be as before, but with addition of MMO, IFCA and any new stakeholders who have a stake in any new site that is proposed by the May RSG meeting.	Greg & Fran	15 th April
Prepare process briefing, for use with stakeholders, explaining process, and decision making boundaries, from now to end of the whole process ie including government consultation	Greg & Rob	Note done by April 13 th
Send out new process briefing plus information on focus group meeting dates	Greg	April 13 th

11. Evaluation

Process Group members were asked to give some feedback on the meeting. The comments received were:

- I was surprised at how well the day has gone
- New issues always seem to be coming up
- I enjoyed today
- I am really pleased we have a plan that shows when things are happening and when we have to have things done by