



Marine Ecosystems Research Programme

**Report on Joint Workshop between MERP and the Marine
Management Organisation**

4th November 2015

Report of meeting between Marine Ecosystem Research Programme and the Marine Management Organisation

*Paul Somerfield
London, 9th November 2015*

A meeting was organised by the MMO to initiate closer working between the MMO and MERP (both the programme and the individual researchers), and to assist the MMO to develop closer working with the academic community and a clearer line of sight between scientific research and management decisions.

The meeting was held at Defra Nobel House in London, November 4th 2015.

Present from the MERP were: Paul Somerfield, Mark Emmerson, Tom Webb, Paul Blackwell, Mel Austen and Icarus Allen.

Present from the MMO were: Adam Cook, Joanna Stockill, James Lawson and Chris Maxwell.

The meeting was chaired by Adam Cook, Head of Evidence at the MMO.

Discussion was free-ranging and informal, interspersed with presentations to introduce or demonstrate particular discussion points. MERP researchers explained their need to record the impact of their research and clearly note where this occurs. This is consistent with what the MMO wants to achieve, to ensure scientific advances can be applied to marine management.

The work being done within the MERP was explained. The development of marine plans by the MMO was discussed in detail, along with area timetables. One of the main components in MERP is using data that is already available, including data that may be relevant to future plan areas (especially the Southwest and Northwest). As the MERP researchers are already working with this data MERP may be able to make it available so the MMO will not need to wait until the models are developed and the full outputs are available. MERP are developing tools that should be useful for decision making so a clear understanding of what the MMO needs is important. Whilst planning is the most relevant area within MMO of relevance to MERP, other teams (including licencing) may want to consider how MERP outputs may be used to affect decisions. A presentation of the MMO logic chain model suggested a useful way to demonstrate links between science and policy, to be explored further. The meeting was very positive, and a series of suggested actions were recorded.

Actions

1. MERP to contact MMO who will put them in touch with the KIM team at the MMO who are responsible for data (MMO contact Natalie Scudder, Natalie.Scudder@marinemanagement.org)
2. MMO to share the data standards and metadata requirements used for external commissioning (MMO contact Natalie Scudder, Natalie.Scudder@marinemanagement.org).
3. MERP to consider what data may be useful for marine plan development
4. MMO to summarize in a couple of sentences what we feel that MERP may be able to deliver
5. MMO Planning to share timelines of when MERP information could feed into decisions
6. MERP to share timeline of when their key delivery dates are to enable MMO to understand which decisions MERP could feed in to
7. When MERP shares information with MMO, Evidence Team to review and share the information with all relevant teams and feed back to MERP as required
8. MMO Planning to determine whether the logic chain model can be shared and share whatever possible with MERP team. This should be even if this is an informal draft document to direct MERP thinking.
9. MERP to review the logic chain model and identify where MERP can provide input and what that input could be
10. If appropriate hold a MERP/MMO workshop in Newcastle to review and work up logic chain connections
11. MERP to share information with MMO about potential for addressing gaps in knowledge identified by MMO
12. MERP researchers to contact MMO if they want a copy of the list of gaps
13. MERP to share details of the SAG session in Manchester (to be attended by MMO)
14. Planning to review whether someone from planning should attend and who this should be
15. MMO to discuss with Module 1 the R tools being developed and their use (MMO contact Natalie Scudder, Natalie.Scudder@marinemanagement.org)
16. MMO to review MERP in light of the discussions and provide additional input on where we feel MERP could add value to MMO work (including the timescales of when this information would be required as noted above)
17. All email between MMO and MERP to copy Jessica Heard (jessh@pml.ac.uk) and the evidence mailbox at the MMO (evidence@marinemanagement.org.uk)
18. All interested MMO staff to sign up to MERP mailing list (details on MERP website - <http://www.marine-ecosystems.org.uk/Resources>)
19. All interested MERP researchers to sign up to the planning and/or evidence newsletters from the MMO. Contact MMO for more details.