



Named Consultative Stakeholders

What is a Named Consultative Stakeholder?

Named Consultative Stakeholder (NCS) status has been set up by the regional Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) projects to allow regional or national stakeholders who may not be able to resource attendance at Regional Stakeholder Group (RSG) ¹ meetings to play a less intensive role in the development of MCZ recommendations.

At key stages they will be asked for their views on the MCZ recommendations being developed by the RSG and their comments will be recorded and fed into the planning process. However, the stakeholders in this category would be giving up their direct role in the development of MCZ recommendations.

Status of NCS

NCSs will have a formalised status, and are acknowledged as being a key maritime stakeholder in the development of MCZ recommendations. They will be able to provide information to the RSG in relation to their specialised knowledge and comment on work emerging from the RSG.

How do you become an NCS?

Any stakeholder can apply for NCS status on a Regional Project RSG. Applications will need to go through a formal process at each Regional MCZ Project level. At Net Gain, applications should be made through to the Project Manager who will present them to the Stakeholder Advisory Panel at their next meeting. The application process is designed to ensure that any organisation granted this status is bona-fide, that new memberships can be formally recorded and that there is a clear understanding of the role that they will play. NCSs will be required to show that they are a representative of a stakeholder group with an interest in a particular region that does not have representation on the RSG already.

Communications

NCS will be given a briefing of their role and will be given copies of the Ecological Network Guidance Summary, RSG Terms of Reference and a link to appropriate online resources. They will be offered an opportunity to have an induction session to ensure that they have a complete understanding of the MCZ recommendation process and their role in it. NCSs will be sent copies of the RSG meeting reports, but would not be invited to comment on the contents. Communications between NCS and the RSG will be handled through the regional Project Teams.

Role of NCSs in the planning process

NCSs would be asked to respond by a specific request from the Stakeholder Advisory Panel that will be sent through by the Regional Project Team within a specific time scale. At a minimum this would happen at the

¹ Net Gains Regional Stakeholder Group is made up of four Regional Hubs and a Stakeholder Advisory Panel.

three points (July 2010, November 2010, March 2011) at which a set of draft sites (an iteration) are sent through to the Science Advisory Panel (SAP). NCS would not be able to lobby or present their thoughts to the Stakeholder Advisory Panel in their own time and way. A template form may be used to help structure the responses from NCSs.

NCSs may be asked to consider specific sites and/or whole network options. All responses will come through to the Project Teams who will process, collate and structure them for the next Stakeholder Advisory Panel meeting. All NCS responses will also be made available in their entirety for the next Stakeholder Advisory Panel meeting. The NCS responses will be considered by the Stakeholder Advisory Panel to see if the NCS's comments can and/or should be accommodated. If not, the NCSs will be offered the opportunity to record their disagreement, and at the appropriate time they will be asked whether they can approve or live with a particular site (or network), and if not to explain why. These comments will be recorded in the final report, along with equivalent objections from any members of the RSG for a particular site or network option.

Due to the large number of inputs that are coming to the Net Gain Project Team from four Regional Hubs and the Stakeholder Advisory Panel it will not be possible to provide a tailored narrative for each NCS as to how their responses were used. However since all of the deliberations undertaken by the Regional RSG are made available in a detailed report; these will be sent to NCSs so that they can see how their responses were used at subsequent meetings.