

27th & 28th January 2011
Kings Lynn

Lincolnshire & The Wash
Regional Hub Meeting 4
WORKSHOP REPORT



1. INTRODUCTION

This is the full report of the Lincolnshire & The Wash Regional Hub workshop held in Kings Lynn on 27th and 28th January 2011. This was the fourth meeting for this particular Hub, and was the last of four that were held during January to cover the whole of Net Gain's East coast area. Further Regional Hub meetings will be held as work proceeds towards detailed recommendations to Government for the location of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) in the Net Gain area.

The overall format for the meeting was developed by Net Gain and incorporated feedback offered by participants at the earlier rounds of Regional Hub and Stakeholder Advisory Panel meetings (StAP). The Regional Hub event included:

Day 1 - Full day session

- ☞ **Welcome and introductions (to all)**
- ☞ **Update presentations**
- ☞ **Natural England guidance**
- ☞ **Introduce map work**
- ☞ **Plenary sharing/walk about**
- ☞ **Final map work**
- ☞ **Site naming**
- ☞ **Next stages**
- ☞ **Work to be completed overnight by the Net Gain team**

Day 2 – Half day session

- ☞ **Welcome and introductions**
- ☞ **Update – what Net Gain did overnight**
- ☞ **Plenary map work**
- ☞ **Next stages**

2. NET GAIN BRIEFING

An introduction and briefing on the workshop was provided by Steve Barnard (Net Gain Stakeholder Manager).

The purpose of this round of Regional Hubs was to refine the dMCZs from the 2nd iteration, making amendments required to meet the ENG and consider feedback received from the last meeting. It was essential that at the end of this meeting site location, boundaries and features was agreeable so that we could move onto the task of management at the next round of hubs.

The Hub was advised that the format of this hub covering a day and a half was as follows:-

1. Day one – Group work looking in more detail at specific sites, making amendments and looking for reference areas.
2. Day two – Plenary, working through the suggested amendments deciding on which, with wide support, could be carried forward.

Project updates

At the end of last year Net Gain were informed that the RSG were now responsible for making recommendations for the type of management measures to be developed for each site recommended. In order to deliver this additional work Defra have granted a slight extension. The deadline for recommendations is now 31st August 2011.

In terms of how the meeting was to be conducted it was also stressed that it was extremely important that everyone should get a chance to put their views across and that delegates should respect other peoples' opinions and give everyone a chance to speak.

The Regional Hub members were thanked for their commitment and support given to Net Gain so far.

3. UPDATE PRESENTATION

Steve Barnard went on to give a short presentation outlining what Net Gain did with the October Hub outputs, what had been submitted to the SAP at the 2nd iteration (and the targets reached by the network of 22 dMCZs); summary feedback from the SAP; feedback from the StAP, and from the NCS group and other stakeholders. Finally, an update of the impact assessment was provided covering the work done to date, feedback received from Defra and the next stages. A copy of the slides used to support his presentation is provided as Appendix 1.



4. NATURAL ENGLAND GUIDANCE



The focus of the meeting overall was on finalising dMCZ site boundaries, suggesting reference areas and identifying which features at each site will be the subject of the site's designation. The features identified for designation will help provide the basis for preparing draft conservation objectives which, in turn, will inform debates on management measures in future meetings.

To provide support to this process, Natural England have prepared draft guidance on Reference Areas and guidance on the development of Conservation Objectives.

Tom Manning from Natural England gave a brief presentation on these two areas of guidance, as well as providing a quick overview of the sensitivity matrix work that is being used to help inform assessments on the need for possible management measures.

5. MAP WORK

The remainder of the day was given over to map work in groups. The sites were split up between the groups so that in-depth discussions could be held. Each group was provided with the following:

- A site summary table which showed the features of all sites in 2nd Iteration report for quick reference;
- A copy of all feedback received relating to the 2nd Iteration report;
- A summary of all feedback received, split into ecological and socio-economic factors and sorted by Regional Hub and by site;
- A consensus form for each site with information on features present at the site and associated information relating to additional ecological importance;
- Copies of the PRISM/PISA tools to access and interrogate the features/pressures (sensitivities) matrix and the pressures/activities matrix;
- A reference area checklist;
- An adequacy table, showing what targets have already been met and whether we have habitat 'in the bank'; and
- A regional profile with maps showing all available data layers.

For each of the sites that were worked on, the groups were encouraged to:

1. Use the overall site summary table and the dMCZ/BAI map to determine which BSH, FOCI, AAEL and Geological features were present at the site and to develop an understanding of how it compared to other sites in terms of features and overall 'value'.
2. To consider the reference table to identify which features had limited distribution and therefore which needed to be considered for reference areas within this Regional Hub.
3. To consider the feedback on the site.
4. To take account of 1, 2, and 3 and decide which feedback could be considered.

Groups were then asked to review the site, referring to the regional profile for supporting information. In doing so the groups were instructed to:

- Decide if the boundaries could or should be amended (using the adequacy tables provided to see how much of each habitat was 'in the bank' and how much change could be accommodated).
- Record any changes on the site summary table.
- Decide if the site (or part of it) should be considered as reference area (entering an 'R' in the site summary table against relevant features).
- Decide which features the site should be designated for, adding more features if appropriate or removing features, e.g. if not viable (recording these choices with ticks or crosses against each feature listed in the site summary table).
- Make notes of any changes made to features and why this was done.

Hub members were advised that, during the afternoon session, there would be a short 'walkabout' session to allow each group to see the work being done by the others in the meeting.

6. PLENARY SHARING AND WALKABOUT

During the afternoon session of the first day, the groups moved around to see the work that each of the other tables had completed. For each site, a five minute description was given followed by a further five minutes for wider group feedback. The following prompts were asked:

Q. A quick description of the work done

Q. Considerations made?

Q. Level of support from group?

Q. Are there activities which would need managing for most of the sites features?

Q. Did they feel they were lacking input from a sector not in their group - would they like to borrow someone in the next session?

The following records the main points raised during this session.

Table 1 - Site 2.03 - The Wash and North Norfolk

This site has a number of BSH, Habitat FOCI and Species FOCI within its boundary but these were largely shown as being protected by the existing MPA designation. One feature that was not covered by the designation (as indicated by the Gap Analysis that had been passed to Net Gain from JNCC) was for the subtidal mud BSH. However, Natural England confirmed that the subtidal mud present is effectively covered by the European Marine Site designation and therefore does not require additional MCZ protection. This MPA was originally designated in the 1990's.

Two features are not currently protected (both rock habitats). However the examples found here are small (less than 1km); it is thought that better examples can be found in the Net Gain area.

- In terms of habitat FOCI, blue mussel beds these are protected as a sub-feature of the existing SAC. Group would not want a reference area here for Blue Mussel beds - the group has, in general, low confidence in the data for this area.
- There are small examples of rock beds, estuarine habitat, although it is thought by the group that better examples can be found elsewhere in the Net Gain area.
- Littoral chalk communities – the group is unsure whether they are really present or not (issues with the data). Better examples are thought to be found elsewhere.
- Peat and Clay exposures - there are other, good examples in the Net Gain area - for example, on the North Norfolk coast. However, such areas are likely to be privately owned and there would be historical ownership and rights issues. This habitat does require protection, however, so it will require being looked t further.
- Management measures require further consideration, although there is an existing and robust management system already in place for the SAC.
- It was noted that sea grass beds also need protection – but these could perhaps be located of N.Norfolk, not in the Wash. There are more species to discuss in this immediate area.

- There was good support generated through the group's discussions, although the group could do with input from the MOD and the windfarm sectors. The MOD suggested that they would have an issue if there was a reference area in this site as the area is used for training (e.g. low level flying).
- Group were yet to look at the geological and geomorphological data.

Table 2 - sites 2.06 & 2.05

- For simplicity, the group merged the two sites within a single boundary.
- The key feature of this site was the Inner Dowsing MPA.
- The western portion of the site is of higher importance to the commercial fishing sector. This site overlapped with the Inner Dowsing site and the commercial fishing interests were taken into account throughout discussions.
- The eastern boundary of this site was modified (site area reduced).
- Sabellaria beds and subtidal sand bank features are protected within the Inner Dowsing SAC, but areas between the sand bank features are not currently afforded protection. It was felt that MCZs could afford comprehensive protection to important features in between the sand banks.
- Site 2.05 originally had long eastern extension, which is lacking in general ecological value and would only provide protection to BSH features that are covered (to excess?) elsewhere. Group felt that there was a viable option to trim this area back.
- The group kept the Docking Shoal area and extended the southern boundary to include the Race Channel – in general the group is happy with the progress made so far.
- There are likely to be management implications for the site – but coincident location with the Inner Dowsing SAC site offers management advantages.
- This single consolidated site protects all of the biological assemblages present – it would represent a sensible management approach.
- Shrinking the site appears to be a 'win-win'.
- The importance of the fishing activity in the western portion of the site is acknowledged – it is noted that the eastern portion has less value. Clipping the boundary would protect ecological features of importance. If the eastern portion is surplus, that would be OK to be clipped. Good consensus for this.
- The western boundary skims the top of a dredging area (production license area) – the aggregates sector therefore needs to know what is being protected. The aggregates sector would be particularly interested in the gravels off the sandy area of the Docking Shoal.
- Suggested that the Race Channel could be a reference area for subtidal mixed sediment and subtidal coarse sediment.
- SB checked 2nd iteration report. The report stated that aggregates may need management in area (site 2.06); the same was true for site 2.05. If 2.05 is designated there is a concern that it would lead to the potential cessation of aggregate activity – this would be a block to the consensus. It was noted that Mark Russell had been present when the site was originally proposed and would have been under the impression that the site would be designated for the protection of the subtidal sand BSH feature and not the gravel (subtidal coarse sediment).

