



REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT BOARD
December 2008

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JNCC SUPPORT CO.
BOARD MEETING

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Paper by Marcus Yeo

1. Since the last report to the company board, the Executive Management Board (EMB) has met three times: on 12 September, 3 October and 7 November. Minutes of the meetings are available on request.
2. The main items discussed by EMB and other significant issues relating to the running of the company are summarised below.
3. Dr Andy Stott has been appointed as Director of Science and will take up his post on 1 December. He is currently Head of Biodiversity and Landscape in Defra's Natural Environment Science Division.
4. Over the last three months a lot of work has been undertaken by staff to support the Committee's strategy review and to prepare a business plan for 2009/10. These items are on the agenda for the September Committee meeting.
5. Defra ministers have approved JNCC's pay remit for 2008/09, and the trade unions (PCS and Prospect) are currently balloting their members on the pay offer. To ensure that all possible options are fully explored for next year's pay settlement it has been agreed that informal negotiations between management and unions will begin earlier than normal – the first meeting took place on 13 November.
6. Because of recent losses of sensitive electronic data, Government has reviewed its data handling processes and has introduced a number of measures to improve existing arrangements. EMB considered the implications of this review for JNCC and endorsed a suite of recommendations. The most important recommendation is to raise staff awareness of the need to take appropriate care in handling sensitive or confidential information.
7. The 'global impacts' event noted in EMB's report to the September meeting of the company board will be held at the London Stock Exchange on 28 January. The event will emphasise the importance of recognising the economic links between the economy of the UK and global ecosystems, and highlight the governmental and corporate responsibilities that arise from such links. In 2009, JNCC will be initiating an annual global overview reporting on the links between the UK economy and key overseas ecosystems.
8. Following the success of the Mapping European Seabed Habitats (MESH) project, the European Commission has approached JNCC for advice on how broad-scale seabed mapping might be extended to other parts of Europe. Subsequently, the Commission has issued a call for tender to prepare seabed maps for the Baltic Sea, the North Sea, the Celtic Seas and the western Mediterranean, and to provide an indication of future

needs for seabed mapping across Europe. JNCC staff have submitted a tender but have not yet heard whether this has been successful.