

**Draft Minutes of the Twenty-fourth Meeting of the IACMST Marine Environmental Data
Action Group (MEDAG)
IMarEST, 80 Coleman Street, London
Wednesday 29th November 2006, 10:30 a.m.**

Attendees:

Ms Anne Brazier (IACMST)
 Dr Juan Brown (JB) NERC
 Dr Mark Charlesworth (MCW) MEDAG
 Dr Dave Cotton (DC) MDIP Project
 Manager
 Mr Garry Dawson (GD) UKHO
 Dr Gaynor Evans (GE) MEDAG
 Mr Colin Grant (CG) BP Exploration
 Mr Trevor Guymmer (TG) IACMST
 Professor Peter Liss (Chair)
 IACMST Independent/Chair MEDAG
 Dr Bev McKenzie (IMarEST)
 Mr Richard Moxon (Defra)
 Mr Jon Parr (MBA)
 Dr Lesley Rickards (LJR) MEDAG
 Coordinator
 Mr George Slesser (GS) FRS
 Mr Jon Turton (JT) Met Office

Apologies:

Ms Beth Greenaway (Defra)
 Dr Carolyn Heeps, The Crown Estate
 Prof Paul Leonard (Defra)
 Ms Susan Macleay (EA)
 Dr Dave Morris (Cefas)
 Mr John Pepper (UKHO)
 Dr John Portmann, GOOSAG Coordinator

<p>1) Welcome and introduction; apologies (Peter Liss) The Chair welcomed members to the 24th MEDAG meeting and apologies were read. Richard Moxon (Defra) was present on behalf of Beth Greenaway (Defra).</p>	<p>ACTIONS</p>
<p>2) Minutes of last meeting/matters arising not dealt with below (Peter Liss) <i>(Paper A ‘Minutes of the twenty-third meeting of the IACMST Marine Environmental Data Action Group (MEDAG)’)</i> The minutes of the last meeting were accepted without correction. The Chair stated that the proposed revision of the terms of reference (second paragraph, Item 3, 23rd MEDAG Minutes) was awaiting response from Howard Dalton. These revisions would not affect the day-to-day workings of MEDAG. MCW read through the action list from the 23rd MEDAG meeting. RM noted that Beth Greenaway is taking forward Action 3: ‘Discuss with Chris Reid the areas of the ‘Marine Monitoring in the United Kingdom’ report that she considers need reviewing’.</p>	<p>Chair</p>
<p>3) Report on MED activities by undertaken by MEDAG members (All) JB reported that BODC was involved with MEDAG in the extensive renovation of the cruise database. Missing FRS and Cefas cruise reports had been scanned (approximately 1000) and added to the database. The database structure had also been modified and metadata entries updated. RM reported on progress with the Marine Bill. A White Paper was currently in preparation. This document draws together the various pieces of policy that will go forward into the Marine Bill. There will be a 12 week consultation on this White Paper. The Marine Bill will not go through during this Parliamentary session.</p>	

