



Online tutorials report

7th December 2010

Action 5: Collaborative learning with target stakeholder group of 20-25 people on relevant EU and international marine policy

Action 6: Collaborative learning with target stakeholder group on Marine Spatial Planning

Aims and objectives

EU Marine policy

The aim of the tutorial on EU Marine Policy was to improve stakeholder knowledge of the policy framework related to the Ecosystem Approach. The relevant policies include the European Integrated Maritime Policy, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Common Fisheries Policy and input from Member State and EC officials was seen as key to delivery.

Marine Spatial Planning

The aim of the tutorial was to improve stakeholder knowledge of Marine Spatial Planning. We aimed to include input from key experts in the subject area and provide examples from around the world.

For both Actions, online tutorials were used for ease of involvement, to reduce the need to travel and to trial alternative methods of stakeholder engagement.

Methods

The original project proposal suggested the use of an online workshop. This option was investigated along with the different software available to host online meetings. An online workshop would require 'real-time' involvement from stakeholders and speakers and would require real-time translation between the three project languages. It was felt that in order to maximise involvement of both stakeholders and high-profile speakers and to address the language issue, we would hold an online 'tutorial' – essentially an information giving session that would allow for the ability of stakeholders to ask questions on the subject area. Each tutorial was held initially for a one week period (21-24 September 2010 and 11-15 October 2010 respectively) and stakeholders were encouraged to view the tutorial during this time. In advance of the tutorial, the technical capabilities of stakeholders were assessed to determine whether the tutorial would be accessible for them and support was offered.

A number of different platforms were investigated and we decided to use the 'Arkadin' software that involves an online console, where presentation slides can be viewed, along with audio and video segments. The viewer is able to skip, pause, forward and rewind and is able to submit questions while viewing.

In advance of the tutorials, a quiz-style questionnaire was sent to stakeholders using 'survey monkey'. The purpose of this was to establish the level of knowledge and confidence on EU marine policy and Marine Spatial Planning in a simple, friendly and non-intimidating way (<http://www.surveymonkey.net/piscses-quiz-1>).

EU Marine Policy

The structure of the EU marine policy tutorial was an introductory presentation from the European Commission on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, followed by presentations from Member State Government representatives highlighting the current status of implementation in their respective country. In order to aid understanding, the Spanish and French Government presentations were made in Spanish and French respectively. The participants were instructed to watch the presentation relevant to them. The final part of the tutorial was a presentation from DG MARE on the integration of the MSFD with the Common Fisheries Policy. The PISCES team secured the presentations by these individuals and travelled to Brussels, Paris and London to video and audio record the presentations.

Agenda: The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) - Leo de Vrees, Policy Officer, DG Environment.

- National MSFD perspectives -
 - **UK** - Naomi Matthiessen, Head of European Marine Policy, Defra, UK Government.
 - **Spanish** - Ainhoa Pérez Puyol, Head of European Issues, Division for the Protection of the Sea and Prevention of Marine Pollution, Spanish Government.
 - **French** - Agnès Vince, Deputy Director, Sea and Coasts, Water and Biodiversity Department, Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and the Sea, French Government.
- Integration between CFP and MSFD - Franz Lamplmair, Fisheries Policy Adviser, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

Unfortunately the Irish Government did not feel that they were in a position to present in the tutorial so we worked with them to supply the following explanatory paragraph for our stakeholders:

"The PISCES team are aware that a number of processes have been initiated in Ireland concerning the implementation of the MSFD. Earlier this year, the DEHLG established two multi-agency groups to bring together the key Government Departments and state agencies to (a) work together on transposition of the Directive and (b) commence work on the descriptors of good environmental status for marine waters.

The Irish authorities are in the process of identifying and securing the necessary resources to start work on the initial assessment, which is the first major task to be completed for implementation of the Directive. While a recorded interview is not available at the present time, the relevant authorities expect to be in a position to provide a more detailed description of progress by early 2011."

