



Work Package 6.1 Informing Community Stakeholders The Devon Pilot Project – Lyme Bay

1. EROCIPS Aims for a Devon Pilot Project

The Devon Pilot Project in Lyme Bay will specifically address both the general public and key stakeholder groups in Marine Spatial Planning. The intended outcomes of this Pilot will include:

- Raised awareness of the value of Devon's marine environment and its natural resources
- Expansion of EROCIPS GIS mapping to include wider interests and activities (e.g. fishing, recreation and tourism)
- Increased understanding of the potential impacts of oil spills and of the broad principles of oil spill response, including clean-up operations

2. Lyme Bay

Lyme Bay lies on the south coast of Devon. The bay stretches from Start Point in Devon to the tip of Portland Bill in Dorset. Devon Wildlife Trust (DWT) has headed a 15-year campaign in Lyme Bay to protect the biologically diverse rocky reef habitat and seabed communities from the damaging activities of towed fishing gear.

Lyme Bay is one of the most studied seabed habitats in the UK and decisions are yet to be made on this information for a system of Marine Spatial Planning. With the ongoing development of the Marine Bill, the imminent consultation on a Statutory Instrument for a 'closed area' in Lyme Bay and the recent incident involving the MSC Napoli there is a growing momentum amongst stakeholders to implement a system of Marine Spatial Planning in Lyme Bay.

3. Methodology

Lyme Bay habitat and biotope mapping was undertaken in 2006 under EROCIPS Work Package 1.

3.1 Further Research and Mapping the Wider Interests

Community stakeholders and decision makers demand high quality, transparently collected data to inform the management process. Contracts have been let to Plymouth University to undertake three projects in partnership with Devon Wildlife Trust with the aim of, informing the Marine Spatial Planning process and involving the wider stakeholder interests in Lyme Bay.

- **Marine Habitat Sensitivity Mapping in Lyme Bay.** To provide ranked habitat sensitivity mapping in a form suitable for contingency planning and updated /refined mapping of macrobenthic species, biological community types and substrate distributions in a form suitable for marine spatial planning. Results will increase understanding of the potential impacts of oil spills and resource sensitivity and inform the principles of oil spill response and clean up methodology.
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- **Document and Map Patterns of Existing or Proposed Use.** To engage with key stakeholders to provide information about the distribution of current uses of Lyme Bay, and proposed future uses, in a form suitable for marine spatial planning
 - **Economic Analysis of Alternative Uses.** Economic valuation will increase understanding of the impact of an oil spill in Lyme Bay and raise awareness of the value of the marine habitats and resources to the local economy. This project will provide spatially linked information about the relative economic value of alternative uses of Lyme Bay natural resources in a form suitable for marine spatial planning. This will include the construction of a spatial economic model of alternative resource uses in Lyme Bay and the development of a basis for non-use environmental valuation of the ecological goods and services provided by Lyme Bay.

To validate the work, the methodology and final reports will be subject to a peer review process. Preliminary outputs are scheduled for May 2007. Draft final reports scheduled for September 2007 for discussion at the Poole EROCIPS conference. Final reports are scheduled for October 2007.

3.2 Involving and Informing Key Stakeholders

Devon Maritime Forum was set up in 2005 to bring together those with a common vision for the coasts and seas. The aim of the forum is for those who share a vision for the coasts and seas to work closely together to secure the long-term future. There are over 100 members of the Devon Maritime Forum from a cross-section of interest and user groups.

The next Devon Marine Forum Conference on the 15th May 2007 at the Riviera Centre, Torquay will be themed on the Marine Bill and Marine Spatial Planning. The event will be an opportunity for stakeholders to engage with, discuss and debate

- The Marine Bill White Paper
- EROCIPS overview – A focus on the MCS Napoli. Achievements and lessons learnt in response to the incident.
- The EROCIPS Devon Pilot Project – What are we learning about Marine Spatial Planning in Lyme Bay?
- Projects in Devon which will inform Marine Spatial Planning e.g. Finding Sanctuary.

Outcomes of the conference will be compiled into a 'Devon response' to the Marine Bill consultation. The results will inform the consultation on the Statutory instrument for Lyme Bay, enable stakeholders to review how prepared agencies in Devon were to a pollution incident from shipping and provide valuable information on the next steps community stakeholders need to take to implement Marine Spatial Planning in Devon.

4. Keeping people informed

Stakeholders in Lyme Bay have kept up to date with the EROCIPS project through the project newsletter 'Baywatching' and the project website. There have also been numerous presentations delivered locally in the Lyme Bay area and at national conferences.



Feedback to project partners on the Devon Pilot Project will be delivered through the final extended 'Baywatching' newsletter and the EROCIPS final conference in Poole.

Stakeholders can keep up to date with the progress of the work on the Devon Wildlife Trust website www.devonwildlifetrust.org and through the project newsletter 'Baywatching'.
