

Across the Sands of Dee 2019 WORKSHOP SUMMARY REPORT

A North West Coastal Forum event in partnership with
the Marine Management Organisation

9th September 2019, Riverside Innovation Centre, Chester



Marine
Management
Organisation



Contents

Event Summary	3
Introduction	4
Event Aims	4
Dee Coastliners – Dee Estuary Governance Workshop Session Summary	5
Marine Planning Challenge Workshop Session Summary	7
Analysis and Conclusions	8
Final Thoughts	8
Programme	9
List of Attendees	10

Event Summary

This event was delivered by the North West Coastal Forum as part of the Marine Management Organisation's Enhancing Stakeholder Engagement project, funded by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

The target audience was cross-border stakeholders who have an interest in the Dee Estuary and wider Liverpool Bay and are existing or potential stakeholders for both the north west marine plans and the Welsh National Marine Plan. The delegate numbers were restricted due to the constraints of the marine planning game, so parallel workshops took place and were repeated to enable a greater number of people to participate.

The event met its aims well. In total 34 people attended a very successful day. 94% of those that provided feedback found value in attending the event overall and 100% found value in hearing the marine planning updates on the north west marine plans and the Welsh National Marine Plan. Of the two workshops the Dee Coastliners: Dee Estuary Governance workshop session was found useful by 95% of those participating and the Marine Planning Challenge Game was found useful by 88% of those participating.

The delegate pack included a form where people could sign up to receive information on marine planning from the Marine Management Organisation, the Welsh Government and information on general marine and coast-related news and events from the North West Coastal Forum. 20 forms were completed on the day and an additional 2 people signed up after the event to receive further updates on marine planning from the North West Coastal Forum and / or the MMO and / or the Welsh Government; their details will be passed on to those organisations as appropriate.

The day's presentations and this summary report will be made available on the North West Coastal Forum website at www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk.

Caroline Salthouse
North West Coastal Forum
September 2019



Ed Wright, from the Marine Management Organisation, updating delegates on progress on the north west marine plans.

Introduction

This event was delivered by the North West Coastal Forum as part of the Marine Management Organisation's Enhancing Stakeholder Engagement project, funded by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. The target audience was cross-border stakeholders who have an interest in the Dee Estuary and wider Liverpool Bay and are existing or potential stakeholders for both the north west marine plans and the Welsh National Marine Plan.

Event Aims

The event was designed to:

- Provide insight into progress on marine planning progress in both the north west marine plans area and the Welsh National Marine Plan area
- Raise awareness of the forthcoming consultation on the draft north west marine plans later this year
- Encourage stakeholders to sign up to be kept informed about marine planning in England and Wales
- Enhance stakeholders' understanding of marine planning through participation in the Maritime Spatial Planning Challenge board game – a 'serious' game developed by the Dutch Government and NHTV Breda University of Applied Sciences that uses game technology and role-play to support communication and learning for marine planning. The version used was Liverpool University's Sustainable Coasts and Oceans edition. For more information see: <http://www.mspchallenge.info/sustainable-coasts--oceans-edition-2017.html>
- Enable delegates to learn about and explore proposals for a Dee Estuary-wide project – Dee Coastliners. Dee Coastliners is a Tidal Dee Catchment Partnership project led by Cheshire Wildlife Trust and supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This workshop session focussed on cross-border working including future needs and aspirations.



Rachel Mulholland, CEFAS, on behalf of Welsh Government, updating delegates on progress on the Welsh National Marine Plan.

Because of the limitations of the number able to play the game at any one time the workshop was limited to a maximum of 36 delegates which equated to 3 teams of 6 playing the game in successive sessions.

Summaries of the workshop sessions, provided by the workshop session deliverers, are given below.

Dee Coastliners – Dee Estuary Governance Workshop Session Summary

Workshop session outcomes

1. An understanding of current Dee Estuary governance and if there are any gaps.
2. An understanding of improvements stakeholders would like to see in Dee Estuary governance.
3. Suggestions of activity to improve estuary-wide governance including extent of need for a Dee Estuary Partnership and how it can be maintained in the longer term.