- Local knowledge suggested that the area to the east of the Inner Dowsing was a spawning ground for Thornback Ray. There is some trawling in this area, but relatively low effort and there is some potting, to which the features are not likely to be sensitive.

Table 3 - Site 2.07 - Humber Estuary to Skegness

Local knowledge has been used to help inform discussions – e.g. in identifying onshore peat and clay outcrops.

The site consisted largely of subtidal coarse sediment and subtidal sand – these are in surplus within the dMCZ network across the whole of the Net Gain area so the group had looked to reduce the area of the site.

- The southern boundary was moved up (strong lobby from the recreational sea angling sector). It was noted that, within the angling sector, there was a fear of restrictions increasing over time once a site had been designated.
- It was noted that the 3nm zone of that area of the coast is already heavily protected.
- Designating the zone from the 3m out would protect maritime and coastal interests. Area could become a dredged channel in time.
- Pipelines and cables have also been discussed and considered and the data layers overlaid.
- Habitats of Conservation Importance and pelagic importance were also checked.
- There was good compromise and consensus on this table.

Table 4 - Sites 2.09 and 2.11

Site 2.11

- The group achieved some compromise with this site, resulting in them proposing a new substitute site.
- Coverage of the subtidal coarse sediment BSH feature was retained to ensure that adequacy, connectivity was achieved and maintained.
- Overall the site was reduced by 50% in size.
- As many activities as possible were taken into account when deliberating about moving this site.
- The 'new' site 2.11 scored highly as regards its importance for bird foraging.
- It was noted that the original site was chosen for sediment ridges.
- Advice from the SAP was requested regarding the degree to which connectivity in the network had been achieved.

Site 2.09

- This site (covering the area around the Inner Silver Pit) crosses into the area considered by the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Hub.
- This is an area that is recognised for its high fishing value and also fringes an aggregate extraction area.

- It was argued that the clear presence of a geological features justifies the position of this site.
- There is a possibility of a reference area in the southern portion of this site, in a de-licensed aggregate area. This reference site would be designated for Subtidal biogenic reefs.
- Aggregates have requested a buffer zone around proposed sites that fringe aggregate areas.
- Management measures were of a great concern within the group when considering this site.
- Subtidal biogenic reef advice is required from Natural England but it was noted that the location of all reference areas should ultimately be decided by the stakeholders rather than the SNCBs.

After the walkabout the groups were asked if they felt whether they needed to 'borrow' someone from another group to help with concluding their work.

The main map work exercise then continued.

7. SITE NAMING & NEXT STAGES

Towards the end of the afternoon session, each group was provided with a proforma on which they could record their suggestions of names for each of the sites within the Regional Hub (with a maximum of three options per site). Site name suggestions were collated (to be considered further on Day 2) and the meeting was then concluded with a brief overview of the meeting's next stages.

Hub members were thanked for their work and input to the process and were reminded that comments made during the walkabout session had been recorded. These comments are intended to provide a representation of the ongoing discussions at the Hub and do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the Net Gain project team. They will be used to help contextualise the outputs from the meeting and to inform discussions in subsequent Hub meetings.

A brief explanation of the work that the Net Gain team would be undertaking overnight was given – this included the digitising of new site boundaries and the review of suggestions regarding reference areas and changes to designated features.

Finally, those Regional Hub members who were unable to return on the second day were asked to complete a feedback evaluation form.

Completed copies of consensus forms were collected. Scanned copies of the forms, with any additional notes relating to discussions around the groups, are presented as Appendix 2.

Day 1 of the meeting was then closed.



8. DAY 2 INTRODUCTION & SHORT BRIEFING



Steve Barnard provided a quick review of the work carried out overnight, together with an explanation of the objectives for Day 2.

The main objective of Day 2 was to review each of the sites considered on Day 1 in plenary, looking at the suggestions that had been made during the previous days group work. It was intended that, through open discussion and debate, a consensus view could be reached regarding any proposed amendments to site boundaries, to suggestions for reference areas, and to any changes to the list of features for which a site was to be designated.

Hub members were reminded that the focus of the Hub reports would be based on group consensus but that additional or alternative views would also be recorded.

9. MAP WORK: MAIN PLENARY SESSION

In turn, the sites for consideration were introduced, explaining which table had reviewed it the previous day. The features of the site were looked at and amendments suggested by the group responsible for the site on Day 1 were presented to the larger group. The Regional Hub as a whole was then asked if it could agree to put these sites forward, as discussed, at this stage. Other suggestions and considerations were taken into account, with pertinent comments being recorded. As sites were agreed upon they were 'locked in' and the discussion moved onto the next site for consideration.

A list of prompts (as below) was used to help direct the debate:

- What are the features of the site? What value does it bring?
- What was the feedback on it?
- Was it a reference candidate?
- What could be done to make this MCZ acceptable (e.g. change boundaries, size, zoning of activities)?
- What do those who value this site for ecological reasons think about proposed changes?
- Can the group agree support?
- Are there any alternatives for the same feature which have not been considered?
- Are the impacts too great for further consideration?

The following records the main points raised during this session.

Site 2.03

- The group had been advised that the subtidal mud BSH feature is protected by the existing Wash and North Norfolk Coast EMS. All other significant occurrences of BSH features are covered by existing designations. Consequently, site NG2.03 was not considered as a whole.
- Salt marshes and reed beds to be looked at for reference areas.
- Also, examples of peat and clay exposure habitat FOCI were selected for possible protection as there are not as many examples of this habitat in the Net Gain area.
- Potential reference area boundaries to be amended by Chiara following discussions with John Dinwiddy – although further data clarification will be required subsequently using local knowledge.
- MCS offered their local knowledge about this area in terms of the presence of saline lagoons and salt marshes.
- Commercial fishing representative noted that there are complicated historical fishing rights in this area, lots of human activity and it is an area of high socio-economic importance.
- It was noted that an existing site (e.g. already designated to protect birds) may be a preferred option – some areas are already owned and maintained by the Wildlife Trusts and the RSPB.
- It was noted that more discussion is required on this area with John Hiskett, the Wildlife Trust representative for the North Norfolk area.

- Also, it came to light that Natural England may already have plans for the protection of the starlet sea anemone species FOCI in this area and more information/clarification is required.
- It was recorded that this is a very dynamic tidal area and the habitat FOCI that we would be seeking to protect (peat and clay exposures) would only be exposed at low tide. Examples of this habitat type in this area are discreet and any reference area that is designated may consequently be limited in size.
- It was noted that the foreshore in this area is privately owned by the le Strange Estate (a private fishery containing cockle beds and intertidal mussel beds).
- It was noted that we can only put this reference area forward with several points (e.g. the size of the features, and the ownership and subsequent management of the site) that require clarification.
- Although there are records for the lagoon sandshrimp species FOCI in the vicinity of Holbeach there is the question of how modified the site is and whether it could be considered as a reference area. It was also noted that the MOD train in this area with low level flights over the lagoon area. SAP advice on these points was requested, although Natural England suggested that this species is currently protected by the Wash SAC.
- General comments were made that management measures would need to be looked at, and that a common sense approach is required.
- Natural England suggested that, to offer pragmatic protection to species FOCI, the group could consider finding a saline lagoon site and protect the species within it. However, there may well be better examples of saline lagoons elsewhere in the Net Gain area than in this area of the Wash.
- It was suggested that the area under discussion is somewhat strange and that we have been presented with what some may consider to be limited (and outdated) information. It was further suggested that, if the group feels it has insufficient information for an area, it would be irresponsible to designate a reference area. Notwithstanding this, SB reminded the group of the need to find areas based on the best available evidence. In response the group stated that they would be unhappy to designate this area due to poor data quality and low confidence.

Conclusion

As it was not required to protect the large extent of BSH features the site has been considerably reduced and is proposed to now cover just two discrete sites on the North Norfolk coast.

The easternmost of these lies along the centre portion of the North Norfolk coast and would be designated for the coastal saltmarsh and saline reed bed broad scale habitat.

The western most of these would be for the peat and clay exposure habitat FOCI.

- RSPB noted that sea bird populations could also be afforded protection in these areas, as they are used for foraging by gull species and fulmar. The biodiversity report provided to the tables stated that this would be an important area. RSPB asked whether the group working on site NG2.03 had used the biodiversity report as part of their deliberations. The group responsible stated that they had not used the biodiversity report but had focused on the BSH, Habitat and Species FOCI and had used the majority of the layers included in the regional profiles. RSPB reminded the group that MCZs can be designated for a range of features other than BSH, species and habitat FOCI. For example, the SSSI does not currently protect gulls; this is the kind of species that could be afforded protection by an MCZ. It was noted by the

group that, whilst it is true that anything can be protected by MCZs, if we cannot identify a potential threat then it would be hard to define a management measure in this area that would be to the benefit of birds. It was asked whether another layer of protection in the Wash would really add anything - birds are an additional consideration of the ENG, not one of the key principles (it was also noted that, in this context, fish spawning areas are not a key principle either).

- It was noted that the EMS covering The Wash and the North Norfolk Coast already has a very comprehensive management system in place – it may be worth speaking to those that are responsible for the management across this site.
- It was requested by stakeholders that the geology at Gibraltar Point should also be considered. The group responsible stated that geological features were considered by the group and that peat and clay exposures did not show up in this area.

Overall consensus was achieved – two possible reference areas were identified, but the need for further discussion around local ownership and interests was again highlighted. Further consideration is also to be given to Gibraltar Point. The boundaries for the suggested reference areas will be redrawn as per discussions on the day.

