MSP in the Pentland Firth & Orkney Waters: The importance of regional plans

Dr Shona Turnbull, The Highland Council
The Pilot PFOW MSP area covers two of the 11 Scottish Marine Regions: North Highland & Orkney.
Who? A multi award-winning team!
Why: Growth of key sectors

The 5 Blue Growth sectors

- Biotechnology: medicines, industrial enzymes
- Renewable energy: wind, waves, tides, biofuel
- Coastal & Maritime Tourism: coastal tourism, cruise tourism, yachting
- Aquaculture: farming of fish, shellfish, marine plants
- Mineral resources: gravel, sand, zinc, cobalt, copper

Jobs
Value
Sustainability
What: MSP

From this...

and this

Pilot Pentland Firth & Orkney Waters Marine Spatial Plan
Lessons Learned
March 2016

to this

Pilot Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters Marine Spatial Plan

Maritime Spatial Planning in Small Sea Spaces
Portorož - 15 & 16 March 2018
What 2: associated documents required

- **SA**: Sustainability Appraisal;
- **SEA**: Strategic Environmental Assessment;
- **HRA**: Habitats Regulations Assessment;
- **NMP**: National Marine Plan;
- **EqIA**: Equalities Impact Assessment;
- **BRIA**: Business & Regulatory Impact Assessment;
- **PFOW MSP**: Pentland Firth & Orkney Waters Marine Spatial Plan

**Diagram**:

- **Stage 2 studies**
- **Socio-economic**
- **EqIA**
- **BRIA**
- **Consultation Reports**
- **Issues & Options**
- **NMP**
- **Marine (Scotland) Act**

**Legend**:
- SA & SEA
- HRA
- Stage 2 studies
- Socio-economic
- EqIA
- BRIA
- Consultation Reports
- Issues & Options
- NMP
- Marine (Scotland) Act
When & How: borrowed terrestrial planning techniques

- **2008-2011**: Marine Scotland started process
- **2012**: Councils came on board: Plan Scheme produced
- **2013**: Planning Issues & Options consultations
- **2014**: Detailed consultation report
- **2015 Early 2016**: Draft Plan
  - Final Plan
  - Consultation Report
  - Lessons Learned

2008-2011

2008-2011
# How: Tools used

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tool</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
<th>Constraints</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Matrix compiled for key issues and sectors</td>
<td>Useful in early stages to identify key pressures and stakeholders</td>
<td>Did not identify magnitude of pressure; complex and time-consuming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning Issues &amp; Options Paper</td>
<td>Very helpful for identifying most sectors</td>
<td>Extra step in the process</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mix of skills: manager/scientist, planner, coastal planner</td>
<td>Good management; clear roles and division of labour.</td>
<td>Pressures of other work</td>
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<tr>
<td>The final plan</td>
<td>Provides policy support for sustainable development; excellent base line for statutory MSP.</td>
<td>Limited awareness on north coast; non-statutory.</td>
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Building on success

• Development of a locally derived marine planning strategy. Often national legislation carries with it a one size fits all approach and one size certainly does not fit, particularly in an island context

• Partnership working and building a collective understanding

• Regional marine planning can help everybody understand the constraints within which each other are working
Conclusions

• Pilot project allowed flexibility in approaches
• Provided good baseline to build future regional marine plans
• Introduced the topic of marine planning to many new audiences but still relatively little understanding in the wider public.
• Working at the Small Sea Scale allows national interests to be interpreted at the local level to reflect local circumstances