Marine Spatial Planning

The structure of the Marine Spatial Planning tutorial was an introduction in the style of a simple and engaging cartoon. The PISCES team modified an existing WWF publication on MSP in order to make

it more relevant to the Celtic Sea area. This was followed by a presentation from a renowned expert on MSP who is a consultant to UNESCO. The tutorial then included an international case study from Massachusetts, USA, before concluding with a presentation from an EC DG MARE expert on MSP. The PISCES team secured the presentations by these individuals and travelled to Brussels and Paris to video and audio record the presentations.

Agenda:

- **How to become a 'maritime spatialist'** - A brief introduction to marine spatial planning
- **An international perspective on marine spatial planning** - Bud Ehler, President, Ocean Vision
- **An international case study: Massachusetts Ocean Management Plan** - Deerin Babb-Brott, Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
- **A European perspective on marine spatial planning: achieving common principles in the EU** - Hermien Busschbach, DG MARE

For those participants who were unable to view the tutorials during the allotted weeks, we supplied the tutorial on a DVD and also continue to have a link to the tutorial on the PISCES intranet.

Results

During the week that the tutorial was initially available, 10 stakeholders viewed the EU Marine Policy tutorial and 9 viewed the MSP tutorial. We also received a further 30 requests for DVDs of each tutorial that have been distributed. Requests for DVDs are continuing and the tutorials are available on the intranet for viewing. We are also requesting permission from the speakers to post the tutorials to the PISCES website.

The quiz was completed by eight stakeholders in advance of the tutorial and revealed quite a low level of knowledge on EU marine policy and MSP, and an even lower level of confidence. We only received one response to the quiz that was re-sent after the tutorial and this showed an increased level of knowledge and an increase in confidence. In order to gain more feedback on the tutorial we discussed it with participants at the second workshop in Cork in November. The feedback was very positive and one stakeholder commented that the quiz was very useful to highlight the areas that would be covered in the tutorials.

The questions submitted by stakeholders have been sent to the presenters and we are currently waiting to receive all of the answers before posting them on the intranet and website (see Annex for list of questions).

Conclusions and lessons learnt

The online tutorial appeared to be an effective way to increase knowledge on the subject areas in an easy-to-use, accessible way that allows flexibility for the participant. The process of identifying the appropriate method highlighted the difficulties of securing time of busy stakeholders and speakers, and addressing multiple languages. We believe the method we chose represented an ideal way of dealing with these issues. The use of online systems will always encounter some technical difficulties for some, but we addressed this by finding appropriate alternatives and supplying the tutorial on a DVD or CD.

Annex

Questions submitted by stakeholders on EU Marine Policy:

- In DEFRA's opinion how will the marine policy be implemented across shared sites when ownership lies within/across devolved governments?
- The Irish Sea MCZ project which started off without representation from the Welsh Assembly Government or from Welsh stakeholders, and continues without it. How can this example be used to ensure future effective co-ordination between devolved administrations?
- What chance that, as well as an enhancing role of stakeholder involvement in general, we can also hope for recognition of recreational sea anglers as stakeholders?
- If phasing out discards is only considered a long term objective, isn't it likely to be too late to have any benefit to sustainability?

Questions submitted by stakeholders on Marine Spatial Planning:

- What are preparatory actions? Unclear if these are EU fostered and funded projects? Unclear who leads or drives these?
- Prompted by the issues of engaging cross regional authorities, what stage are we at with the Celtic Sea and EU? Is there a timescale for initiating a Celtic Sea MSP?
- A plan that excluded fisheries management includes a good deal of spatial information about fishing activity. How can it achieve MSP goals without including fishery management?
- The emphasis on stakeholder representation raises questions in relation to the wider long term goals and attributes required for effective MSP: effective stakeholder engagement requires consistent input. Can this really be achieved when stakeholder groups are poorly organised and / or depend upon volunteer inputs? How to encourage reliable and consistent stakeholder engagement from these sectors?



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