Going forwards, the two separate reference areas that have been derived from NG2.03 will be referred to as RA-LW3 (for coastal saltmarshes & saline reedbeds) and RA-LW1 (for peat & clay exposures).

In addition, it was agreed that reference areas could be considered for both the tentacled lagoon worm (*Alkmaria romijni*) and the lagoon sand shrimp (*Gammarus insensibilis*) where records of these species FOCI can be identified that are coincident with the agreed reference area for broad scale habitat type A2.5 (coastal saltmarshes & saline reedbeds).

The overall consensus for these two reference areas (on a scale of 1 to 4 where 1 is low and 4 is high) was recorded as being at level 3.

Confidence in the underlying data was medium, and the likely level of contention (should the sites go to public consultation for designation) was felt to be medium by the group as a whole (but the commercial fishing noted that they have serious reservations and believes that we may hit a brick wall, particularly with the proposals for the peat & clay reference area).

Table 2 - Sites 2.05 and 2.06

The group considered this pair of sites (which shared a common boundary line) as single consolidated site (making deliberations and discussions more straightforward).

- It was suggested that a small portion be added to the northern boundary of the consolidated site. A 'dotted' boundary down the centre of the site was proposed to delineate the area (to the east) that could be discarded if it was subsequently found to be surplus to requirement.
- This site overlaps with Inner Dowsing SAC (where the subtidal biogenic reefs habitat FOCI are protected) so did not include this habitat FOCI as a specific feature of this dMCZ.
- The group working in the site had suggested the inclusion of a reference area for subtidal coarse sediment and subtidal mixed sediments, but it is noted that this reference area was recommended on the strength of modelled data. The reference area suggestion was caveated with the statement that the group was not happy with the data, but the reference area designation remains an option. Group maintain that

there are likely to be much better examples of this habitat elsewhere in the Net Gain area.

- Identified that the data set that has been used is not entirely robust – there is very low data confidence in this area. Natural England noted that finding a reference site for Sabellaria will always suffer with the recurring problem of using modelled data.
- Natural England suggested that there are good areas in the Race Channel for the subtidal mixed sediment and subtidal coarse sediment BSH features.
- There was discussion around boundary amendments that had been made to effectively avoid aggregate dredging areas – there was a view that the commercial fishing sector had not benefitted in the same way. The Docking Shoal and the Race Channel are important potting areas. The group checked the data in the sensitivity matrix, which suggested that static gear use would be compatible with the feature. Consequently the group agreed to put this site forward on the strength of this information, with the proviso that it was understood that potting could continue at the current level. Again, there was a comment from the commercial fishing sector that it appears that sites can be amended to accommodate dredging and windfarms but commercial fishing must always give ground. SB reiterated to the group that using and understanding the matrices is useful but Net Gain cannot offer any guarantees to any sector about restrictions on activities. Natural England stated that potting is not an activity that would have an impact on subtidal mixed or coarse sediment, it would not, therefore, be restricted in this area. Commercial fishing representatives reminded the group that it's peoples' livelihoods at stake and that a guarantee is needed. SB stated that he hoped that the assurances from Natural England had helped in this respect.
- Local knowledge stated that you are more likely to find ray in this area (not indicated in the data layers available to the group) than eel or smelt (which are indicated as being present in the area).
- The group agreed to take the suggestion of a site designated for Sabellaria reefs forward.
- New western boundary of the site was agreed, making use of the northern boundary of the existing SAC site – there was high consensus for this adjustment.
- It was noted by a stakeholder that it seems premature to propose a reference site when we are still unsure as to whether or not the Sabellaria reef feature is actually present - more data is required.
- The aggregates sector pointed out that clipping a site boundary tight against a licensed area is not ideal for the sector – it is suggested that buffer zones (500m) would mitigate for any problems.
- RSPB pointed out that there is evidence of harbour porpoise in this area, and asked the group whether anyone had further information on this. Nothing was immediately forthcoming, but the environment Agency pointed out that harbour porpoise are notoriously hard to monitor. It was stated that, in the production of the impact assessments relating to the development of the Centrica windfarm, extensive research was carried out in this area. SB related information originally shared by Martin Kitching (of Northern Experience Wildlife Tours in the North East Regional Hub) that apparent hotspots for some marine mammal species can move considerably over time.
- A buffer zone where the proposed site lies adjacent to a windfarm development was requested by Centrica.

Conclusion

Overall consensus was achieved – the boundaries for the new consolidated site will be redrawn as per discussions on the day.

Going forwards, the new consolidated site developed from the original sites NG2.05 and 2.06 will be referred to as NG4. The features that this site would be designated for were agreed as shown in the table below. In the table, 'REF' indicates where it has been suggested that a site may encompass a reference area for a feature.

| Features present within suggested modification to original sites dMCZ NG2.05 & 2.06 | Carry forward for designation in NG4 |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| A5.1: Subtidal coarse sediment | ✓ ? REF |
| A5.2: Subtidal sand | a |
| A5.4: Subtidal mixed sediments | ✓ ? REF |
| A5.6: Subtidal biogenic reefs | ✓ |
| | |
| Ross worm (Sabellaria) reefs | ✓ |
| Subtidal sands & gravels | ✓ |
| | |
| European eel | - |
| Smelt | - |

The overall consensus for this site (on a scale of 1 to 4 where 1 is low and 4 is high) was recorded as being at level 4.

Confidence in the underlying data was medium, and the likely level of contention (should the sites go to public consultation for designation) was felt to be medium by the group as a whole (but the commercial fishing, aggregates and offshore windfarm sectors all expressed concerns).

Table 3 - Site 2.8

- It was felt that this site did not need to be retained in the dMCZ to satisfy the targets for BSH feature adequacy, connectivity or replication. In addition it was understood (following additional input from Natural England) that there were no particular species or habitats of conservation importance present within the site and Natural England had noted that this was not the best of example of the BSH feature(s) in question.

Conclusion

The site was dropped from the network (although it was noted that this site could be revisited at a later date if necessary). It was also recorded that dropping this site would be of less significance than dropping the eastern portion of the consolidated sites NG 2.05 and 2.06 as agreed earlier in the plenary session.

Site 2.7

- This coastal site ran from the Humber estuary south down the Lincolnshire coast. There was agreement to move the southern boundary northward to reduce potential socio-economic impacts, particularly on the recreational angling sector. In addition, the north-east portion of the site was reduced so that the eastern boundary of the site was coincident with the 3nm boundary. An adequate amount of the BSH features

were still covered and the site remained viable, despite clipping the boundary in this way.

- The group responsible for reviewing this site confirmed that they had made use of the additional ecological (biodiversity) information, stakeholder feedback and many layers from the Regional Profile – the amended boundary does not exclude any of the additional ecological benefits associate with the original site.
- Local knowledge stated categorically that Sabellaria reefs are not present in this area.
- The revised boundary had been decided on with knowledge that this will align it with the work that was completed in the Yorkshire and Humber hub. The site is also effectively an extension of existing national nature reserves.
- MCS questioned the motivation behind clipping the boundary. The group responsible explained that they had used local knowledge to inform all discussions and that the decisions made were rooted in the ecology of the site. There is more peat and clay north of Skegness. South of the revised boundary is a highly-used (white fish) fishing ground as well so it was noted that it was preferable to clip the boundary
- The risk of increase in restrictions in the future (post-designation) was noted. At this stage, no one is envisaging restriction for the recreational sector. It may happen in the future, but that is an uncertainty that we cannot manage.
- The commercial fishing sector were asked whether the site included areas that are currently used by beam trawlers. MMO confirmed that beam trawlers have been known to operate in this area.
- It was noted by the Hub that the area north of this site (site NG2.12 on the Yorkshire coast) has an existing no trawl zone out to 3nm.
- SB passed on comments that had been received from a stakeholder who was unable to attend this round of meetings. This stakeholder had requested that, in relation to the Lincolnshire coast, the impacts of beam trawling were discussed, as well as the potential impacts of site designation on bait digging. These comments were noted but were not discussed.
- The potential that we will 'sterilising' offshore areas is a concern from some sectors. In addition there were some general concerns about cable landfall in relation to this coastal site. These concerns have arisen from their interpretation of the information within the features/pressures (sensitivity) matrix and the activities/pressures matrix – this is likely to be an issue going forward.
- It was suggested that, whereas the suggestions regarding site NG2.03 had concentrated on discreet features, the approach taken for this site was more broad brush. In this context it was recognised that there is currently far more existing legislation in the area of The Wash compared to this stretch of coast.
- It was noted that the site could be well justified (in terms of protecting BSH features) given the presence of 138km² of subtidal coarse sediment. The area also covers important foraging and wintering areas for seabirds and an important area for seals.
- It was noted that the one of the dMCZs for the Yorkshire and Humber hub is continuous with this site and there was some discussion over the boundary between the two sites. The fact that a channel at the mouth of the Humber is dredged, and that there is a large amount of shipping in this area, was raised, with the suggestion that the sites may benefit from being separated across the mouth of the estuary. Alternatively, it might be more appropriate to wait until the IFCAs have been established and to use the boundary between neighbouring jurisdictions at the

Humber to provide a more logical boundary. This suggestion was, for the time being, carried forward.

Conclusion

Overall consensus was achieved but noting comments recorded above. Site boundaries will be redrawn as per discussions, reflecting boundary changes recorded on the day.

