



IRISH SEA MARITIME FORUM INAUGURAL CONFERENCE

Titanic Belfast
June 28 2012

Summary of Proceedings and Outputs and Programme for 2012/13

August 2012



Department of the
Environment
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Isle of Man
Government
Reepiagh Eilann Mannagh



marine
management
organisation



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INTRODUCTION

Following two stakeholder workshops that were held in Liverpool and Dublin in 2011, an initial Steering Group was set up including representatives from marine planning teams across the Irish Sea to establish a new Irish Sea Maritime Forum. The initiative has received pump priming financial support from the Department of Environment in Northern Ireland, The Isle of Man Government and the Marine Management Organisation and the Irish Planning Institute and secretarial support from the North West Coastal Forum and the University of Liverpool. Drawing on the outputs from the 2011 events a draft vision and objectives for the forum have been set out.

Draft Vision for Irish Sea

An Irish Sea which has a healthy marine environment, coherent energy policy, safe clean and efficient transport and sustainable fisheries and is managed to deliver sustainable development for the benefit of all.

Objectives of the Forum

- To provide a broad based forum for all Irish Sea users and provide an opportunity for voices to be heard
- To facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building across all administrative areas and sectors about marine planning
- To facilitate sharing of data and information
- To encourage and maintain political support for transnational partnership working in support of marine planning, with the aim of promoting sustainable development in the Irish Sea region.
- To facilitate a more coordinated, efficient planning process for transnational issues/projects and good working relationships among Irish Sea partners

The conference held in the new Titanic signature building in Belfast on 28 June 2012 marked the formal inauguration of the Forum and was open to all with an interest in the Irish Sea. The morning session provided stakeholders with an opportunity to hear the latest news on marine planning across the Irish Sea. The afternoon session focused on important areas for the Forum's future activities including the emerging European Union Atlantic Strategy. A key component of the afternoon was a workshop where stakeholder views on the focus of future activities and events, website development and financing were discussed. This note provides a summary of the proceedings and outputs for the day and the programme of activities for 2012/13 that has been developed taking account of stakeholder inputs.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

Cllr Dr Stuart Anderson	Conwy County Borough Council
Jehan Ashmore	Freelance marine correspondent
Dr Stephen Atkins	North West Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
Minister Alex Attwood, MLA	Environment Minister, Northern Ireland
Dr Iwan Ball	WWF UK
Dr Jade Berman	Ulster Wildlife Trust
Ditte Bilde	Mainstream Renewable Power
Patrick (Paddy) Boylan	Loughs Agency
Joe Breen	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Steve Brooker	Marine Management Organisation
Bob Brown	Coastal & Marine Working Group of CNCC
Tom Bryan-Brown	Manx Fish Producers
Suzanne Byrnes	Arup
Liz Charter	Isle of Man Government
Flo Clucas	Leadership Group, Atlantic Forum
Steve Conlon	Irish Marine Federation
Meabh Cormacain	Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group
Richard Devlin	Northern Ireland Marine Task Force
Anna Donald	Marine Scotland
Luca Doria	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Frances Edwards	Heriot Watt University
Geraint Ellis	Queen's University Belfast
Rhona Fairgrieve	Scottish Coastal Forum
Deirdre Ferguson	Belfast City Council
Claire Ferry	RSPB
Diana Fitzsimons	Irish Planning Institute
Gary Gregg	IFSA
Nigel Hamilton	MCNI
David Jill	ANIFPO/NFFO
Professor Colin Jago	School of Ocean Sciences, Bangor University
Richard James	NIPFO
Dr Stephen Jay	University of Liverpool
Sean Kelly	Northern Ireland Environment Link
Sue Kidd	University of Liverpool
Susan Kidd	Crown Estate
Helen Kirk	National Trust
Dr Declan Lawlor	Loughs Agency
John Linden	Department of Environment, NI
Stuart Livesey	DONG Energy Power (UK) Ltd
Professor Greg Lloyd	University of Ulster
Glyn Lloyd-Jones	Countryside Council for Wales

