



Local Government  
Regional Workshops  
Findings Report

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

*In September/October 2008, SeaZone ran a series of Local Government Regional Workshops in six locations in England and sponsored by Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey and the UK Hydrographic Office, with support from the Digital National Framework and the Atlantis Initiative. The objectives of the workshops included:*

- Examination of Local Governments' current and future roles, responsibilities and activities
- Discussion around the legislative and other drivers and initiatives relevant to the coastal zone and data management and how these affect Local Government
- Awareness of existing data supplier products and the current data collection activities being undertaken on the coastal zone and to demonstrate how these initiatives join-up to the benefit of end users
- Identification of key issues and formulation of opportunities, and information/knowledge gaps that need to be resolved as next steps.

108 delegates attended the events ranging from representatives from Local Government (57%), Central Government Regional Offices, Sea Fisheries Committees, Wildlife Trusts, Coastal/Estuary Forums/Partnerships, universities, emergency services and private sector consultants. The workshops consisted of a number of presentations with Q & A sessions followed by a discussion breakout in the afternoon covering three key topics: Policy Involvement, Data Management and Frameworks, Data Requirements (See Appendix 2 for Workshop Programme).

Discussions and delegate feedback was varied, covering a wide scope of issues surrounding current work practices and approaches, with problems predominantly stemming from limited awareness, involvement, communication, promotion, co-ordination and joint working by organisations both internally and externally. There is a great deal of uncertainty regarding Local Government and other associated organisations future roles within the marine environment, resulting in further uncertainty in future data requirements.

The workshops highlighted a general lack of awareness of national geographic information management and procurement initiatives, such as DNF and the MSA. They also confirmed shortfalls in best practice data management and a lack of a cohesive approach to data collection, use and sharing at a national, regional and local level. Together with limited utilisation and benefits attributed to GIS, thereby resulting in business inefficiencies and replication of effort and unnecessary spend.

The feedback however, does provide very real opportunities for legislative decision makers, data management initiatives, GI providers and key stakeholder organisations to help identify and address key issues. SeaZone, Ordnance Survey and British Geological Survey are already in discussions to develop further joint working initiatives to provide improved GI at the land sea interface and ensure products meet future customer requirements.

The recommendations within this report, based on market research evidence and workshop delegate feedback aim to provide relevant stakeholders with opportunities to become further involved and contribute towards the provision of a more cohesive approach to data collection, use and management at national, regional and local levels and push for statutory drivers and adequate funding to be put in place.

## **INTRODUCTION**

This report provides a summary of the outcomes from the Regional Local Government Workshops run by SeaZone in September/October 2008, in six locations (Cambridge, Pulborough, Exeter, Hull, Newcastle and Lancaster). The workshops were sponsored by Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey and the UK Hydrographic Office, with support from the Digital National Framework and the Atlantis Initiative.

108 delegates attended the workshops, predominantly from Local Government (57%) with others representing Central Government Regional Offices, Sea Fisheries Committees, Wildlife Trusts, Coastal/Estuary Forums/Partnerships, universities, emergency services and private sector consultants (See Appendix 1 for workshop delegate demographics).

This report provides a summary of the background and objectives for the workshops followed by observations and feedback received from delegates throughout the Q&A and Breakout sessions. Lastly, conclusions are given with recommended actions for SeaZone and other stakeholders.

## **BACKGROUND**

The UK has one of the world's richest marine environments. As an island nation, we are responsible for a sea area over three times larger than our land area. The marine economy contributes nearly £50 billion to the UK's annual GDP – around 6 to 6.8 per cent of the overall economy. The sector provides 890,000 jobs in areas as diverse as shipping, research, oil and gas production and renewable energy. UK Waters also host a rich and varied biodiversity, which needs careful management to ensure future sustainability.

Increasing environmental and economic pressures, public awareness and scrutiny together with emerging legislation such as the Marine and Coastal Access Bill is changing the way that the coastal zone and marine environment are to be managed. Increased involvement by Local Government and other stakeholders at the local level are being indicated in marine spatial planning, fisheries and other regulations.

SeaZone works with a wide range of private sector and Central Government departments. SeaZone provides data products to Wildlife Trusts, Sea Fisheries Committees, Coast/Estuary Forums and Partnerships, and a handful of Local Government Authorities, mainly in the implementation of emergency planning responsibilities. In response to the changing drivers described above, and following a market research survey earlier this year, SeaZone has undertaken a series of six Local Government Regional Workshops throughout England this autumn (Scotland and Wales are being engaged separately). See Appendix 2 for the Workshop Programme.

