

**DEVELOPING FACILITATION TO ASSIST
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION IN COASTAL AND MARINE
ENVIRONMENTS; A UK PERSPECTIVE**

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TODAYS PRESENTATION

- My Current Research
- Geographic area of research
- UK's Current Policy
- Two Processes Compared
- Contrasting Styles
- Why Respond to Engagement Processes
- Discussions with Facilitators
- The Future
- How do we improve the system?

MY CURRENT RESEARCH

- Current use of stakeholder engagement and public participation particularly with regard to the integration of renewable energy technologies in the marine environment
- Future work will explore ways to improve stakeholder engagement and public participation

METHODOLOGY

- Research is being undertaken using a participatory approach methodology and action research techniques



GEOGRAPHICAL AREA OF RESEARCH



The Irish Sea

UK'S CURRENT POLICY

- The current UK government wishes to devolve more power to communities under the 'Localism Bill' and to develop a 'Big Society'.
- A more streamlined marine policy is being developed, The Marine and Coastal Access Bill, The Marine Management Organisation (MMO)
- Nuclear power, post Fukushima
- The requirements bound within the UNECE Aarhus Convention

TWO PROCESSES COMPARED

The New Nuclear Newbuild (NNN)

Consultation process to decide the locations of the next generation of nuclear power plants in England.

- NNN engagement process 11 sites considered 7 of which are within the coastal environment of the Irish Sea.
- Process was complete before the Fukushima incident.
- 4 Of the proposed sites are adjacent to existing plants

NEW NUCLEAR NEW BUILD SITES



IRISH SEA CONSERVATION ZONES (ISCZ)

Consultation designed to create a stakeholder group to designate the conservation areas of the English sector of the Irish Sea.

- The first of its kind in Europe and one of the largest stakeholder processes undertaken in the UK marine environment.
- Part of a wider process of Marine Conservation Zones.
- Task was to identify main stakeholders and form a representative group of 40 stakeholders to decide the conservation zone areas.



CONTRASTING STYLES

NNN

- Meeting was 2.5 hrs.
- Formal locations.
- Staff failed to welcome guests.
- Meeting was sound recorded.
- Questions vetted by facilitator.

ISCZ

- Full day 9 hours.
- Venues relaxed.
- Good interaction, friendly
- Scribes recorded meeting
- Discourse was encouraged

WHY RESPOND TO THE ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

38 subjects attending the conferences were asked why they were attending the workshops

- 17% From interested NGO's and Councils
- 27% Interested in their environment and were concerned about negative change particularly wind and tidal energy arrays.
- 32% Because of economic concerns to their livelihoods
- 15% Considered change a threat in some form.
- 9% Interested in future economic opportunities

DISCUSSIONS WITH FACILITATORS

- 'Good stakeholder engagement just doesn't happen it has to be successfully designed and skilfully delivered.'
- 'Facilitation requires skilled and dedicated individuals and ethical corporate/sponsor interaction.'
- 'Value the process and give it time to work'
- 'Respect all forms of knowledge'. *Winston Churchill said 'science should be on tap not on top'*
- 'Develop an ethical framework for facilitators and sponsors in which to work.'
- 'Understand that respect for stakeholders underpins all actions'

THE FUTURE

- We have a legal requirement to engage the public
The(UNECE) Aarhus agreement 1998
- The economic situation means that engagement is increasingly likely to fall onto the shoulders of the private sector.
- Can engagement be institutionalised (accredited body of professionals)



A FINAL WORD

Good cake is very important to stakeholders!



Relaxing and sharing food together helps to break down barriers

