

# making waves

> BETTER DATA, BETTER SCIENCE, IMPROVED DECISIONS <

SeaZone

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Issue no.

1

## MARKET FOCUS UPDATE ON LEGISLATION

## UPDATE CENTRAL & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## UPDATE RENEWABLE ENERGY



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## EDITOR'S INTRO

Welcome to our new look newsletter 'Making Waves', bringing you an update on the activities and latest news from SeaZone and the marine community. Special focus is given to updates on legislation, Central and Local Government, Renewable Energy and SeaZone products and services. We will also be publishing regular updates and information through our e-newsletter and website. So keep a close watch out!

We have seen another busy and successful year fly by, culminating in new branding, a growing SeaZone team, a very busy events calendar, the launch of SeaZone GeoTemporal Editor, a successful series of Local Government workshops and a growing customer base.

We have lots to tell but can only bring you highlights in the newsletter. Please see our website for further information or call to find out more and request copies of our printed brochures, product profiles and case studies.

We are always interested to hear our customers' views and ideas, so please have a look at the back page where we detail how you can 'Have Your Say'!

**Alison Smith**  
Editor

# It's a Celebration!

**It's hard to believe that we have achieved so much in such a short space of time!** SeaZone is celebrating its 5th birthday this year and we have much to celebrate. Reflecting on the last five years, we have learnt many lessons, faced many challenges and developed a wealth of expertise and knowledge.

SeaZone offers an expanding portfolio of products and services supplied to a rapidly increasing and diverse market with over 700 public and private sector customers within the UK and overseas.



Dr Mike Osborne, SeaZone Managing Director, "We are proud to have brought a greater understanding of the marine environment and coastal zone to our growing client base and succeeded in raising the awareness of the importance of geographic information at a global level. As we move forward into the next five years we will build on our successes to date, improving both the quality and coverage of our data solutions and developing further strategic working relationships."

SeaZone wishes to take this opportunity to thank all those who have supported our aims, shown interest in our passion and become customers. We look forward to the future and continuing to meet our customers' requirements and needs.

## >> SEAZONE TOP ACHIEVEMENTS

- > SeaZone Solutions Limited established – April 2004
- > SeaZone HydroSpatial launched at AGI Conference – November 2005
- > SeaZone Coastline Mapping Improvement Programme established to resolve the inconsistencies between land and sea – April 2006
- > AGI Exhibitors Technical Innovation Award Winner – October 2006
- > SeaZone Digital Survey Bathymetry introduced – April 2007
- > Collaborated with British Geological Survey (pilot for new SeaBed Geology) – June 2008
- > SeaZone Re-branded and new website launched – September 2008
- > Ran successful series of Local Government Workshops – October 2008
- > Sales Team expanded – February 2009
- > SeaZone GeoTemporal Editor launched at Ocean Business – March 2009



## MARKET FOCUS

IT IS AN EXCITING TIME FOR THOSE INVOLVED IN PROTECTING AND DEVELOPING THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT. EMERGING LEGISLATION AND INITIATIVES ARE CHANGING APPROACHES TO PLANNING AND SECURING BETTER EVIDENCE BASED DECISION MAKING. **HERE WE EXAMINE PROGRESS IN THE UK AND HOW GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION IS SEEN AS CRITICAL TO SUCCESS!**



### The Marine and Coastal Access Bill

The UK's Marine and Coastal Access Bill is progressing well through parliament with Royal Assent earmarked for summer 2009. Central to the Bill is the establishment of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) which will provide a centre of excellence in marine regulation and enforcement, based on the best available scientific evidence.



The UK Bill, MMO and work being undertaken by the dissolved administrations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, all acknowledge the importance of high quality marine data and the need for sound evidence based policy and management decisions. The MMO will work closely with key bodies and experts to ensure access to a large range of data and information to carry out its functions.



In particular, the new marine planning system will require applications be supported by the appropriate information. For decision makers (including conservationists, local authorities, energy companies and coastal developers) access to nationally recognised reference information will be essential. The Government recognises GIS as a key tool when accessing and analysing complex data, with mapping outputs crucial to the planning process and effective communication with stakeholders.

### Delivering the UK Location Strategy

November 2008 saw the publication of Place Matters: Implementing the UK Location Strategy, which seeks to maximise the value to the public, government, UK business and industry of geographic information.

