

## Inter-Agency Committee on Marine Science and Technology (IACMST)

### Confirmed Minutes

**Forty-sixth Plenary Meeting held on Thursday 24 May 2007 from 10.00 at Defra, Nobel House, London.**

<p><b>Present:</b> Professor Sir Howard Dalton, Defra (Chair) Theresa Crossley, DfT Robin Cook, FRS John Lock, Defra Bev Mackenzie, IMarEST Stephen Malcolm, CEFAS Kevin O'Carroll, DTI Havard Prosser, Welsh Assembly Andrew Tate, FCO Jon Turton, Met Office Malcolm Vincent, JNCC Mike Webb, NERC</p> <p><b>Independent Members:</b> Professor Peter Liss Professor Graham Shimmield Ian Townend</p> <p><b>Secretariat:</b> Trevor Guymer</p>	<p><b>Apologies:</b> Mike Bell, Met Office (NCOF) Liz Bentley, MOD (RAO) Paul Canham, UKHO Nigel Heriz-Smith OSI Neil MacPherson, DfID Lt Cdr. Mark Reed, MOD (DIJE) Matt Service, DARDNI Vacant, EPSRC Vacant, EA</p>
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### Welcome and apologies

In his opening remarks, Chairman expressed appreciation on behalf of IACMST for the contribution made by John Portmann, who had died quite suddenly in February. John had been a good friend of IACMST, serving it well for many years, particularly as the coordinator of GOOSAG. He had also been a key member of the UK delegation to IOC. IACMST had been represented at the funeral and had sent condolences to the family, together with messages from colleagues throughout the world.

Chairman welcomed Havard Prosser to his first meeting. The Chairman also took the opportunity, in case of any potential conflicts of interest, to announce that he would be taking on the role of President of MBA on 1 September 2007.

### 1.0 Forty-fifth Plenary Meeting held on 25 January 2007

The minutes were approved for display on the IACMST website.

### 1.1 Review of Actions:

All items had either been completed or would be addressed under subsequent agenda items.

## **1.2 Matters arising**

### **1.2.1 Select Committee inquiry into marine science**

Written input had been submitted in January as approved by members. Subsequently IACMST had been requested to appear at the first formal evidence session on 1 May and Chairman and Secretary gave their view of how this had gone. Links to transcripts and audio recording of the session had also been circulated to members. The issues covered had included: the need for better UK coordination of marine science and technology, funding, monitoring, satellite technology for earth observation, the relationship between IACMST and OSI, links with the Navy, the international dimension, and the skills base.

Mike Webb and Peter Liss also spoke of their appearances before the Committee representing NERC and the Challenger Society respectively where the same topics had been raised. This led to a general discussion. It appeared that the underfunding of marine science and the need for strengthened coordination were well recognized. (When pressed by the Committee, Peter Liss had suggested a doubling of resources was justifiable). It was suggested there might be a case for IACMST involvement in developing a future UK marine strategy but this raised the question of how an IACMST view would add value to the strategies of individual departments. It was agreed the IACMST Retreat would provide an opportunity to discuss further.

**Action: Secretary to ensure that Select Committee issues are considered as potential agenda items for the Retreat.**

## **2.0 Marine Bill White Paper**

**2.1** Following an initial consultation period that ended in June 2006, the White Paper was published on 15 March 2007. A further period of consultation was to end on 8 June. Secretary introduced two papers – an analysis of how far the White Paper took IACMST concerns into account and a draft IACMST response, highlighting the key issues. MDIP had also provided comments for inclusion or as a separate response.

There was a lengthy discussion on how to present views given the separate involvement of many government departments and agencies in formulating the White Paper, perhaps as scientific experts rather than as representatives of organisations. Nevertheless, it was considered important for IACMST to be able to express its concerns on areas within its competence, as it had done in responding to the previous consultation in 2006. It would be appropriate for the Retreat to include further discussion on how the collective view of IACMST on such matters should be handled in future.

It was therefore agreed that the last part of the draft which included, for example, comments on regulation should be omitted and that some of the earlier text should be modified, using proposed wording to be suggested by Members. It was also

agreed that the MDIP paper should appear as an Annex to the IACMST submission.