Chris Lumb	Natural England
Mark Magee	Sea Fishing NI
Aidan Maher	Dublin City Council
Tom Mathews	Department of Environment, NI
William McCabe	Department for Regional Development, NI
Gerard McClarey	Department of Environment, NI
Patrick McCluskey	Down District Council
Lindsey McConnell	Arup
Alan McCulla	Anglo North Irish Fish Producers Association
Thomas McErlean	University of Ulster
Lynne McGowan	University of Liverpool
Andrew McGreevy	Department of Environment, NI
Mary McIntyre	Department of Environment, NI
Jonny McNee	Department of Environment, NI
Mary McNeill	Department of Environment, NI
Alana Murphy	Royal Yachting Association
Eugene Nixon	Marine Institute
Caroline Nolan	Strangford Lough
Dr Anne Marie O'Hagan	HMRC, University College Cork,
Alan O'Neill	Irish Sea Marine Leisure Knowledge Network
Phil Oliver	MCNI
Professor Julian Orford	Queens University of Belfast
Mark Ovens	Policy Advisor to the Ulster Unionist Party
Deborah Peel	University of Ulster
John Pepper	OceanWise
Caroline Price	Royal Yachting Association
Andrew Prior	Dong Energy
Dr Anthony Quinn	Irish Planning Institute
Margaret Quinn	Down District Council
Louise Rich	Centrica
Heather Ritchie	University of Ulster
Jim Robinson	Natural England
Caroline Salthouse	North West Coastal Forum
Dr Matthew Service	AFESD, Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute
Graham Seymour	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Marguerite Tarzia	NI Marine Task Force
Pam Taylor	Solway Firth Partnership
Dr Patrick Timko	University of Bangor
John Watson	Centrica
Mike Warnock	Dept for Regional Development, NI
Claire Williamson	Royal Town Planning Institute
Katherine Yates	University of Ulster

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Morning Session:

Round up of Marine Spatial Planning Developments in the Irish Sea

- 9.15 *Registration/Coffee*
- 9.40 Welcome
Chair Prof. Greg Lloyd, University of Ulster
- 9.50 Introduction to the Irish Sea Maritime Forum
Sue Kidd, University of Liverpool
- 10.00 Ireland's Ocean Economy
Eugene Nixon,
Section Manager, Marine Spatial Planning, Marine Institute, Ireland
- 10.20 National Marine Plan for Scotland
Anna Donald, Head of Marine Planning and Strategy, Marine Scotland
- 10.40 Key Note Address
Minister Alex Attwood MLA

Department of the Environment Northern Ireland
- 11.00 *Coffee*
- 11.30 Developing a Marine Plan for the Isle of Man
Liz Charter, Chair of Marine Spatial Planning Officer Group, Isle of Man
Government
- 11.50 MMO activity and thoughts for MSP in Irish Sea
Steve Brooker, Head of Marine Planning, Marine
- 12.10 The sea, an important new arena for spatial planning
Dr. Anthony Quinn, Irish Planning Institute
- 12.20 Panel Discussion
- 12.45 *Lunch*

Afternoon Session:

Focussing the Forum's Future Activities

- 13.45 How can Irish Sea stakeholders link into the development of the EU's Atlantic Strategy
 Flo Clucas , Member of the Leadership Group for the Atlantic Forum
- 14.05 Development of the Irish Sea Maritime Forum: a Personal View
 Stephen Atkins, Chief Executive of the North West Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
- 14.25 *Coffee*
- 14.45 Stakeholder Workshops
- What should be the focus of future ISMF actions and events?
 - What should the Forum's website cover?
 - How can the Forum's activities be financed?
- 15.15 Feedback and Discussion
- 15.45 Next Steps for the Forum
 Sue Kidd, University of Liverpool
- 16.00 *Close*

SUMMARY OF STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSIONS

What should be the focus of future ISMF actions and events?

