

# MARINE STEWARDSHIP & INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

## REPORT OF UK CONFERENCE: 14 NOVEMBER 2002

The conference was sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

### INTRODUCTION

The Government's new strategy for the conservation and sustainable development of our marine environment, *Safeguarding Our Seas* was published on 1 May 2002. This describes a vision of clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas, and sets out a package of new initiatives to deliver an ecosystem-based approach to Marine Stewardship. One key initiative was the commitment to taking forward the new EU Recommendation on integrated coastal zone management (ICZM).

To update stakeholders on progress on Marine Stewardship and to launch the process of implementing the ICZM Recommendation the Government decided to organise a major conference for everyone involved in the management of the UK's coastal and marine resources. This took place in London on 14 November 2002. Over 230 delegates attended and this post conference report describes the event and the key points raised.

#### Opening address by Rt Hon Michael Meacher MP, Minister of State (Environment)

Mr Meacher opened the conference and set the context for the day. He described how the World Summit on Sustainable Development had pushed the marine environment up the world's agenda. The UK had played its part in securing agreement between 189 nations to take global action to tackle the threats that our coasts and seas face.

##### Key points:

- The Government's first Marine Stewardship Report, *Safeguarding Our Seas*, brought together a range of challenging targets and goals for the conservation and sustainable use of our seas
- The strategy adopted an ecosystem-based approach to marine management. This meant balancing our conservation goals with the full range of demands that we place on the marine environment to meet the economic and social needs of this generation and future generations.
- The World Summit commitments, Marine Stewardship Report follow-up and the implementation of the ICZM Recommendation all demonstrated that the drive towards improved marine protection and integration was underway and making progress.

#### The Marine Stewardship Process and Involving Stakeholders

**Robert Canning** from Defra's Marine and Waterways Division described the ideas behind *Safeguarding our Seas* and briefed the conference on a follow-up consultation paper on stakeholder involvement and the content of future Marine

Stewardship Reports. The consultation paper provided an update on progress made since 1 May and invited views on proposals for developing the concept of marine stewardship.

##### Key points:

- The Government was maintaining the momentum generated by *Safeguarding our Seas*. The consultation paper launched at the Conference was another step along the road to turning the vision into reality.
- The consultation paper invited views on the practical application of the ecosystem-based approach to marine management, what the Government's strategic goals for the marine environment might be, whether current arrangements for stakeholder involvement were adequate, and the scope, content and timing of future Marine Stewardship Reports.
- The Government wanted to work with all stakeholders and was requesting their input in this consultation exercise. Further copies of the consultation paper were available at [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk). The deadline for responses was 28 February 2003.

##### UPDATE

Over 60 separate responses to the consultation paper, *Seas of Change* have now been received. The Government will be carefully analysing these over the coming weeks and will publish a formal response in due course.

The Government is already working on the integration agenda on a number of fronts and the next three presentations illustrated the extent of that work.

**Penny Brooke** (Department for Transport) described the current Review of Development in Coastal and Marine Waters

which is addressing the complexity of regulation relating to the marine environment.

**Steve Atkins** (JNCC) described the Review of Marine Nature Conservation Irish Sea Pilot Scheme - an ambitious project which is looking at how biodiversity conservation and the ecosystem approach can be linked on a regional scale.

Finally, **Frances Franklin** (CEFAS) highlighted the work underway to look at how geographic information in the marine environment is co-ordinated.

## The EU ICZM Recommendation Implementation in the UK

**Sam Rowbury** from Defra outlined the proposed process for taking forward the European Union Recommendation on implementing ICZM in Europe.

The Recommendation, adopted in May 2002, asks Member States to undertake a national stocktaking of legislation, institutions and stakeholders involved in coastal management and, based on this, develop national strategies to implement ICZM. Member States should report back to the Commission on progress by March 2006.

The UK Government confirmed its commitment to ICZM in the Marine Stewardship Report. A steering group made up of officials from central government and the devolved administrations has been established to help coordinate the implementation the Recommendation. The objective is to develop a national framework which guides and supports concerted action on ICZM at regional and local levels.

The presentation covered the whole of the UK and perspectives from the devolved administrations were given by **Ian Melville** from the Scottish Executive, **Gerry Quarrell** from the Welsh Assembly Government and **Bryan Murphy** from the Northern Ireland Executive. The session was chaired by Frank Parrish of the Crown Estate.

### Key points:

- The UK stocktaking exercise is expected to start in early 2003 and take around 12 months to complete.
- The UK's strategies for ICZM should take a further 18 months and were likely to be made up of:
  - an overarching common vision for the UK's coast;
  - an integrated set of strategies for implementing ICZM from central government and the devolved administrations.
- Stakeholders would be fully involved and consulted during the development of the stocktaking and strategies through, for example, workshops and conferences. The Marine Stewardship Report follow-up consultation paper also proposed the creation of a small expert group to advise Government on the development of the ICZM strategy for England.