The objectives of the workshops included:

- Examination of Local Governments' current and future responsibilities and activities
- Discussion around the legislative and other drivers and initiatives relevant to the coastal zone and data management and how these affect Local Government
- Awareness of existing data supplier products and the current data collection activities being undertaken on the coastal zone and to demonstrate how these initiatives join-up to the benefit of end users
- Identification of key issues/knowledge gaps to help in the formulation of opportunities and follow on actions by involved stakeholders.

## **WORKSHOP RESULTS**

The workshop delegates included representatives from a range of organisations working in coastal protection and management, GIS, emergency planning, environment, engineering and town planning. Whilst it is recognised that individual Local Government authorities vary considerably in structure, approaches and implementation of marine strategy, data management, GIS and data sharing etc, many of the concerns and issues raised were generally of a similar nature across all workshops. It is noted that views expressed by individual delegates may not represent those of the Local Authority as a whole.

### **Workshop Value – Delegate Feedback**

Verbal feedback and completion of some 60 Workshop Feedback Forms indicated that the workshops were both of interest and relevance to delegates, with overall presentation content pitched at the right level. Delegates requests for further involvement and actions was very positive. This included requests for receipt of the Findings Report, further workshops, trialling of SeaZone HydroSpatial and interest in a Marine Mapping Services Agreement. This feedback helps validate proposals for further and continued action.

### **Market Research Validation**

Part of the Introduction Presentation given by Alison Smith, SeaZone Marketing & Sales Manager included an overview of the results from the Market Research Survey undertaken in April/May 2008 (Market Survey Results Report available on request). A limited number of Survey Respondents (12) attended the workshops, providing an ideal opportunity to validate survey results with a new audience. Responses from delegates indicated general agreement with the survey outcomes, with further emphasis provided on the lack of awareness/involvement in legislative proposals (Marine Bill) and data management initiatives such as DNF, INSPIRE and the Mapping Services Agreement.

### **Delegate Discussion Feedback**

The issues and observations gathered from the Workshop Question & Answer and Breakout sessions are summarised below and split into the three topics used in the Breakout sessions.

### **Policy Involvement**

- Awareness of some legislative (International/National) drivers but limited involvement validated by limited submissions to the Marine Bill consultations with submissions often as a result of individuals efforts as opposed to Local Authority strategic activity.
- Limited time or resource to become more involved in these issues, even if wanting too.
- Disappointingly no or little guidance or clarity forthcoming in the draft Marine Bill on Local Government and other stakeholders' future roles and responsibilities.
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) not effectively addressed in the Marine Bill.
- Little guidance on how local organisations are to work with the MMO and the extent of geographic boundaries of responsibilities will be.
- Recognition of limited expertise and resource – already issues within LAs so unsure how new responsibilities both in terms of decision makers but also in using and interpreting marine GI would be resourced.
- Lack of awareness by the citizen in marine/coastal issues – unless the citizen and statutory legislation demands more LA involvement then other issues will take priority – no voters at sea, so need to educate the citizen!

### **Data Management and Frameworks**

- High percentage of delegates unaware of the existence or role of the Mapping Services Agreement Liaisons Officers (ALOs), not surprising given the lack of knowledge of the MSA as a whole (above).
- Limited data management strategies within LAs. Little priority or recognition given to the importance of data management, access and sharing. Lack of knowledge or expertise in data management.
- Little awareness of what data individual LAs hold themselves.
- Difficulties and time spent on sourcing where to find appropriate data so easier and quicker to collect themselves, often duplicating effort both internally and across external organisations.
- A wide range and variety of data captured by LAs and other stakeholder organisations on a project by project basis, funded with public money. No or little consideration given to wider use or accessibility.
- The coast changes frequently; coastal data are often collected for a particular time-frame and are perceived of being of low value and therefore warrant limited need for good data management.
- No cohesive approach to data collection, use or sharing. Observation that drivers for better data management should come from County level to be fed through to districts. More cooperation and communication required to cut down on duplicated effort.
- Little cohesion or strategic implementation of GIS. Limited profile with benefits and uses hardly promoted internally.
- Can see benefit in frameworks but would need to be flexible. Issues of data sharing and licensing need to be resolved.
- Positive views on the principles of data sharing and providing data to national data centres but issues relating to authenticity, interoperability, and payment for products generated from these sources.