The UK Location Strategy will also address requirements for implementation of the INSPIRE Directive (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe) currently going through transposition into UK law. INSPIRE lays down general rules to establish a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) for the purposes of community environmental policies and policies or activities which may have an impact on the environment.

The most important component of SDI is the information content which is available to users. At the core of this is reference information, i.e. the common datasets, themes or spatial data layers that most people use most of the time (relevant to land, sea and air), and which collectively make up a digital base 'map' or 'core geographies' that can be viewed and queried. The UK Location Strategy is attempting to identify and address these requirements and recently ran a series of workshops to help promote awareness and gain stakeholder feedback and ideas.

### SeaZone's Role

SeaZone's aims and working relationships with customers fit well with those of the Marine Bill, INSPIRE and the UK Location Strategy. The development of SeaZone HydroSpatial not only addresses many of the requirements for marine reference information at a national and international level, but also provides wider and easier access to best available data previously unavailable. SeaZone's belief and promotion of the benefits of adopting best practice data and information management is manifest through the SDI concept. SeaZone is assisting the UK Location Strategy on the marine component of the Conceptual Design and Implementation elements of SDI.

Dr Mike Osborne "SeaZone is proud to be at the leading edge of developing marine geographic information solutions that will help deliver the UK Location Strategy. We will continue to develop and provide the most accurate, up to date and easy to use data and software to support decision making worldwide."

# Government departments continue to rely on SeaZone for marine reference information!

More than a dozen Central Government organisations have renewed their SeaZone Data Licences, with increased user numbers giving wider access to SeaZone HydroSpatial and Digital Survey Bathymetry. SeaZone continues to promote delivery of its products and services through collective agreements to provide easier management, better co-ordination and cost savings to Government. This work is now starting to come to fruition as progress is being made with Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.



## England Replay!

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), English Heritage, Natural England and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) are amongst departments in England that continue to individually license SeaZone data products to undertake their various tasks and responsibilities.

## Wales Leading the Way!

In a major development, a collective agreement has been signed with the Welsh Assembly Government, Countryside Council for Wales and the Royal Commission of Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales. This is a one year pilot agreement covering the supply of SeaZone HydroSpatial and Charted Raster helping to pave the way for wider use and dissemination of geographic information throughout Welsh Government.

## Scottish Ambition!

Scotland's first Marine Bill was introduced to the Scottish Parliament in April 2009 to meet requirements for better stewardship and management of Scotland's seas and increased responsibilities out to 200 nautical miles.

Marine Scotland has subsequently been established to act as the lead marine management organisation to ensure delivery of the Scottish Bill and co-ordination with the UK Marine & Coastal Access Bill.

SeaZone has been working closely with The Scottish Government to deliver a collective agreement for SeaZone products and services to help meet requirements for making Scotland's 'Core Geographies' widely available across government. Work is to continue over the next six months with consultations being undertaken with relevant stakeholders.

## Northern Ireland Recognising the Benefits!

SeaZone has proposed a pilot one year collective agreement to the Northern Ireland Executive (including DOENI, DARDNI, DRDNI, Loughs Agency, DETINI, DCAL) following a presentation to key stakeholders. An agreement is expected to be signed in the next couple of months and will provide Northern Ireland the opportunity to evaluate benefits of using SeaZone HydroSpatial and assess longer term user requirements.

## >> CUSTOMER PROFILE

### Characterising our Historic Seascapes

SeaZone and Maritime Archaeology Ltd have been commissioned by English Heritage to undertake the first application of the Historic Seascape Characterisation (HSC) method via the "England's Historic Seascapes: Demonstrating the Method" Project. Financed by the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF), this project combines a demonstration of the method with the production of the initial instalment of an eventual national HSC database, to be maintained by English Heritage.

HSC presents an archaeological interpretation of the historic cultural dimension of our coasts and seas to identify and map areas whose present character has been shaped by similar dominant cultural processes. In doing so, it complements a similar approach, Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC), already widely implemented by English Heritage on land.

## UPDATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Through a number of campaigns and initiatives, SeaZone is working with Local Government and other key organisations to help identify and address their marine reference information needs!

Local Government, together with Coastal/Estuary Forums & Partnerships, Wildlife Trusts and Sea Fisheries Committees, play a vital role in the marine environment and coastal zone. They have extensive local knowledge and expertise and are ideally placed to take a more proactive role in future management decisions. However, appropriate funding, resources, tools and information will need to be secured to ensure effective implementation.

