**Irish Sea Maritime Forum Biennial Conference 15th January 2019, Cardiff**

**Workshop: Marine Spatial Planning in the Irish Sea**

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| **Strengths** |
| * MSP legislation/plans exist and approaches towards MSP have begun (5x)
* We have a plan, to support terrestrial decisions
* Existing political links across region
* Current and past MSP projects have established working links
* UK leading MSP in the EU?
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| * Existence of ISMF and High Sea Centre-working together
* Biosphere Reserve can be used to consider land sea interaction e.g. land sea border in Wales, Dyfi Reserve-Dublin Bay, IOM-North Davon-sand dunes
* Good and dynamic hydrological models- predictive for all Irish Sea
* Evidence Base is there-working towards greater certainty and accessibility (data portals)
* Wider perspective of the Irish Sea- Celtic Sea -OSPAR area especially after Brexit
* MSP approaches are existing apart from IOM
* Scotland model of National and local marine plans is a good example
* Strengthening the Localism Act- due consideration- not in Scotland/Wales but in Welsh environment and future generation well-being consideration is happening but aspirational and sets a future agenda. It requires evidence (e.g. resilient wales) no guidance indicators
* Using international legislation e.g. SDGs, UNCLOS
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| **Weaknesses** |
| * Awareness of how TSP and MSP system fit. Do they? Overall knowledge and awareness needed
* Changing political priorities and commitment
* Lack of clarity in terms of what designations mean for people
* Lack of case study examples to learn from- what are the best practices especially on land sea interaction?
* Current training is piecemeal
* Different legislation and timescale
* Emerging plans are basic but a good start
* Are the emerging marine plans spatial plans?
* Lack of evidence and data gaps. Limited tools and resources to be able to gather evidence e.g. coastal change (2x)
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| * Lack of communication especially with fishers
* Terrestrial- marine divide (authority-legislation- perspective). Holistic management needed but difficult to get people moving
* Different sectors and differences in their operation. Some sectors operate in isolation
* Cross border evidence is a challenge
* INTERREG funding is difficult for all Irish Sea -can’t do projects as its split areas
* Lack of practitioners actually using the plans e.g. Scottish national plan-just a box to tick to say plan has been considered
* Engagement of stakeholders needed in all aspect
* More social and economic data needed for the marine planning process- there is support for it but not for marine planning
* Disjointed plans- e.g. Scotland. There no money to support all plans and no long-term commitment
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| **Opportunities** |
| * Predated MSP directive-safeguarded (to an extent)
* Knowledge exchange: It’s a continuous learning process-staff turnover (2x)
* Enhanced cooperation after Brexit e.g. between Wales and Ireland
* Willingness to work together/building on established networks
* Collaborative transboundary working (4x)
* Brexit may allow for a reassessment of cross border marine planning issues
* Learning from other countries/projects have already done e.g. SIMCelt stakeholder work (2x)
* Use 3rd MMO iteration to explore further cross border issues with Scotland, Wales, NI and ROI
* Raising awareness about MSP by using marine and terrestrial networks
* Improvement in commitments with public do’s and don’ts within MPAs
* Coastal change adaptation projects can highlight climate change impact
* Building relationship with terrestrial planners. Engaging with TSP-conversations happening and ongoing currently (2x)
* Update of TSP policies to consider marine plans e.g. TANS, SPPS, NPF
* Build on framework in place
* ISMF offers an opportunity to make links and collaborate with other bodies: vehicle for cooperation
* Build on initial marine plans that are now and pretty much in place=
* Use ISMF to engage MSP stakeholders through RTPI and equivalents
* Create a combined portal for Irish Sea nations to share MSP data
* Build on ISMF as a cross border forum
* Building evidence base, new data gathering and monitoring impact of plan (3x)
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| * Key resource area for developers to justify needs
* Extend the marine atlas and portals- to be able to add in other countries data and keep adding new data into the European marine atlas
* Developing indicators for socio-cultural evidence
* Natural capital value of the Irish Sea and country by country. Use the OSPAR
* Simplified publications and ensure consistency across plan publications
* Provide guidance to stakeholders -jungle of information and a lot of portals
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| **Threats** |
| * Limited resources (human and financial resources) (2x)
* Political attention spans Brexit
* Fuzzy boundaries
* Local authorities vs marine authority
* Uncertainty- Brexit -future unsure-resources, priorities etc
* Lack of Northern Ireland executive
