

Irish Sea Conservation Zones Stakeholder Group Meeting 1 18 March 2010

Workshop outputs
Word for Word Report

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Contents

About the workshop and this report.....	5
▪ Purpose of the workshop.....	5
▪ About this report.....	5
▪ Why sort the outputs?.....	5
1 Question - vision?	7
1.1 It is 2030 and you are pleased with what you see above or beneath the waves of the Irish Sea. What do you see?.....	7
1.2 At this stage, to what extent do you support Marine Conservation Zones?	9
2 Working effectively together	9
2.1 Roles and responsibilities of an SG member	9
2.1.1 What are the key roles and responsibilities of the Stakeholder Group?	9
2.2 Working effectively in workshops	10
2.2.1 The Stakeholder Group is one of the regular meetings/workshops you attend that you actually look forward to because... ..	10
2.2.2 What guidelines or ground rules would you like in place to ensure people work together effectively and positively?.....	11
2.3 What if you can't attend	12
2.3.1 The named substitute kept up to date every step of the way is the basic ground rule. What other guidance/ground rules do you want the group to have on substitutes/understudies?.....	12
2.4 What suggestions do you have for helping substitutes/understudies slot into the ongoing process?.....	13
2.5 External Communication.....	14
2.5.1 What guidelines or ground rules should there be for external communication?	14
2.5.2 What would be on your wish list for help and support in liaising with others who have the same interests as you?.....	15
2.6 Being the voice for your interest or sea use.....	16
2.6.1 In what way are you the voice for your sea use or interest?	16
2.6.2 Would you want to be on a Process Advisory Group if one is required?.....	16
3 Setting the Scene	19
3.1 Information.....	19
3.1.1 What information do you need to help you make an effective contribution to this negotiation?	19
3.1.2 What information could you make available if required?.....	19
3.2 The current state of the sea	20
3.2.1 What is going well for the sea area now?	20
3.2.2 What is going less well?	21
3.2.3 What trends or changes do you think the group need to be aware of?	21
3.3 What natural or cultural features are valued?	23
3.3.1 Map valued natural hot spots (biodiversity, geodiversity, fish nursery areas).....	25
3.3.2 Map valued cultural, archaeological, historical or sea/landscape features	27
3.4 Guiding decision making	28
3.4.1 What else would you like to guide the decision making?	28
4 Understanding sea uses and activities	29
5 Parking place points?	29
6 Short term Actions following the workshop	30

Annex 1 List of Attendees..... 31
Annex 2 Agenda 32
Annex 3 Question and Answer Session 34

About the workshop and this report

▪ Purpose of the workshop

This was the first meeting of the Irish Sea Stakeholder Group. The main purpose of the event was to begin setting the scene and building a shared understanding of the Irish Sea and its users. The workshop started with presentations that helped set the scene for the day ahead. Following this stakeholder group members took part in a range of activities drawing out their knowledge, insights and ideas. The agenda is included as an appendix to this report but in brief included:

1. Developing draft guidance for working effectively together,
2. Building up a shared picture of the Irish Sea including information, data, trends and valued features
3. Considering the benefits and effects of the main marine human uses and activities as well as the potential benefits or negative effects of MCZ on them.

The record of items one and two are included in this report and the results of item 3 are included in a separate document.

▪ About this report.

The discussion was recorded on flip charts or 'post-it' notes. Following the workshop these have been typed word for word and then sorted - like with like - to aid understanding. This report follows the same order as the event.

▪ Why sort the outputs?

Conversations do not progress in a linear fashion but go off at tangents, circle back and change direction suddenly. As a result, it can be very difficult to make sense of a dialogue when it is reported in the sequence in which it happens and important themes and ideas can be obscured.

It is for this reason that the outputs of the workshops are sorted and grouped.

The sorting is done by 'emergent analysis' ie seeing what themes emerge rather than to a predetermined set of titles. The ideas could have been grouped differently, or different titles chosen, so no weight should be attached to them.

Whilst this report serves as a record of what was discussed, and an *aide memoir* for those who took part in the workshop, the contents are inevitably quite cryptic in places so it is strongly recommended that it is not used as a means of communicating with non-participants without proper explanation.

Acronyms / terms used in this report	Meaning
AT	Angling Trust
BMAPA	British Marine Aggregate Producers Association
CEFAS	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area
Elasmobranchs	Cartilaginous Fish such as sharks, rays and skates
IoM	Isle of Man
ISCZ	Irish Sea Conservation Zone
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
MCZ	Marine Conservation Zone
MFA	Marine & Fisheries Agency
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NE	Natural England
Nephrops	Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>); also known as scampi, Dublin Bay Prawn, or Langoustine.
NI	Northern Ireland
NM	Nautical miles
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAC	Special Area for Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SG	Steering Group
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
WAG	Welsh Assembly Government

1 Question - vision?

1.1 It is 2030 and you are pleased with what you see above or beneath the waves of the Irish Sea. What do you see?

Well planned and well managed seas

- Balance
- Use
- A spatially well managed sea where many activities / uses sustainably occur / co-exist
- None damaging sea use
- Marine industries operating with confidence in a well planned marine environment
- Healthy habitats supporting sensitive and rare species alongside sustainable fishing and other sea activities
- Diverse industry, recreation and conservation

Clean sea and coast

- Water
- Sea and coast free of pollution and litter
- Clean water, sun out, no clouds, blue water

Historic features

- History
- Identification of designated areas i.e. wreck sites and underwater archaeology and other significant sites in terms of prehistoric activity
- Accurately mapped areas of archaeological potential
- Well preserved submerged archaeology of all types and eras

Coastal heritage

- Characterised coastal / shoreline area where coastal heritage assets are identified but compliment existing coastal industries and economies

Healthy marine environment

- Healthy wildlife at pre 1950s levels
- A healthy ecosystem supporting thriving stocks of fin fish and shell fish
- Healthy restored ecological communities
- A healthy marine environment

Geological features

- Surviving palaeo-land surfaces

Protected conservation areas

- Well managed protected and agreed MCZs
- MPAs making effective and valued contribution
- Conservation zones well located using high quality science and stakeholder consensus
- Networks of protected areas

Diverse marine life

- Lots of thriving marine wildlife
- No more loss of biodiversity
- Marine life
- Diverse ecosystem

Fishing fleet

- Many more commercial fishing vessels than I saw in 2010
- A healthy and productive fishing industry
- An active fishing fleet
- A thriving inshore fishing industry which has very close links with the local community
- Fishing vessels still working as they have done for the past 100 years

- Local fishermen
- I see an active fishing industry
- From boat no other nation's fishing vessels within the 12 NM zone, English vessels using sustainable stock methods of fishing
- I see where we have good knowledge of all the sea bed and its habitats and natural interactions and good knowledge of the interaction with human activities

Sustainable fishery

- I see an Irish Sea which is clean and with sustainable fishery stocks
- Sustainable fishery
- Fish
- Healthy fish stocks
- Food harvesting (fishing, sea weed etc)
- Healthy fish stocks fished sustainably

Aquaculture

- Sustainable aquaculture developments

Less evidence of human activities

- Silence, no man made noise
- Less evidence of human activity
- From shore no commercial activity, trawling, netting, within one mile of shore
- Under waves, sea bed not destroyed by trawling activity or aggregate dredging
- I see no windmills
- I see a seascape clear of wind turbines
- Empty sea view, no man made fixed objects

