



All about PISCES

PISCES is bringing together the major sectors operating within the Celtic Sea to develop practical guidelines for an ecosystem approach to marine management. This international partnership is working with a common goal – to find ways to manage activities more sustainably.

What is the ecosystem approach?

An ecosystem approach involves the consideration and integration of all the elements of an ecosystem; living and non-living, including the diverse human impacts and interactions. This represents a shift away from traditional management that is short-term, fragmented and sectorally-based. This approach should result in a more fair and equitable future, where resources are available to humans without compromising the health of the environment.

Why is PISCES needed?

The Celtic Sea, like most oceans and seas, is under growing pressure from human activities. Until recently there has been weak legislation to protect and manage our marine environment. Mechanisms are now beginning to be put in place. The EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) requires Member States to implement marine strategies to manage their waters more sustainably. The MSFD and other policy measures place a responsibility on governments to implement an ecosystem approach. However, as yet, there is no universally accepted definition of an ecosystem approach; nor are there any statutory guidelines on how it should be implemented.

How can PISCES help?

PISCES aims to promote a better understanding of what the ecosystem approach means in practice in the Celtic Sea. To do this, PISCES is using an innovative process to empower stakeholders to create their own guidelines on the delivery of an ecosystem approach in the Celtic Sea. This pioneering project is the first to translate marine policy into practical guidelines for multiple sectors across a multi-national area. It is hoped that the guidelines will act as a blueprint for the implementation of an ecosystem approach in other marine areas.

Key facts

- €2.1 million project
- Running from June 2009 to 2012
- EC LIFE+ funded

For more information: www.projectpisc.es

The three specific aims of PISCES are:

1. To bridge the knowledge gap by developing an understanding of the ecosystem approach with stakeholders.
2. To produce a set of stakeholder-led guidelines for implementing an ecosystem approach to managing activities in the Celtic Sea, which can then be disseminated and applied throughout other maritime regions in the EU.
3. To challenge existing and test new creative methods for stakeholder engagement.



The key to the success of this project will be a set of practical guidelines.

Objectives

The PISCES project team is working with Celtic Sea stakeholders to **support them** in:

- Developing their own practical guidelines so they can collectively operate and manage the region in a sustainable way;
- Analysing evidence and identifying where change can be most effective;
- Understanding how different sectors interact with each other to identify potential problems and solutions;
- Improving communications and sharing best practice; and
- Persuading people to take responsibility for their seas.

Milestones

- **May 2010:** Official launch event
- **May 2010:** Workshop 1: Understanding the ecosystem approach (UK)
- **Sep / Oct 2010:** Tutorials: Marine spatial planning and marine policy (online)
- **23 - 24 Nov 2010:** Workshop 2: Formulating guidelines (Ireland)
- **14 - 15 June 2011:** Workshop 3: Refining guidelines (France)
- **8 - 9 Nov 2011:** Workshop 4: Applying the guidelines to the Celtic Sea (London)
- **April 2012:** Final guidelines produced
- **October 2012:** Final launch event
- **End 2012:** Final project reports published

(Please note: these dates are subject to change reflecting the flexible nature of the project)

Stakeholders

The PISCES project depends on the involvement of a core group of 25-30 stakeholders from England, Wales, Ireland, France and Spain, who represent a range of key activities that occur in the Celtic Sea. The stakeholder group will act as ambassadors for their sector, helping to spread news about PISCES, lessons learnt and the final guidelines to wider stakeholders and beyond.

The project includes stakeholders from:

Renewable energy
Offshore infrastructure (cable laying etc)
Fisheries
Mariculture
Shipping
Ports & harbours
Coastal tourism & recreation
Aggregate dredging
Statutory government agencies

The PISCES management team

PISCES is being delivered by WWF-UK in partnership with The Environment Council and WWF Spain. With thanks to country technical support from SeaWeb and the Coastal & Marine Research Centre.

Project manager: Dr Lyndsey Dodds, ldodds@wwf.org.uk
Policy liaison officer: Toby Roxburgh, troxburgh@wwf.org.uk
Communications officer: Jane Ewing, [jewling@wwf.org.uk](mailto:jewing@wwf.org.uk)
General contact: PISCES@wwf.org.uk

This is an EC LIFE+ project with the contribution of the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community. Project number: LIFE07/ENV/UK/000943