The Government would be making resources available to undertake the first phase of the Recommendation, the Stocktaking, as a 12 month consultancy project starting early 2003.

The Stocktaking should describe the laws, institutions and stakeholders that influence the management of the coastal zone and identify the gaps and inconsistencies which act as obstacles to integrated coastal zone management in the UK.

A wide range of sectors for study were picked out including: species and habitat protection, regional development, tourism, transport, recreation and fisheries. Constructive dialogue with stakeholders about their concerns would be essential and all delegates could expect to be involved one way or another.

The project would cover the whole of the UK describing the differences between England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland both within and across their borders and out beyond the Territorial Sea including links with other countries. A Government steering group had been established to oversee the work and ensure a balance across the four home countries.

---

### UPDATE

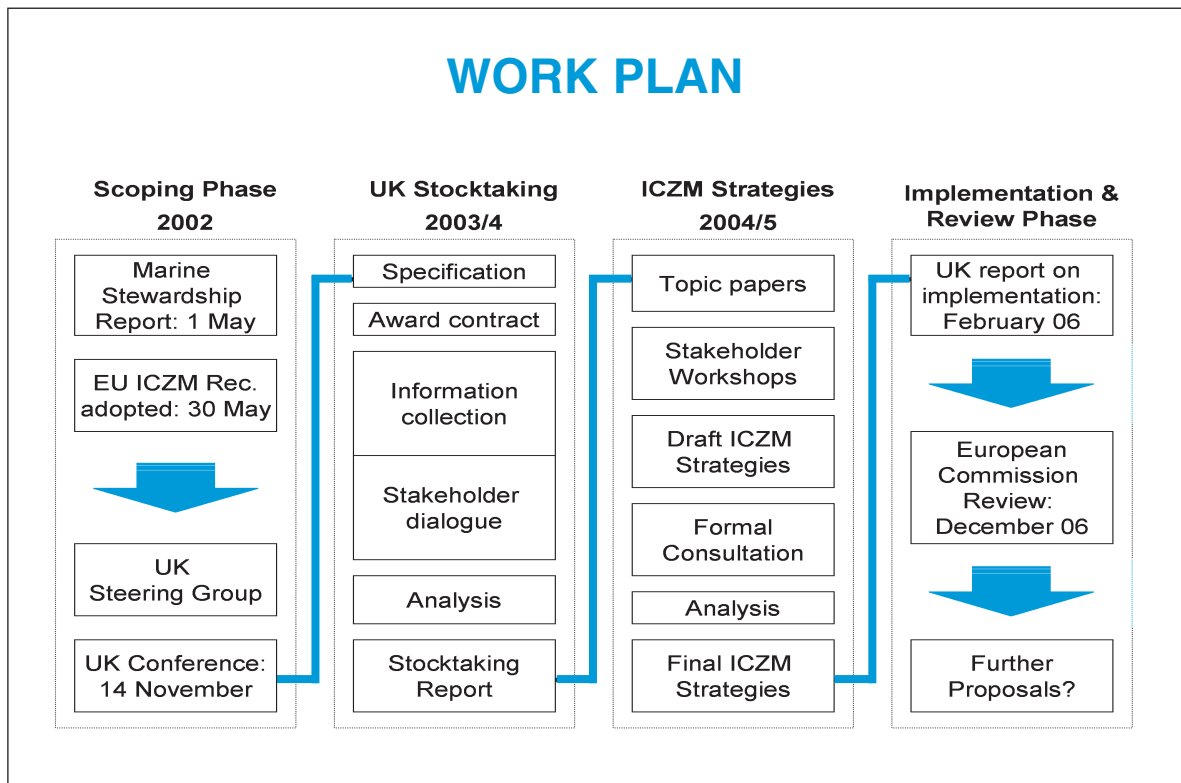
Following a competitive tender, the contract for undertaking the stocktaking was awarded to WS Atkins Ltd on 6 March 2003. The team from Atkins have immediately started work on a scoping report to set out their approach to the project, the timetable, workshop dates and a communications plan for ensuring all stakeholders are kept informed of progress. This initial report should be available on the Defra website ([www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)) at the end of April.

---

Based on the results of the stocktaking, each Member State should then implement the second phase of the Recommendation by developing national strategies for ICZM.

