

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

CONFIDENTIAL

Title of Report: Staffing Requirements for Marine Spatial Planning

Paper No: 37/14

Date: 26 February 2014

Report of: SAERI Director

1.0 Purpose

To advise Honourable Members of the staffing requirements of SAERI to ensure that a Darwin Plus funded Marine Spatial Planning Project is resourced for. The project start date is April 2014.

2.0 Recommendations

That Honourable Members approve the creation of a two year post: Marine Ecologist (Geospatial Ecologist).

3.0 Additional Budgetary Implications

None

4.0 Background

4.1 The Falkland Islands currently have no legal framework of marine protected areas or strategic approach to marine spatial planning. The project will, through review, analyses and consultation, provide the policy framework enabling the Territory to plan and manage the sustainable development and conservation of the marine environment around the Falkland Islands. Any legislation considered necessary as a result of establishing the policy framework can then be proposed as a result of this work.

4.2 No Marine Protected Area (MPA's) have been designated in the seas surrounding the FI. FI Exclusive Economics Zone (EEZ) is rich in marine biodiversity, including globally threatened seabirds and marine mammals. There is already risk to the FI marine environment from resource extraction; such pressures are likely to intensify and include new developments and related changes to coastal land-use. Existing practice and legislation need to be improved to manage current and potential future threats, to protect threatened species, sites and habitats. Project delivery will include a series of reviews, stakeholder meetings and workshops together with creating a Geographical Information System (GIS) for data analysis

and visualisation relating to habitats, coastlines, fauna/flora, fisheries and hydrocarbon resource extraction.

4.3 The lack of integrated land/sea zoning and management was identified as one of the top priorities that need addressing in the 2012 workshop report from the FCO/JNCC funded project “Environmental Mainstreaming”.

4.4 There will be two main closely linked Approaches:

1) development (and extensive analysis where appropriate and feasible) of GIS baseline maps of the distributions of coastal, inshore and offshore habitats, together with their biota and resources, including areas/sites of current and prospective hydrocarbon extraction and exploration.

This will involve collation (with a metadata catalogue) of the considerable volume of data on marine species and environments available from published and unpublished governmental, industrial/commercial and other non-governmental sources. This will enable mapping examples of specific data that would directly contribute to the aims i.e. coastlines, habitats, resource extraction (fisheries/minerals), tracking data, seabird, mammal data, and physical data etc. This will be followed by a re-examination of satellite track and logging data collected from seabird species and satellite tagged southern sea lions and South American fur seals to gain new data on ecologically important areas coastally and at sea.

2) a series of workshop and stakeholder meetings, initially to help create and populate the GIS data and map layers, subsequently to review and discuss the potential approaches to MSP in the FI and the application of these data.

This element will include a review of relevant regional and international best practice, including, *inter alia*, the bio-regionalisation approach used by CCAMLR to delineate a network of MPAs in Antarctica (Penhale and Grant, 2007), the Patagonian Forum (<http://www.patagoniansea.org/>) regional GIS with data layers for key biota (species and habitats), existing protected/specially managed areas and resource use/extraction (mainly fishing effort), the BirdLife International global atlas of marine Important Bird Areas (<http://www.birdlife.org/seabirds/seabird-marine-important-bird-areas.html>), and the Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) [<http://www.cbd.int/marine/>].

