Stakeholder Engagement Across Borders:
Experiences from the Celtic Seas Partnership and land-sea interface

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Stakeholder Engagement in Marine Spatial Planning

- Why? Better planning, better outcome
- Who? Engagement across sectors & countries
- How? Consultation vs participation
- What, When, Where?

Scale of network(s) & participation mechanisms

→ Engagement for MSP is most challenging across borders.
UK government co-ordination

MARINE REGIONS

- The Baltic Sea
- The North East Atlantic Ocean
- The Mediterranean Sea
- The Black Sea

Member States sharing a marine region must cooperate to ensure a coherent and coordinated approach to implementation.
Celtic Seas
Celtic Seas Partnership

Aim: to support the delivery of Good Environmental Status in the Celtic Seas, by facilitating engagement between sectors and across borders to ensure the long term future of the environment, while safeguarding people’s livelihoods and the communities that have a relationship with the sea.
Celtic Seas Partnership aims to:
1. Increase stakeholder understanding of marine policy
2. Build & develop relationships between sectors and countries
3. Influence management practices
4. Increase stakeholder involvement in marine policy & decision-making
5. Improve the availability of information at Celtic Seas scale.

Case Studies to support maritime policy implementation

**Transboundary Governance**
- Loughs Agency (NI/RoI)
- Solway Firth Partnership (Scotland/England)
- Irish Sea Maritime Forum (UK/RoI)
- Regen SW MOUs with Invest NI & Pembs
- Severn Estuary Partnership (England/Wales)
- Alderney Renewable Energy (CI/France, UK)
- Merific Interreg project (Scotland, NI, RoI)
- Wadden Sea

**Marine Renewables Co-location**
- Seagen-Brehat (Fr)
- Alderney Renewable Energy (CI/Fr/UK)
- Raz Blanchard/Open Hydro/Energies Nouvelles, Normandy (Fr)
- Deltastream/Tidal Energy Ltd (Wales)
- Wavehub (Eng)
- Sabella (French MPA Agency).

**Conflict Resolution**
- Fish Map Mon (Wales)
- Orkney Sound (Scotland)
- SMILE – Sustainable Mariculture in Irish Sea Loughs (NI/RoI)
Scales for engagement: local/coastal to regional sea basin
Regional Sea Basins / MSFD sub-regions

At what scale do we need stakeholder forums?
KEY MESSAGES
• Policy is mainly top-down initiated, but for implementation & enforcement we need bottom-up processes to involve stakeholders early in the process.
• Stakeholder engagement is most challenging for ‘remote’ marine environment: we need to involve coastal communities.
• Consider the relevant scale(s) for stakeholder engagement in marine policy implementation: from local to national & regional seas...is there a need for ‘nested’ scales for engaging sectors?

RECOMMENDATIONS
→ Engagement is recognised as important, but how needs greater consideration.

→ EC advise would be useful on successful mechanisms & scales for facilitating stakeholder engagement across borders

→ EC & MS need to support cross-border and cross-sector engagement.
Thank you.

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