**Action: Members to send Secretary revised wording for the submission.**

**Action: Secretary to submit amended response to Marine Bill team to meet 8 June deadline.**

### **3.0 EU Maritime Policy Green Paper**

3.1 The EU had put this document out to consultation in June 2006 with a closing date for responses of 30 June 2007. The document was much wider than marine science and technology and focused on economic competitiveness.

Theresa Crossley introduced the item reminding members that DfT was leading for the UK Government response. A consultation exercise had been conducted and a scrutiny debate was held in the House of Commons in March 2007. A draft response was about to be circulated. As with the Marine Bill White Paper, she thought that the IACMST response should be limited to non-policy issues. However, she saw nothing contradictory in the present draft and thought it made some valuable points.

Secretary then provided some background to the draft he had prepared, noting that it had drawn on the response by EuroGOOS, in which he was also involved.

There was a short discussion in which members were informed that there would not be a second consultation, that Germany was thought to be pushing for establishment of an agency for maritime affairs, and that the Marine Board of ESF were also compiling a response. It was anticipated that various statements relating to the Green paper would be made at the Euroceans conference in Aberdeen at the end of June.

It was agreed that the draft IACMST response when tidied up was suitable for submission.

**Action: Secretary to complete response and submit to the EU as soon as possible.**

### **4.0 Progress With Underwater Sound Forum**

4.1 Peter Liss, as Chairman of the Forum, gave a verbal summary. The Forum had had its second meeting on 27 March with 14 bodies represented; encouraging progress continued to be made. A request for funds from members had met with some success. There was a presentation on the value of Controlled Exposure Experiments. This of course raises ethical issues and the need to have a procedure for reviewing experimental plans in that context. It had been suggested that IACMST might have a role to play in setting up such a review group. A second presentation, by the Forum's representative from the Joint Industry Programme of

the Oil and Gas Producers, outlined their research programme. It was international, had \$8 million per annum funding, had a policy of open publication, and would be archiving data at BODC.

The meeting had then reviewed the Forum's work in addressing recommendations in the IACMST working group report on underwater sound. So far this had been focused on tools/protocols and the utility of existing conventions, e.g. whether UNCLOS could be adapted to cover developments in this area. The next meeting was scheduled for 3 July.

## **5.0 Plans For 2007 Retreat**

5.1 Chairman introduced the topic, referring to a paper produced by the Secretariat. There seemed to be general enthusiasm for a Retreat. The IACMST Office has explored dates and suitable venues and as a result Dartington Hall on 8-10 October was proposed. There was now a need to firm up on arrangements and to develop a programme making good use of such an opportunity to develop IACMST thinking, given present and future challenges in marine science and technology and its coordination. It could, for example, pick up on the point raised under Item 2 on departmental versus personal representation. It would also be appropriate to follow up an action from the last meeting - changes to the structure and pattern of IACMST meetings.

It was agreed that a small group should be set up to develop plans: Graham Shimmield (Chair), Stephen Malcolm, Robin Cook, Peter Liss, and Secretary. Some topics for consideration were mentioned: whether the UK needs a marine strategy and, if so, how it might be produced; consideration of what has happened so far regarding the horizon-scanning topics identified at the last Retreat – perhaps looking more closely at ocean acidification and its policy implications; and, more broadly, marine climate change.

**Action: Planning group to develop ideas for programme and consider list of invited participants.**

## **6.0 GOOSAG**

### **6.1 Argo**

Jon Turton, the UK Argo Project Manager, introduced his circulated paper. The international programme will reach its initial 3000 float target later this summer; an effective data system has been developed and Argo has become the exemplar of the ocean observing system. The UK was at the forefront of science using Argo data, but there was a pressing need to continue measurements for the next 5-10 years to demonstrate full benefits of global array.

Problems continued in securing UK funding. The Comprehensive Spending Review was no longer viewed as an appropriate mechanism to transition from R&D to operational status so existing arrangements would have to be extended.