People enjoying themselves

- Pleasure craft e.g. ferries and tourist trips
- People enjoying swimming / diving / fishing / sailing
- I see lots of recreational users, small boat anglers
- Boats

Renewable energy

- I see no windmills
- I see a seascape clear of wind turbines
- Renewable energy and environment in harmony
- Green energy installations
- Harnessing of tidal power and other renewable, not just wind farms

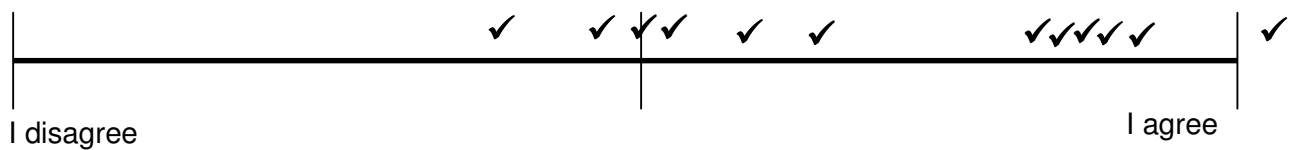
Better understanding and working together

- I see a working partnership with other sea users each recognising and respecting their rights to be in the Irish Sea
- Better knowledge of what this sea consists of in terms of habitat and resource and how it / those factors mesh in with all other regional seas and how a strong network of MCZs serves this sea but also the whole of the UK
- Sustainable use of the sea and its resources
- Consensus between diverse interests is clear from the activities visible
- Better, wider understanding and appreciation of the marine environment

1.2 At this stage, to what extent do you support Marine Conservation Zones?

I oppose the idea	I have reservations	I can live with the idea	I support the idea	I strongly support the idea
	1111	111	11111 111	11111
0	4	3	8	5

I believe my voice will be heard and make a difference



2 Working effectively together

2.1 Roles and responsibilities of an SG member

The people who are the voice for a particular interest or activity need to be:

- Trusted and respected
- Have a good network of contacts
- Understand the breadth of views from within their interest or activity
- Have the time and interest to participate in a lot of workshops and comment on draft documents or maps. (Members of the Stakeholder Group will be committing to a process with about 6 workshops spread over 18 months. Each of the workshops will build on the work of the previous stage so each member will need to commit to doing their best to attend the full set. Early workshops will be every other month and later workshops may run over two days.)

The role of a member of the Stakeholder Group is to:

- Have or develop a regional view of their sector or activity
- Explain the views of their activity or interest across the region
- Provide information and insight into the activity or interest
- Provide two-way communication between the interest/activity and the Stakeholder Group
- Negotiate over the optimum locations for the Marine Conservation Zones
- Comment on draft text, maps or other documents as they develop
- Do their best to attend all the workshops in the process

2.1.1 What are the key roles and responsibilities of the Stakeholder Group?

(5 groups discussed this topic. Their comments have been clustered together but each groups work was given a colour so the points made by one group can be traced)

The suggested list

- List looks thorough
- Big ask but generally they make sense

Knowledge

- Add knowledge to the roles and responsibility – is implied but not explicit
- SG members known and supported by their industry / group**
- Members need to be known and recognised by the industry / group that they are representing

Mandated

- Rather than trusted and respected it is important that the person has a mandate from their sector, must have support from their sector

Having the same people present/substitutes

- Concerns about the need to have the same people present
- Could be difficult to make sure that a substitute is fully briefed (help from dialogue matters on this)

Inclusive

- Ensure as much inclusivity as possible

Perceived difficulties

- Having the time to attend all workshops could be difficult
- Concerns about number of days – especially for those who have to travel
- Consult on the location and time and stick to a day if at all possible
- Lack of connectivity between workshops

2.2 Working effectively in workshops

2.2.1 The Stakeholder Group is one of the regular meetings/workshops you attend that you actually look forward to because...

The way the workshops are run:

Builds working relationship between stakeholders

- Building working relationships between everyone who is actively involved in the sea (planning management and use of)

Opportunity for all to contribute

- Opportunity to make a contribution to an important initiative
- See the opportunity
- Everyone contributes
- That our voices are being heard and interests being considered

Develop understanding and learning

- Explain what we do
- Opportunity to learn and share
- Learning and hearing about others' stake in the named environment
- Informative, interesting agendas
- Hearing informed debate

Positive / proactive

- Be positive
- Positive opportunity
- Being proactive not reactive

Good use of time

- Time is used well
- Clear outcomes and productive use of time with no going over the same ground twice

Safe to speak

- That comments are not being attributed making it safe for people to speak

Open minded

- People come with an open mind
- Discuss options with an open mind without (so much) prejudice

Not dictated to

- Because not dictated to

Can come and argue your corner

- Scepticism that this is a done deal – so can come and argue your corner

Identifies areas of agreement and conflict

- Being able to quickly agree to disagree and knowing that both points will go forward
 - doesn't have to be a winner
- Result of meeting identifies what is agreed on across the group and identifies potential or actual conflict

Process visibility

- Visibility of the process
 - stakeholder group members being able to tell wider stakeholders that decisions have been arrived at in a correct fashion

It is backed by information and data

- That other mechanisms are used to gather information and communicate
- Knowing that all the data etc that is collected is being handled efficiently by the IS CZ team
 - Information not data
 - present information to stakeholder group in a way that is easy to use and understand

The difference the workshops make

Positive outcomes

- The outcome can result in me being able to continue our livelihood
- That this group actually deliver a network of MCZs that does achieve a balance between uses and environment, social and economic interests
- That the environmental impact of this process is justified and that the meetings do achieve something

Influencing MCZ location

- The input you have into it
- Suggest where they are and where they shouldn't be

Affects the future of the fishing industry

- Future of fishing industry dependant on participation in these types of events
- Will have important impact on fisheries and industries

Other

Obligation

- I was told to be here
- Will never actually look forward to it, feel like it is an obligation

Somewhere to hang your coat

- There is somewhere to hang up your coat

Government role

- To find out if there is a role for government on this group

2.2.2 What guidelines or ground rules would you like in place to ensure people work together effectively and positively?

Guidelines/Ground rules

Ground rules used today

- The list of ground rules
- Concur with Diana's thoughts
- Happy with what Diana has proposed

Confidentiality

- Chatham house rules
- don't speak out of court

- anything said here stays here
- Guidance for press releases

Be adaptive

- Be adaptive if required in process / meetings and generally

Mechanism for conflict

- There is a mechanism for managing / working through conflict that occurs
- Person in control must be quick to diffuse conflict
- civility

Pledging commitment to the process

- No walking out (throwing a wobbly) as a tactic (*copied from 2.3.1*)

Other suggestions about workshops

Having guidance/rules

- MOU – signed up to the process and what it is trying to achieve
- Code of conduct

Strong/skilled facilitation

- Strong chair / facilitators at group sessions to ensure that no single person or single interest dominates

Mix groups

- Formally make sure that the groups change and mix up
 - use a matrix
 - avoid having the same people in groups all the time

Who's who

- Labels – bigger print on organisations
 - do some introductions (brief) so people know who everyone else is

Struggling to hear in small groups

- Struggling to hear in small groups

Other Comments

Time / freedom to gather information, explore issues, etc.