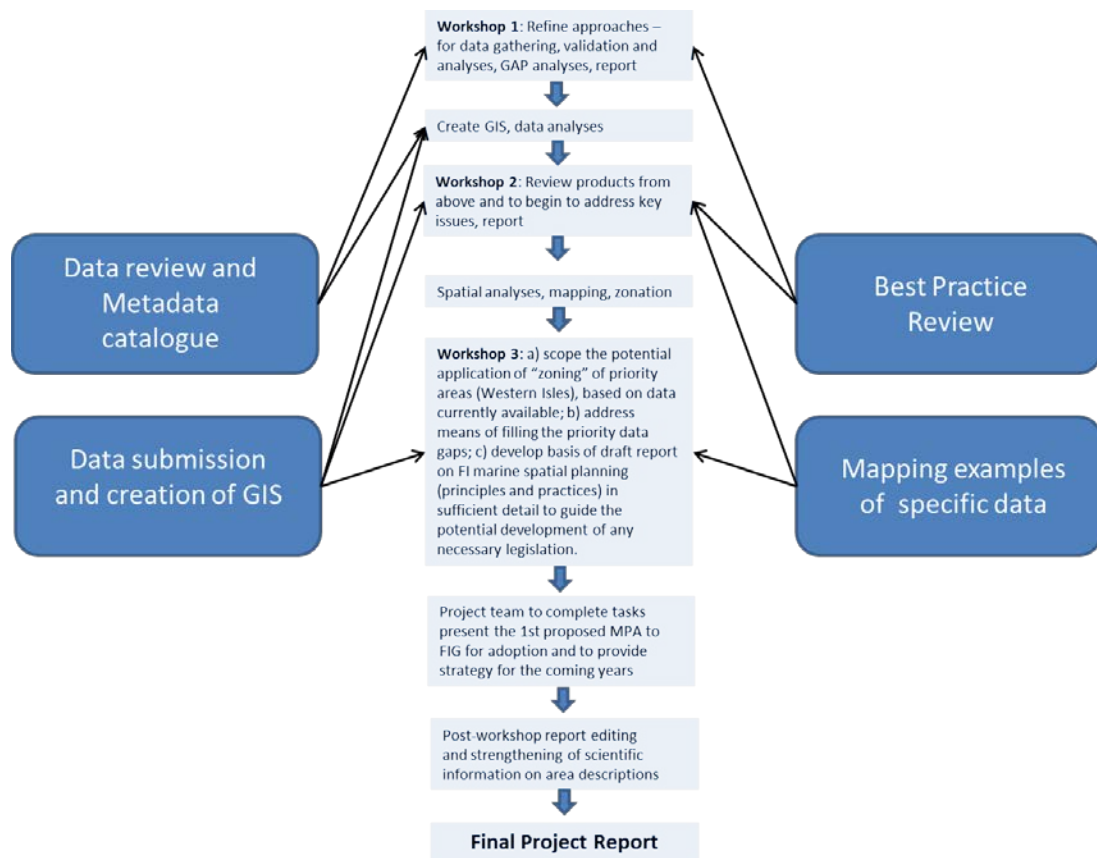
These two approaches will be combined, using ecosystem-based approaches, to provide advice on appropriate policies, practices and frameworks for marine spatial planning in the coastal, inshore and offshore waters of the Falkland Islands. This will include specific advice on the establishment of potential provisions for areas of environmental, ecological and biological sensitivity.

The specific methods will, therefore, primarily relate to use of existing data to create GIS data layers suitable for geospatial analysis and mapping (Approach 1). This will feed into Approach 2, which will be used to identify important gaps, allowing prioritisation of future data collection under relevant national and

international strategies and plans. Our novel approach of combining a meta-analysis, GIS development, geospatial analyses and wide stakeholder consultation will be a first for UKOT's

A specific concluding product will be a policy paper for FIG (via its Environment Committee), suggesting appropriate MSP policies and procedures (including legislation), together with advice on implementation priorities.

The project will be delivered by a postdoctoral Marine Ecologist based in the Falkland Islands. Project partners in the Falkland Islands and internationally will participate in the workshops, will provide training and work closely with the project officer throughout the programme.



Summary work programme for Marine Ecologist (Geospatial Ecologist)

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 One Post: Marine Ecologist (Geospatial Ecologist) (Funding secure from Darwin Plus).

Item	2014-2015	2015-2016
Salary	£29,662	£29,662
Medical Services Tax	£450	£450
Retirement Pension Contribs.	£760	£760
Occupational Pension Contributions	£2,970	£2,970
	£33,842	£33,842

Salary for one posts; Marine Ecologist (Geospatial Ecologist) (assumptions Grade D3 with MST, RPC and OPC rounded up)

The costings above assume that the post holders will not be in receipt of a gratuity and as such Occupational Pension Contributions have been included. Final costs will be dependent on recruitment. However, further cost to FIG is neutral due to committed funding from Darwin Plus.

6.0 Legal Implications

As outlined in the paper.

7.0 Human Resources Implications

Outlined in this paper. If the posts are approved then housing will be sourced from the private sector.