An immediate problem was the reduction in the MoD contribution which also reduced Defra's because of a long-standing agreement tying one to other. Also, NERC funding through Oceans 2025 though very welcome was not quite at the level needed, e.g. it didn't include provision for work on the Southern Ocean Data Centre. However, because the programme is classed as national capability the good news was that NERC funding for Argo might continue for ten years. There may also be other grant proposals which would augment NERC contribution. As a consequence, the UK would be able to fund only 15 floats in the present financial year instead of the original aim of 45.

Chairman reported that he was in discussion with the Government's CSA about how to fund UK subscriptions to international programmes. Writing to the relevant departmental CSAs might be one course of action. It was also noted that other countries were facing similar issues. John Lock pointed out that there was a EuroArgo infrastructure bid in to the EU system but that wouldn't by its nature be able to fund floats.

**Action: Chairman to write to CSAs of Defra, MoD and NERC, encouraging developing agreement on long-term arrangements.**

## 6.2 General

Ian Townend reported on other aspects of GOOSAG. A report had been commissioned from NCOF; a draft final report had been received and was undergoing revision following comments by GOOSAG. The secondment arrangements mentioned at the previous plenary meeting were now in place with staff from the Met Office involved. Additionally, the services of Ralph Rayner were also being employed to see that international aspects were being covered. The work programme had concentrated on incorporating GOOS Strategy into UKMMAS, and compiling the national report to I-GOOS.

Representation of GOOSAG members within UKMMAS appeared satisfactory. There was a need to prioritise elements of the UK GOOS Strategy and to take these forward within the UKMMAS framework. However, as GOOSAG itself had been wound up there was concern over the resources which would be available to UKMMAS Tier-3 groups, including HBDSEG which had primary responsibility for GOOS. This led to a recommendation to IACMST that it should maintain a watching brief with some form of report back from members to the January plenary.

A question was raised as to whether the chair of HBDSEG, Jane Hawkrige had sufficient clarity over what was required? Ian Townend said that, with this issue in mind, Jane had attended the last GOOSAG meeting and was also a member of the UK delegation at the forthcoming I-GOOS meeting.

**Action: Secretariat to arrange for reporting back from HBDSEG to IACMST Plenary in January.**

## **7.0 MEDAG/MDIP Chairman's report**

### **7.1 MEDAG**

Peter Liss highlighted some topics discussed at the Action Group's meeting in Liverpool. The website had been upgraded and the moored current meter data DVD had been produced. In 2007, the full economic cost basis under which MEDAG operated was changing to 80% overheads, putting a strain on the budget line for sponsors (in future this will be increased to 105%). In addressing an action from May Plenary on INSPIRE, he reported that this was included within the agreed MEDAG work programme. The INSPIRE Directive places an onus on organisations to hold and provide data in particular formats; this could lead to a drain on resources, which may have greater implications for MDIP, e.g. in connection with the portal, than for MEDAG. The Met Office also have concerns about INSPIRE as they already work to agreed international formats and they exchange data in real time. For the marine community, INSPIRE is moving things in the right direction.

### **7.2 MDIP**

Peter Liss also reported on progress in MDIP. The report on Phase 1 is being prepared; a proposal for Phase 2 will be put to sponsors in the autumn and it will have more realistic costings than in Phase 1. A large unknown is the requirements associated with the proposed Marine Management Organisation but these will have to be dealt with at future stage.

**Action: IACMST Secretariat and MDIP/MEDAG Secretariat to arrange sponsors meeting in autumn 2007.**

### **7.3 Joint MEDAG/MDIP activities**

Sponsors of the two groups were being asked to review budgets, a Forum on Marine Heritage was planned for July, and further issues of Marine Data News were planned for the summer, though there were uncertainties in funding its publication beyond autumn. Discussions had been held on the future of MDIP and MEDAG as there was growing pressure to amalgamate the two groups. IACMST requested that a paper plenary giving arguments for and against merging and the means of achieving it should be produced for the September Plenary. IACMST's view at this stage favoured amalgamation unless there were convincing counter-arguments.

**Action: Peter Liss/Secretariat to arrange for paper on MDIP/MEDAG amalgamation to be circulated before September Plenary.**

## **8.0 Any Other Business**

8.1 Sir Howard Dalton was stepping down as Defra CSA in September. Secretary had canvassed opinion within IACMST and it had been agreed that he continue as IACMST Chairman until at least the Sept 2008 Plenary.