- That participants have the freedom to stand back from a situation to gather information or knowledge / views etc
- Built in buffer of time to reduce pressure and allow for flexibility and exploration or issues

ISCZ understand

- Not just stakeholder group but also important that the ISCZ team are clear as to why we are here

Doubts

- happy with the process proposed thought doubtful if will make decisions

2.3 What if you can't attend

This process will evolve through key stages. It is designed to help Stakeholder Group members develop effective working relationships, develop understanding, explore options, negotiate and make decisions. For this to happen effectively, members need to do their best to attend all workshops and send a substitute only in exceptional circumstances. Also, in this kind of processes, the substitute is like an 'understudy' – they need to be named in advance and kept up to date every step of the way ready to slot in if necessary.

2.3.1 The named substitute kept up to date every step of the way is the basic ground rule. What other guidance/ground rules do you want the group to have on substitutes/understudies?

Guidance/ground rules on substitutes

Adequate two way briefing

- Substitute needs to be adequately briefed / kept up to speed
- Substitutes need to report back to the representative i.e. communication needs to be in both directions

Substitutes / stand ins can't take the process backwards

- Substitutes / stand ins can't take the process backwards

Commitment

- Genuine commitment made to make the time

Advance notice of venue and dates to reduce need for substitutes

- Advance notice of venue and dates to help

Help support in briefing a substitute

- Need to help with how to inform a substitute
- Concern about if you're a 'voice' how do you pass on information

Consequences if don't attend

- Need same sanctions
- No walking out (throwing a wobbly) as a tactic
- If don't turn up two times then you are off the group (approach for explanation first)
 - This is strong - accept principle but better to say they wont be able to start again
 - If people chose not to engage they cannot come back later and rejoin
- if someone disengages need to find out why and how that can be addressed

Challenges

Challenges of having a substitute?

- My officers would not be experienced enough
- Substitutes may have different views than me
- Substitutes may need to get knowledge / guidance before make decisions (confirmation of knowledge)

Who could be the substitute?

- Could nominate someone else on the stakeholder group to speak for you rather than a substitute e.g. might not have to organise a substitute
- Would like to know who the people and organisations were who wanted a place on the stakeholder group but didn't get one as these could be asked to be substitutes
- I am a substitute already

More than one substitute

- Have a lot of meetings and demands and cannot cover all meetings
 - need more than one substitute
- Briefing is more important than naming a substitute as will depend on who is free to attend

Contribution when no substitute available

- Could have a written statement for instances when no one can make it including named substitutes

Sometimes may need specialist / new perspectives

- Note that sometimes may need specialist / new perspectives

Monitoring attendance

- Need monitoring by ISCZ to see who attends

2.4 What suggestions do you have for helping substitutes/understudies slot into the ongoing process?

Responsibility of SG member

Responsibility to communicate with substitute

- Take personal responsibility for updating / communicating with your understudy / replacement

- Responsibility of individuals to brief the substitutes
- Up to stakeholder to brief substitute

Inform Steering Group of substitutes

- Rest of stakeholder group should be informed if another substitute is coming

Application of 'rules' for substitutes

- Explicit acceptance that 'rules' apply to substitutes but the stakeholder group member and substitutes have a full disclosure of what happened

Briefing materials

Meeting reports

- Preparation of word for word reports
- Reports of meetings

Website / electronic communication

- All material should be available for substitutes on website
- Website
- PowerPoint

Limitations

Recognise the limitations of individuals

- A recognition that no single person holds all the information for a geographic area
- Need to bring in comment and expertise of others / colleagues that will require sharing – report back
- Stakeholder group representatives having the freedom to co-opt others with specific knowledge or understanding as process develops

2.5 External Communication

2.5.1 What guidelines or ground rules should there be for external communication?

Media

Dealing with the media

- How should stakeholder group members deal with the media?
 - who is responsible for doing this?
- No stakeholder group member goes to the media on their own as should prejudice the process
- There is press interest and will be at map stage
- If put on the spot tell media *'we are in a process, it is work in progress, no decision reached'*
- Need to be clear that this is a work in progress
- ISCZ put out press release to describe what going on to pre-empt

Workshop Printed materials

Guidance on what can be circulated/passed on

- Stakeholder Group needs clarity on status of information and whether it can be circulated more widely
- Clarity as to the status of information received
- Need to know what level ISCZ will make available

Transparency

- Everyone should be able to see the information that the stakeholder group receives
- Importance of transparency and openness to ensure inclusiveness for others would like to be on the stakeholder group

Confidentiality to protect commercial interests

- Needs to be a sanitisation of information presented here to protect commercial confidence and intellectual property information

Sharing meeting outputs

- Need to be able to share the outputs from this meeting
- Suggest a summary of the word for word be prepared that can be made available more broadly

Stakeholder Group aware of information sent out

- Stakeholder Group should be aware of any information that is sent out

Website

Website

- What level of information on the website?
- should the meeting report be available?
- password protected?

Email

Member mailbox

- Create a central mailbox for members of the SG
 - worried about being bombarded with emails or telephone calls
- Special mailing list of people who have similar interests

Reporting what happened to others

Don't attribute

- Respect for the anonymity that people are granted in this forum
- Honesty of opinions, it is important that others listen and are non-judgemental

Guidance needed

- Stakeholder group members need guidance on what they can pass on to other organisations and people about what has happened in the meetings

Stakeholder Group members known

- People outside the stakeholder group should be told who is on it

Disparity between communication networks of different groups

- Perceived disparity in ability to communicate back to networks i.e. conservation have a well established network, this is not true for other groups such as fishers

2.5.2 What would be on your wish list for help and support in liaising with others who have the same interests as you?

Stakeholder Group

Open and transparent communication

- Communication! Open and transparent

Stakeholder database

- Stakeholder database

Discussion forum for SG members

- A 'share point' online discussion forum for stakeholder group members to suggest ideas

Reports from meetings

- Minutes / reports / summaries from all meetings
- Briefing note – short and concise – on common messages and key actions required for the stakeholder group members to circulate to contacts and relevant people

Accessible information

- Ensure information is readily understood

Other involvement

Involve people in other ways

- Regular meetings with fishing industries to get people to talk and share feelings
- Get others involved – not necessarily through stakeholder group members

