**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? |
| * 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 |
| **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) |
| * 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 |
| **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) |
| * 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 |
| **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 |
| * 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 |
| *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 |
| *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 |
| *Brexit*   * Brexit * Limited resources in light of Brexit * Brexit-possible impact on environmental legislation |
| *Awareness*   * Marine Planning is something of an unknown to the public * Making Marine planning relevant to the public * Communication between researchers and policy makers |
| *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 |
| *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 |