Appendix 1 draws together the outputs of stakeholder discussions related to future ISMF actions and events. Key points to emerge include:

1. There is broad support for the objectives of the Forum which were drawn from the 2011 stakeholder events, although there is possibly a need for refinement and formal agreement of these over the course of the next year. However, there is also a sense of stakeholders being keen to move on and for effort to focus on outputs in order to build trust and support.
2. In terms of actions it is clear that the information exchange / networking role of the Forum is welcomed and that a focus on website development and formalisation of stakeholder links to the Forum perhaps through membership registration and a stakeholder mapping exercise would be useful next steps.
3. There is also much interest in drawing together data related to the Irish Sea and encouraging data coordination and identification of data gaps. Some early work, perhaps through initial scoping work in selected thematic areas and linked to website development would be useful..
4. Stakeholders recognise the potential role that the Forum could play in acting as a sounding board in future policy/ plan development. Although MSP is at an early point in the region some activity to establish a relationship with key agencies would be of interest.
5. With this in mind, and a point of debate in the discussions, was the extent to which the Forum should develop a lobbying role. Possible conflicts with its information exchange, networking functions were raised. One possible way forward suggested by one group is an audit of stakeholder concerns/issues. This might link to the suggested stakeholder mapping exercise and to proposals for thematic leads/sub groups discussed below.
6. Regular events targeted at particular audiences and emphasising stakeholder discussions with clear outputs were called for, with such workshops perhaps complementing a larger scale annual event. An early decision on the pattern of events for 2012/2013 and other activities would be useful to build confidence, create certainty and manage expectations.
7. The agenda above has significant financial and staffing implications which go beyond the limited resources currently available. However these may be partially addressed by the proposed development of the Steering Group to include thematic leads and development of a working group/advisory group structure as well as the financing suggestions discussed further below. Again these are important areas for decision at this point in time.

What should the Forum's website cover?

Appendix 2 draws together the outputs from the discussion groups related to the development of a Forum website. As can be seen from the above this is identified as an important early action point although one which will need to develop in sophistication over time subject to the availability of resources. Key points that can be distilled from the discussions for early consideration include:

1. The need to be clear about the audience for the website and perhaps aim in the initial instance particularly at potential stakeholder members and develop the website in a way that encourages their engagement with the Forum and facilitates networking between them.
2. The website should give a clear description of the role, objectives and structure of the Forum including Steering Group membership and contacts.
3. The website should act as an information portal for the Irish Sea drawing together relevant sources. There was however some discussion about the value of simply listing existing resources and it was suggested that the site should try to add value in some way. Linked to this should be consideration of the extent to which the website should be reactive or proactive in its style.
4. Protocols for web content, maintenance and updating need to be developed.
5. The development of a newsletter function of the website and associated email updates to stakeholders should be considered in the longer term.
6. Hosting of the website was raised, with one discussion group favouring hosting by a non-governmental organisation.
7. Full development of the website as an Irish Sea data portal would require specialist technical input possibly guided by a specialist working groups and could be the focus of a separate funding bid.

How can the Forum's activities be financed?

Appendix 3 draws together the output of stakeholder discussions related to the key issue of future funding for the Forum. Here all groups emphasised the need for a clear link between the Forums' objectives, activities and outputs to draw down resources. There was also recognition during the day of the need to tailor the Forum's activities around topical issues and funding opportunities and for it to act as a conduit for stakeholders to come together to make their own funding bids. The following were identified as key potential funding possibilities.

1. Sponsorship from private and public sector stakeholders perhaps linked to particular deliverables/events.
2. Membership contributions at a relatively low level might form a useful background level of financing.
3. EU sources particularly with the development of the Atlantic Strategy were seen to be the most promising form of funding for central secretarial and technical support, but also for other Forum related activities that would be of value for stakeholders.
4. Various sources of research money which increasingly promote research practice connections could be targeted alongside other sources such as the Big Lottery.
5. The potential for levies or 'planning gain' associated with development in the Irish Sea being linked to Forum activities is worth exploration.