ISCZ liaison officer - good

- ISCZ liaison officer has been very good so far

2.6 Being the voice for your interest or sea use

2.6.1 In what way are you the voice for your sea use or interest?

2.6.2 Would you want to be on a Process Advisory Group if one is required?

Name	Interest	Description	Are you willing to be on the PAG	How do you want to be contacted?		
				Your own email	A new one set up by the ISCZ	Other
Julie Drew	Marine Renewables	Can represent all renewable developers in this area, knowledge and good contacts. Company I work for is well known within this zone	✓	✓		
Jennie Stopford	Heritage	English Heritage is a public body with a relevant statutory responsibility and it is part of my job to be part of this (another colleague will be sharing much of the work)		✓		
Chris Woods	Commercial Fishing		✓	✓		
Graham Ford-Keyte	MFA/MMO District Inspector/ District Marine Officer	(Regulating Agency) 25 years experience throughout Europe with significant local knowledge of Irish Sea issues	✓	✓		
Matthew Palmer	Marine Research	I represent public funded scientific research interest in the coastal environment. My group have specific interest in the response of the Irish Sea to the effects of climate change and we work closely with a wide range of stakeholders	✓	✓		
Grant Course	Fisheries Science and Research	I am a fisheries research scientist for a government organisation called CEFAS. I am located in Whitehaven and am geographically the nearest employee. I run the discard programmes and other research projects. I represent CEFAS as an organisation as well as personal interest in fisheries and fisheries science		✓		
John Amery	Sea Angling	Representing Angling Trust (AT) the National Governing Body for all forms of angling	✓	✓		
Glynne Roberts	Scallop Fishing / Scallop Association)	To keep traditional fishing grounds open	✓	✓		
Howard Reynolds Jones	Boating / Sailing / Yachting	I represent a National and Regional body that looks after the interests of recreational sailors. I have sailed (in all areas) the Northern Irish Sea nearly all my life and can therefore talk on this matter. I have been involved in environmental matters for some years.			✓	
Kelsey Thompson	Mariculture	I represent any person or group who is or wishes to have a sustainable aquaculture business either now or in the future			✓	

Name	Interest	Description	Are you willing to be on the PAG	How do you want to be contacted?		
				Your own email	A new one set up by the ISCZ	Other
Dr Kathryn Turner	Marine Ecology	I am the nominated representative for the region's Wildlife Trusts, we represent c.300,000 local members. I correspond with a wide group of Irish Sea locals and am part of our national panel on marine issues.	✓	✓	✓	
Clive Gaskell	Environment Agency	Public body with statutory responsibilities and wider remit to further the environment. Part of my job but specific interest in marine environment.			✓	
Robin Gilliver	Oil & Gas	I'm deputising for Mike Barwell, Oil & Gas UK; the industry trade body. The trade body is effective as the voice of the offshore oil & gas industry.			✓	
Charles Green	Crown Estate	The Crown Estate is a good voice to represent sea bed ownership in this regional project but does not own all of the intertidal zone – there are many individual owners that the Crown Estate may not know of (and a few it does)			✓	
Cristina Herbon	JNCC	The JNCC is a statutory conservation agency with responsibility in the offshore area for all UK waters.		✓		
Ruth Garratt	Heritage Conservation	I am a voice / representative of English Heritage with interests in the protection, enhancement and understanding of the marine resource as a cultural asset. As an organisation we have relevant statutory responsibilities and attendance at this issue is part of the remit of our work.		✓	✓	
Andrew Gouldstone	Birds	Ensuring the needs of important populations of seabirds are delivered via the MCZ process, bringing distribution and ecological data and knowledge to the process, with internal national support (science base), but also feeding views from local data sources e.g. county bird clubs etc.	✓	✓		
Andrew Bellamy	Marine Sand & Gravel extraction – BMAPA	I am the Marine Resources Manager of Tarmac Marine Dredging LTD and am representing (by agreement with industry colleagues) the British Marine Aggregate Producers Association – BMAPA.		✓		
Chris Sweeting	Diving	I am a recreational diver assisting in a volunteer capacity, academic research interests in the field of marine ecology / management			✓	
Ron Graham	Commercial Fishing Mobile Gear	I am here so to have views of fishermen heard by others who have an interest in the Irish Sea and so they can gain an insight into what we do and have a better understanding of what commercial fishing involves both directly at sea and those dependant on us ashore.	✓	✓		
Dick James	Sea Fishing Commercial	Have been involved with Irish Sea fisheries over 40 years and act for the major fleet in the Irish Sea but there are others with similar interest				No objection to full contact detail release

Name	Interest	Description	Are you willing to be on the PAG	How do you want to be contacted?		
				Your own email	A new one set up by the ISCZ	Other
Dave Dobson	Fishing	I represent a statutory organisation – Cumbria Sea Fisheries Committee, I have 40 years experience as both a fisherman and a fisheries officer.	✓	✓		
Patricia Campbell	Northern Ireland Assembly (DARD)	I am a member of an NI inter-departmental group involved with the development of an NI Marine Bill and implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. The NI Executive is responsible for marine planning, licensing and nature conservation in the NI territorial sea area 0 – 12 NM. It has responsibility for fisheries management in the NI your which includes an offshore area under consideration by the ISCZ project East of the Isle of Man, NI is interested from the point of view of achieving synergy and consistency with its own MCZ process and the impact on fisheries and what it may have to do in response to Irish Sea MCZs. The NI fishing fleet accounts for around 80% of the UK commercial fish quota in the Irish Sea and 90% if offshore (over 15 m vessels) fishing effort in the Irish Sea.		✓		
Chris Lumb	Natural Environment	Natural England is the statutory body in England with responsibilities for the natural environment. I lead on our marine delivery in the NW. I was also part of the Irish Sea Pilot project team.	✓	✓		

3 Setting the Scene

3.1 Information

3.1.1 What information do you need to help you make an effective contribution to this negotiation?

3.1.2 What information could you make available if required?

Information we need	Information I can offer
MCZ	
MCZ definition and scope	–
– Are MCZs permanent?	–
– Are MCZs going to be no take zones?	–
– Need to know how much of the area is a conservation zone, how big?	–
– Need to know what will be excluded	–
– Need to know what the impacts in an MCZ are	–
Enforcement	–
– To know what enforcement regime is in place	–
Environmental information	–
Existing designations	–
– Existing designated sites	–
Wildlife / habitat information and research	–
– Habitat mapping – benthic species	–
– Sea bird data – seabird 2000 DECC data, ESAs, seabirds at sea, JNCC Aberdeen	–
– Habitats and species which need protecting	–
– Seabird response to wind farms	–
General information	–
– Time series samples (annual trends)	–
– Productivity information (fronts)	–
– Temporal as well as spatial information	–
– Gather as much as possible about historical information	–
– Information on adjoining waters, cross border information	–
Existing uses	–
Fisheries / shellfish harvesting	–
– Inshore fisheries information, understanding their needs	– Dave D has lots of information on commercial fish (40 years experience) and sea angling provided to the Irish Sea Pilot
– Where trawling is happening	–
– Need to know sustainable yield of fisheries	–
– Value per area of fisheries	–
– Accurate fisheries information	–
– Inshore mussel dredging	–
– All fisheries	–
Aquaculture / fish farms	–

– Aquaculture / fish farms	–
Port developments	–
– Port developments	–
Aggregates	–
– Aggregate Dredging plans	– Sand and gravel substrate are of commercial interest when of a certain thickness i.e. greater than one metre
– Grab samples, commercial vessels	–
Green energy	–
– Green energy potential / plans	–
– Wind farm developers	–
– What would be acceptable within wind farms?	–
– SEA information from renewable	–
Recreational interests	–
– Recreation data, access points boating <12>	–
– Diving locations (wreck sites)	–
– Boat launch points (slip ways)	
The process	–
How does the process work?	–
– Who makes first suggestions / who make final suggestions?	–
– Who will step in when there is no agreement?	–
Organisation info	–
– Making people aware of public data (Crown Estates)	–
– MMO to supercede	–

