

IOSF 2008
Focus Group 3

National Maritime Policies- Are they good models?

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KEY QUESTIONS - Focus Group 3:

- 1 How does the legislation of maritime space interact with other emerging issues (such as the other FG topics of this meeting)?
- 2 How will the Marine Bill, European Blue Book affect the current practices of marine legislation – and how will they not?
- 3 What are the biggest challenges to development of integrated maritime policies on a national basis?
- 4 What is the best example of marine policy which has worked and which has totally failed over the past ten-fifteen years?
- 5 How can the policies of developing countries be helped to mature to ensure sustainable resource base?
- 6 With major international programmes like CoML only part way through, can we realistically develop robust policies?
- 7 What should be the prime objectives of a national marine policy and how can these be influenced by think-tanks, consortia or coordinated scientific and technical advice from organisations such as NOC, GEOMAR, IFRMER, for example?
- 8 How is the UK current marine policy on management and regulation of marine activities, including fisheries and shipping; conflict resolution; marine pollution and environment; conservation and use of marine resources?
- 9 What are the key issues appearing on the horizon which we might consider for such a meeting in a year's time?

REPORT

DISCUSSION FOCUSED AROUND THE MARINE BILL PROCESS AND CONTENT, BUT STRETCHED OUTSIDE THE UK TO COMPARE CURRENT STRATEGIES ELSEWHERE.

- The Marine Bill – Issues raised included the following:

The challenges raised by devolution are probably the biggest barrier to a successful UK marine bill:

Differences in the extent of the areas covered (12nm/200nm) and their different rights and responsibilities;

Potential to have to negotiate with 4 different nations following devolution;

Feasibility of “One licence”;

Solving the same problems over and over again;

Where does politics overtake pragmatics?

What are the practical implications of devolution?

How does the marine bill fit in with other strategies?

Development is currently very “national”;

European Marine Strategy Directive;

European Maritime Policy;

DBerr vs Defra vs DfT;

Have we forgotten about crown dependencies?

Does the bill, or any policy, fulfil sustainable development objectives?

Marine Spatial Planning is key to any national policy- bill is strong in this area

Will the data be available?

The role of the MMO will be crucial;

Will the MMO be adequately resourced in order to achieve its objective?

Will additional money be available?

Will greater pressure be placed on the research community to provide resources?

Is the timescale of the implementation of a network of MPAs realistic (2012)?

- Marine Policies outside the UK

What can be learnt from the maritime policies of other nations?

Nations with major marine industries will have individual policies for each one;

Environment is relatively new issue for many;

Assessment of best practice;

Effectiveness of other policies not easy to judge;

Marine Spatial planning is the major element;

Perfect policy may not work in practice. Down to the will of the government;

Other nations seem to have greater aspirations in terms of international programs;

PCO₂

Argo;

US Ocean Policy has good examples;

Need to improve communication!

Scientists to policy makers;

Policy makers to scientists;

MCCIP, Meteorological community, balanced research.