### **Data Requirements**

- Need for easier access to information on available data and need for wider availability of metadata.
- Collect a wide range of data themselves but not necessarily made available across the organisation - reluctance to do so due to existing culture, 'power' or 'empire building' issues and funding.
- Raw data of only limited use, interpretation of this data is of more value to a greater number of users e.g. for planning, etc. Inappropriate or no base mapping used for the marine environment.
- Unaware of MSA and access to Ordnance Survey data – comments of LA officers externally sourcing Ordnance Survey data when already paid for and available through the MSA!
- Unsure of future data requirements due to lack of clarity of future responsibilities.
- Coastal Zone critical with interoperable dataset across land and sea seen as vital for future management.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The workshops have provided SeaZone, Ordnance Survey and British Geological Survey with a wide range of views from individuals working across a number of marine environment and coastal zone related disciplines within Local Government, Central Government Regional Offices, NGOs and others.

The feedback has highlighted key issues surrounding current work practices and approaches, with problems predominantly stemming from limited awareness, involvement, communication, promotion, co-ordination and joint working by organisations both internally and externally. There is a great deal of uncertainty regarding Local Government and other associated organisations future roles within the marine environment, resulting in further uncertainty in future data requirements.

The workshops confirmed results from previous market research indicating a lack of awareness of national geographic information management and procurement initiatives, such as DNF and the MSA. They also confirmed shortfalls in best practice data management and a lack of a cohesive approach to data collection, use and sharing at a national, regional and local level. Together with limited utilisation and benefits attributed to GIS, thereby resulting in business inefficiencies and replication of effort and unnecessary spend.

The feedback however, does provide very real opportunities for legislative decision makers, data management initiatives, GI providers and key stakeholder organisations to help identify and address key issues.

Both international and national legislative drivers and initiatives (such as the INSPIRE Directive, the UK Location Strategy, Marine Environmental Data and Information Network (MEDIN) and Digital National Framework (DNF)) are making positive steps towards improving current data acquisition, uses and management practices. Local Government will need to be aware and involved to address effectively, future statutory requirements that may result from these initiatives.

Certainly, the workshops have helped clarify GI providers possible contribution. SeaZone, Ordnance Survey and British Geological Survey are already in discussions to develop further joint working initiatives to provide improved GI at the land sea interface and ensure products meet future customer requirements.

The following recommendations, based on market research evidence and workshop delegate feedback provide relevant stakeholders with opportunities to become further involved and contribute towards the provision of a more cohesive approach to data collection, use and management at national, regional and local levels and push for statutory drivers and adequate funding to be put in place.

### **Policy Involvement**

There was consensus among delegates of the need for greater clarity by Defra towards defining LAs and other stakeholder future roles and responsibilities under the Marine Bill. New legislation will change the way the coastal zone and marine environment is managed. However, statutory obligations will need to be put in place for LAs to respond effectively to these changes.

Guidance and identification of the geographic information and expertise required to meet new responsibilities needs to be addressed at a policy level to force a more cohesive and efficient strategy, thereby leading to better decision making, data sharing and cost savings in the medium to long-term.

### **Recommended Actions**

Further discussion is required between the Local Government Association (including LGA Coastal Issues SIG), the Marine Bill Team and GI providers, informed by the market research and workshops results, to better define the role of LAs and provide guidance on their geographic information requirements to meet the needs of changing legislation.

The LGA is actively engaging with The Marine Bill Team to establish and discuss Local Government's future role and responsibilities within the marine environment and coastal zone. Local Authorities through their LGA representatives have a real opportunity to help shape this role

There is a need for key decision makers within Local Government (Councillors, Chief Executives and Department Heads) and the citizen to understand the issues and importance of managing the marine and coastal environment as a vital resource for future sustainability. SeaZone, Ordnance Survey and British Geological Survey to actively promote these aims.

### **Data Management and Frameworks**

Delegates recognised access to fit for purpose information and data is critical to providing better evidence based decisions, effective implementation and efficient management. Understanding the issues surrounding data collection, management, and accessibility is crucial to successful delivery and need to be addressed as an integral part of national, region and local policy making processes.

There appears to be limited awareness and implementation of data management best practice within LAs. There is evidence of substantial funding for data capture projects but with little adherence to best practice data management principles (e.g. DNF, INSPIRE). Use of the data is generally limited to specific projects with no or little onward sharing or further utilisation.

Lack of awareness of available data both internally and externally within Local Authorities has encouraged and exacerbated individual data collection activities, resultant data silos, limited data sharing and duplication of effort and spend within and across organisations. The problems appear to often stem from different funding streams within Defra (and CLG) without reference to or taking account of other data initiatives, capture activities or national interest.

Whilst current procurement mechanisms (such as the Mapping Services Agreement and the Pan Government Agreement) provide procurement and cost benefits, issues relating to internal promotion and ensuring investment utilisation and accountability remain unaddressed. Perhaps most worryingly, the workshops highlighted cases where products readily available under these agreements have been unnecessarily sourced and purchased separately from external providers.