3.2 The current state of the sea

3.2.1 What is going well for the sea area now?

Involvement

Consultation between bodies

- Greater consultation between all bodies local through to international

Local involvement

- Greater local involvement

Human Uses and jobs

Marine resources vs. land resources

- Greater use of the sea as a resource, which takes pressure off land e.g. aggregates

Valuable for undersea interconnection (cables etc)

- Value of sub-sea cables to commerce
- Good asset – energy interconnectors (cables, pipelines)

Potential for renewable schemes

- Potential for renewable schemes and embryonic projects to off-set Carbon emissions

Employment potential

- Job prospects emerging industry

Environment

Existing marine protected areas

- Existing marine protected areas are making significant contributions to biodiversity, conservation and recovery and to sustainable use

Species numbers increase

- Increase in the number of species in the Irish Sea

Increase in some fish / shellfish stocks

- Some fish stocks are increasing
- Scallops increasing in number, possibly due to global warming
- Sustainable nephrops stocks

Knowledge

Irish Sea monitoring / data

- Highly and densely monitored body of water contributes to greater understanding
- Explosion in amount of data available for Irish Sea, to be put to other uses – in public domain for renewables
- Migratory bird data Round 3 Data commissioned by Crown Estate <37>

3.2.2 What is going less well?

Human uses

Industrialised fish industry

- Increasingly industrialised fish industry

Bad fishing season

- Terrible winter season for cod fishing, worst in 3 or 4 years

Renewal energy schemes / cables

- Wind farming and cables
- Tidal power generation

Dredging / aggregate extraction

- Better consultation and investigation into applications for dredging
- Aggregate extraction

Waste disposal

- Waste disposal

Over-industrialisation

- Industrialisation of NE Irish Sea and North Wales Coastline is getting out of hand

Over-population

- Over- population on shore

Environment

Poor fish stocks

- Some fish stocks are in a poor state
- Sea trout and salmon stocks at lowest ebb that many can remember in NW

Biodiversity / habitats / species

- State of biodiversity – has been impacted by historic activities and some ongoing activities
- A lack of data for habitats and species
- Species decline in Irish Sea and local extinction
- Increase in invasive species

Global warming

- Global warming

Involvement

Administrative challenges

- Greater administrative challenge of involving more interests and organisations, in particular government bodies

3.2.3 What trends or changes do you think the group need to be aware of?

Marine legislation / regulatory bodies

- Greater consultation in planning of Marine Act
- Development of MMO and marine spatial planning process

- Regulatory bodies being brought under one umbrella

Parallel processes

- Parallel process in Welsh waters

Trends in shellfish dredging

- Increase in bottom dredging for shellfish

Port infrastructure

- Redevelopment and intensification of port infrastructure on western seaboard

Renewable energy schemes

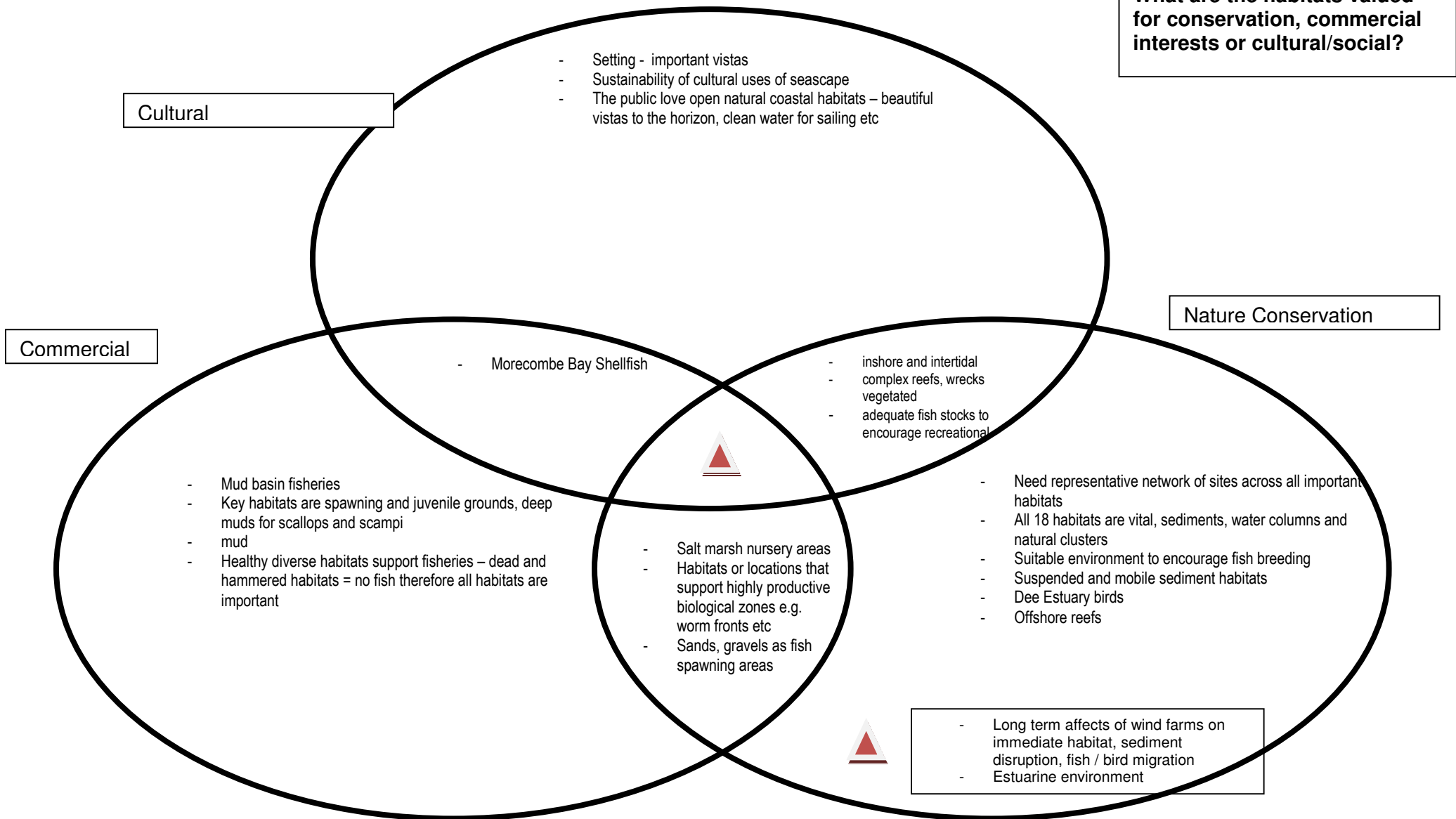
- Phase 2 & 3 wind farm applications approved
- Tidal energy scheme proposals

Increasing recreational pressures

- Be aware of increasing recreational use and pressure, diversity (new activities) and abundance

3.3 What natural or cultural features are valued?

What are the habitats valued for conservation, commercial interests or cultural/social?



What are the species valued for conservation, commercial interests or cultural/social?

