

Funded participation at international or regional events for UKOTs

Report on funded participation at international/regional eventsⁱ

Fiona Gell from the Isle of Man was funded by JNCC to attend **Progress in Marine Conservation in Europe in Stralsund, Germany** on 18-22 June 2012

Participant Information

- Name of participant Dr Fiona Gell
- Contact details (job title, address, email, phone number)

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- Name of event
Progress in Marine Conservation in Europe

- Location of event
Stralsund, Germany

- Web link to event

<http://www.bfn.de/habitatmare/de/tagungen-progress-in-marine-conservation-in-europe-2012.php>

- Participation funded by
JNCC
- Nature of participation: (e.g. participant, speaker, facilitator)
Presented a poster
- Nature of representation (e.g. department, OT government, region)

Isle of Man Government

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Event feedback

- Brief overview of event and main points that would be useful for the region

This conference was the 3rd International Conference on Marine Conservation in Europe, hosted by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation. It was a great opportunity to update on all aspects of European marine conservation and to present the case study of the recent designation of Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve in the Isle of Man.

The keynote address was by Prof Dan Laffoley from IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature).

He gave a more global overview of recent progress in marine conservation, in particular looking at the role the oceans play in mitigating climate change and protecting us from **rapid climate change**. He highlighted the work of the **State of the Ocean Commission**: <http://www.stateoftheocean.org/index.cfm>

This international panel of experts are advocating **Marine Protected Areas** as one of the primary ways to address many of the threats to global oceans and it is good to be able to report the progress the Isle of Man has made on this front in recent years.

He also gave an update how so much information about the sea is now available through Google Ocean:

<http://www.google.co.uk/earth/explore/showcase/ocean.html#explore-oceans>

The Executive Secretary of ICES, Anne Christine Brussendorff, gave a presentation on the **ecological and biodiversity protection work of ICES** and encouraged the formation of more working groups focussed on habitat protection and the ecosystem approach to management. She highlighted the useful ecological databases available from ICES:

<http://ecosystemdata.ices.dk/>

I was particularly interested in the ICES Stomach Data database where you can access everything you need to know about fish stomach contents!

There was a whole morning of sessions on **mitigating impacts of marine developments on marine species and habitats** which was very useful.

A presentation on **marine litter** highlighted what a problem this is globally and the importance of reducing the wasteful use of plastics. There was also discussion of the **opportunity for research vessels to contribute to recording marine litter** through an international database:

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<http://www.eu-hermione.net/>

A whole day of the workshop focussed on Marine Conservation and Fisheries. This was really useful for me as a Marine Conservation Officer within a Fisheries Division. Rainer Froese gave a thought-provoking keynote lecture on **sustainable fisheries in Europe**. There were useful sessions on fishing in Natura 2000 sites and also one on fishing gear modification.

The conference was held in the large aquarium in Stralsund. It was a very impressive venue and had very good information on marine conservation:

<http://www.ozeaneum.de/en/home.html>

- Main points that would be useful for territory

There are some great resources available and we must get more information about Manx protected areas, management measures and special habitats and species out through these new tools e.g. **Google Ocean**.

There were a number of presentations referring to the **OSPAR Convention's** work and progress made in developing a network of Marine Protected Areas in the North East Atlantic:

http://www.ospar.org/content/content.asp?menu=00700300100011_000000_000000

As a signatory to the OSPAR Convention via the UK the Isle of Man has the opportunity to put forward Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve as part of this network, putting the MPA and our special horse mussel reefs onto the map. I've been talking to JNCC about the process for doing this and we can discuss how we progress this.

Of particular use to the Isle of Man **Marine Spatial Planning Project** were updates on mitigating underwater noise associated with windfarm developments and hydrocarbon exploration. There has been real progress in this area and a scientist from Canada presented recent developments in seismic surveys to reduce impacts on marine mammals:

<http://www.oceanos-foundation.org/assets/Uploads/Airgun.pdf>

The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation have done a lot of work on this too e.g.:

http://www.bfn.de/habitatmare/de/downloads/berichte/Ecological_Research_Offshore-Wind_Part_B_Skripten_186.pdf

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Post event information

- **Action to follow up** (*any actions that require follow up by participant/territory/region*)

It would be very useful to link in to European initiatives such as the OSPAR MPA Network and also make more use of tools such as Google Earth and the various databases and information sources highlighted at the conference.

The information on mitigating impacts of marine developments will be very useful for our ongoing Marine Spatial Planning work.

Following discussions with JNCC staff I am going to pursue the opportunity to submit Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve as an OSPAR MPA with the next set of UK sites to be submitted.

I am also going to ensure that I participate in the next JNCC MPA Technical Group meeting to get up to date on UK MPA works and provide an update on Isle of Man MPA developments.

- **Conclusions/recommendations:** (*any overall conclusions/recommendations by participant for participant/territory/region*)

The conference was an excellent opportunity to update on recent progress in marine conservation in Europe and the focus on managing marine developments, sustainable fisheries and Marine Protected Areas was particularly useful for me to gain information relevant to ongoing projects in the Isle of Man.

I am very grateful to JNCC for providing the funding for me to attend.

- **Any other points.**

Publicity

- **Media coverage:** If your participation has been covered in the media anywhere, please provide links/scans of articles where available.

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- **Photographs/DVDs:** If you have any photographs or DVDs of the event that can be used for publication, please attach with the report and list here who should be copyrighted.
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Presentations/posters/papers

- Please send copies of any presentations/papers/posters presented at the event.

Attached

Dissemination of information

- It is envisaged that the information provided can be put online and shared with other OTs. If there is any section of this report that should not be put in the public domain, please highlight here.
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Additional detailed information

Appendices

Territory background reports; any other information where the detail might be interesting to OTs in the region; useful contacts.

ⁱⁱ **If you have any suggestions for changes to this form, to make the information more relevant/useful please add these here.**