



Recommendations for international fisheries stakeholder engagement and data gathering for the UK MPAs projects

**JNCC - Sophie Elliott, Johnny Murt, Declan Tobin and Cristina Herbon
02 September 2010**

This summary document proposes recommendations for international fisheries stakeholder engagement developed through a contract let to [RK Partnership facilitators](#) and from recommendations made by the regional Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) projects and [Natural England](#). The consultant proposed a phased approach to bear in mind the short time-scale of the Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) project¹. This consist of:

- Information giving i.e. providing information about the UK Marine Protected Area (MPA) projects to international stakeholders;
- Information gathering i.e. obtaining information about the activities of international fisheries stakeholders in the project areas;
- Involvement i.e. engage the international fisheries stakeholders in the negotiation process; and
- Consultation.

Information giving

The [Joint Nature Conservation Committee's](#) (JNCC) Fishery Liaison Officers, have been identifying international fishery stakeholders who carry out activities in UK waters and have a vested interest.

An introductory letter was sent to the North Sea, Pelagic and North West Waters Regional Advisory Council (RAC) and international fisheries stakeholders to inform them of the project and to invite them to engage in UK MPA projects². This was translated into French, Spanish and German and it was sent out (30/07/10) to those international stakeholders operating within UK waters. Within the introductory letter, JNCC's UK MPA information document and the MCZ Project information document³ was supplied in French, Spanish, German, Dutch, Norwegian, Danish, Gaelic and Welsh.

Initiation and introductory meetings took place through the North Sea, Pelagic and North West Waters Regional Advisory Committees (RAC). Members of the RACs approached JNCC to ascertain how they could be engaged in the process. JNCC have and will continue to meet with the RACs to update and inform them of UK MPA progress. JNCC in collaboration with other SNCBs, has organised a UK MPA Stakeholder Forum, where

¹ For more information please click on the following link; http://www.jncc.gov.uk/pdf/MCZProjectInfoDoc_v2_1.pdf

² For more information please click on the following link; http://www.jncc.gov.uk/PDF/MPAsInfoDoc_v2_1.pdf

national and international stakeholders were invited to discuss UK MPA developments. Invitations included a representative for each of the RAC regions concerning UK waters.

Methods for involvement and data collection were presented at country-specific international fisheries engagement meetings which were carried out in Norway, the Netherlands, Denmark, France and Belgium to date (November 2010).

International fishers who wish to be kept up to date with progress can sign up to various MPA newsletters which exist, by contacting [JNCC](#).

Information gathering

In conjunction with the regional MCZ projects, JNCC have received extra data layers from the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science ([Cefas](#)) to provide more detailed country-level and gear-specific VMS information on vessel activity data in UK waters. This is an add-on to the Defra MB106 socio-economic⁴ contract.

Country specific meetings, initiated through the RACs, have provided international fishers with an understanding of UK MPA developments, highlighting options for their involvement. Fishing activity data is being supplied by international fisheries representatives and international fishers with interests in UK waters. Under 15m vessels were identified as a priority as there is no VMS available for this fleet. Therefore, a fishermap questionnaire has been developed and used to collect their activity data. Stakeholders have also been given the opportunity to use the current [MCZ project interactive map](#) which many have found to be user friendly.

Involvement, ways forward and options available to international fishery stakeholders

Within the planned international fisheries stakeholder meetings mentioned above, JNCC have been providing detailed information regarding UK MPAs, as well as any other specific items suggested by each UK regional project. JNCC has also been collecting fisheries activity data.

Outputs from the Defra MB106 contract, additional data collected from [Cefas](#) and the results from the regional MCZ projects first iterations (first set of draft recommendations on the location of possible MCZs) and the engagement activities of other UK MPA Projects (Scottish MPA Project and the MCZ Project Wales), have helped JNCC target those stakeholders which carry out activities in the areas of interest and ensure they are fully aware and engaged in the process.

Participation in decision-making processes to identify MPAs is different amongst the UK projects. The MCZ Project is a stakeholder led process, whereby stakeholders within the regional MCZ project stakeholder groups⁵ are tasked with identifying MCZs using the [ecological guidance](#) provided. The mechanisms outlined within the options below are MCZ Project specific. For the Scottish MPA Project and the Welsh MCZ Project key stakeholders will be engaged within key stages of the project development and will be able to comment on the progress. JNCC will inform international stakeholders of such development stages through existing communication channels.

⁴ This contract has identified industry activities being carried out in UK waters by national and international stakeholders.

⁵ Refer to MCZ Project information document; http://www.jncc.gov.uk/pdf/MCZProjectInfoDoc_v2_1.pdf

The following options have been open to international fisheries stakeholders to engage in decision making of MCZ Project processes:

Option 1 – Become a Named Consultative Stakeholder (NCS)⁶

The regional MCZ projects will be tasked with selecting NCS applicants through applications from stakeholders submitted to the regional projects. Through the NCS process, stakeholders will be able to comment on the iterations, identifying MCZs either through a set format provided or through enhanced access to the [MCZ Project interactive map](#).

Option 2 – Country specific meetings

Country specific representatives will supply the regional projects with comments on the iterations following meetings with JNCC fishery liaison officers. Meetings will be fisheries sector specific, region specific and/ or port specific. This will be adapted according to country specific needs. This will enable increased active engagement and data collection from international fisheries stakeholders. It is still advised that a fishers selected stakeholder becomes a NCS through this process to feed in directly with the regional project stakeholder groups.

Option 3 – Become a member of the regional MCZ project stakeholder group (RSG)

This option is specific to the MCZ project. International fisheries stakeholders need to be given the same opportunity as UK stakeholders leading to the availability of this option. Stakeholders, including fishers, from other countries will be offered places on the appropriate RSG. If international fishers would like representation on the RSG, they would need to have the same responsibility as national RSG members as well as be able to communicate in English. Travel and subsistence contributions would not be available nor would professional translators. Alternatively, stakeholders may wish to liaise with UK fisheries organisations such as National Federation of Fishermens Organisation (NFFO) and Scottish Fisheries Federation (SFF) to feed into the RSG.

Option 4 - Use of existing groups

If the RACs agreed, the option to enabling one of their working groups to be a conduit for UK international stakeholder engagement could be possible. Collective comments from the meeting (including comments on the iterations) would be forwarded to the relevant regional projects by a stakeholder-chosen representative.

JNCC are not be responsible for identifying international stakeholder representatives to feed into the regional MCZ project stakeholder groups. This is to be decided between the international stakeholders themselves and the regional MCZ projects. JNCC will support international stakeholders understand the mechanisms available to be engaged in the development of UK MPA Projects and the mechanisms available to influence the identification of MCZs and development of their conservation objectives.

Public consultation

The UK Government and the Devolved Administrations will undertake public consultations on all MPA proposals, offering stakeholders the opportunity to submit their comments. Comments can be submitted individually or in groups such as the RACs.

⁶ Please see NCS process document for precise mechanisms by which stakeholders will be able to comment on the regional project iterations.

A public consultation will take place after the regional MCZ projects have closed (Oct-Nov 2011). Defra will send stakeholders information on the proposed MPAs and enable them to respond.

Public consultation regarding Scottish sites will take place across three tranches: tranche 1 of sites will go for public consultation by end 2011; tranche 2 by end 2012 and tranche 3 by end 2013.