Going forwards, site NG2.07 will be referred to as NG5. The features that site would be designated for were agreed as shown in the table below.

| Features present within suggested modification to original dMCZ NG2.07 | Carry forward for designation in NG5 |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| A2.2: Intertidal sand and muddy sand | - |
| A5.1: Subtidal coarse sediment | ✓ |
| A5.2: Subtidal sand | - |
| A5.3: Subtidal mud | - |
| A5.4: Subtidal mixed sediments | - |
| | |
| Littoral chalk communities | ✓ |
| Peat & clay exposures | ✓ |
| Ross worm (Sabellaria) reefs | - |
| Subtidal chalk | ✓ |
| Subtidal sands & gravels | ✓ |
| | |
| European eel | - |
| Smelt | - |

The overall consensus for this site (on a scale of 1 to 4 where 1 is low and 4 is high) was recorded as being at level 3.

Confidence in the underlying data was medium, and the likely level of contention (should the sites go to public consultation for designation) was felt to be medium by the group as a whole (but concerns from a number of sectors - reflecting potential issues for cables, commercial fishing, port operation – were noted).

Post plenary comments

- *SB to ask advice from the SAP whether we reposition the boundaries of sites NG2.12 and NG2.07 so as to have a gap between them or to keep them with a coincident boundary at the mouth of the Humber (with the potential for zoned management in this vicinity).*
- *There was also a question on seals and little terns - are they to be a protected feature? The question as to whether or not Conservation Objectives would adequately cover them was raised. It was concluded that, at this stage, they are not to be taken forward as designated features but could be reconsidered later.*

Table 4 - Site 2.11

This was an offshore site which was originally selected for subtidal coarse sediment, subtidal sand, sands and gravels; it was also suggested that it may be a good site for the European eel.

- This site was less than ideal from a socio-economic perspective, so looked to move site to a different location whilst retaining its conservation benefits. There were specific objections from the commercial fishing sector; the group also took into account the concerns of the seabed users at the table. Even after reducing the area of the site by c.50%, the site still appeared to carry the same ecological benefits as it did in its original configuration. As part of its repositioning the site was tailored along its northern edge against a large sub-sea ravine (the edge of the Outer Silver Pit).
- The group felt well informed regarding this area, and it was felt that commercial fishing was considered throughout discussions.
- This new site still provided connectivity with the rest of the network but was situated away from sea bed cables and pipelines, and cable landfall issues.
- The proposed site includes c.190km² of subtidal coarse sediment, two small patches of subtidal mixed sediment (which are too small to be viable) and c.50km² of subtidal sand, although concerns were noted over the quality of data in this area.
- In discussion, the group noted that they would be happier to maintain the new recommended site rather than extend it to encompass more of the Outer Silver Pit. It was suggested that it would be better to review what we have rather than try to add to it. SB reminded group that this zone is on the boundary of the Outer Silver Pit and that the ENG recommends that this should be looked at for inclusion as it is one of the key geological features identified within the Net Gain area. It was noted by commercial fishing sector however that including part of the Silver Pit feature would be highly contentious as the area is heavily fished. Group stated that they would require more information on this area in order to make a decision. The commercial fishing sector noted that fishing does not only take place in the deep water of the Silver Pit, but that it takes place on the edges (outer margins) of the Silver Pit as well.
- It was commented that the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Hub had not considered this zone in their deliberations, and that the L&W regional Hub would not now be doing so had they not suggested moving site NG2.11 to this new location.
- The commercial fishing sector wanted it noting that they are unclear on exactly what we are trying to protect and that, if we are not sure of that, then we are unclear on the motives that underpin actions that could result in people going out of business. VMS data for the area (for both UK and non-UK fishing effort) was examined. Commercial fishing representatives noted that fishermen fish the contours and edges of the Outer Silver Pit and that, as such, this would be a HIGHLY contentious area to extend into. SB suggested that contention might be reduced if the boundary of this site was clipped to the edge of the feature.

Conclusion

Overall consensus was achieved, with the revised site (with the clipped boundary) being taken forward, noting comments recorded above. Site boundaries will be redrawn as per discussions, reflecting boundary changes recorded on the day.

Going forwards, site NG2.11 will be referred to as NG7. The features that this site would be designated for were agreed as shown in the table below.

| Features present within suggested modification to original dMCZ NG2.11 | Carry forward for designation in NG7 |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| A4.2: Moderate energy circalittoral rock | - |
| A5.1: Subtidal coarse sediment | ✓ |
| A5.2: Subtidal sand | ✓ |
| A5.4: Subtidal mixed sediments | - |
| | |
| Subtidal sands & gravels | - |
| | |
| European eel | - |

The overall consensus for this site (on a scale of 1 to 4 where 1 is low and 4 is high) was recorded as being at level 4.

Confidence in the underlying data was low to medium, and the likely level of contention (should the sites go to public consultation for designation) was felt to be medium by the group as a whole (but noting the concerns from the commercial fishing sector regarding the potential implications of designating in the heavily-fished area of the Outer Silver Pits).

Site 2.9

The original boundary of this site needed to be changed, as part of the northern portion of the site overlapped with a consolidated site which was agreed by the Yorkshire & Humber Regional Hub.

- The site effectively encompasses the Inner Silver Pit, and was originally promoted on the basis of its rocky, canyon walls and the associated faunal assemblages. The site (which consists largely of subtidal coarse sediment and subtidal sand) has high biodiversity value and currently captures interesting and important geological features, especially with the main valley and the northern and southern approaches to each end covered. According to Natural England the habitats and biology at the site are interesting.
- In places the site is clipped tightly to the Inner Silver Pit feature, in part due to the local requirements and potential impacts of aggregate extraction operations. It was suggested that the site boundary could be usefully based on contours rather than on straight lines.
- It was noted that the commercial fishing sector could be significantly (negatively) affected by designating this area.
- The possibility of designating a 'mini-MCZ' for a single feature which would also act as a reference area was discussed and it was concluded that this would be possible. A counter position was put forward by MCS who argued that it would be easier for Net Gain to consider reference sites as part of a larger MCZ site.
- Aggregates reminded the group about their suggested requirement for buffer zones around sites adjacent to operational aggregate extraction sites. It was noted that parts of this area have historically been deemed inappropriate for use by aggregates (i.e. the aggregates extraction operations focus on the shallower waters and avoid the deeper areas).

- The potential impact on the aggregate industry was suggested as being something that could be discussed further at the next round of meetings when we have more information on the table.
- SB suggested that the site is nevertheless put forward as a working example. In response, the aggregates sector noted that they would prefer it if the reference site was separate and was not located such that it might impact on operations. There was suggestion from other stakeholders that more information is provided by the aggregates sector. In this context it was suggested that the Triton Knoll (EIA) document will potentially provide more information.
- It was pointed out by the commercial fishing sector that this is an important fishing area; it appears that the needs of the marine aggregates and windfarm sectors are being taken into account, fishing should be given the same level of consideration
- Natural England commented that the canyon walls and approaches should be included within the designations for this area. The sensitivity (features/pressure) matrices cannot give guarantees on restrictions that will or won't be put on fishing – we can't at present say that all forms of fishing will remain unaffected. The natural England representative said that he did believe that the features we are discussing would have limited sensitivity to potting.
- One of the commercial fishing representatives stated that he felt that “the goal posts keep moving”; another said that in earlier discussions we were told that restrictions would be limited, and that they were now being told that there will be restrictions. In response Natural England stated that management would be addressed on a case by case basis. It was also noted by another stakeholder that it wasn't a case of other being unrestricted in their operation and that both the windfarm and aggregates sectors have to go through a huge process of EIAs, licensing and restrictions in order to operate. Commercial fishing representative reiterated that fishermen present had added their consensus agreement to certain MCZ sites on the guarantee that potting and shrimping would be allowed but that they now feel that the rules have changed.
- The Environment Agency recommended that neither eel or smelt are included as protected features.

Conclusion

Overall consensus was achieved and the site (with a modified boundary) is being taken forward, noting comments recorded above. The potential inclusion of a reference area for the Sabellaria reef habitat FOCI (within the south west portion of the site) was to be considered further when more data can be presented. Site boundaries will be redrawn as per discussions, reflecting boundary changes recorded on the day (which related primarily to refining the boundaries of the site more to the feature itself).

Going forwards, site NG2.09 will be referred to as NG6. The features that this site would be designated for were agreed as shown in the table below. In the table, 'LK' indicates options are based on Local Knowledge presented and shared within the meeting.

| Features present within suggested modification to original dMCZ NG2.09 | Carry forward for designation in NG6 |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| A4.2: Moderate energy circalittoral rock | ✓ |
| A5.1: Subtidal coarse sediment | ✓ |
| A5.2: Subtidal sand | ✓ |
| A5.3: Subtidal mud | ✓ |
| A5.4: Subtidal mixed sediments | ✓ |
| | |
| Ross worm (<i>Sabellaria</i>) reefs | ✓ LK |
| Subtidal sands & gravels | ✓ |
| | |
| Ocean quahog (<i>Arctica islandica</i>) | ✓ |
| European eel | - |
| Smelt | - |

The overall consensus for this site (on a scale of 1 to 4 where 1 is low and 4 is high) was recorded as being at level 4.

Confidence in the underlying data was high, and the likely level of contention (should the sites go to public consultation for designation) was felt to be high by the group as a whole.