Cultural

- Irish Sea communities value traditional species such as oysters, shrimp, mussels & cockles the health of these is vital to local communities
- the public love basking sharks, whales, dolphins, cuttlefish etc
- Cultural memory / affiliation and affection for specific sites i.e. wrecks as 'war graves'
- Evidence of past resource extraction habitation, cultural transition i.e. migration, ecological and biodiversity in prehistoric period
- Untapped relatively under resourced and unknown archaeological and historical and environmental potential

Nature Conservation

Commercial

- Quota species under CFP
- Bass

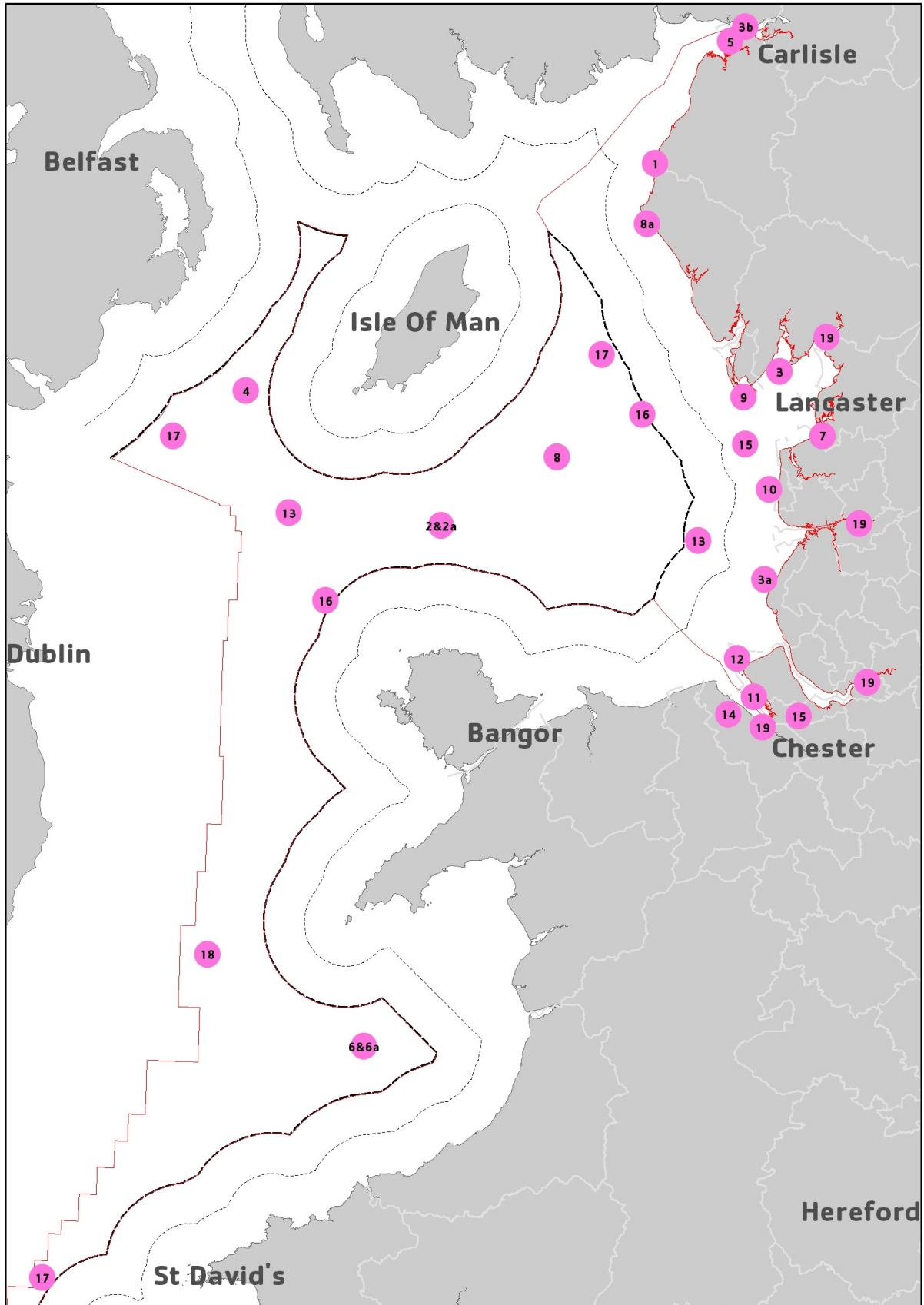
- Inshore and intertidal fish

- Lack of fish for recreational angling has an adverse effect on associated tackle shops, holiday accommodation etc
- Brills, Soles, Turbots not in abundance
- All species and habitats without a healthy community (prey base productivity and shelter) there would be no fish or shellfish
- Main species in North East Irish Sea; nephrops, plaice, skate (mobile gear), inshore creel operations, lobsters, brown crab
- All habitats and species are important to processes such as the absorption of CO₂, the cycling of nutrients, the regulation of temperature, there would be a very high cost of fixing these
- Sole / plaice

- Nephrops, scallops, white fish, pelagic (herring)
- All bycatch species need to be reduced

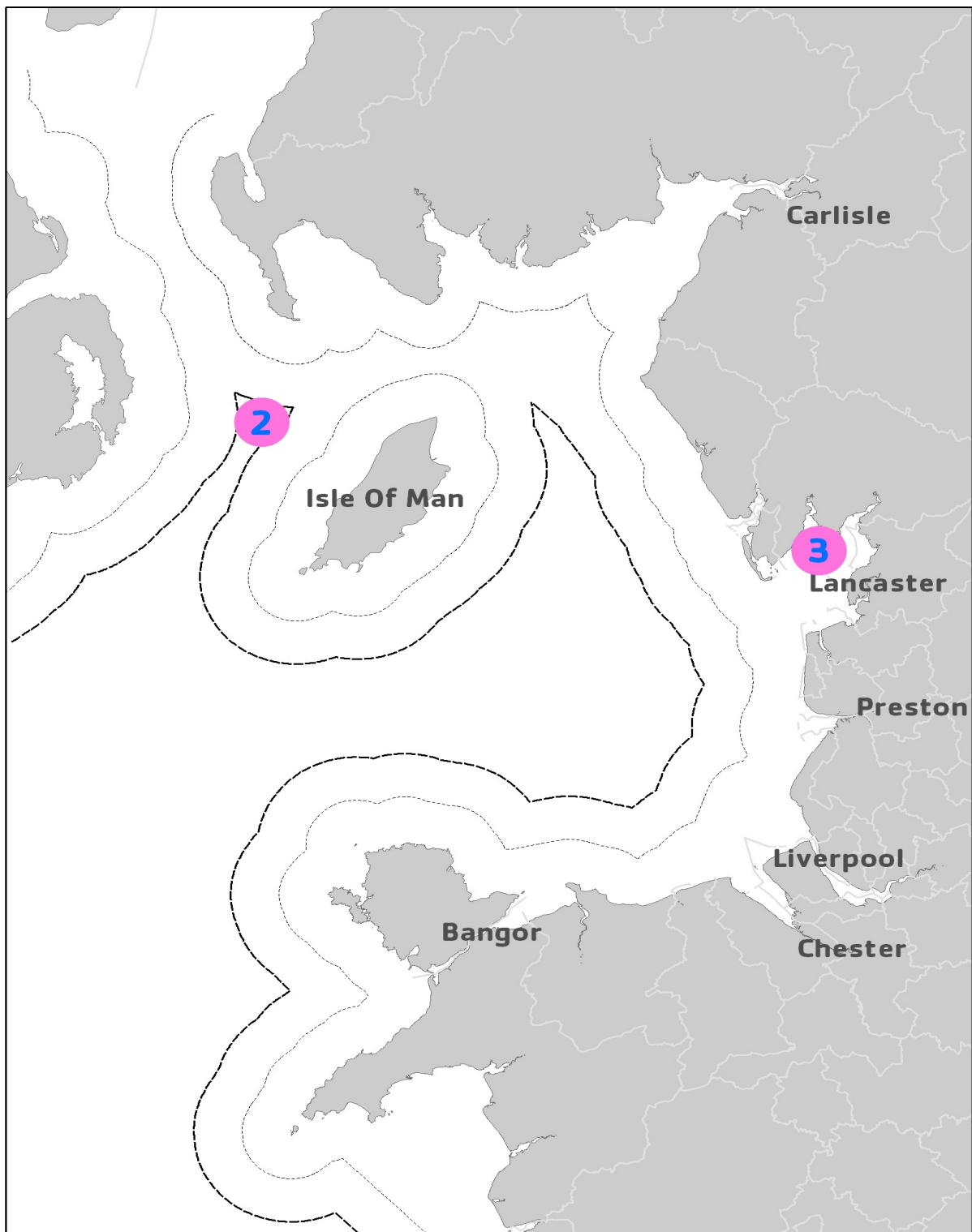
- Need adequate representation of all marine species
- All species, all habitats (Irish Sea has key mud and sand habitats and species)
- Wading and migratory birds especially intertidal zone
- All species visually diverse
- Elasmobranchs
- Rare offshore species / habitats
- Cetaceans
- Sea birds – breeding – foraging – migrating – mobile species