OTHER STAKEHOLDER INPUTS FROM THE DAY

Comments on the Draft Vision

A few participants submitted comments on the draft vision for the Forum set out in the introduction to this report. One said it is fine as it stands, another felt more reference could be made to terms such as shared, coordinated and cooperation. Mention was also made about the use of the word 'healthy' in the vision and whether more tangible terms such as 'biodiverse' would be preferable. In relation to omissions, it was suggested that marine tourism should be added. A comment was also received about the Forum's objectives suggesting that some would benefit from adjustment to make them more task-driven. Based on the above some further refinement of the vision and objective should be considered.

Interest in Joining the ISMF Stakeholder Steering Group

Expressions of interest in joining the Stakeholder Steering Group came from the following

Name	Organisation
Stuart Anderson	Conway County Borough Council
Stephen Atkins	NW Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority
Iwan Ball	WWF-UK
Steve Conlon	Irish Marine Federation
Richard Devin	Northern Ireland Marine Task Force
Garry Gregg	Irish Federation of Sea Anglers
Nigel Hamilton	Marine Conservation Northern Ireland
Helen Kirk	National Trust
Glyn Lloyd-Jones	Countryside Council for Wales
Mark Magee	Sea Fishing Northern Ireland
Alan McCulla	Anglo- NI Fish Producers Organisation
Eugene Nixon	Marine Institute, Ireland
Phil Oliver	Marine Conservation Northern Ireland
John Pepper	Oceanwise
Heather Ritchie	University of Ulster
Marguerite Tarzia	Northern Ireland Marine Task Force
Katherine Yates	University of Ulster

This illustrates that the range of stakeholder groups who are interested in playing an active part in the Forum's activities includes those from the public, private and voluntary sectors involved in fishing, environment, tourism and recreation, and maritime data and research. Reference to the delegate list from this and the previous workshops held in Liverpool and Dublin suggest that in addition there is potential interest from those involved in marine energy development and ports and shipping/navigation. There is also evidence of interest from all parts of the Irish Sea region.

Comments from the Feedback Forms

Based on the feedback forms it is evident that the inaugural conference of the Forum was very well received, with over 90% assessing the event as good or excellent. All the comments collected from the forms are set out in Appendix 4. These provide a useful indication of issues that need to be considered in planning future events and also in guiding the next steps for the Forum. A review of the comments suggests that key areas for consideration include:

1. Maintaining momentum and responding to stakeholder interest with a programme of activities with clear outcomes and outputs that demonstrate the value of the Forum. This should include topic focussed elements and further opportunities for networking and information exchange. Connection to planning and management activities at local, national and Irish Sea scales and to EU related developments should be encouraged.
2. Developing clarity in the remit, mode of operation and management structure of the Forum. This should include consideration of ways in which politicians and local communities can be connected to the Forum's activities.

ISMF PROGRAMME 2012/13

Drawing upon the stakeholder workshop discussions and other stakeholder inputs received on the day, a programme of activities for the first year of the Forum has been developed. All delegates from the Liverpool, Dublin and Belfast events will be circulated with further details related to these activities and they become available and details will be posted on the ISMF website following its launch in October 2012.

Date	Activity	Key Output
September 2012	Transition Steering Group meeting/teleconference of existing ISMF Steering Group members and those who have expressed interest in joining the new Steering Group.	Draft guidelines for the operation of the Forum including proposed new management structure for circulation to stakeholders for comment.
October 2012	Development of a basic ISMF website	Website launch
2 November 2012	Irish Sea Issues and Opportunities Workshop involving stakeholder working groups on fishing, environment, tourism and recreation, marine energy development and ports and shipping/navigation. Event to be scheduled as part of the "Europe in my region" Open Day 2012 programme. Venue Merseyside Maritime Museum, Liverpool.	Draft Irish Sea Issues and Opportunities Report (January 2013)
January 2013	Transition Steering Group meeting /teleconference	Circulation of approved Forum Guidelines and new management structure and action to put new arrangements into place
February – March 2013	Consultation on the Draft Irish Sea Issues and Opportunities Report	Final Irish Sea Issues and Opportunities Report (May 2013)
20 May 2013	Second Irish Sea Maritime Forum Conference Venue: Glasgow Scheduled as a contribution to European Maritime Day	Launch of Irish Sea Issues and Opportunities Report Presentations on topical issues and programme of activities for 2013 /14

Appendix 1: What should be the focus of future ISMF actions and events?

