

Solway Firth Partnership Conference: February 2010

Pick 'n' Mix session 1

Implementing marine planning

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This is an overview of the questions and answers in this session, and represent the views of the presenter and audience; the views expressed here are not necessarily those of Solway Firth Partnership. Whilst every effort has been made to produce an accurate transcript of events, the Partnership cannot be held responsible for any errors made in the production of this account.

Presentation based on

Implementing marine planning [Defra]. Available from

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/marine/documents/implementing-mp.pdf

Consultation on marine planning areas within the English Inshore and English Offshore Marine Regions [Defra]. Available from

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/marine-plan/marine-plan-consultdoc.pdf>

Q: Will the process be centrally funded?

A: The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) will develop the plan and is centrally funded

Q: Plans will be developed 2 regions at a time, and take 2-3 years for each session which will take up until 2022. So when will the Northwest [of England] be done?

A: It is up to the MMO, based on facts and evidence, as to how they will address these plans. A key consideration will be when Scotland is 'ready' due to Solway cross-border issues

Q: There is general disappointment that there is no apparent discussion between Defra and Marine Scotland. We have England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Ireland and the Isle of Man around the Irish Sea which complicates matters. Discussion is needed. There is also a criminalisation of fishermen. This is a very slow process and more emphasis is needed to progress this.

A: There are existing links between the different bodies/countries. Rest assured that conversations are going on daily. Politics and administration boundaries do create difficulties but we must work together to make it work for us.

Q: Are we confident that everyone will have their say? Or will initial interests in locals quickly tail off?

A: Defra does not want this to happen and guidance should ensure this.

Q: There are many interests (energy, dredging etc) that are causing problems but fishermen get the blame. Fishermen should have the biggest voice.

A: It is true that big organisations tend to have time and resource to express their views but this is why we need marine planning to give everyone a voice.

Q: If we have a concordat with Scotland about the Solway, should this not extend to other administrations around the Irish Sea? Will timings be an issue?

A: Plans must consider adjacent plans in legislation. The MMO will programme plan creation to try and fit in with adjacent administration timings.

Q: Will the Regulatory Order in Scotland in the Solway Firth be removed as it is not working? We need to start again.

A: The Marine Plan will need to review the Regulatory Order.

Q: But it's just the same people taking things forward.

A: This is a totally new legislative regime.

Q: Is there any possibility of the sites of renewable schemes becoming Marine Conservation Zones but man-made?

A; Yes, if they are suitable.

Q: The concordat in the Solway should follow the River Basin Management Plan which had its own legislation and guidance to suggest creating a single data resource. This should be done for marine plans.

A: The Solway plan will have a single process so it should be based on one data set.