Discussions are ongoing between the Marine Bill and MMO Teams in Defra, the Local Government Association and other key stakeholders to ascertain roles, responsibilities and working practices. Many Local Authorities are actively engaging in pilot projects ahead of the game to help identify issues and define best practice for marine spatial planning and implementation.

### Review of English Campaign

In 2008 SeaZone embarked on a successful campaign to engage with English Local Government and associated organisations. A comprehensive market research survey was undertaken in May with feedback received from 98 coastal Local Authorities. Awareness and involvement in marine related activities, data management and legislative drivers together with existing and future use and requirements for marine geographic information were explored. This research was followed by a series of six one day workshops sponsored by Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey and the UK Hydrographic Office. Over 100 delegates attended, providing very positive feedback.

**Further information and the Survey and Workshop Findings Reports can be found at [www.seazone.com/customersLocalgov.php](http://www.seazone.com/customersLocalgov.php)**

### On the Campaign Trail – Scotland and Wales

Following last year's success, SeaZone will be undertaking similar campaigns in Scotland and Wales during 2009.

The Market Research Survey for Scotland has just been completed with the Survey Findings Report due for publication in June. In consultation with Scottish Government, a series of three workshops will be held in the autumn to engage further with key stakeholders and promote proposals for a wider use Collective Agreement for marine geographic information.

Similar work will be undertaken in Wales with the Market Research Survey to run through June, followed by workshops in the autumn.

### >> WORKSHOPS - DELEGATE FEEDBACK

**'Very positive and very useful as previously unaware of DNF & INSPIRE'**

Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee

**'Good opportunity to catch up with the current marine GIS/data scene'**

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

**'Very helpful and informative. All sessions passed quickly and were very informative, unlike some events attended! Excellent'**

Hull City Council

### SeaZone Offers Local Government Marine Map Evaluation



**SeaZone is offering UK Local Authorities a three-month trial of SeaZone HydroSpatial, providing easy access to a wide range of comprehensive, authoritative marine and coastal zone information.**

**A free workshop is included as part of the package and SeaZone will work closely with participating Councils to identify potential applications and benefits and help develop business cases for future budget allocation.**

SEAZONE  
OFFER



FREE  
WORK  
SHOP

## ripples!

**Hampshire & Isle & Wight Wildlife Trust** is using SeaZone HydroSpatial to help in the implementation of their Seagrass Monitoring and Seal Tagging Projects. This will allow them to use GIS to assess data collected against bathymetry, seabed geology and other information within HydroSpatial, helping make new discoveries and connections between habitat and behaviour.

**Argyll & Bute Council** has been using SeaZone HydroSpatial to help inform decision and implementation of the Loch Fyne Management Plan. This pilot project will assist in defining and developing best practice for marine spatial planning as required through the Scottish Marine Bill.

**The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds** has purchased SeaZone data to provide knowledge of water depths and seabed elevation for projects related to safeguarding the seas marine habitat and conservation areas.

## UPDATE RENEWABLE ENERGY



SeaZone has seen huge growth in its renewable energy business over the last twelve months, with many energy companies and consultants utilising SeaZone data and software to help identify and assess sites for offshore wind, tidal and wave development.

### Wave and Tidal Development

The UK Government continues to back wave and tidal development with the announcement of a two year Strategic Environmental Assessment for UK waters. The project will include a site screening process involving desk studies, field surveys and stakeholder engagement. In the meantime, interest in offshore sites continues to increase including activities in the Pentland Firth, Strangford Lough, and the Pelarmis operations in Portugal.

In addition to supplying data, **SeaZone** is assisting organisations with the management, analysis and presentation of oceanographic and environmental data where time is an important component. SeaZone **GeoTemporal Editor** is a new generation of software that improves and simplifies this process. Customers benefiting from SeaZone technology include Marine Current Turbines Ltd, Halcrow and the European Marine Energy Centre.

### Wind Farm Development

The Crown Estate has announced ten sites for offshore wind farm development within Scottish territorial waters. Agreements have been signed with nine companies and consortia, including E.ON Climate and Renewables, Dong Wind (UK), Scottish Power Renewables and SeaEnergy Renewables – all SeaZone customers. Developers will begin initial survey and consultation for each site while the Scottish Government conducts a Strategic Environmental Assessment. Construction work will only progress once statutory consents from the Scottish Government have been obtained.