3.3.1 Map valued natural hot spots (biodiversity, geodiversity, fish nursery areas)



Dot Number	Comment
1	Plaice nursery area – covered by CFC by-law no.20 (large mesh cod ends 120mm)
2	All 18 Irish Sea habitats are important (need ecol data before we can decide and map).
2a	Valuable king and queen scallop grounds
3, 3a & 3b	Shell fisheries (shrimpers, mussels, cocklers). Gill netting, long line fisherman
4	So called Pices reefs (seamounts/peaks)
5	Wading birds – also on all the NW estuaries, including the Dee
6	Turtle and cetatean migration routes
6a	Valuable scallop grounds
7	Bass nursery areas (Heysham power station)
8	Large concentrations of sea birds all around the Irish Sea. Project will need to identify where these are
8a	
9	Walney Channel @ 400 invert sp and counting
10	Fylde inshore are highly diverse 200 invert sp and counting
11	Shellfisheries
12	Wilbre Island rare rocky habitat (diverse)
13	Sole/plaice grounds
14	Bass nursery areas
15	Shrimps
16	Whelks
17	Nephrops
18	Hake
19	Marsh/wetlands

3.3.2 Map valued cultural, archaeological, historical or sea/landscape features



Dot Number	Comment
	This is a near impossible task currently as the cultural /archaeological/historic assess / areas remain an unknown resource, with unknown potential – comparative survey and research indicates this is vast.
2	Hern Peak
3	Morcambe Bay

3.4 Guiding decision making

The Stakeholder Group's key task is to identify MCZs that protect important marine life and natural features whilst, where possible, avoiding unnecessary negative effects on other interests. Ecological Guidance is being supplied by Natural England.

3.4.1 What else would you like to guide the decision making?

Other criteria

Marine Bill

- Only the marine bill wording i.e. the ecology and maybe socio economic factors

Using socio-economic information to inform the MCZ process

- Practical guidance on how we use socio-economic information to inform decisions on options for MCZs

Balancing stakeholder interests

- Important to average views where 2 or 3 people with same interest are shouting the loudest

Compliment / consistent with other UK MPA designations

- Should compliment / be consistent with and not duplicate MCZ designation in Scotland / Northern Ireland / Republic of Ireland and Wales

Good quality information

Audit of existing protection / designations and their efficacy

- An audit of habitat type / protection afforded currently by existing MPAs such as SPA's, SAC's SSSI's and locations of these
- A thorough assessment of how far the existing MPAs already deliver the needs of the Ecological Network Guidance and other aspirations
- Clarification from NE / JNCC of the practical differences between all the designations e.g. SAC, SPA, MCZ etc

Irish Sea in context (physical, biological and temporal)

- Habitat maps for all UK seas so that we can judge what is important about the Irish Sea
- We need historic and pre-historic seascape characterisation research to inform the MCZ recommendations but we don't have this information now

Sound data

- Sound local scientific advice
- The process has to be guided by science and not sentiment
- The best species and habitat data
- Provision of credible data and interpretation to the stakeholder group
- Need to consult the data collection framework and scientific cruise with track record
(Note – this is exactly as the points was written on the flip chart but it is unclear – suggest it may be: “need to examine the data collection framework and engage scientific crews with a proven track record?”)

Economic assessment of ecosystem processes and services

- Economic assessment of ecosystem processes and services e.g. how valuable is the absorption of 1/3 UK CO₂ emissions

Assessment of marine renewable energy resources

- UK and WAG strategic environmental assessment summary of marine renewable energy resource in the zone / regional sea

Resolution of ISCZ boundary questions

- Resolution of the IoM 3 mile / 12 mile limit, does the project boundary really lie at 12 miles around IoM?
- The 12 mile issue making clear, i.e. having to negotiate any management through the CFP

Clarification of MCZ remit

- Identification of the features for which MCZs are needed in the project area – where these are, how much is needed, what are their characteristics
- Clear understanding & agreement within the stakeholder group of the core purpose of MCZs biological etc protection
- Clarification on whether we can suggest protection levels for our eventual suggested network of MCZs. Is this within our remit?

Other organisations input**European Commission**

- European Commission has to be involved
- European Commission has to be dissolved

Learning (or not) from other projects

- Information from other MPA projects – learn from their mistakes
- Other member states have knowledge / evidence that are not considered as part of this process

Ecological considerations in MCZ process

- I would prefer the first iteration to come from JNCC & NE as they are the ecologists, not go upward from us
- Negotiations would be assisted by indications of preferred MCZ locations or habitats or features by NE or JNCC
- Early indications from conservation interests of where MCZs should be

Cross over between devolved interest groups

- Cross over between devolved interest groups

4 Understanding sea uses and activities

Please see separate report

5 Parking place points?

- Role defined more
- Chatham house rules versus explaining to others
- Pass on the tenor of points but not attributing
- Both SFC's should be represented
- Concern at lack of representation on geographical and international basis
- Did you know that there is an East Irish Sea wind farm developers group that meets regularly?
- Why have MCZ's
- Why do we need to have MCZ's and SSSI's and Ramsar? Can't they be combined?
- JNCC, DEFRA, NE – need links (comment in ink on parking place)
- CEFAS project – exploring fishing gear with an aim to reduce bycatch

6 Short term Actions following the workshop

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Type up	dialogue matters	By Easter if possible
Process	dialogue matters	By Easter if possible
Prepare information tables	dialogue matters	By Easter if possible