<p>The Chair noted that non-funders were present at the meeting and gave the funders the option of a closed meeting straight after the main MEDAG meeting. This offer was not taken up.</p>	
<p>4) Review of MEDAG activities and 2006 Annual Report (Lesley Rickards) <i>(Paper B ‘Summary of and progress on 2006 work plan (November 2006)’)</i> Paper B summarised activities undertaken during 2006 which included UK Coordination, catalogues, communication, publicity, products, standards, GOOSAG website, core management, MDIP collaboration, submission of data to global data centres and international coordination. MEDAG were requested to comment on progress, and suggest future activities. LJR drew attention to the MEDAG financial statement detailed in Paper B. The full-time MED post which Mark Charlesworth holds was under-funded during 2006. However this was offset by the time he spent working on the MERMAN programme which has a different funding line. A part of MEDAG funds for his post was used to employ a student to work on the cruise database to good effect. Visits to all funding organisations were realised except for the Environment Agency. These visits proved very useful in the development of the MEDAG five year plan. There were a number of data products completed during 2006. The wave catalogue has now been compiled and made available online. The DVD of moored current meter series is also now available and licence agreement has to be signed before it is handed out. The software is designed for use on PC only and is free to academic users. JT asked whether, if required for commercial use, it could be paid for. LJR responded that the donors of the data would need to be asked; 90% of the data on the DVD comes from three different organisations. For the BP current meter data on the DVD, CG said that this was acceptable. JB stated that if a large tranche of FRS current meter data were used, for example, to generate income then it would be NERC policy that moneys generated be shared with FRS. The other MEDAG product produced in 2006 was the report on the Marine Photographs and Video workshop held in 2005 which was recently published and distributed in the meeting. LJR went through the summary of progress on the 2006 work plan. TG asked whether LJR’s presence at IOC and IODE is representation of MEDAG or NERC. LJR responded that a presentation on MEDAG had been given and the work of MEDAG discussed. LJR is able to keep MEDAG updated on IOC and IODE activities. As the IODE chair, LJR represents IODE at IOC. Other MEDAG related activities that MEDAG has been involved with include EU-funded projects SeaDataNet, HUMBOLDT and SIMORC, the POGO cruise programme database, National Tide Gauge Network, UK <i>Argo</i> expert group and <i>Argo</i> Data Management Team, IOC’s IODE and the JCOMM data management programme area. HUMBOLDT will contribute to the development of a European Spatial Data Infrastructure and is an INSPIRE related project which will set up a number of scenarios; the ocean scenario relates to oil spills. CG noted that there are a number of operational oil spill models in use by industry and offered to provide contact names to LJR. The January IACMST plenary will not extend into the afternoon as it has in previous years so therefore GOOSAG and MEDAG reporting will need to be summarised (TG). A total of half an hour will be given to the reporting of the work done by each group, plus 15 minutes for discussion. The Annual MEDAG Report for 2006 should be produced prior to the Christmas period to</p>	<p>CG</p> <p>LJR, MCW, GE</p>

<p>allow time for plenary members to read it given that the presented account will be considerably shortened.</p> <p>JB stated that it is increasingly difficult to keep charging overheads at only 46%; for this year (2007) it can be held at this level but beyond 2007 it is likely to increase. The Chair observed that there would be implications for the IACMST Secretariat at NOCS also. This issue could be raised at Plenary (GD). The Chair suggested that it could be an item for IACMST to discuss on their agenda. NERC could be possibly persuaded not to charge full FEC (Chair) or else more MEDAG partners could be found (JB).</p>	<p>Chair</p>
<p>5) Collaboration with GOOSAG (John Portmann)</p> <p>TG reported on this item in place of John Portmann. The GOOSAG Strategy document will be put online for download as up to now this has been in hard copy only. The design of modelling systems project has been contracted to the Met Office with collaborative help from Cefas and POL. This is a scoping study and initial outcomes were presented at the open GOOSAG meeting. The open GOOSAG meeting was well attended and CCW were excellent hosts and the meeting was very well organised. The Welsh Assembly will be joining IACMST Plenary which is very welcome.</p> <p>The position of GOOSAG in respect to UKMMAS was discussed at some length at the GOOSAG meeting. Ian Townend, the Chairman of GOOSAG, considers that there is good reason for the functions of GOOSAG to pass over to UKMMAS. Consultation is continuing and Ian Townend will report to Plenary in January. This has implications for IACMST and MEDAG. There will be an overlapping period for the transfer of functions from GOOSAG to UKMMAS. It is envisaged that there will be a group within IACMST acting as a steer to UKMMAS. JB asked whether IACMST could function without any action groups. TG emphasised that IACMST should be seen as an evolving entity and could not be expected to remain the same. There have been additions to groups under IACMST and there is now the Underwater Sound Forum. TG added that Howard Dalton is keen for other cross-sectoral fora. JT stated that the work of MEDAG also fits into UKMMAS.</p> <p>MCW commented that there are financial implications for UKMMAS in that there is a current lack of funding to allow for the current workload let alone additional work. GS enquired about the EDIOS inventory and whether it would be built upon by UKMMAS as a marine monitoring database. MCW stated that this idea is currently on hold and will be discussed at the next MiniMARG meeting.</p>	<p>GE</p>
<p>6) Update on Marine Data and Information Partnership (Dave Cotton)</p> <p>A Phase 1 MDIP work strategy was presented in September to which all MDIP funders signed up. By May 2008, MDIP will have provided a) the foundations of a UK marine data and information framework, b) a pilot implementation of this framework, c) a review of test use cases within this pilot and d) costed options for a fully operational networked marine data and information management system for the UK. A schematic of the MDIP pilot framework was shown. This framework will be tested to assess whether it meets users needs. The initial stage has involved getting the metadata discovery portal working which in itself has raised problems, generated discussion and helped clarify some of the issues. A definition of base reference data has been proposed. Projects and initiatives will be used to test the problems associated with gaining access to metadata. A useful schematic of the relationship between MEDAG and MDIP was shown. JT requested he be sent the presentation slides so they could be used for putting a funding case</p>	