In England the competitive tender process for the licensing of Round 3 offshore wind farms closed in March. The Crown Estate is currently assessing bids for each of the nine sites received from eighteen different companies/consortia with decisions expected later this year.

### Data is Key!

Gaining easy and quick access to wide ranging marine geographic information has been critical in assisting many of the organisations bidding for this work. SeaZone is continuing to help organisations assess how SeaZone HydroSpatial and the more detailed Digital Survey Bathymetry can be further utilised throughout the next stages of project development.

#### >> CUSTOMER PROFILE

##### SeaZone Helps UK Wind Farm Development

Vattenfall is one of Europe's largest energy companies and has used SeaZone on many offshore wind projects for a number of years.

"SeaZone HydroSpatial provides a superb collection of hydrographic data that aids site selection and provides good quality base mapping for planning applications. Our job would be much more difficult without it."  
Anthony Hunt, GIS Manager,  
Vattenfall Wind Power.

## ripples!

**RWE npower renewables**, an early adopter of SeaZone data products, has recently renewed and increased user numbers for their annual licence for SeaZone HydroSpatial and Charted Raster to assist in implementation of many of their renewable energy projects.

**Crossrail** is an exciting and visionary new railway for London and the South-East with construction due to begin in 2010. Crossrail has purchased SeaZone Charted Vector on a three year licence to assist in strategic route planning of waste disposal via the Thames.

**Scottish & Southern Energy** is using SeaZone HydroSpatial, Digital Survey Bathymetry and Charted Raster for various offshore planning projects.

**Vattenfall, Ocean Prospect and Scottish Power Renewables Ltd** have renewed their SeaZone data licences to continue accessing comprehensive marine reference data to support decision making.

## DATA UPDATE



## Digital Survey Bathymetry

SeaZone has spent two years capturing and processing hydrographic survey data to create a unique database of the underwater terrain.

SeaZone Digital Survey Bathymetry (DSB) extends across the majority of the UK continental shelf and represents the most detailed authoritatively sourced water depth information available. SeaZone DSB allows organisations to undertake improved site analysis and evidence based decision making earlier in project lifecycles, helping to negate, reduce or delay survey requirements that can result in significantly reduce costs and improved project efficiency.

**For latest information on DSB coverage**  
[www.seazone.com/dataAvailability.php](http://www.seazone.com/dataAvailability.php)

### >> CUSTOMER PROFILE

#### SeaZone Data used to Study Bathing Water Quality

In a project managed by Arup on behalf of Yorkshire Water, investigations are being made of the impact of sewerage infrastructure on the quality of bathing water at the resorts of Scarborough and Bridlington. SeaZone Digital Survey Bathymetry has been used to create a coastal model to simulate bacteriological water quality in the region.

“The water quality assessments are helping us understand the impact of effluent so that future investment and resources can be targeted effectively. We selected data from SeaZone as they were readily able to provide digital bathymetric information for the study area, negating the commissioning of a costly bathymetric survey.”

Arup, Senior Engineer

## SOFTWARE UPDATE



## GeoTemporal – A new generation of data management software

Ocean Business 2009 saw the launch of SeaZone GeoTemporal Editor, an innovative software solution designed to greatly simplify the management of marine and environmental information.

SeaZone GeoTemporal offers marine surveyors, scientists, researchers, engineers, data managers and consultants, easy access to extended data processing capabilities, helping to improve project efficiencies and reduce reliance on in-house software development or specialist software. **Please contact the SeaZone Sales Team for further information and learn how you can trial and purchase the software.**

### >> CUSTOMER PROFILE

#### SeaZone GeoTemporal used to Monitor Major Port Development

Selected by Titan Environmental Surveys, SeaZone GeoTemporal Editor has been used to manage vast volumes of data being collected to benchmark and analyse impacts of dredging activities as part of a major UK port development. The software is helping the development company minimise disruption and control environmental impacts.

“The software allows data to be downloaded from the survey instruments at each monthly service interval, imported, quality controlled, analysed and presented as data reports to the client with a rapid turnaround and consistent approach maintained throughout the duration of the project.”