	Discussion Group 1	Discussion Group 2	Discussion Group 3	Others Groups
Context	Role and scale of Forum should relate to aim and objectives:			
Actions	<p>Encourage sharing of info and knowledge Point of communication? Drawing together expertise?</p> <p>Evidence: Look at data and gaps</p> <p>Sounding Board for policy /plan devt./ non-statutory advice opinion from stakeholders to government / industry etc / Proofing Tool: Identifying unintended consequences/ providing checks and balances/avoiding duplication of effort</p> <p>Lobby? Strategy development?</p>	<p>Education and awareness: Private sector / Local & Central government NGOs/local communities and local industry Don't reinvent the wheel learn from successful models / Promotion of objectives e.g. through website, LAs within catchment, contact with industry macro /micro /tourism</p> <p>Consensus of agreement</p> <p>Forum to set an agenda and a strategic approach / e.g. Forum to assess if marine bill is fit for purpose</p>	<p>Knowledge experience sharing around the Irish Sea/ Public Awareness Audit of stakeholders knowledge and subject specialisms – an early action for the Forum – profile of members</p> <p>Promotion of coordination of data</p> <p>Problem solving for tricky issues</p> <p>Audit of concerns Harmonisation across a few key themes Integration of MSPs Overarching projects like impact of climate change on the Irish Sea</p>	<p>Information sharing / formalisation of networking mechanism / transnational cooperation</p> <p>Data Portal/ Issues analysis of existing data, identify priorities & gaps/ develop case to lever funding. Coherent mapping across Irish Sea</p> <p>Consultation on planning - Developing understanding and consensus on plans at an early stage</p> <p>Role of forum evidence/data gathering or lobbying? Are the two compatible?</p>

Appendix 1 cont.: What should be the focus of future ISMF actions and events?

Events	Quarterly conferences Driven by government agenda e.g. marine planning/marine licensing		Themed Workshops aimed at target audiences e.g. planners The Irish Sea within the Atlantic Maritime Culture Joint government events	Regular meetings /preferably twice year Annual bash -fewer talks/ more focussed workshops e.g. at end of the day funding ideas for marine related projects. Develop funding ideas for Atlantic Strategy / build network
Suggestions for Forum Structure	Working groups/sub groups	Advisory Panels e.g. Energy &Traditional Industries; Environment Land /Sea Tourism &Leisure/ Research Sub Committee Advisory Group	Make links to Irish Sea Committee of the Regional Advisory Council Steering Group leads on particular topics	Technical and secretarial support required

Appendix 2: What should the Forum's website cover?