Workshop questions

1. *Where are we now?*
 What is the current governance of the Dee Estuary?
 - Outline current estuary-wide partnerships/groups and remits
 What is the current status of Dee Estuary governance?
 - SWOT analysis for current Dee Estuary governance
 What are the current governance issues on the Dee Estuary?
 - Outline current governance issues/needs
2. *Where do we want to be?*
 What does good governance of the Dee Estuary look like?
 - Discuss and list outcomes
3. *How can we get there?*
 What challenges and opportunities do you see to increased cross-border collaboration?
 What activities would contribute towards improving Dee Estuary governance?



Sarah Bennett, Cheshire Wildlife Trust and Lucy Taylor, Severn Estuary Partnership, introducing the Dee Coastliners workshop and an example of effective cross border partnership working

Workshop outputs

Information was collected on the extent of known groups and partnerships which work across the Dee Estuary. Some worked cross-border and covered the entire estuary whilst others stopped in the middle of the estuary at the England/Wales border.

Whilst there is a passion from groups and partnerships to ensure the sustainability of the Dee Estuary it was concluded that communication between those groups/partnerships could be improved to maximise efficiency and create a join-up approach to estuary management.

There appeared to be a need for improved communication, collaboration and information sharing across the estuary and the need for an overarching group/partnership to facilitate this. It was clear that the emphasis was on adjusting the remit of a current group/partnership to fulfil this role rather than the establishment of a new partnership. The Severn Estuary Partnership was seen as a great example of cross-border working and collaboration.

Marine Planning and the MCZ network has raised awareness of marine and coastal issues and provides the momentum and opportunity to liaise with stakeholders to improve collaboration across the estuary.

[Dee Coastliners, a Tidal Dee Catchment Partnership project supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and led by Cheshire Wildlife Trust.](#)



Delegates participating in the Dee Coastliners project workshop session

Marine Planning Challenge Workshop Session Summary

As part of the event run by the North West Coastal Forum in partnership with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), Sue Kidd, Stephen Jay and Hannah Jones from the University of Liverpool led an interactive workshop session using the MSP Challenge Board Game. The game was originally conceived in 2011 in the Netherlands by the Dutch government, and was developed in association with Signature Games, led by Igor Mayer, currently of NHTV Breda University of Applied Sciences. It is a way of introducing stakeholders to marine spatial planning in an interactive and interesting way. The table top strategy game involves a fictitious sea basin called the Rica Sea which is displayed on the board and different maritime activities are represented by colourful tiles with various symbols. It is a form of 'serious gaming' where the aim is not to win but to learn.

The version of the board game played at this event has been specifically developed for the Liverpool Institute for Sustainable Coasts and Oceans (LISCO) to be used as a tool both in an educational and stakeholder engagement capacity. Stakeholders who attended this event included representatives from local authorities, industry, coastal partnership and NGO's.

The Rica Sea is surrounded by three countries and participants were evenly split amongst them. In their teams participants first familiarised themselves with the geography of their country and existing industry and infrastructure. Each team summarised their findings to the rest of the group. The teams then developed planning objectives for their country. These varied greatly, with some teams placing an emphasis on sustainable development while others developed more economically driven objectives. The teams then divided into sectoral roles, with players placing tiles on the board to represent development of their particular sectoral activities following negotiation with other members of their team and with neighbouring countries. This was with the aim of fulfilling their team's planning objectives. The final session allowed for group discussion about transboundary issues arising from the pattern of development that had emerged. This prompted debate for example about opportunities to take a collaborative approach to renewable energy and transport development. The importance of communication between neighbouring countries became apparent as the game reached its conclusion reflecting a key theme of the day as a whole.

Participants generally found the game useful and thought-provoking. Suggestions were also made about how to improve its use in the future, such as providing a budget and costs for the activities that are placed on the board. We welcome these suggestions, as they would introduce more realistic aspects of coastal and marine planning to the game.



Delegates participating in the Marine Planning Challenge Game workshop session

Image © H Jones

Analysis and Conclusions

The event successfully met all its aims, in particular in attracting new stakeholders with an interest in the northern marine boundary between England and Wales. All who participated found the presentations and workshop sessions useful in giving them up to date information about progress on marine planning and a deeper insight into the complexities of marine planning across boundaries. They also appreciated the opportunity to help shape a new cross border project.

