

Sea View

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The Official Newsletter of the Marine Management Organisation



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Welcome to the MMO from Steven Gant, CEO

It has been an exciting and challenging time since the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) vested on 1 April 2010 following the passing of the Marine and Coastal Access Act in 2009.

Everyone at the MMO was delighted that the new Coalition Government pledged their support for the implementation of the MCA Act, effectively confirming their support for the MMO's role as the new delivery body charged with being the national champion of sustainable development in the marine and coastal area.

Of course we cannot achieve the sustainable marine development on our own and I have been busy meeting a range of people and organisations across the country with a stake in the delivery of sustainable management to discuss how we might work together to deliver our activities in the most effective and efficient way.

The MMO will, like all public bodies, need to contribute to the achievement of savings across the public sector. This will present a significant challenge for such a young organisation, particularly as we have an agreed plan to expand to deliver our new responsibilities of Marine Planning and Licensing by 2012.

Whilst visiting coastal areas over the last two months - from Brixham, to Lowestoft, to Blackpool via many others - I have been struck by the opportunities that the marine area presents for our domestic economic recovery. We need to make the most of these opportunities in a balanced way in order to achieve ongoing protection of our diverse marine environments and wildlife, and the social regeneration of coastal communities.

On 15 June we will formally launch the MMO at a national launch in Gateshead and a series of events around the coast. I hope you are able to join us at these events and I look forward to working with you.

Steven Gant
Chief Executive

Email Steve at steven.gant@marinemanagement.org.uk





View from the Chair

When we moved into our headquarters on Tyneside back in February and during my visits to our coastal offices, you will remember that I asked everyone to play their part in ensuring that we hit the ground running the moment the MMO vested at two minutes before midnight on 31 March 2010 (we didn't fall for that one!)

Given the fact that Royal Assent to the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 had only been granted on 12 November 2009, that timeline and demanding level of delivery were always going to be a tall order. Despite the support of our colleagues in Defra and stacks of good will from our stakeholders, I was conscious that we would, together, have to face a great many challenges and difficulties in meeting the considerable expectations of the Government and all those involved in the passing of the Act.

As we approach the date for our official launch, the MMO has been up and running for just over two months. The seamless transition to our new headquarters on Tyneside and the smooth adaptation to entirely new ways of working within a lean, highly agile organisation represent a staggering success by everyone working within - or with - the MMO. All of us can take great individual and collective pride in a significant achievement. It is a privilege and honour to be working with such an enthusiastic, cheerful and dedicated group of good people.

Now we look to the future, I hope that you will take as much satisfaction as I do in playing our part in ensuring that we are effective and active stewards of our marine and coastal areas. The people of this country are looking to us to make a significant difference to the way in which our seas are managed and, given the strong sense of purpose and public duty that I have seen everywhere in our organisation, I am confident that we can meet – and exceed – their expectations. I always look forward to meeting everyone on my various visits around the country and my forward programme for the next three months will be published shortly. Please contact me on christopher.parry@marinemanagement.org.uk

Chris Parry CBE
Chair

MMO Join Forces to Tackle Emergencies

A marine emergency workshop has seen stakeholders across the marine environment working together.

Experts from Natural England, Cefas, JNCC, RSPB, Environment Agency, Defra and the devolved administrations attended the Marine Management Organisation workshop in May to discuss the Environmental Damage Regulation 2009 (EDR).

Working through a mock chemical pollution scenario near Lundy Island, the group agreed how all the relevant bodies would work together and ensure a swift and effective response to environmental damage.

Once the immediate danger to wildlife and human health had been resolved, longer-term measures to deal with the lasting damage were discussed. Those responsible for the damage can be required to bring the area (and wildlife) back to its original state. If that proves impossible, other remediation such as encouraging different species or relocating the wildlife elsewhere may be needed.

The workshop discussions will now help finalise MMO guidance for co-ordinating a response to marine emergencies if the EDRs apply.



£952,000 grants boost for English fishing industry



Almost £1 million in grants has been awarded to the English fishing industry from the European Fisheries Fund and Marine Management Organisation.

The largest single grant was more than £422,000 for a new fryline extension in Devon. The project, costing more than £1 million in total including private funding, will see the installation of new equipment and is expected to create at least five jobs in the area. It will also increase the amount of locally sourced fish processed.

In total, six grant applications were approved by the English EFF panel, chaired by the Marine Management Organisation, which met on May 19. Total grant aid, match funding and other investment in the six projects represents an estimated £2.24 million investment for the English fishing industry.

Other significant grants: a Tilapia farm in Lincolnshire has received more than £165,000, almost £172,000 was agreed for box washing equipment in Grimsby and more than £50,000 has been awarded for storage lofts in Mevagissy Harbour, Cornwall.

Events Diary

| Date | Staff/Board member | Meeting information |
|-------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 2/6 | Steven Gant | National Federation of Fishermen Organisation visit to Lancaster House (Newcastle) |
| 2/6 | Chris Parry | Local Government Association conference in (South Tyneside) |
| 3/6 | Chris Parry | Visit to National Oceanography Centre (Southampton) |
| 4/6 | Chris Parry | Introductory Meeting British Marine Federation |
| 9/6 | Steven Gant | Introductory Meeting with Department of Transport Introductory Meeting with Seabed User and Development Group |
| 9/6 | Chris Parry and Steven Gant | Meeting with Secretary of State Rt Hon Caroline Spelman and Minister of State Richard Benyon MP |
| 10/6 | Steven Gant | Visit with British Marine Aggregate Producers Association |
| 15/6 | MMO Formal Launch | |
| 16/6 | Chris Parry | Visit to Whitehaven |
| 21-23/6 | Steven Gant | Visit to Western district (Newlyn and Penryn) |
| 28-29/6 | Steven Gant | Visit to South West district (Plymouth and Brixham) |
| 30/6 | Steven Gant | Devon Maritime Forum |
| 6/7 | Chris Parry | Visit to the Port of Felixstowe and Hawich Haven Authority |
| 13/7 | Chris Parry and Steven Gant | Meeting with Natural England |
| 14-15/7 | Chris Parry | British Irish Council Environment Meeting (Newcastle) |
| 22/7 | Chris Parry | Visit to UK Hydrographic Office (Taunton) |
| 28/7 | Chris Parry | Visit to Dorset Coastal Forum |

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