

netnews

A round up of the latest news from Net Gain
The North Sea Marine Conservation Zones Project



Sprat Shoal by Paul Naylor

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The Net Gain Project has been set up to identify and recommend potential sites for Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) in the English North Sea. The Net Gain process is different from other similar projects in that it aims to involve all those who have an interest in the North Sea and its future from the start, from large scale fisheries and aggregates to divers and wildlife enthusiasts.

Net Gain submits 3rd Iteration report

This month has seen the Net Gain team submit our 3rd iteration report to the Science Advisory Panel. This report reflects the great work that has been achieved at our last round of stakeholder meetings. The 3rd iteration report is available to download from our website www.netgainmcz.org, along with the feedback that we have received from the Science Advisory Panel.

We are aware that this is a lengthy document with a great amount of the detail so we are currently producing a brief, accessible booklet that contains some of the key points of the progress our stakeholders have made so far. This Spring Progress Report will give an overview of the work completed so far, who has attended our meetings to date, the maps and what the next steps of the project will be.

We hope that this report will help our stakeholder representatives to collect feedback from their sectors on the 3rd iteration, so that as many people as possible will have had their say in the Net Gain project. If team can support you in collecting feedback, or if you would like any more information do get in touch!

Net Gain on tour!

As well as our usual rounds of meetings throughout March and beyond, Net Gain will also be attending a series of events and exhibitions to keep our stakeholders up to speed with the progress made by the project and answer any questions in person.

In April, we will be attending the North East Angling Show in Sunderland from the 15th to the 17th April at the Seaburn Centre. Our team will be exhibiting the latest outputs from our regional hub meetings and will be on hand to answer any questions that anglers may have about the project.

It is our aim to collect as much feedback as possible from recreational anglers across the weekend, and to bring all visitors to our stand up to speed with the project. If you are unable to attend the show- but would like to meet with one of our team to discuss the project, please get in touch with us. If you are planning to attend, then we look forward to seeing you there!



Great Yarmouth by John Rawson

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netgain

The North Sea Marine Conservation Zones Project



Dan Davis,
Liaison Officer

60 seconds with... Dan Davis Liaison Officer

What does your day to day job entail?

As a Liaison Officer for Lincolnshire and the Wash, my role is to engage with various sectors to encourage stakeholders to participate fully in the Net Gain project. An average day will see me completing face-to-face meetings, large group meetings or engaging with more stakeholders through telephone/emails or letters to let them know where we are in the project. Until the end of data collection, stakeholders in my area gave their information through completing a questionnaire and mapping exercise with me and this data has been used in the regional stakeholder group meetings. I also play an active role in facilitating at regional hub meetings.

What is your favourite part of working for the Net Gain Project?

Working one on one with the stakeholders, building relationships and overcoming the misconceptions about the project and what it aims to achieve. Overcoming conflict has been one of the most challenging and rewarding parts of the job. It is so important that stakeholder's concerns are listened to and that a win/win outcome is achieved wherever possible.

Where have you previously worked?

I have worked in the private sector previously, having run my own seafood business, and have worked for large multi-national corporations.

How do you unwind at the weekend?

I help coach my eldest son's under-9's football team, Hall Road Rangers and referee on match days. I also like to be out with my family and our 15 month old son, Max. When I do have free time, I enjoy DIY and following Liverpool FC.

Let it snow, let it snow...

Back in late December last year, we were forced to cancel a set of regional stakeholder group meetings due to extreme weather conditions throughout our project area. The snow was so bad that many of our stakeholders and, indeed, our project team were housebound so we had little choice but to reschedule to the meetings that we had arranged. We want to take this opportunity to thank our stakeholders for their understanding, and for their contributions to the meetings that took place in January.

Looking ahead to our 2nd large group meeting...



Beach Anglers in Great Yarmouth by John Rawson

Plans are already in motion for our second Large Group Meeting, which is scheduled for July in Hull. This meeting will bring together the four regional hubs and the stakeholder advisory panel together for the first time since our first Large Group Meeting in February 2010 and will be an opportunity for all those who have taken an active role in the Net Gain project to exchange their thoughts and experiences on the Net Gain project's outputs.

The meeting aims to enable our stakeholders to reach necessary conclusions on the sites that have been developed and inform the final recommendations that we will make later this year. Our Economist, Enock will also be at the meeting and will bring the group up to speed on the Impact Assessment and how stakeholder's information is being used to inform it.

March meetings: MMO and management measures

Our March round of meetings will have a different format to stakeholder meetings that we have held previously. The first half of the meeting will comprise an overview of Marine Spatial Planning and management measures by the MMO, with the afternoon dedicated to the 'mopping up' of discussions that we started in the January hubs.

We also hope to continue discussions on reference areas, conservation objectives and management measures. The hub reports and the 2nd iteration report are available to view on our website and we encourage as many stakeholders as possible to read these reports so that they are up to speed with the meetings.

Your stakeholder representatives are there to help ensure that your voice is heard and would like to hear from you. Details of your stakeholder representative can be found on our website by clicking on the Stakeholder Engagement Chart, just click on the section that you are interested in. Our liaison team would also be happy to hear from you, contact details of our team can also be found on the website.

By the end of the March meetings we aim to have a comprehensive set of sites, including reference areas and conservation objectives. It is these outputs that will form the basis of discussion at the large group meeting and will be the culmination of a great deal of hard work and commitment from our stakeholders since the project's launch in 2009.

The hubs will be taking place on the following dates:

- March 21st - North East Hub
- March 23rd - Yorkshire and Humber Hub
- March 25th - Lincolnshire and the Wash Hub
- March 30th - East of England Hub



Runswick Bay by John Rawson



Fan Worm by Paul Naylor

If you would like more information about the Net Gain Project or wish to be removed from our database, please don't hesitate to contact our team:

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