Post plenary comments

After the meeting had closed, a representative of the commercial fishing sector asked it to be recorded that:

- *The original site 2.03 that had been discussed earlier is already an SAC, SPA and SSSI, and that these designations mean that existing activities (such as bait-digging, wild fowling and fishing) are already managed in line with existing historical rights.*
- *It was felt that there may be issues with the peat and clay exposures that the group had discussed towards the western end of the North Norfolk coast as this area is owned by the le Strange Estate and that a number of traditional activities take place here.*
- *He would like it noted that, in his opinion, the proposals for reference areas would 'hit a brick wall' in this area, as it is already well and responsibly managed. Further protection would be seen by many as unnecessary 'double cover'.*
- *The commercial fishing industry has worked with projects such as net Gain in good faith, in the hope that livelihoods would not be lost. From the exchange towards the end of the meeting, it would appear that the goalposts have moved.*



10. AGREED PLENARY MAP OUTPUTS



Draft MCZs

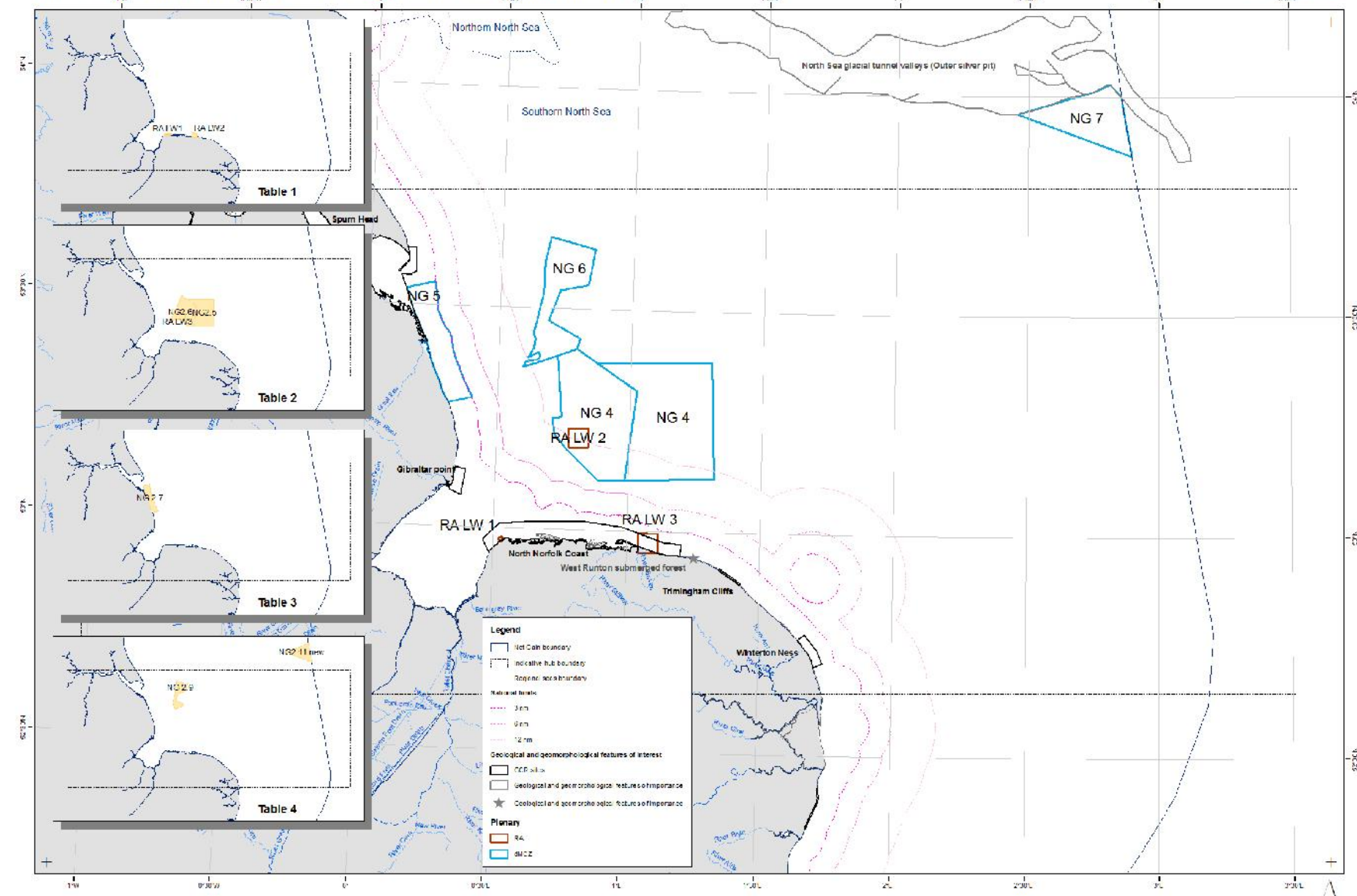
The following figures (overleaf) show the revised draft MCZ sites as suggested by the groups during the map work on the first day (as insets) and as they were agreed to be carried forward following the plenary discussions on Day 2 (the main body of the figure).

The degree to which the network of dMCZs (as agreed post-plenary) meet the requirements of the Ecological Network Guidance (for adequacy, replication, etc.) will be assessed and presented within the 3rd iteration report to the Science Advisory Panel.

Lincolnshire and The Wash Hub - Stakeholder aggregated outputs of the 3rd iteration



Table 1 and aggregated outputs from the January hub meeting. RALW1 - 1st marine conservation zone. RA - reference area. Reference areas have been proposed to protect: RA1 - 1st paleo and neo exposure. RA10 - 1st potential sea level rise and for A10 - 1st potential raised sediment. RA10 - 1st potential sea level rise and for A10 - 1st potential raised sediment. RA10 - 1st potential sea level rise and for A10 - 1st potential raised sediment. RA10 - 1st potential sea level rise and for A10 - 1st potential raised sediment.



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Projected Coordinate System: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 31N

11. SITE NAMING 2

Net Gain had taken the site names suggested on Day 1 and prepared a series of large wall charts to allow for voting.

Each member of the Regional Hub was given a set of stickers and they were then asked, for each site, to each place one sticker against their favourite suggested name.

The resulting scores from this exercise are presented below as Table 1.

These suggested names are, at this stage, indicative only.

Table 1 Suggested possible site names, with indicative support

| Site | Suggested site name | Votes |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|
| 2.3 (general) | North Norfolk Coast | 4 |
| | | |
| Ref site (reedbed) | Titchwells's Bird Reserve | 3 |
| | | |
| Ref site (clay) | Cley Bird Reserve | 4 |
| | | |
| 2.5/2.6 | Dave MCZ | - |
| | Inner Dowsing | - |
| | North Ridge MCZ | - |
| | Race Bank | - |
| | Wash Approach MCZ | 6 |
| | | |
| 2.7 | Dawson's Creak | - |
| | Lincolnshire Coast | 1 |
| | Lincs Belt | 5 |
| | Pirates' Retreat | 2 |
| | | |
| 2.9 | Silver Pit | 8 |
| | The Gulley | - |
| | | |
| 2.11 (as revised) | Markham's Triangle | 6 |
| | Valley Side | 2 |
| | | |
| All sites in LW Regional Hub | Suggest to let local schools choose | 1 |

12. NEXT STAGES

The Hub members were informed that, following the full round of Regional Hub meetings, reports for each meeting would be prepared and made available to members as soon as possible.

When they meet on the 7th February, the StAP will look in particular at any cross boundary redundancy remaining and where we are still lacking reference suggestions they will be asked to comment and advise.

The next round of hubs (in April or May) is going to be slightly different as we will need to shift the focus onto management options for the proposed sites. We will be working on a site by site basis to review the features, look at existing management and see what else may be needed depending on what activities occur at the site. To facilitate that work, we will go away and develop a 'vulnerability assessment' for each site – using the features you have defined for the site, and what activities occur at the site we will cross reference with the PRISM database to see which may or may not need management.

Before we do that though, we will need to introduce you to the different types of management options available. We plan to hold a joint session prior to the next round of hubs with the MMO – this will be w/c 21 March. Details TBC.

Completed evaluation forms were collected (the data from these are presented as Appendix 3) and Net Gain expressed their thanks for everyone's hard work over the course of the meeting; all inputs were greatly valued and appreciated.

UPDATE

Since the Regional Hub meeting the dates for the next round of one day meetings, to be held in conjunction with the MMO, have been confirmed as follows:

- North East Regional Hub – 21st March;
- Yorkshire & Humber Regional Hub – 23rd March;
- Lincolnshire & The Wash Regional Hub – 25th March; and
- East of England Regional Hub – 30th March.

The subsequent round of Net Gain Regional Hub meetings have been pencilled in as:

- Yorkshire & Humber Regional Hub – 12th & 13th April;
- North East Regional Hub – 4th & 5th May;
- East of England Regional Hub – 10th & 11th May; and
- Lincolnshire & The Wash Regional Hub – 12th & 13th May.

In both instances the venues, timings and intended content will be communicated to Regional Hub members once details have been finalised.

PARTICIPANTS

The list below includes all invitees. We have also included those who sent apologies; they also will be receiving this report.

| Name | Sector | Notes |
|-------------------|------------------------------|-------|
| Trevor Baker | Npower Renewables | |
| Elizabeth Bourke | NFFO | |
| Linda Bourne | RAF Donna Nook | |
| Katie Critchley | Environment Agency | |
| Laurie Dawson | Recreational angling | |
| John Dinwiddy | Recreational Boating | |
| Bob Garnett | Commercial fishing | |
| Paul Garnett | Commercial fishing | |
| Tony Hogg | Recreational angling | |
| Gordon Jackson | Recreational angling | |
| Mike Jones | RSPB | |
| Paul Learoyd | Wildlife Trust | |
| John Lorking | Kings Lynn Conservancy Board | |
| Tom Manning | Natural England | |
| Ian Martin | Commercial fishing | |
| Ian Mills | The Crown Estate | |
| Chris Pater | English Heritage | |
| Paulo Pizzola | Academic | |
| Andy Roper | Commercial fishing | |
| Graham Singleton | CEMEX UK Marine Ltd | |
| Jez Sooben | MMO | |
| Ben Southerland | Commercial fishing | |
| Rob Spray | MCS | |
| Judith Stoutt | ESFJC | |
| Steven Williamson | Processing | |
| Jennifer Wilson | On behalf of Centrica | |
| Jessica Woo | ESFJC | |

In addition to the invited Hub members, the following members of Net Gain staff were present:

- Steve Barnard – Stakeholder Manager
- Dani Sewell – PR & Communications Manager
- Chiara Polce – GIS Planner
- Dan Davis – Liaison Officer
- Tammy Stamford – Liaison Officer
- Pete Hansell – Liaison Officer



APPENDIX 1



Net Gain presentation

The following pages show the slides that accompanied the presentation to Day 1 of the Regional Hub meeting.