	Discussion Group 4	Discussion Group 5	Discussion Group 6	Other Groups
Audience/ Format	<p>Forum membership stakeholder organisations and individuals possibly with areas of limited access</p> <p>Diverse other users industry, NGOs, Las, students, communities, schools, scholars, policy makers, practitioners</p> <p>Webpage plus Facebook communication (events as a means of expanding the Forum)</p>	<p>Sign up to website to maintain an up to date list of stakeholders/ Discussion forum via registration/login</p> <p>Need to identify website audience</p> <p>Web page with potential for online discussion/ needs to be moderated.</p>	<p>Intranet for ISMF members and discussion forum/fora, needs moderation etc and suitable funding/ searchable network would be useful</p> <p>Website could be conduit for stakeholder engagement /meaningful discussion but need to consider that other agencies e.g. DoE NI already have something similar. Most websites too static something more interactive should be aimed for.</p>	<p>Notice board/blog spot</p>
Content	<p>Portal: informational pointer/knowledge signpost, coordination of data/info sharing (i.e. not data creation) one stop shop. Link to existing links/information. Simple base map/key to link data sets requires identification of relevant data and gaps</p> <p>Resource/capacity building: finding contacts/expertise; funding/research opportunities and partners; best practice case studies</p>	<p>Description of the purpose/role/structure of the forum i.e. what it is/isn't. Contact details of the Steering Group</p> <p>Signposting to existing resources (e.g. other authorities)/ Listing of related projects/initiatives</p> <p>Links to other forums and information</p> <p>Visual timeline of all planning processes and how they relate to one another</p> <p>A map browser to link/access to relevant authorities/stakeholders etc./ GIS enabled service that brings together all of the planning authorities existing GIS tools/data</p> <p>Potentially a newsletter (at a later date)</p>	<p>Need to have clear agreed objectives for the Forum which builds trust and use these to guide the purpose of the website</p> <p>No point in having lists of other data sources - all can be googled</p> <p>MMO's newsletter is good. DoE NI stakeholder engagement survey found people wanted <u>email</u></p>	<p>Up to date data bank/ Links to related partnerships/ Data Portal for Irish Sea but needs to be unique and up to date and not just repository but bringing something in</p> <p>Links to funding opportunities. Details of upcoming events outside Forum. List and links to membership</p>

Appendix 2 cont.: What should the Forum's website cover?

<p>Working Principles</p>	<p>Webmaster (grant funded) Quality assurance e.g. scientific data must be up to date/ contributors/links updated and checked still live every 3 months. Protocols for web maintenance e.g. up to date /OPENSOURCE</p> <p>Independently hosted (e.g. University? i.e. not government)</p> <p>Focus of website as a reactive or proactive resource?</p>	<p>Open access website</p>	<p>Need to consider ownership of website?</p>	<p>Possibly small team that understands data/GOIS to create hub of info</p>
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Appendix 3: How can the Forum's activities be financed?

	Discussion Group 7	Discussion Group 8	Discussion Group 9	Other Groups
Core Areas to be Funded		Data Portal Regular Meetings Technical and secretarial support	Funding has to be linked to role of forum and based on deliverables / tasks/ outputs Match to marine priorities and different funding opportunities	
Sponsorship	From stakeholders e.g. aggregates industry, energy developers, private developers, Crown Estate Small contributions from Irish Sea Region states c.£2000 min	Developer funding - likely to be small amounts and would need to be linked to clear added value not just talking shop Direct sponsorship for events		Ease of engagement with sectors such as renewable/fisheries maybe a means of leveraging funding from relevant sectors.
Membership contributions	From current participants and development of a membership idea including: Scottish Coastal Forum, Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum and others, statutory bodies	Each forum member/stakeholder to provide low level contribution e.g. £250 each (x50)		Self financing (through charging for events?)
EU funding	ERDF Ecosystem Resilience and Diversity Fund Atlantic Strategy: combining a range of EU funding streams post 2014 would require match funding. Need to stress funding for ISMF for one stop shop		European funding-accessing/understanding is a priority Use Atlantic Strategy as a funding option with Irish Sea as a sub region	ERDF (INTERREG) LIFE Common Fisheries Policy
Other Grant Sources	Research/practice connections e.g. UK Research Councils e.g. NERC/ESRC/ EU COST funding for networks/ Joseph Rowntree Foundation/ Leverhulme / ESME Fairburn Big Lottery	Linked to Flo Clucas's talk on the Atlantic Strategy – there must be potential for EU funding based on trans boundary and sea basin focus		
Levy etc	e.g. new marine aggregates levy Planning gain from large developments £x amount for research	Government levy on development e.g. proportion of EIA funds		

Appendix 4: Comments received from the delegate's feedback forms

Excellent range of stakeholders, liaison/discussion with stakeholders (networking), updates on marine planning and Atlantic Strategy. Workshops starting to focus on tangible actions and outcomes. Excellent building/body of support for the forum.