### These strategies should:

- identify the roles of the different administrative stakeholders and the appropriate mix of measures;
  - develop policies and programmes which address marine and terrestrial areas together;
  - identify measures to promote local and regional initiatives and public participation;
  - identify sources of durable funding for ICZM initiatives;
  - identify mechanisms to ensure coordinated implementation of Community legislation;
  - include systems for monitoring and disseminating information about the coastal zone;
  - determine how national training and education programmes can support the principles of ICZM.
-



In the UK most coastal management powers are devolved so it was proposed that there would be separate national strategies for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. There were a wide range of issues that these strategies might tackle. Some might be relatively easy to resolve and implement - others might require a great deal more effort and discussion. It was important that the arguments on such issues were marshalled effectively. The case for each would need to be compelling on a variety of grounds including cost-effectiveness.

All Member States should report back to the Commission on their experience in implementing the Recommendation within 45 months of adoption (by February 2006). The Commission would review these reports and 10 months later submit an evaluation report accompanied, if appropriate, by proposals for further Community action.

## ICZM Stakeholder Presentations and Discussion

In the final conference session delegates were invited to do a first scoping of the different integration issues that the stocktaking and strategies should cover. Five coastal management practitioners were asked to make short statements reflecting on their key issues to prompt discussion and also reinforce the need for delegates to complete the conference feedback form. The session was chaired by Madeleine Havard of the Wales Coastal and Maritime Partnership.

**Margaret Hill** (Countryside Council for Wales) spoke about the challenge of regional ICZM. The presentation highlighted some

of the successes and opportunities in Wales (eg the Wales Coastal and Maritime Partnership). Future efforts needed to be directed towards strategic planning of sea uses, improving coordination between sectors and maximising funding sources.

**Colin Wishart** (Highland Council) looked at integrating terrestrial and marine policies. Coastal zone planning in inshore waters needed to be on a firmer basis - preferably statutory. Local authorities needed financial, technical and training support to help deliver ICZM on the ground.

**Caroline Nolan** (Strangford Lough Management Committee) focused on the issues faced by many ICZM partnerships. The partnership approach was seen by many as the way forward but secure core funding was needed so that partnerships could concentrate on long term strategic work as well as short term projects which were easier to finance.

**Tim Badman** (Dorset Coastal Forum) discussed the provision of information for ICZM. Coastal and marine science programmes needed to involve coastal managers and users more directly in setting the research agenda. Government Departments with operational roles in the coastal zone needed to become more active partners in coastal zone management.

**Carolyn Heeps** (Crown Estate) considered education and public awareness about coastal management. ICZM needed the input of those who live in and rely on the coastal zone but there was often criticism that the public was not involved early enough. The increase in the number of coastal management degree courses raised fundamental questions about the key skills required by practitioners and the employment opportunities available to graduates.

## Results from the Feedback Form

The conference feedback form asked delegates to describe three key issues they wanted to see resolved by the implementation of the ICZM recommendation. Over 120 delegates completed the form producing 328 individual responses to the question. The issues that scored most highly were:

- framework for ICZM so that national, regional and local action is better coordinated;
- funding across a range of ICZM initiatives including partnerships;
- spatial planning both in the coastal zone and the offshore marine environment;
- greater public participation and awareness;
- statutory basis for ICZM.

## Conclusion

All the completed feedback forms will be passed to the project team taking forward the ICZM Stocktaking to provide an early steer on stakeholders' key concerns.

The conference demonstrated how Marine Stewardship had set the context for developing the integration agenda and how much was already underway. Implementation of the ICZM Recommendation had now commenced. There was a considerable task to be completed which would require wide-ranging stakeholder participation and consultation over the next three years. But the process would only have real value if it led to real improvements in how we manage our coastal zones and the integration of environmental, social and economic objectives.

## For further information contact

### **Robert Canning**

DEFRA, MARINE AND WATERWAYS DIVISION,  
3/C8, Ashdown House, 123 Victoria Street,  
London SW1E 6DE  
Tel: 020 7944 5307  
e-mail: robert.canning@defra.gsi.gov.uk

### **Sam Rowbury**

DEFRA, MARINE AND WATERWAYS DIVISION,  
3/B3, Ashdown House, 123 Victoria Street,  
London SW1E 6DE  
Tel: 020 7944 3986  
e-mail: sam.rowbury@defra.gsi.gov.uk

### Scotland

#### **Ian Melville**

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE,  
Unit 1-J, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ  
Tel: 0131 244 4068  
e-mail: ian.melville@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

### Northern Ireland

#### **Brian Murphy**

NORTHERN IRELAND EXECUTIVE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT,  
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY DIVISION,  
Rivers House, 48, High Street,  
Belfast BT1 2AW  
Tel: 028 9054 4577  
e-mail: brian.Murphy@doeni.gov.uk

### Wales

#### **Gerry Quarrell**

WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT  
Countryside Division, Cathays Park,  
Cardiff, CF10 3NQ  
Tel: 029 2082 3557  
e-mail: gerry.quarrell@wales.gsi.gov.uk