

MASTS Marine Spatial Plan Community Project Workshop – Workshop Briefing

5th September, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh

1.30-4.30pm in Carnegie Room A

Marine spatial planning in Scotland is at an important stage – the National Marine Plan is being amended in light of the consultation in 2013, to be published this autumn, along with the likely designation of the Scottish Marine Regions (SMRs). The activity of the regional Marine Planning Partnerships (MPPs) is now under discussion, focussing on the areas where planning is underway, in Shetland and the Clyde.

The MASTS Marine Spatial Planning Community Project aims to support marine planning by drawing together the inter-disciplinary science that is essential to underpin effective marine planning. MASTS hosts a broad spectrum of expertise, with huge potential for high quality, collaborative research that is directly useful to marine planning authorities.

The Project recognises that research activities are shaped by a) the needs of the marine planners, b) the available funding opportunities and c) the research capacity in MASTS.

Critically, to access funding for marine planning-related research, the MASTS community needs to think strategically, and collaboratively, to access funding opportunities, particularly from international sources.

Activity so far: the first workshop

Following an initial workshop on 13th June, 2014 (see notes of meeting [here](#)), we are building an understanding of the capacity, expertise and experience across MASTS institutions, and engaging directly with planning authorities, Marine Scotland and regional planners, to understand their needs.

Progress was made in identifying 3 broad topic areas of research needed to support marine planning in Scotland:

1. Data and information for marine planning (e.g. tourism and recreation, bathymetry, etc.)
2. Methods, techniques and tools for marine planning (e.g. cumulative impact assessment, planning for optimised resource use, co-location, etc.)
3. Approaches to marine governance, stakeholder participation and communication (e.g. integrating non-licensable activities, testing consultation techniques, etc.)

The next steps: the second workshop

This second workshop, at the MASTS ASM, will introduce this Project to a wider audience, and seek detailed discussion to support the development of specific collaborative research

proposals, building on pre-existing and new ideas. We will collectively review in more detail potential avenues of funding and the best strategies for targeting these.

We will need to establish:

- Realistic funding opportunities over the short (to end 2015) and longer term (2016+).
- Possible collaborations to take forward specific projects.

Expected Outcomes

We will develop a draft research strategy, comprising short-term and long-term projects, to be considered for funding as a Community Project. This will include an identified set of priority collaborative research ideas, detailing the MASTS members that could be involved. A summary report of the workshop detailing the next steps will be produced.