



RENEWABLES ADVISORY BOARD - MARINE SUB-GROUP

- Date** Thursday, 4th May 2006
- Present** Andrew Mill, NaREC, Chairman
 Paul Jeffriss, RSPB
 Neil Kermode, EMEC
 Tony Keegan, DTI Consents Unit
 Kristian Armstrong, DTI
 John Spurgeon, DTI
 Mark Williamson, Carbon Trust
 Mark Thomas, FES
 Philip Michael, FES
- Apologies** Ron Loveland, Welsh Assembly
 Allan Moore, BWEA
 Richard Mellish, DTI Consents Unit
 John Callaghan, Carbon Trust

Main points and actions

1	The Chairman described the primary role of the group was to prepare RAB's response to the Defra consultation on the marine bill.	
2	FES had circulated prior to the meeting, to all attendees and those that had expressed interest in being part of the group, the consultation documents and supporting papers.	
3	The purpose of today's meeting was to plan the preparation of RAB's response to the marine bill.	
4	The membership of the group and the expertise required to prepare the response was discussed.	<p>ACTION: Andrew Mill to contact Neal Rafferty at the Scottish Executive.</p> <p>ACTION: DTI (John Spurgeon) to speak with</p>

		David Stanley of DETNI ACTION: Andrew Mill to invite Rob Hastings, Crown Estates and RAB member to join the group.
5	The consultation paper identifies 141 questions that Defra is seeking views on. The meeting discussed how the group should best prepare its response. It was agreed that, rather than answer each question specifically, that RAB should focus on giving, in a relatively short paper, its core, strategic messages, key issues and opinions and clear statements. If specific industry requirements can be identified then these should also be included.	
6	Examples of previous government consultation reports can be found at the following web address: http://www.dti.gov.uk/consultations/Closed%20with%20Response/index.html	
7	There was a discussion of the consultation paper and the main issues presently identified. These were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The options for the proposed Marine Management Organisation (MMO), its role and responsibilities, which should be clear, its degree of independence of Government and relationship to Government targets, its decision making powers and appeals processes, whether it would itself have a research role. • The role of Strategic Environmental Assessments, and whether SEAs would be necessary, if so whether SEAs would be the responsibility for the MMO to perform, or would the MMO assess SEAs performed by others. • The relationship of the proposed MMO to The Crown Estate. 	
8	This led on to a discussion of the structure of the RAB response. It was agreed that the response would identify a number of <i>principles</i> , against which the options for the MMO would be evaluated and a recommendation determined. The principles identified included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance between conflicting considerations, such as the need to protect the local environment, whilst recognising global challenges, such as global warming and energy security, and recognising commercial realities. • Whether it could make decisions itself. • Risk based decision making. • Effectiveness in making decisions, which should be quick and 	ACTION: FES to prepare an outline of the RAB response, based on the discussion held at the meeting. The first draft of this to be circulated to members of the group by, preferably by

	<p>clear.</p> <p>In making recommendations on which of the MMO options is preferred, the RAB response will identify the scope of its duties, whether it would have a requirement for consultation, its relationship to Government targets (for renewable energy), and how it would interface with the planning process.</p>	<p>c.o.p 12th May.</p> <p>ACTION: Group members to provide comments, so that an amended version can be prepared in time for a presentation to be given to the main RAB meeting on 24th May 2006.</p>
9	<p>ABP Mer had produced a report on a trial of marine spatial planning (reference 98 in consultation document).</p>	<p>ACTION: FES to circulate copy of the report with the minutes</p>
10	<p>It was agreed to seek a meeting with the Defra bill team shortly before the submission dead-line to present a draft of the response, raise its awareness of the RAB marine group's contribution and to obtain its feedback on the draft response.</p>	<p>ACTION: Tony Keegan to provide a contact on the Defra bill team.</p>
11	<p>The next meeting of the RAB Marine Group will be held immediately after the main RAB meeting in Aberdeen on 24th May 2006.</p>	<p>ACTION: FES to arrange venue, circulate agenda and any papers.</p>
12	<p>The timetable for the marine bill was discussed.</p> <p>A second consultation is anticipated later this year, with the bill expected late in 2007.</p>	
13	<p>Under Any Other Business, the following were discussed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish support to marine renewables. This will be discussed at the main RAB meeting. • Thee consultation on the decommissioning of offshore renewables. • Saftey zones. 	<p>ACTION: Tony Keegan to establish whether Richard Mellish is available to discuss these items at RAB on 24th May.</p>

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