### **Recommended Actions**

GI experts to be involved at the strategic policy level to advise on best practice and to ensure the right tools, information and expertise are available to support new management regimes and activities. Buy-in from organisations and availability of expert resource throughout the implementation process will be critical. SeaZone Ordnance Survey and British Geological Survey, should be engaged in actively promoting these aims.

A GI framework to be developed, commensurate with the legislative framework to address national, regional and local geographic information needs and to ensure consistency between legislation and its related geography (e.g. boundary definition). SeaZone, Ordnance Survey and British Geological Survey to promote through Defra (UK SDI team) and directly with legislators (e.g. Marine Bill Team).

Best practice data collection, accessibility, use and management to national standards to be promoted to support and contribute to national datasets. Data providers, such as Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey and SeaZone/UKHO, to encourage LAs involvement in data management initiatives such as DNF and MEDIN and provide guidance on meeting INSPIRE obligations.

A more coordinated approach to the funding and implementation of data collection is required, involving dialogue between national data providers (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey and SeaZone/UKHO) and between national data providers and LAs. Funding organisations (e.g. Defra and CLG) must be involved in this process for it to be successful.

### **Data Requirements**

Delegates expressed uncertainty surrounding their future GI requirements, attributed to a lack of clarity on their future responsibilities. Local Government is looking for guidance on data requirements as well as clarity on roles. Although knowledge of datasets in details was lacking, there was consensus for a need for better integration at the land-sea interface.

The workshops highlighted a lack of awareness, familiarity and utilisation of existing 'off the shelf' and appropriate base reference products such as SeaZone HydroSpatial and products from Ordnance Survey and British Geological Survey. Data providers acknowledged this has been partly due to their limited engagement with Local Government customers, not helped by disconnect of existing procurement mechanisms. Improved

engagement between data providers and end users is seen as critical to ensure future product development effectively meets future user needs.

### **Recommended Actions**

Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey and SeaZone/UKHO to work more closely together to address increasing demand for interoperable data sets in response to emerging legislation. Similar work is already underway within the Atlantis Initiative and this is likely to be required to support UKSDI.

GI providers to engage with Local Government to promote existing products, inform development and use, management best practice (e.g. implementing DNF) and the resulting benefits. This should be a joined up approach and may extend to providing some form of service provision along the lines of extending the DNF demonstrator to include SeaZone/UKHO and British Geological Survey data.

Local Government, perhaps via the LGA, CLG and/or Defra, to better define their GI needs, promote better data sharing and management to ensure that local data initiatives are undertaken to national standards, and contribute to strengthening the overall GI framework.

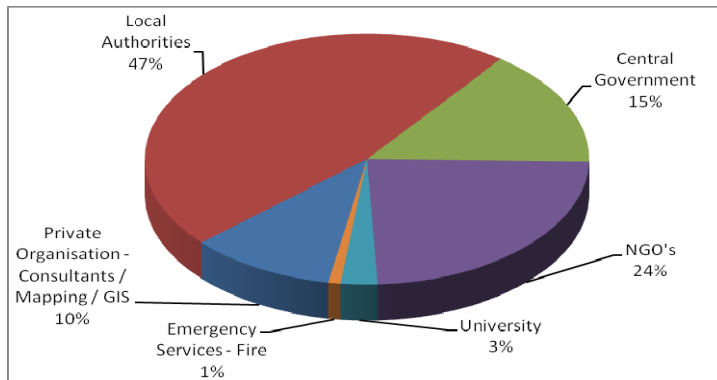
### **Acknowledgements**

SeaZone would like to thank the workshop sponsors, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey and the UK Hydrographic Office and acknowledge the support of DNF and the Atlantis Initiative in undertaking these workshops. SeaZone appreciates the time and effort put into the workshops by the various presenters.