internally. DC will send the slides around to meeting attendees.	DC
<p>7) Presentation by Lesley Rickards. A shortened version of a keynote lecture given at the ICES Annual Science Conference entitled ‘Marine Data - A Big Issue’ (<i>Paper C ‘Marine Data – A Big Issue’</i>)</p>	
<p>8) MEDAG Draft 5 Year Plan (<i>Mark Charlesworth</i>) (<i>Paper D ‘Draft MEDAG Five Year Plan – 20 November 2006’ and Paper E ‘UK and International Data Drivers and Initiatives’</i>) The MEDAG Review recommended a five year plan which has now been produced and which will be circulated with the 2006 MEDAG Annual Report. To enable the production of a five year plan, the initial stage was a pulling together of drivers and initiatives that will influence MEDAG in the coming years. INSPIRE is likely to have a significant impact on geospatial data. MDIP will also influence MEDAG activities. The MEDAG Review also recommended that a MEDAG vision statement be written. The following has been adopted: “The Marine Environmental Data Action Group (MEDAG) and MED Coordinators will provide data management support and coordination for the UK marine community to improve access to and availability of marine environmental data”. MCW ran through the specific work areas (section 3.2 of Paper D) for the next five years and the anticipated deliverables from each work area. JT endorsed section 3.2.5 which details work on transfer of data via GTS using BODC as a conduit. The Chair considered Paper E a very useful document. It was suggested that a member of MEDAG attend the first meeting of the Underwater Noise Forum in the following week. CG was please to note the intention to improve links to industry as mentioned in the plan. LJR suggested that CG could assist here and a small group of industry people could be assembled who could report on the needs of the user community. It was suggested that a presentation on MDIP and MEDAG could be given in June 2007 at the Oceans ’07 meeting in Aberdeen. A joint MDIP and MEDAG newsletter was considered the way forward and the two groups actioned to investigate the possibility. The Chair proposed the addition of “and information of all types” at the end of the MEDAG mission statement.</p>	<p>GE</p> <p>DC, LJR, GE, MCW</p> <p>MCW</p>
<p>9) Work Plan for 2007 (Gaynor Evans) (<i>Paper F ‘Draft MEDAG work plan 2007’</i>) The MEDAG work plan for 2007 was described and the quarterly breakdown of work across the year. Plots were shown detailing the number of months allocated to each task and the cost of carrying out each task. Members’ attention was drawn to the disparity between current cost of MEDAG work and funding from MEDAG partners. This disparity will increase as inevitable higher overhead rates are introduced beyond 2007.</p>	
<p>10) Any other business The ‘Marine Observer’ magazine was discontinued some years ago. This was a magazine aimed at the marine observer community. There is a wiki site available (esurfmar.meteo.fr/wikilog/index.php/Main_Page) for reporting miscellaneous observations. (JT) The next IODE meeting will be 12-16th March 2008 in Trieste. The UK stance is discussed prior to attendance by the UK representatives. (LJR) The UKMMAS Productive Seas Evidence Group is exploring the possibility of updating 'The Economics of Marine Science' report by David Pugh (MCW).</p>	
<p>11) Date and arrangements for next meeting</p>	

MEDAG 24 ACTION LIST

1.	Report back to MEDAG on response of H Dalton to the proposed revision of the terms of reference (second paragraph, Item 3, 23 rd MEDAG Minutes)	Chair
2.	Send Humboldt contact names to LJR.	Colin Grant
3.	Distribute the Annual MEDAG Report for 2006 prior to the Christmas period to allow time for plenary members to read it before Plenary in January	LJR, MCW, GE
4.	Recommend that the issue of increasing percentage FEC charged by NERC after 2007 be added as an agenda item on the next IACMST meeting	Chair
5.	Place the GOOSAG Strategy document on OceanNET for download	GE
6.	Send the MDIP presentation around to MEDAG 24 attendees.	DC
7.	attend the first meeting of the Underwater Noise Forum	GE
8.	Investigate the potential for a joint MDIP and MEDAG newsletter	DC, LJR, MCW, GE
9.	Addition of “and information of all types” at the end of the MEDAG mission statement.	MCW