Annex 1 List of Attendees

	Name	Interest	Organisation associated with
1.	Andrew Bellamy	Representative for BMAPA (sand & gravel extraction)	Tarmac Marine Dredging Ltd.
2.	Andrew Gouldstone	Bird conservation / research	RSPB
3.	Charles Green	Sea bed ownership	Crown Estate
4.	Chris Lumb	Natural environment	Natural England
5.	Chris Wood	Commercial fishing	
6.	Christopher Sweeting	Recreational diving	British Sub Aqua Club
7.	Clive Gaskell	Environment	Environment Agency
8.	Cristina Herbon	Conservation offshore	JNCC
9.	Dave Dobson	Sea fisheries	Cumbrian Sea Fisheries Committee
10.	Dick James	Deep sea commercial fishing	
11.	Elaine Howard	Local authority	Government Office (NW)
12.	Glynne Roberts	Scallop fishing	Scallop Association
13.	Graham Ford-Keyte	Fisheries regulatory agency	MFA / MMO
14.	Grant Course	Fisheries science & research	CEFAS
15.	Howard Reynolds Jones	Recreational boats / sailing	Royal Yachting Association
16.	Jennie Stopford	Cultural heritage	English Heritage
17.	John Amery	National governing body for angling	Angling Trust
18.	Julie Drew	Marine renewable energy	
19.	Kathryn Turner	Marine ecology	Wildlife Trust
20.	Kelsey Thompson	Mariculture	
21.	Matthew Palmer	Marine research	Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory
22.	Paddy Campbell	Marine Bill / Marine Strategy Framework Directive	NI Assembly (DARD)
23.	Robin Gilliver	Oil & gas industry trade body	Oil & Gas UK
24.	Ron Graham	Commercial fishing	
25.	Ruth Garratt	Cultural heritage	English Heritage

Annex 2 Agenda

Irish Sea MCZ Stakeholder group workshop 1 Agenda

From 9:15 **Getting Started** - Registration, coffee and tea will be available, starting activities.

Starting activities

- **It is 2030 and you are pleased with what you see above or beneath the waves of the Irish Sea. What do you see?** Add your thoughts to those of others.
- **At this stage, to what extent do you support Marine Conservation Zones?**
- **Check the facts and figures for your interest and make any comments.**

9:45	Welcome	Rowan Byrne Project Manager ISCZ
	Facilitators Introduction	Diana Pound Independent Facilitator dialogue mat
	Welcome and setting the scene	Rowan Byrne Project Manager ISCZ
	The process	Diana Pound Independent Facilitator dialogue mat

Questions to clarify what you have just heard

(What do you mean by...? or Can you please explain...? Please write your question on one of the white cards.)

10:45 Tea and Coffee

11:00 Working effectively together

- **Roles and responsibilities**
- **Working effectively in workshops**
- **What if you can't attend?**
- **External Communication**
- **Being the voice for your interest or sea use**
- **In what way are you the voice for your sea use or interest?**
- **Would you be interested in being part of a Process Advisory Group if one is required?**

Setting the Scene

- **Information**
- **The current state of the sea**
- **What natural or cultural features are valued and where?**
- **Guiding decision making**

12:45 Lunch

1.30 Understanding sea uses, interests and activities

3:00 Tea and coffee

3:20 Continue as before break

**Last things
What happens next**

No later than 4.30 Finish

A. Working effectively together

Roles and responsibilities

1. Please look at the roles and responsibilities of the Stakeholder Group (attached to this agenda). What would you like to add or amend?

Working effectively in workshops

2. The Stakeholder Group is one of the regular meetings/workshops you attend that you actually look forward to because...
3. What guidelines or ground rules would you like in place to ensure people work together effectively and positively?

What if you can't attend?

This process will evolve through key stages. It is designed to help Stakeholder Group members develop effective working relationships, develop understanding, explore options, negotiate and make decisions. For this to happen effectively, members need to do their best to attend all workshops and send a substitute only in exceptional circumstances. Also, in this kind of processes, the substitute is like an 'understudy' – they need to be named in advance and kept up to date every step of the way ready to slot in if necessary.

4. The named substitute kept up to date every step of the way is the basic requirement. What other guidance/ground rules do you want the group to have on substitutes/understudies?
5. What suggestions do you have for helping substitutes/understudies slot into the ongoing process?

External Communication

6. What guidelines or ground rules should there be for external communication?
7. What would be on your wish list for help and support in liaising with others who have the same interests as you?

Being the voice for your interest or sea use

8. In what way are you the voice for your sea use or interest?
9. A Process Advisory Group is required – would you be on it?

B. Setting the Scene

Information

1. What information do you need to help you make an effective contribution to this negotiation? What information could you make available if required?
(Visit the information point to pick up leaflets or to lodge questions).

The current state of the sea

2. What is going well for the sea area now?
3. What is going less well?
4. What trends or changes do you think the group need to be aware of?

What natural or cultural features are valued and where?

5. What are the habitats valued for conservation, commercial interests or cultural/social? What are the species valued for conservation, commercial interests or cultural/social?
6. Map valued natural hot spots (biodiversity, geodiversity, fish nursery areas)
7. Map valued cultural, archaeological, historical or sea/landscape features

Guiding decision making

The Stakeholder Group's key task is to identify MCZs that protect important marine life and natural features whilst, where possible, avoiding unnecessary negative effects on other interests. Ecological Guidance is being supplied by Natural England.

8. What else would you like to guide the decision making?

C. Understanding sea uses and activities

- Provide key words for a positive long term future for this activity
- What are the changes over the last 10 years? Likely over the next 10 years?
- Consider the positive and negatives effects of this activity (eg social/cultural, economic, on other sea users, on the environment in general, on habitats, on species, on how marine ecosystems function)
- What is already being done to enhance benefits and overcome any negative effects?
- What are the positive and negatives of MCZs for this interest?
- Look at maps and annotate any amendments you think are required

Annex 3 Question and Answer Session

Q. What is the lifetime of this group? Does it end at recommendation, implementation, or does it continue to advise after implementation?

A. At this stage the group lives until final recommendations with the possibility of continuing afterwards in a liaison role, but this is to be confirmed.

Q. For two day workshops, are you funding accommodation?

A. Remuneration will be provided where appropriate, i.e. for people who are not funded to attend. For additional information Rowan at ISCZ is the contact.

Q. How do we structure workshops?

A. structure is based on the tasks that need to be completed at each stage. There is no repetition. We have worked hard to achieve one person for each main sea use / activity to ensure equal input. The stakeholder group has not been structured by geography but by sea use / activity. Rowan reinforced the help of the ISCZ team for workshop input.

Q. Checking verbal records for accuracy, clarify how. This meeting, e-mailed 'minutes' draft docs at next meeting?

A. check at next meeting all made available to every participant as word for word report on the workshop.

Q. Ability to send the same person to every meeting is limited because of strained resources on a national remit – also trying to cover all other stakeholder groups.

A. This issue of replacements is to be explored in the first workshop session so answer was not provided.

Q. How will we interact with the Welsh Assembly Government and the Isle of Man Government and the Northern Irish Government?

A. We need the process advisory group to advise on this issue.

Q. Why have MCZ's? And Why do we need to have MCZ's and SSSI's and RAMSAR, can't they be combined?

A. This question was tackled briefly during the presentations and is worthy of more detailed discussion which there is not time for at this point in the workshop, therefore it has been placed in the parking place to be addressed at a later time.