* Coastal change and lack of data evidence
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| * Potential conflicts between wind and gas -Combined IOM…hydrocarbon
* Brexit puts a border between the Irish Sea
* People are losing the will to engage-stakeholder fatigue
* Differences in plans across each administration
* So developers will identify an area-reverse engineering and get planning permission
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| **Top 3 Issues** |
| *Land sea interaction* * Lack of holistic approach to Land and Marine Planning. Integration of Terrestrial and marine planning needed (4x)
* Clearer guidelines for terrestrial decision makers working in marine zone
* Lack of understanding of role that ICZM can deliver for MSP
* The challenge of ICZM
* Challenges and complexity of marine environment compared to terrestrial planning
* Land sea interface-ICZM
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| *Evidence* * Lack of socio-economic evidence
* Lack of appropriate evidence to enable spatial planning is a constraint
* Lack of monitoring of evidence and effectiveness of MSP in the Irish Sea
* Monitoring data and long-term data availability is lacking
* Implementation of marine plans just as important as their development
* Need for social evidence
* Disjointed evidence base across Irish Sea
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| *Coordination/Integration* * Disparities in policies between varying marine plans in the Irish Sea area
* Differing planning timescales/political priorities across the Irish sea is a barrier to integrated planning (2x)
* Enhance cross border cooperation
* Cross border Integration (2x)
* Inconsistencies between regions
* Marine plans not integrated with the Crown Estate marine planning for offshore wind
* Land sea divide-authorities/legislation etc
* Land sea integration (catchment coasts) especially not planning systems
* Timescales and scale of plans not aligning
* Challenging to coordinate and understand marine planning across administrations
* Disjointed approach to MSP across the Irish Sea
* Indicators with in marine plan process not integrated
* Some sectors are working in isolation
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| *Brexit* * Brexit
* Limited resources in light of Brexit
* Brexit-possible impact on environmental legislation
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| *Awareness** Marine Planning is something of an unknown to the public
* Making Marine planning relevant to the public
* Communication between researchers and policy makers
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| *Limited resources** Allowing industrial waste dumping
* Resources to implement and develop plans and link to terrestrial planning
* Enhanced historic environment component for welsh waters-more protected wrecks
* Plans are basic rather than ambitious
* Further detailed and site-specific works and plans
* Lack of funding opportunities covering the entire Irish Sea
* Limited resources e.g. town planners
* Resourcing (human etc) for marine plans
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| *Communication/Stakeholder Engagement* * Too many messages to the same audience
* Not talking to the right people
* Lack of guidance to help stakeholders navigate highly complex sources of information
* Difficulties of stakeholder engagement with key sectors e.g. fishers
* Challenge around keeping stakeholders engaged in MSP for the long term
* Complete lack of MSP awareness from terrestrial planners
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| *Plans/Planning process* * Highly complex, beyond understanding of elected decision makers
* Policy wording too watered down to be meaningful -No teeth
* MSP is new so there are no set instructions to make it effective
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| **Top 3 Opportunities** |
| * Revolution in communities
* Biosphere reserve as foci for integrating marine and terrestrial conservation planning
* ICT, software, data sharing opportunities
* International legal obligations (OSPAR, UNCLOS)
* Improve the identification of areas for offshore wind and reduce the pain of planning process
* Opportunity to manage fisheries, particularly impact of trawling on benthic environment
* Present information in simplified format e.g. leaflets and website
* Partnership working across regions
* Knowledge sharing e.g. case studies
* Joined up approach to our seas
* Bringing all users of the Irish sea ecosystem to work together
* Increasing awareness of the importance of biosphere reserve areas
* Improving information exchange
* Better spatial prescription in marine planning and management
* Improvement of marine evidence based and joined up evidence base. Developing marine plans into system combability e.g. Marine Scotland (2x)
* Irish Sea natural capital assessment to demonstrate the value and identity of Irish sea. Develop a project around natural capital assessment for the Irish Sea-that can lead into the MSP process (2x)
* Review MSP approaches across countries e.g. IOM vs Scotland
* Develop and Irish sea evidence database
* Develop indicators around socio economic impacts/aspects of marine planning
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