

MPA management/governance structures

NATURAL ENGLAND

Jan Maclennan
jan.maclennan@naturalengland.org.uk

Management is the elements of governance that you can readily see: management plans, management groups, patrols, etc.

Peter Jones,
UCL

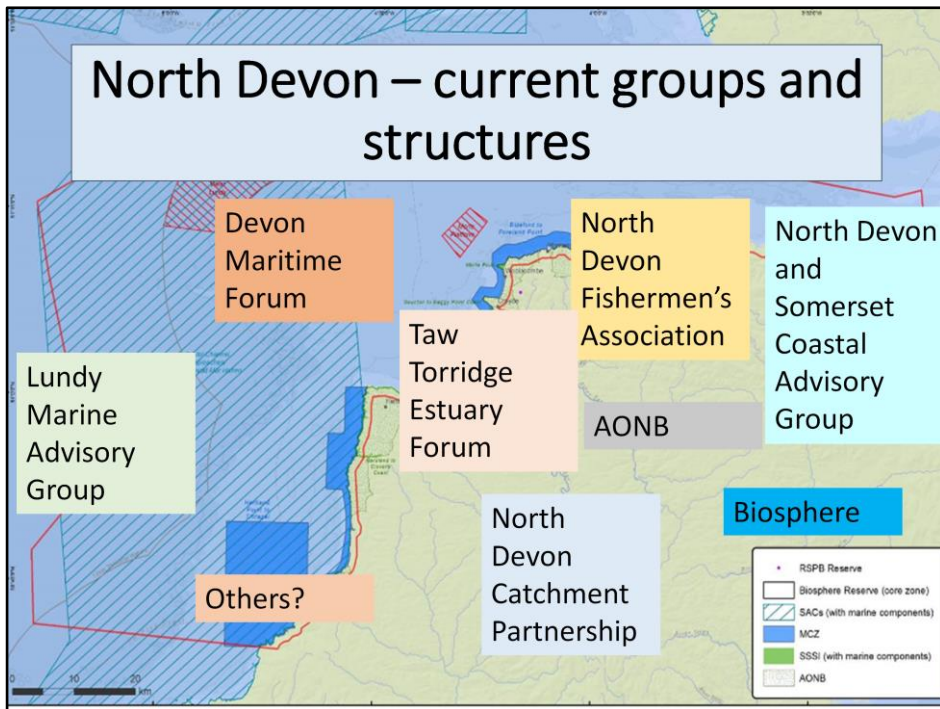
Governance is what you cannot readily see: negotiations amongst people, agreements, norms, market influences, etc.

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Jan Maclennan works in a national team in Natural England – with particular interests in MPA management and governance structures. This includes facilitation of the network of MPA management groups in England which were primarily established as European Marine Site management schemes a number of years ago and are mainly in place on our large estuaries. With the increasing number of MPA designations, NE are keen to look at management coordination needs beyond existing management groups and investigate potential new innovative governance and funding models. This is why Jan is involved in the UK Seas project and working closely with Mel Parker, who is the NE area lead for the marine pioneer, to support this work in North Devon as a case study.

We are interested in determining how we can most effectively manage or govern Marine Protected Areas in North Devon. Management and governance are essentially the same thing. Management is the elements of governance that you can readily see, governance is what you cannot.

We are particularly interested for this aspect of the UK SEAS project to look at how we can most effectively coordinate and work in partnership to deliver efficient and effective MPA management. How can we maintain long term sustainable management groups and partnerships.



A starting point is to look at the current governance structures and management groups that are in place in North Devon. These vary in remit, coverage, frequency, function but may have similar organisations/representatives involved in simultaneous groups. This is just a starting point, there will be others, and we will be exploring in more detail as part of the workshop.

OPPORTUNITIES



- Current coverage/gaps in governance?
- What works well?
- How efficient is it?
- What could be improved?
- New structures?
- Modification of existing structures?
- Appetite for change?

Opportunity with the UK SEAS and pioneer to investigate and trial a different way of doing things

We would really like you to think about the opportunity provided by the North Devon pioneer and the input of WWF and UK SEAS project to have a think about how governance and different groups are currently set up in North Devon and what you might like to see change. The starting point is just asking ourselves the following questions.

In scope of this project: Reviewing existing governance structures and management groups, identifying different options that could provide improvements, identifying the most appropriate option that we could take forward and trial for the project period.