APPENDIX 2



Completed Consensus Forms

The following pages are taken from scanned copies of the completed Consensus Forms for each of the sites discussed during the first day.

In addition, any further notes relating to discussions around the groups are also presented.

Additional comments recorded during the discussions on Day 1 are presented below.

Table 1 - Site NG 2.3

- Original dMCZ 2.3 discarded. Group felt that many of the BSHs were already protected under SAC designation. Also better and more extensive examples of particular BSHs elsewhere in Net Gain region?
- Biogenic reefs believed to be present but not as extensive as distribution shown. ESFJC dispute correctness of data. Decision not to look for reference area for this habitat due to low confidence in data.
- Concerns regarding accuracy of data.
- ESFJC knowledge that there are small clusters of mussel beds in the Wash rather than large extensive biogenic reefs.
- Gat mussel bed an old mussel bed – might be good reference area but uncertainty as to exact location.
- Sabellaria present but not believed to be as extensive as marked. Already protected by other designations.
- Mussel bed off Gibraltar Point not thought to be present.
- Rossworm believed to be found in other locations. Not believed to be found where marked.
- Seagrass in Wells but not in The Wash. Royal Haskoning monitor every year for NE.
- Would like advice from SAP on lagoon species – The Wash is not necessarily the best location for reference area because lagoons heavily modified. Also afforded protection under the SAC.
- Potential management issues:
- Common rights and private fisheries over marshes on North Norfolk coast.
- Private fisheries off Gore Pt and Hunstanton. Mussels and cockles.
- Brancaster Fishermen work in the coastal zone, mainly in the mussel beds along North Norfolk.

Site NG 2.3A

- Suggestion to designate as peat and clay reference area.

Site NG 2.3B

- Suggestion to designate as reference site for coastal saltmarsh and saline reed beds. Starlet sea anemone and peat/clay also believed to be present.

Table 4 - Site NG2.09

- Didn't feel that the boundaries needed to be changed at all
- Natural England support that a subtidal biogenic reef exists in area
- The SNCBs would advise on the viability of a Sabellaria ref site
- NE, after gaining information would provide hub with suggested ref site at later hub
- Fishing representative caveats; fishing interests accepted the inclusion of a ref site dependent on man measures and the size of any ref site must be justifiable - for fishing, smaller the better
- Aggregates- site as shown is clear of active dredging but would request a 500m buffer between dredging and any ref site

Site NG2.11

- Discussed and decided to be scrapped.
- The site was moved further North and reduce in size by half
- Looked at BSH and saw that the habitats were well covered and in excess so there was no problem with reducing size
- New site takes in part of North Sea Glacial Tunnel Valley and benefits would include a slight increase in bird foraging and wintering areas
- Reason for moving site was that it was formerly on nephrop fishing area- moving it reduced socio-economic impacts
- Possible ref site discussed in site 2.11 but it was felt that the management criteria would be unmanageable

Table 2 - Merged sites NG2.5 and 2.6 – making single new site (referred to as 2.41)

- Annex 1 habitat within IDRBNR afforded protection under N2K
- Same with Ross Worm H FOCI
- SOCI- Other FOCI are not considered to require representation within the site due to information in distribution maps
- Sandbank features already protected as geological feature within IDRBNR
- Docking Shoal area is indicated as above nat ave for eco imp
- Common tern foraging
- Sandwich tern foraging
- Fulmar foraging
- Eastern portion marked for discussion as to whether or not to take forward
- Representativity very good- ENG principle
- Protecting areas in between sandbank features protects the ecological coherence of the site by protecting bio assemblages within the site
- NE would like to extend boundary of site south to ensure inclusion of the Race Channel feature
- Potential objection to this from Centrica development
- Based on assumption (checked with matrix) that potting could continue
- Concern of windfarms- would designated sandbanks and areas in between result in 'sterilisation' of the area. Concerned as Race Bank OFWindfarm is situated within the site and possible socio-economic issues were identified
- RSPB noted that more clarification and discussion would be requested at a later date to ascertain what protection may be available to seabirds in this site in the future
- Suggested ref site for subtidal coarse sediment and mixed subtidal coarse sediment in Race Channel- this is to be discussed in plenary day 2

Table 3 – site NG2.7

- Ian Martin's local knowledge – Peat locations in and offshore and some boulder clay
- IM- A lot of silt in water which settles to the bottom when calm
- IM believes that the quahog exists in the mud
- PL said it is well distributed across the whole site
- Peat and outcrops of boulder clay and petrified wood also found
- Intermittently exposed- covered by sand
- Sabellaria reefs are found everywhere (IM)
- The table decided to include IM's local knowledge and change the BSH data. The numbers were reduced/increased accordingly

- Comments were made about the 'straight lines' between habitats. Table unsure of data validity – mixed sands, shingle etc
- Questions asked about otter trawling. Rock hopper gear used in that area. Confirmed that benthic trawling is compatible.
- Overlaid Fisherman data to check activity and confirmed to be accurate
- IM needs to refer to his chart for an accurate area of peat and clay. We believe approx 1km sq.
- Mud- approx 12.5km sq
- LB would like MCZ to cover bombing range and seals
- IM half mile offshore from Donna Nook is sandy ground. Shrimp-fishing
- IM would like the varied habitats to be incorporated as MCZ
- PL – Is the stony ground within the coarse sed?
- TM – Referred to his NE guide – sublittoral coarse sediment includes coarse sand, gravel and shingle. IM said that larger stones are important for habitat
- TB- Will the Humber silt affect the immediate area outside the mouth?
- Overlaid the biodiversity chart onto sites. Small area of importance for birds foraging (terns)
- LD- suggested that the whole site be moved offshore to protect angling. Future changes could be made to make it an MCZ. Table seemed reluctant to do this
- TB- agreed that the site can be shrunk but should still protect certain habitats
- LD was cautious about boats fishing further from shore due safety risk
- Table discussed that a ref area in this area could be detrimental to the recreational sector
- Matrices shows that angling and trawling are compatible with peat and clay
- Question about anchoring, but it believed that it would be compatible
- TB- asked about installations and their compatibility- matrices showed not compatible. PL noted that future planning will be done through consultation
- JS noted that an MCZ may keep out future heavy industrial activities in the future- could be good for angling
- TB – Does the fact that it may mean that it gets covered by sand mean that it may not be a thriving habitat
- Southern boundary- Anderby Creek. Northern boundary - just north of Mablethorpe
- PG- Beach recharge scheme along the coast in this zone
- TB – has an issue with 'sterilising' the whole coastline when cable/pipeline activities are not compatible
- Suggestion of moving to 3 nautical mile line
- Reference sites- the Knock was previously discussed as potential ref site. However, now not valid as not in this area
- Site NG2.8
- Mainly subtidal mixed sediment and high pelagic rating
- TB – can we not consider pelagic when designating a sea bed?
- PL- Disagreed
- Concern around the table about 'numbers' and just hitting the targets
- TM said that Site NG2.10 is preferable to NG2.8

