

## PISCES

### Workshop III summary: Consolidating Guidelines 14-15 June 2011, France



#### What is PISCES?

PISCES is a three-year, EC LIFE+ funded<sup>1</sup> project that aims to develop a set of practical guidelines for delivering an ecosystem approach<sup>2</sup> to the management of marine activities in the Celtic Sea, including the Western Channel. The guidelines are being developed by a multi-sector, multi-national group of Celtic Sea marine users to inform their day-to-day management of marine activities. This is an innovative approach where marine users are able to take control over developing the guidelines. Practical guidelines, developed by the people who are active in the area, are more likely to result in effective management of the Celtic Sea due to a more holistic, realistic and integrated approach. The project will be advocating the lessons learnt in PISCES to guide future stakeholder engagement projects.

#### Why be involved?

The EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive<sup>3</sup> is already beginning to impact on all Celtic Sea users. Through the PISCES project, marine users are seeking to proactively influence EU Member State governments as they translate European policy into national measures by 2015. Marine users involved in the PISCES project are developing a set of guidelines for a collaborative approach to sustainably managing the Celtic Sea, which seeks to ensure lasting economic, environmental and social benefits for all.

#### What happened at PISCES Workshop 3?

This workshop built on two previous PISCES events for stakeholders that took place in 2010. These earlier events sought to develop an understanding of the ecosystem approach and to formulate a first draft of practical guidelines for the Celtic Sea, including an agreement on ecosystem principles and an initial exploration of potential objectives and actions. At the third workshop stakeholders refined and consolidated this initial draft of guidelines, exploring the objectives and actions in more detail. To help with this process a tool called “mind mapping” was used, which aids the process by enabling stakeholders to visually represent linkages between principles/objectives/actions. The aim is to share the developing guidelines with a more extended group of Celtic Sea stakeholders beyond the workshop attendees, for their review and feedback.

#### Workshop objectives

By the end of the June 2011 workshop in France, the stakeholder participants would:

- Clearly understand the progress of the PISCES project so far, and the role of the workshop
- Continue to build mutual understanding and working relationships between participants; quickly integrating new members.
- Gain a deeper understanding of ecosystem approaches in other contexts, and what can be learned from them.
- Produce a coherent set of guidelines that clearly describes a recommended ecosystem approach management system for the Celtic Sea.
- Increase understanding of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive implementation process.
- Identify what needs to happen between June 2011 and the next workshop.

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<sup>1</sup> LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU

<sup>2</sup> PISCES working definition of the ecosystem approach is as follows: “The Ecosystem Approach is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way” (Convention on Biological Diversity). This includes people, their activities and institutions. “Sustaining Benefits – For All – For Ever”

<sup>3</sup> The Marine Strategy Framework Directive is designed to enable the coordinated and coherent governance of the marine environment between European Union Member States. It is intended to provide a transparent legislative basis for an ecosystem approach to the management of human activities, which supports the sustainable use of marine goods and services.

## Workshop attendees

The attendees were composed principally of Celtic Sea marine users, drawn from a cross-sectoral group which includes interests from shipping, ports, fishing, coastal tourism and recreation, mariculture, environmental statutory agencies, marine aggregates, renewable energy and undersea cables. The PISCES project operates a flexible stakeholder group (of around 25-30 people), acknowledging that effective stakeholder engagement needs to be dynamic and adaptive. Approximately half of these PISCES stakeholders who have agreed to participate in the PISCES project were able to attend the workshop. The refined guidelines will be shared with those stakeholders who were unable to participate for their review and so that they will be able to feed into the ongoing process of the guidelines development.

Also attending the June 2011 workshop to provide input and support to the marine users' discussions were a range of advisers. This included EU and national government officials, representatives from other ecosystem-based marine management initiatives and members of the PISCES Advisory Group<sup>4</sup>.

## Workshop outcomes

During the workshop, participants:

- Reviewed and refined the draft guidelines, explored linkages between ecosystem principles and objectives for marine management, and the actions needed to deliver these.
- Agreed next steps for drafting the work into text for wider communication with, and review by, other stakeholders.
- Gained further knowledge of other ecosystem-based marine management initiatives, including stakeholder-led projects, to enhance understanding of how the approach could work in the Celtic Sea context.
- Advised the PISCES project team how best to support the further involvement and outreach to wider stakeholders within their sectors.
- Undertook collaborative working with a range of other sectors and nationalities.

## What are the next steps?

PISCES stakeholders, supported by the PISCES project team will be involved in the following key activities:

- Development and review of draft text for the guidelines (as refined at the June 2011 workshop) to share more widely with other marine users.
- Utilisation of communication channels within each marine user sector to achieve wider outreach and dissemination of the draft guidelines for wider review and feedback.
- Preparation for a fourth workshop, which is expected to focus on further refinement of the guidelines, including action planning at the sectoral scale, in the autumn of 2011.

**For further information about the PISCES project please visit [www.projectpisces.eu](http://www.projectpisces.eu)**

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**The Environment Council**



<sup>4</sup> [http://projectpisces.eu/about\\_us/who\\_are\\_we/advisory\\_group/](http://projectpisces.eu/about_us/who_are_we/advisory_group/)