Working with both IEMA and the RTPI and the ensuing additional publicity brought new stakeholders to the event, as did publicising the event through existing cross border groups such as the Liverpool Bay Coastal Subgroup. Contacting town councils as well as local authorities in the area attracted new interest from elected members.

Feedback from the workshop sessions and presentations has been fed back to the appropriate people. The feedback from the marine planning challenge game in particular is likely to prove useful in planning further sessions of using the game by Liverpool University as each new session and audience provides an opportunity to test different ways of using the game to help people get the most out of it and better understand marine planning at a spatial scale.

Final Thoughts

This is the second annual cross border event using the 'Across the Sands of Dee' title, with both events held so far being convened by the North West Coastal Forum as part of the Marine Management Organisation's Enhancing Stakeholder Engagement project, funded by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

There is no further funding from this source to hold future events but if funding could be found the two successful annual events already held could provide a useful precedent for a regular cross border event. e.g. an annual or biennial 'Across the Sands of Dee' workshop or conference, bringing cross border stakeholders together to explore ongoing cross border marine issues.

Programme

10:15 **Introduction & Welcome** - Dave McAleavy, Conference Chair & Chair of the North West Coastal Forum

10:20 **Implementing Marine Planning - Progress in England and Wales:**
 The North West Marine Plans - Ed Wright, Marine Management Organisation
 The Welsh National Marine Plan -Rachel Mulholland, Cefas, on behalf of Welsh Government
 Questions

11:10 **Coffee break**

11:30 **Break out into Parallel Workshops:**

Group 1: Marine Planning Challenge Game	Group 2: Developing the Dee Coastliners Project: Cross-border Partnership Working
Introduction to the Marine Planning Challenge Gaming Session - Sue Kidd & Stephen Jay, Liverpool University Marine Planning Challenge Game	Introduction to the Dee Coastliners Project - Sarah Bennett, Cheshire Wildlife Trust Cross-border Partnership Working - Lucy Taylor, Severn Estuary Partnership Dee Coastliners Workshop

13:15 **Lunch and networking**

14:00 **Workshops sessions swap over and continue:**

Group 1: Developing the Dee Coastliners Project: Cross-border Partnership Working	Group 2: Marine Planning Challenge Game
Introduction to the Dee Coastliners Project - Sarah Bennett, Cheshire Wildlife Trust Cross-border Partnership Working - Lucy Taylor, Severn Estuary Partnership Dee Coastliners Workshop	Introduction to the Marine Planning Challenge Gaming Session - Sue Kidd & Stephen Jay, Liverpool University Marine Planning Challenge Game

15:45 **Plenary: feedback from both workshops and discussion**

16:15 **Summing up and next steps** - Caroline Salthouse, NWCF

16:25 **Closing thoughts** - Conference Chair

List of Attendees

Sarah Bennett	Cheshire Wildlife Trust	Cllr Christine Warner	Neston Town Council and CWaC
Aurelie Bohan	Natural England	Cllr Steve Wastell	Neston Town Council
Peter Bryson	RYA North West	Cllr Geoffrey Watt	Wirral Council
David Butler	Cheshire West & Chester Council	Ami Weir	Cheshire West & Chester Council
Philip Cheek	Cheshire Wildlife Trust	Ed Wright	Marine Management Organisation
Peter Coffey	Dee Estuary Conservation Group		
Claire Duffy	SP Energy Networks		
John Entwistle	Wirral Council		
Donal Farrell			
Simon Hurst	Environment Agency		
Paul Hyde	In-Place		
Alan Irving	Cheshire Wildlife Trust		
Stephen Jay	University of Liverpool		
Hannah Jones	University of Liverpool		
Sue Kidd	University of Liverpool		
Kate Martin	National Trust		
Dave McAleavy	North West Coastal Forum		
Servel Miller	University of Chester		
Bethan Morris	Denbighshire County Council		
Rachel Mulholland	Cefas for Welsh Government		
David Parker	Dee Estuary Conservation Group		
Lee Rawlinson	Environment Agency		
Georgina Reid	Solway Firth Partnership		
Stephen Ross	Cheshire Wildlife Trust		
Caroline Salthouse	North West Coastal Forum		
Sue Stallibrass	Historic England		
Lucy Taylor	Severn Estuary Partnership		
Katherine Wade	Cheshire Wildlife Trust		
Jess Walkup	Cheshire Wildlife Trust		