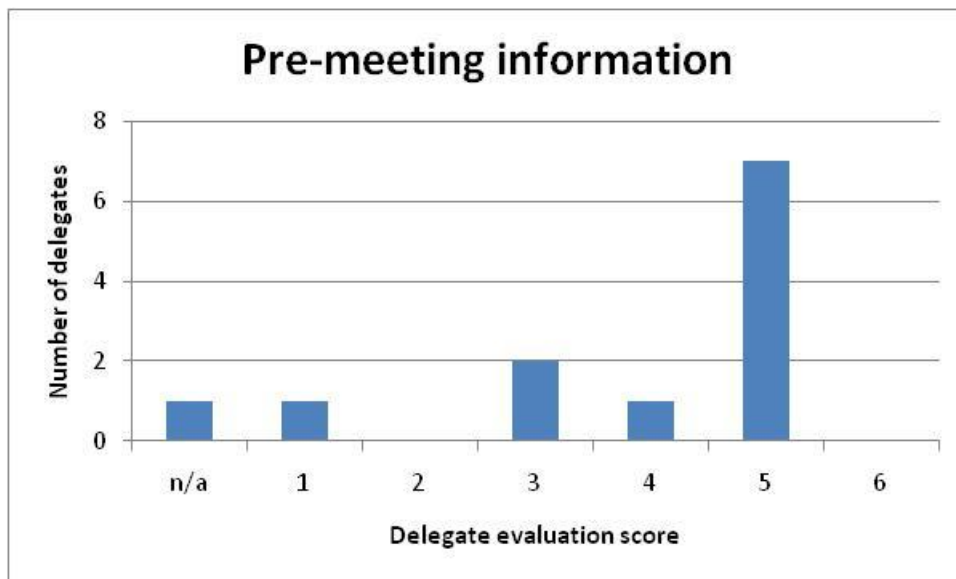
APPENDIX 3

Feedback & evaluation

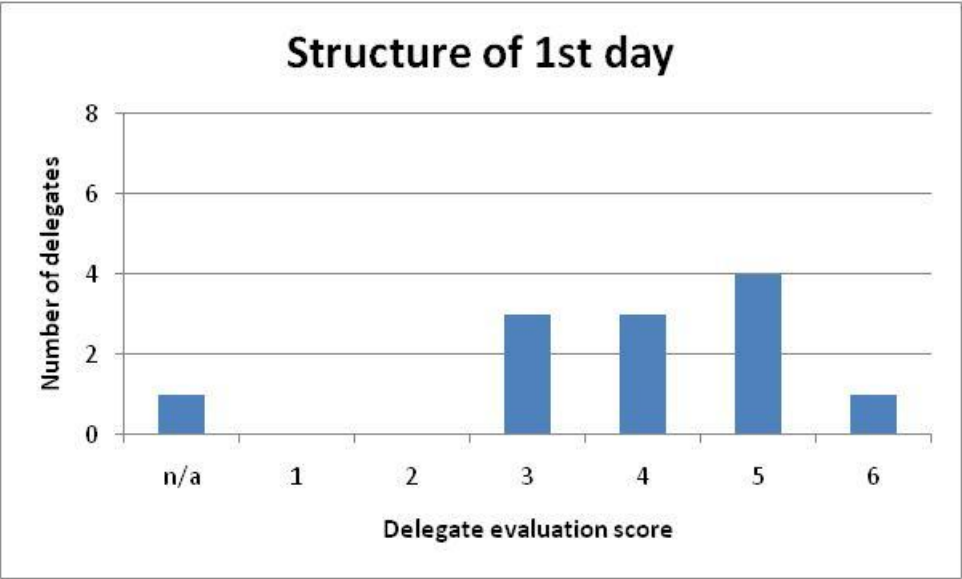
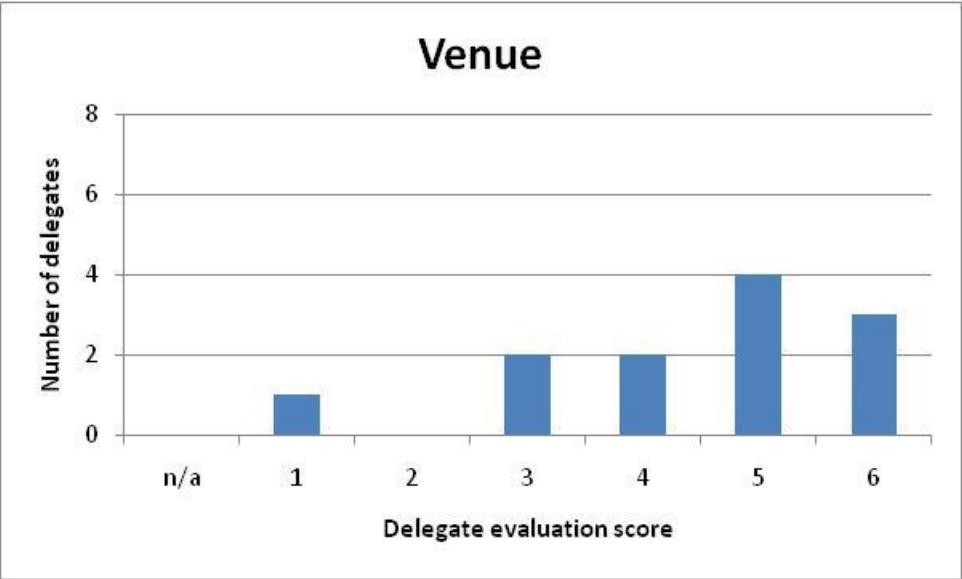
The following figures show the results of the feedback/evaluation questionnaires that were completed by Regional Hub members following the meeting. Where specific comments were received these are presented under the relevant figure (the comment is preceded by the score that was given by the respondent).

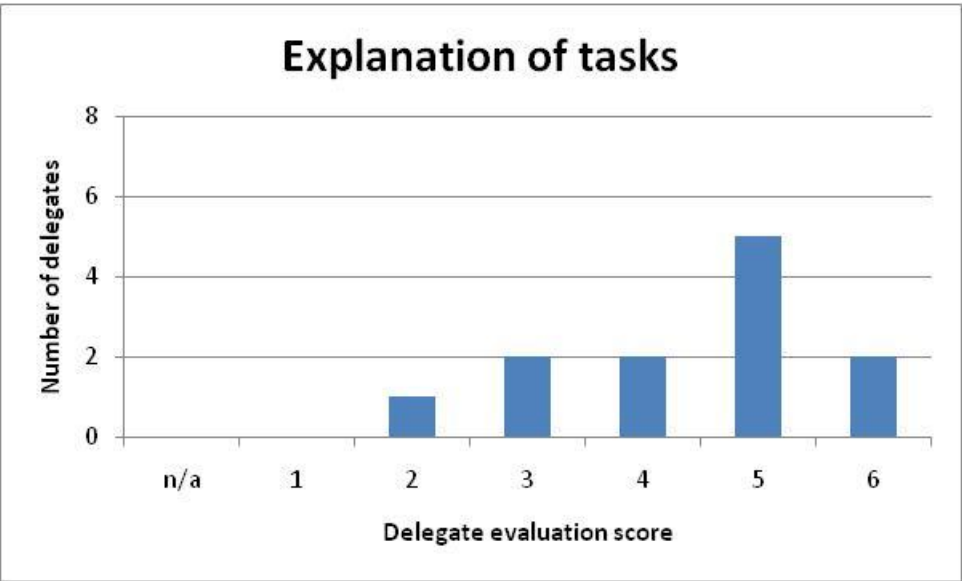
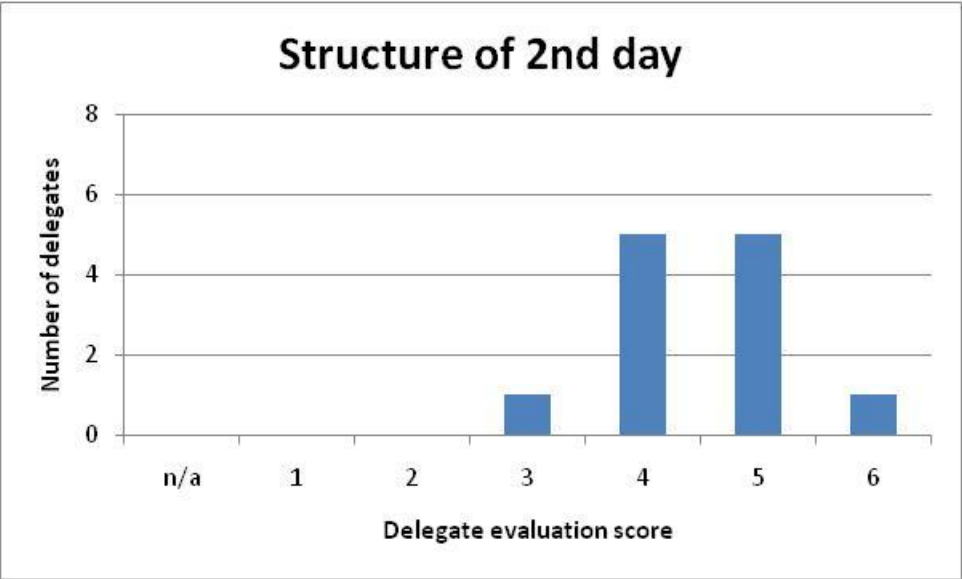
Each question/section was rated on a scale of 1 to 6, where 1 was 'poor' and 6 was 'excellent', and feedback was requested in a number of areas:

- Pre-meeting information
- Venue
- Structure of 1st day
- Structure of 2nd day
- Explanation of tasks
- Quality of resources
- Clarity on progress made to date
- Progress made on the day
- Collaborative group working
- Opportunity to discuss your sector's views
- Net Gain support on the day
- Clarity on next steps to be taken
- How well was the meeting run overall?