8.2 John Lock reported that a marine bioresources programme will be run by NERC, proposals being evaluated on quality of science, proposed collaboration, and applicability to fisheries management. The NERC contribution will come from the new Strategic Ocean Funding Initiative.

8.3 Bev McKenzie announced that a joint Royal Meteorological Society/IMarEST meeting on GOOS will take place on 31 October 2007. The aim was to get industry involved and sponsors include: Shell, IOC, JCOMM, NOAA, IACMST. Participation would be by invitation.

## **9.0 Date of next meeting**

9.1 The date of the next meeting is:

**13.00 on Thursday 13 September 2007, at Nobel House.**

**IACMST Forty-Sixth Plenary Meeting**

**Action List**

<b>Action No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action by</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Secretary to ensure that Select Committee issues are considered as potential agenda items for the Retreat</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Members to send Secretary revised wording for Marine Bill submission</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Members</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Secretary to submit amended response to Marine Bill team to meet 8 June deadline</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Secretary to complete response to EU maritime Green Policy Paper and submit to the EU as soon as possible</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Planning group to develop ideas for programme and consider list of invited participants</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Retreat Planning Group</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Chairman to write to CSAs of Defra, MoD and NERC, encouraging developing agreement on long-term arrangements</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Secretary to arrange for reporting back from HBDSEG to IACMST Plenary in January</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>IACMST Secretariat and MDIP/MEDAG Secretariat to arrange sponsors meeting in autumn 2007</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Secretary MDIP/MEDAG Secretariat</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Peter Liss/Secretariat to arrange for paper on MDIP/MEDAG amalgamation to be circulated before September Plenary</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Peter Liss/Secretary</b>

## List of Abbreviations

<b>BODC</b>	<b>British Oceanographic Data Centre</b>
<b>Cefas</b>	<b>Centre for Environment, Fisheries &amp; Aquaculture Science</b>
<b>CSA</b>	<b>Chief Scientific Advisor</b>
<b>DARDNI</b>	<b>Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland</b>
<b>Defra</b>	<b>Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs</b>
<b>DfID</b>	<b>Department for International Development</b>
<b>DfT</b>	<b>Department for Transport</b>
<b>DTI</b>	<b>Department of Trade and Industry</b>
<b>EA</b>	<b>Environment Agency</b>
<b>EPSRC</b>	<b>Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council</b>
<b>ESF</b>	<b>European Science Foundation</b>
<b>EU</b>	<b>European Union</b>
<b>EuroGOOS</b>	<b>European Global Ocean Observing System</b>
<b>FCO</b>	<b>Foreign &amp; Commonwealth Office</b>
<b>FRS</b>	<b>Fisheries Research Services</b>
<b>GOOSAG</b>	<b>Global Ocean Observing System Action Group</b>
<b>HBDSEG</b>	<b>Healthy &amp; Biologically Diverse Seas Evidence Group</b>
<b>IACMST</b>	<b>Inter-Agency Committee on Marine Science and Technology</b>
<b>IGOOS</b>	<b>International Global Ocean Observing System</b>
<b>IMarEST</b>	<b>Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology</b>
<b>INSPIRE</b>	<b>Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe</b>
<b>IOC</b>	<b>Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission</b>
<b>JCOMM</b>	<b>Joint Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology</b>
<b>JNCC</b>	<b>Joint Nature Conservation Committee</b>
<b>MBA</b>	<b>Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom</b>
<b>MDIP</b>	<b>Marine Data Information Partnership</b>
<b>MEDAG</b>	<b>Marine Environment Data Action Group</b>
<b>MOD</b>	<b>Ministry of Defence</b>
<b>NCOF</b>	<b>National Centre for Ocean Forecasting</b>
<b>NERC</b>	<b>Natural Environment Research Council</b>
<b>NOAA</b>	<b>National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration</b>
<b>OSI</b>	<b>Office of Science and Innovation</b>
<b>UKHO</b>	<b>United Kingdom Hydrographic Office</b>
<b>UKMMAS</b>	<b>United Kingdom Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy</b>
<b>UNCLOS</b>	<b>United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea</b>