Out of scope for this project: Changing how management measures are actually put in place e.g. organisational responsibilities for providing advice and delivering management under relevant legislation. How fisheries byelaws are implemented for example is set out in the Marine and Coastal Access Act.



Berwickshire & Northumberland
Marine Nature Partnership

- Existing European Marine Site management group encompassed a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Special Protection Area (SPA) + Tees Estuary SPA
- Looked at opportunities to be more efficient and fill gaps - large overlap with a number of other MPAs both geographically and organisationally
- Determined set of criteria for effective management
- Now a new partnership to manage entire network of inshore marine nature conservation designations along the coast with dedicated project officer for coordination but Tees Estuary kept separate.

The North Devon project is pioneering and we haven't really asked these questions yet in other parts of the country but it is something we would like to do particularly with increasing number of MPAs, the need to be more resilient with ever decreasing resources and potential change e.g. Brexit. Using North Devon as an example we would like to test out how best to do this and replicate in other areas of the country in the future.

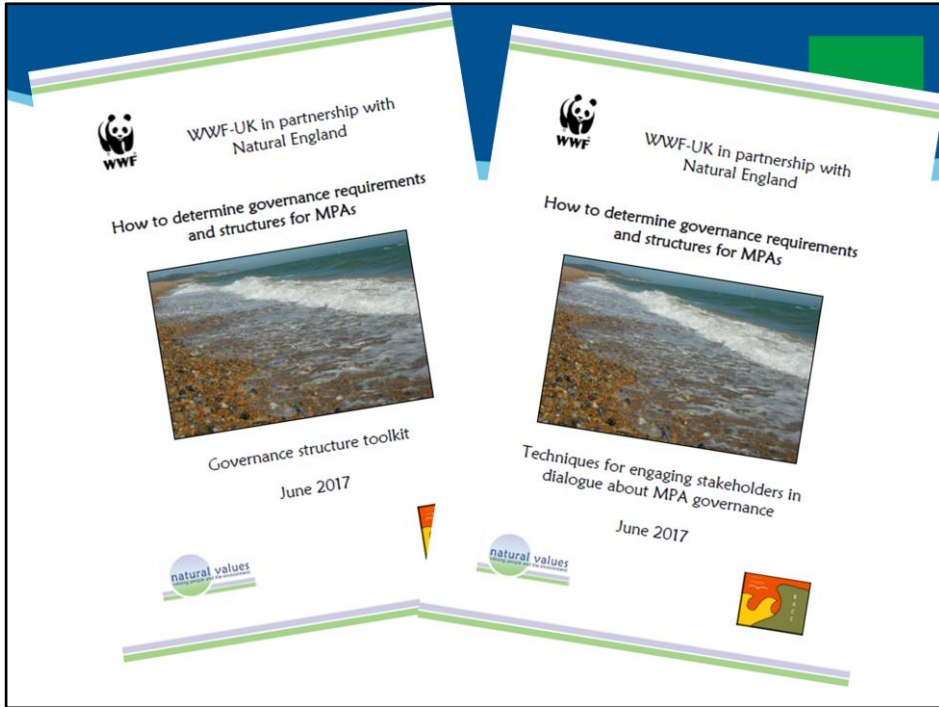
One example where they did start to ask these questions was in Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast specifically focussed on MPAs.

The project was led by the two project officers who were in post coordinating the two existing management groups in place – Tees Estuary partnership and Berwickshire and North Northumberland European Marine Site. The aim was to review how local governance and management arrangements might be improved across nine designated MPAs and four potential MPAs in the study area.

Phase one of this project was the production of a report which provided a baseline analysis of existing governance structures, groups and stakeholders involved in management of MPAs in the region. Feedback was sought from stakeholders to review and correct the information pulled together. Phase 2 involved the

development of 12 indicators of well managed network of MPAs in the region. 6 potential options were assessed against their ability to deliver these 12 indicators and a preferred option proposed along with funding suggestions. These options were then consulted on and a final decision made by the existing management groups as the proposal involved a modification and extension of existing arrangements.

This new regional governance model was applicable to this area – a lot of authorities responsible for management in the different sites overlapped anyway– it may or may not be something we want to explore as an option in North Devon.



WWF and NE have also produced a series of governance toolkits specifically for MPAs on different governance structures – what works in different situations and factors to consider such as spatial context, existing arrangements, complexity and type of issues and the people involved + different techniques for facilitating stakeholders to investigate governance structures. Two others, writing management plans and evidence around the benefits of coordination. We would like to update these with worked through real life examples from the pioneer work.