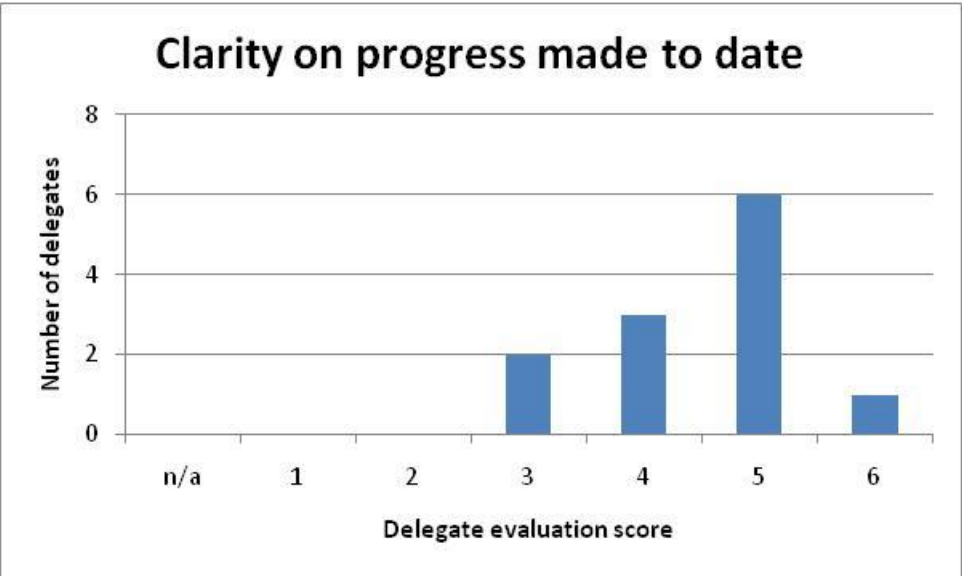
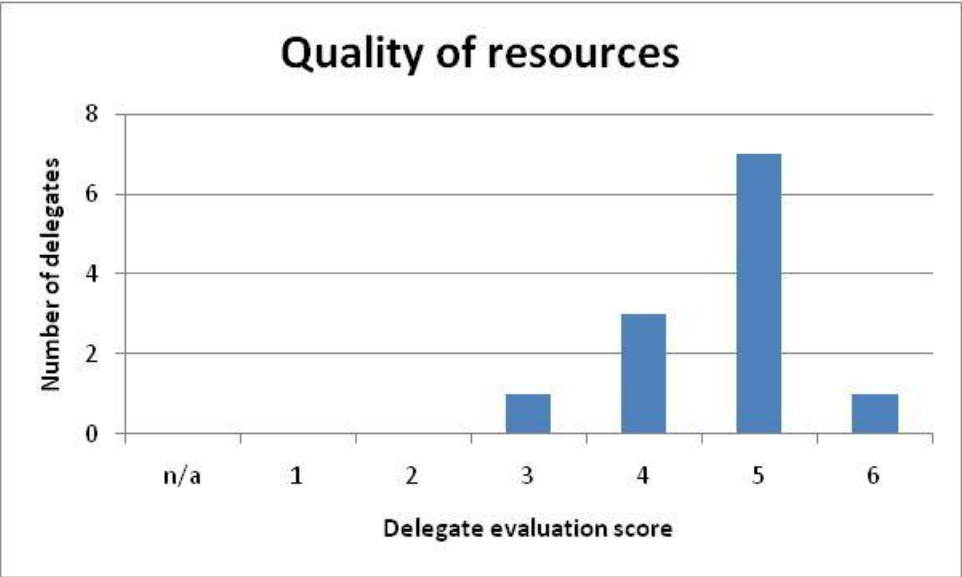


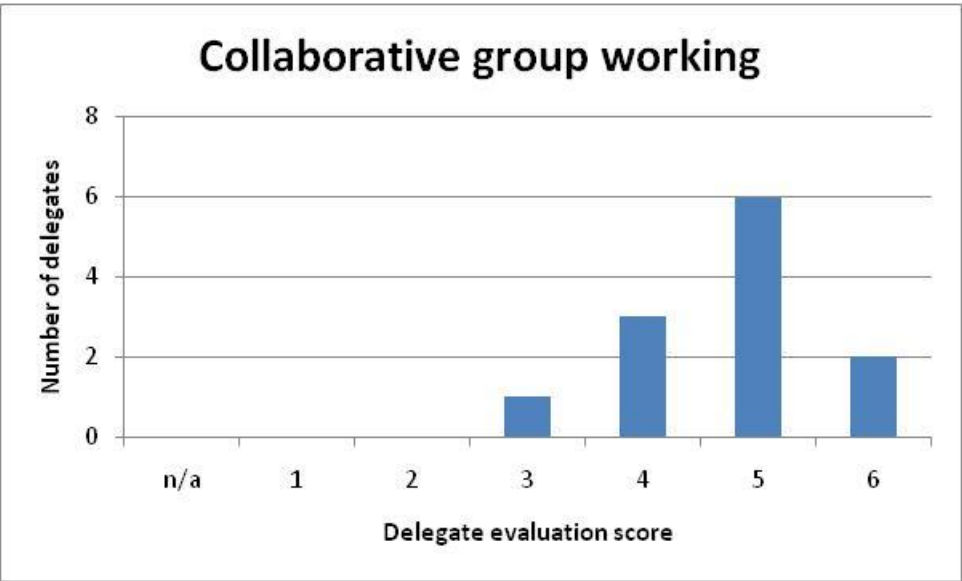
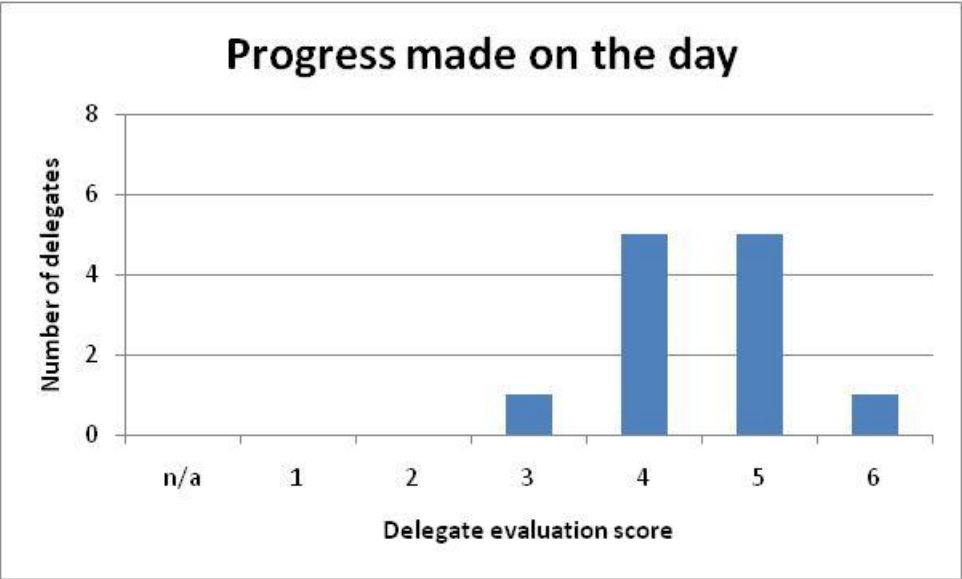
(1) absent





- (2) Too long on day1
- (3) too much detail on day #1

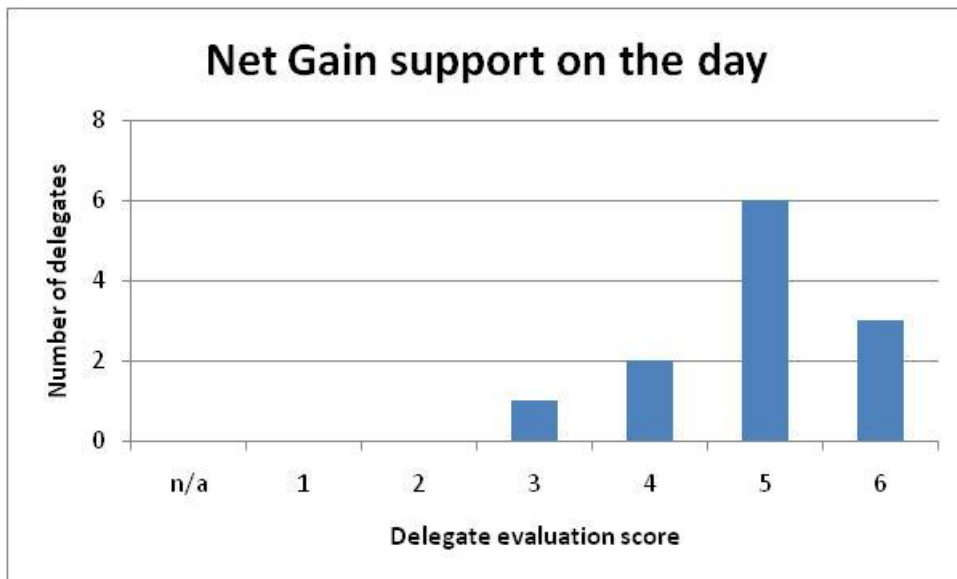


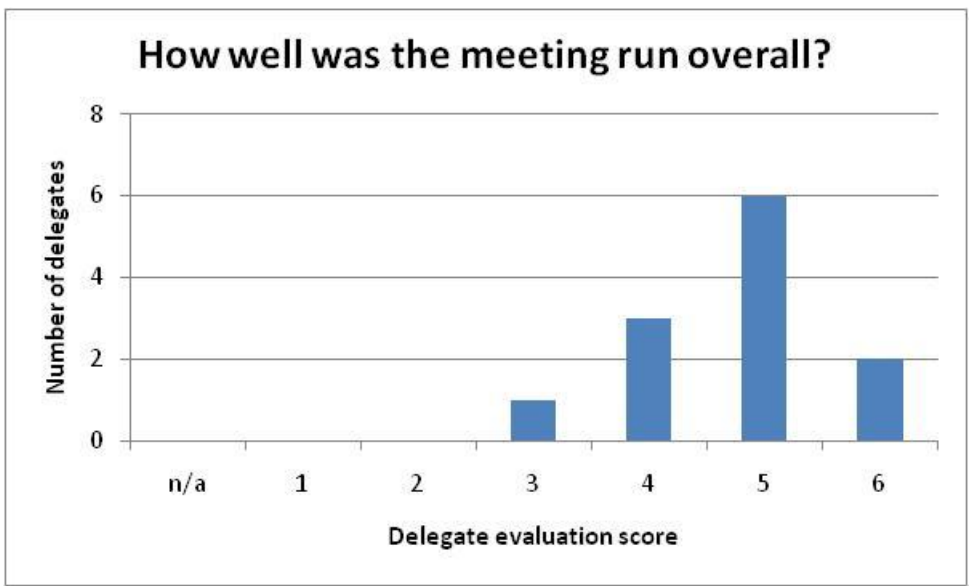


(5) Not sure all sectors are equally represented.



(6) Have some sympathy with the concerns of the commercial fishermen
 (n/a) n/a





(5) very impressed with the amount of work NG team has done & continues to do