



**JOINT RAC MEETING ON OFFSHORE MPAs
5-6 MARCH 2008, SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT, EDINBURGH
PROGRAMME & AGENDA**



NSRAC



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF
REGIONAL POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
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Joint RACs meeting on offshore MPAs

5-6 March 2008, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh

On 5-6 March 2008, the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, will be the venue for a joint RAC meeting (of 60-70 attendees) co-hosted by the NSRAC, NWWRAC, SWWRAC and Pelagic RAC, with representation also from the Baltic RAC and other interested RACs, invited experts and practitioners. We are most grateful to the generosity and hospitality of the Scottish Parliament for making this venue available.

The purpose of the meeting is to explore how best the fisheries sector and other RAC stakeholders should engage with the designation and management issues arising from the emerging network of offshore MPAs, especially from the Natura 2000 process.

Given that Member States need to propose candidate Natura 2000 sites to the Commission this year, it will be greatly to the benefit of the fishing sector and other stakeholders, the Member States and the European Commission, if the RACs are able to do joint thinking on this issue now. The more informed the understanding of the RACs, and the better their dialogue with other agencies and decision makers, the greater the likelihood of fishing activities being managed in such a way as to maintain the nature conservation value of designated sites with least possible disruption to the fishing sector.

Particular concerns and challenges to be explored at the meeting include:

- Clarification of the consultation process, including in relation to the revision of the Technical Measures Regulation 850/98
- Fisheries management implications of MPAs (drawing on experience of the ICES EMPAS study in the German EEZ, Rockall Bank etc).
- Establishing a 'level playing field' in the interpretation and implementation of the Nature Conservation Directives
- Potential displacement of fishing effort, socio-economic considerations
- How fishermen's knowledge can assist and inform the co-existence of site protection and fishing opportunities

On March 5, the meeting will run from 14.00 - 18.00, followed by a wine/buffet reception in the Scottish Parliament building from 18.30-20.00.

On March 6, the meeting will run from 09.00-12.30, with lunch to follow. Translation facilities will be available for French and Spanish into English and vice versa.

Speakers are Mark Tasker (ICES/JNCC-UK), Søren Anker Pedersen (ICES EMPAS study), Ian Gatt (Scottish Fishermen's Federation), Ernesto Penas (DG Fish) and Fotios Papoulias (DG Environment). The mix of speakers and plenary discussion is designed to enable the meeting to arrive at a constructive way forwards, which will be captured in a subsequent meeting report.

RAC Members should register for this meeting via their relevant RAC secretariat; Non RAC members should contact the NWWRAC directly at nwwrac@bim.ie to register interest.

Further details of the meeting, including, guidance on the venue, travel and accommodation are available from the following RAC Secretariats:

NSRAC: Ann Bell: ann.bell@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
NWWRAC: Patricia Comiskey: Comiskey@bim.ie
Pelagic RAC: Aukje Coers: a.coers@pvis.nl
SWWRAC: Benoit Guerin: bguerin@ccr-s.eu

or from the following websites: www.nwwrac.eu; www.nsrac.org; <http://www.pelagic-rac.org>.

Euan Dunn
Chair, NSRAC Spatial Planning Working Group.

AGENDA

Joint RACs meeting on offshore MPAs

5-6 March 2008, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh

DAY 1

- 13.30 – 14.00 : Arrival and Registration**
- 14.00 - 14.30 : Welcome and Introduction (Euan Dunn)**
- 14.30 - 15.00 : Presentation by DG Environment (Fotios Papoulias, DG Env)**
- 15.00 - 15.30 : Lessons from Rockall Bank (Mark Tasker, ICES/JNCC-UK)**
- 15.30 - 16.00 : Coffee**
- 16.00 - 16.30 : A fisherman's perspective (Ian Gatt, SFF)**
- 16.30 - 18.00 : Plenary discussion with Panel**
- 18.30 - 20.00 : Wine and buffet reception, Scottish Parliament**

DAY 2

- 08.30 - 09.00 : Coffee**
- 09.00 – 09.15 : Chair summary of Day 1**
- 09.15 – 09.45 : Presentation by DG Fisheries and Maritime Affairs (Ernesto Penas, DG Fish)**
- 09.45 – 10.15 : EMPAS Project update (Søren Anker Pedersen, ICES)**
- 10.15 – 10.30 : Coffee**
- 10.30 - 11.00 : The Atlantic Region Trans-national MPA Project (Olivier Abellard, National French MPA Agency)**
- 11.00 – 12.30 : Plenary discussion with Panel, recommendations, next steps**
- 12.30 : Close and Lunch**