Lack of definite vision of the central role of the forum. Disappointing information on details of spatial planning.

Very useful and informative

Good to rotate venue to all regions. Consider presentation from each sector and how they fit into the Irish Sea. Group needs to keep momentum with regular updates. A basic website is simple but does need effort – it should be the initial catalyst.

Overall interesting – it would be good to get a copy of all the presentations. Given the potential of the Forum I would be interested in having another more focussed meeting on a specific topic e.g. implementation of MSFD.

ISMF needs to deliver something by the way of an action that can show its value e.g. coordinating discussion on MCZs in different Irish Sea administrations or an analysis of social/economic value of fishing across the Irish Sea. Product or outputs will encourage buy-in.

Would benefit from all presentations being in the pack. Screen not big enough.

Some repetition between speakers. Ok for first ISMF meeting. Future ones need to be more focussed with specific outcomes, more time for networking, could have more stands

Attwood's presentation was an eye opener to parochial nature/approach/viewpoint to issues in NI. Don't for a minute think that his views are indicative of the wider thought processes as work at this side of IS but perhaps indicative of environment in which policy decisions may be made. Updates from IS administrations useful.

Extremely interesting and relevant conference. Well organised and efficiently chaired.

Very informative update following on from Liverpool and Dublin. Worthwhile and interesting discussions and workshops.

Unclear what the conference was aiming to achieve. The first part of the day was really useful but the afternoon a bit stale as I think that most participants were unclear as to what the ultimate role of the Forum is – perhaps that was the point of the day? Great that it ran to time!

Dont think we need a print out of all the powerpoint slides for each and every delegate, most will never be looked at again. Surely it is in the interests of resources and reducing waste it would be better to email them and give people the choice

I think the forum is in danger of having what Einstein said is a profusion of ? and a confusion of ends. I thought this forum would have as one of its primary aims of advocating on behalf of local coastal communities and in that respect it will be Political in nature. Unless local politicians can see its point, funding etc is either irrelevant or easy!

Speakers at tope table needed microphones

On occasion it was difficult to see what the speakers were presenting. Great networking opportunity.

In future, and acknowledging that this was the inaugural conference, it would be useful to have more time for discussions on focused topics which could feed into current government consultations/early engagement/marine planning etc.

Very useful but need clarification on outcomes of the Forum and key objectives in the longer term.

Some good speakers and some not so good. Didnt feel the workshop sessions were very useful. It was good to find out about the forum and some good ideas came out.

As a single event I felt that it was excellent. Both well organised and a great forum for the sharing of information about how each state is progressing MSP. However, on a broader note, it is concerning that the forum doesn't have a clear remit and the afternoon sessions showed that different attendees had different intentions/aspirations for the forum. Without a clear direction/remit the forum will struggle to continue despite the obvious good will in the room. This is needed ASAP.

Looking at the Irish Sea as one and not different bits

Really worthwhile day – might be good to include some current marine research project findings that are ongoing, e.g. PISCES – but excellent to see that there will be outputs and future meetings.

Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum have an excellent mapping tool that could be developed further for wider ISMF use.

Venue too hot. Option to choose a workshop to be in may have led to having more informed participants.

Very informative, but information was fractions of too many points.

Further opportunity for questions and discussions welcome. In relation to the last session would perhaps have been useful to focus on question A as B and C are very much dependent on that.

For further information regarding the Irish Sea Maritime Forum please contact

Sue Kidd and Lynne McGowan
Department of Civic Design
School of Environmental Sciences
University of Liverpool
Liverpool
L69 7ZQ

Tel +44 (0)151 794 3111
suekidd@liv.ac.uk
cd0u10a1@liverpool.ac.uk

Caroline Salthouse
North West Coastal Forum
c/o Sefton Council
Ainsdale Discovery Centre
The Promenade
Shore Road
Ainsdale on Sea
Southport
PR8 2QB

Tel +44 (0) 151 934 2966
caroline.salthouse@sefton.gov.uk