Jon Taylor, Operations Manager, Oceanography,  
Titan Environmental Surveys

## SERVICES UPDATE



## SeaZone DataCentre

SeaZone has been assisting organisations identify and address their marine data and information needs through the delivery of SeaZone DataCentre, a ‘one stop’ data management solution. DataCentre utilises SeaZone’s combination of marine science, GIS and data management expertise and comprises a data management plan, proven data model, GIS and SeaZone data and software (GeoTemporal Editor and Metadata tools etc). Ongoing support services and training help organisations gain maximum benefit from their data and technology investments.

### >> CUSTOMER PROFILE

#### Implementing SeaZone BEEMS DataCentre

SeaZone has been working with British Energy (now a part of EDF) and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) for over two years on the British Energy Estuarine & Marine Study (BEEMS). The study will help understand environmental issues, potential impacts and mitigation for four sites identified for potential nuclear power plant development.

SeaZone DataCentre provides the central repository for environmental, biological and geomorphologic data delivering cohesive and consistent working practises

for data collection, management, analysis and reporting. SeaZone provides technical support and further development of GIS and data management tools including a Web Mapping Service (WMS).

‘The DataCentre is critical to the successful operation of the overall BEEMS programme, for the management of inputs from a wide variety of internal and external data suppliers (making use of the metadata tool) and for the production of bespoke outputs. It will ensure that the data remain secure and available for the foreseeable future.’

Peter Kershaw,  
Data Manager, CEFAS

## NEWS

## The A Team!



SEAZONE HAS SEEN RAPID GROWTH OVER THE LAST YEAR, WITH TWELVE NEW PEOPLE JOINING US, BRINGING A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE IN A WIDE RANGE OF DISCIPLINES.

Ian Webb was recruited last autumn as Customer Services Manager to retain and improve standards of quality and service to our customers. Our Technical Team has seen expansion with increasing GIS, database and programming expertise and extended focus on our Coastal Mapping Improvement Programme. Olivia Merritt, previously with Bournemouth University, joined us last summer to bring heritage expertise to the mix.

In February 2009 SeaZone announced growth to its sales team (pictured left). All successful sales professionals, the new recruits bring extensive experience from Central Government, Local Government and the Private Sector; core markets for SeaZone. The three, Zack Abraham, Litan Paul and Robin Coackley report to SeaZone's Marketing and Sales Manager, Alison Smith.

## HAVE YOUR SAY

SeaZone is committed to developing and delivering value added products and services that meet the needs of our customers now and in the future. Understanding user requirements and providing responsive customer service and support to high standards is a prime focus of our business.

We actively engage with customers through the following SeaZone initiatives and are happy to receive customer feedback at any time.

- Customer Case Studies
- Customer Service Surveys
- Market/Legislative/User Requirement Surveys
- Product Development Trials
- Product Evaluation Trials and Surveys

For more information please contact us or refer to the Have Your Say pages of the website at [www.seazone.com/newsHaveYourSay.php](http://www.seazone.com/newsHaveYourSay.php)



## www.SeaZone.com

Visit the SeaZone website for the latest on SeaZone news, events and updates on our data, software and services. Details of data availability and geographic coverage can be found at [www.seazone.com/dataAvailability.php](http://www.seazone.com/dataAvailability.php)

You can request quotations, sample data CDs, and technical support direct from the website and download user manuals, brochures, product profiles and case studies from the Reference Zone pages at [www.seazone.com/helpReferencezone.php](http://www.seazone.com/helpReferencezone.php)

## CONTACTS

## SEAZONE SALES TEAM

**Alison Smith**  
Marketing & Sales Manager  
[Alison.Smith@SeaZone.com](mailto:Alison.Smith@SeaZone.com)

**Zack Abraham**  
Central Government Sales Consultant  
[Zack.Abraham@SeaZone.com](mailto:Zack.Abraham@SeaZone.com)

**Litan Paul**  
Local Government Sales Consultant  
[Litan.Paul@SeaZone.com](mailto:Litan.Paul@SeaZone.com)

**Robin Coackley**  
Private Sector Sales Consultant  
[Robin.Coackley@SeaZone.com](mailto:Robin.Coackley@SeaZone.com)

## &gt;&gt; For more information

## SeaZone Solutions Limited

T: +44 (0)870 013 0607 E: [info@SeaZone.com](mailto:info@SeaZone.com)  
F: +44 (0)870 013 0608 W: [www.SeaZone.com](http://www.SeaZone.com)

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