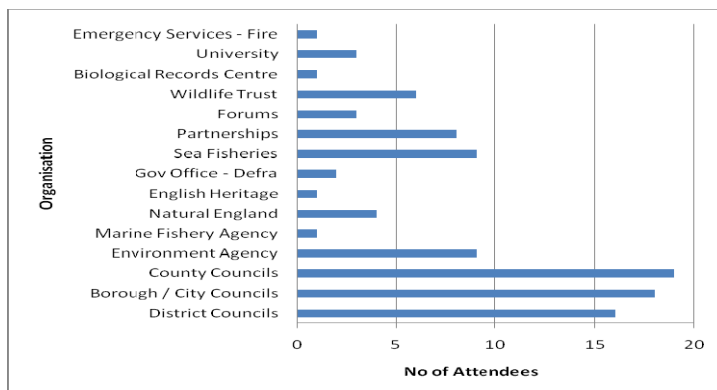
## APPENDIX 1 - WORKSHOP DEMOGRAPHICS

108 delegates attended the workshops in six locations, Cambridge, Pullborough, Exeter, Hull, Newcastle and Lancaster. The majority of delegates came from Local Government (ranging from Unitary/County/Borough/District/City Authorities) Central Government (including EA, MFA, NE, EH & regional DEFRA offices) and other associated stakeholder organisations which we have grouped as NGOs (including Sea Fisheries Committees, Wildlife Trusts, Coastal/Estuary Forums/Partnerships). We also had representation from universities and the private sector working with Local Government.

**Chart 1 – Breakdown of Delegate Sectors**

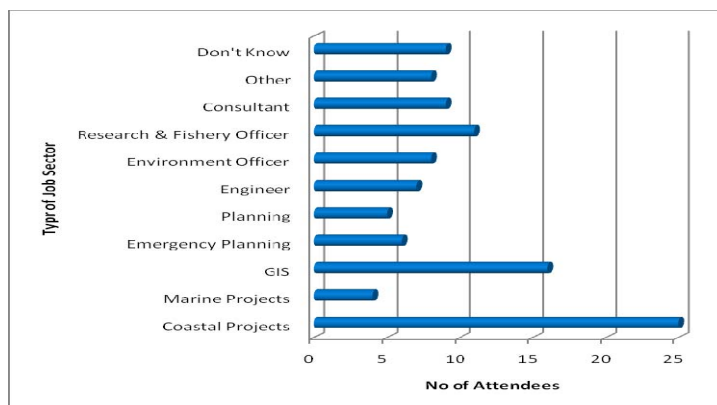


**Chart 2 – Breakdown of Delegate Organisations**



A further breakdown of delegates' roles indicate attendance by a varied group, with just under 25% working in coastal protection and management. Those working with GIS were also well represented.

**Chart 3 – Delegate Roles**



**APPENDIX 2 – WORKSHOP PROGRAMME**

09.30	Registration and Coffee
10.00	Welcome
10.10	Introduction and SeaZone Market Research – Results and Conclusions
10.30	Market Drivers and Initiatives Overview
10.55	Question & Answer Session
11.00	Coffee Break
11.20	Digital National Framework
11.45	Atlantis Initiative – AGI 2008 Best Paper
12.10	Question & Answer Session
12.15	SeaZone - Products and Services
12.40	British Geological Survey - Products and Services
13.05	Question & Answer Session
13.10	Lunch
14.00	Ordnance Survey - Products and Services
14.25	User Perspective – See Below
14.45	Breakout Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Policy Involvement</li> <li>▪ Data Requirements</li> <li>▪ Data Management and Framework</li> </ul>
15.20	Wash Up and Question & Answer Session What's Next!
15.40	End

**Speakers**

	Cambridge 30 Sept	Pulborough 1 Oct	Exeter 3 Oct	Hull 7 Oct	Newcastle 8 Oct	Lancaster 9 Oct
Introduction	Alison Smith SeaZone	Alison Smith SeaZone	Alison Smith SeaZone	Alison Smith SeaZone	Alison Smith SeaZone	Alison Smith SeaZone
Market Drivers and Initiatives	Mike Osborne SeaZone	Mike Osborne SeaZone	Jim Claydon Terence O'Rourke	Mike Osborne SeaZone	Mike Osborne SeaZone	Mike Osborne SeaZone
DNF	Tom Tims Star-Apic	Mike Osborne SeaZone	Keith Murray Defra	Jenny Walsby BGS	Mike Osborne SeaZone	Bob Barr Manchester Geomatics
Atlantis	David Henderson OS	David Henderson OS	John Pepper UKHO	John Pepper UKHO	Mark Stileman OS	Mark Stileman OS
SeaZone	Mike Osborne SeaZone	Mike Osborne SeaZone	Mike Osborne SeaZone	Mike Osborne SeaZone	Mike Osborne SeaZone	Mike Osborne SeaZone
BGS	Matt Harrison	Matt Harrison	Matt Harrison	Jenny Walsby	Bob Gatliff	Bob Gatliff
OS	David Henderson	David Henderson	David Henderson	Mark Stileman	Mark Stileman	Mark Stileman
User Perspective	Caroline Chambers Entec	Tim Dappling Sussex Sea Fisheries Committee	Ken Buchan Dorset Council	Tony Edwards Humber INCA	Caroline Chambers Entec	Catherine Hooper Cumbria Wildlife Trust