

MINUTES

NMSC National Marine Baselines and Monitoring WG

Meeting #1 (Teleconference)

28 June, 2017 14:00-15:40

Attendees

1. Donna Roberts (AAD)
2. John Gunn (AIMS) - Chair.
3. Britta Schaffelke (AIMS)
4. Michelle Heupel (AIMS)
5. David Smith (AIMS)
6. Paul Hedge (NESP Hub)
7. Rick Fletcher (Fish WA)
8. Brendan Brooke for Adam Lewis (GA)
9. Roger Beeden (GBRMPA)
10. Craig Johnson (IMAS)
11. Tim Moltmann (IMOS)
12. Ana Lara Lopez (IMOS)
13. Alan Jordan for Natalie Moltschaniwskyj (NSW DPI)
14. Jason Mundy (Parks Australia)
15. Tim Ward for Gavin Begg (SARDI)
16. Charitha Pattiaratchi for Erika Techera (UWA)

John Gunn opened the inaugural meeting of National Marine Baselines and Monitoring WG, noting that it's been while since this was agreed as an important action in the NMSP, but that the strong multi-agency attendance for this teleconference indicated how important the matter was to the marine science community.

The agenda, circulated earlier by email (Appendix 1), was agreed

Item 1 involved a round table where all attending agencies identified their principal interest/s in being involved in, and in so doing, helping to shape the direction and outcome of the baselines and monitoring program objective identified in the 2015 NMSP.

Agency representatives identified their own areas of current baseline focus (geographic and/or data-type), the monitoring programs and resulting datasets they held. The discussion at this point was largely introductory and cross-informative and so a detailed record of all monitoring activities, data sets and their physical and operational parameters was not recorded (this – once appropriately parameterised - will form part of preparation work for an initial 1-3 day workshop later this year).

Key points noted by agencies included:

- Across the nation, a large number of monitoring activities currently collect a wide diversity of marine “system” data (physical, biogeochemical, biological, ecological, geological and socio-economic)
- Current monitoring programs serve a broad range “users” – from scientists and science institutions, to industry, and multiple levels of government.

- There are many different methodologies being used in collecting, analysing and providing access to the resultant data – which may well be appropriate in some cases – but is probably unintentional in others.
- Coordination across these programs is limited, and to date (despite State and Commonwealth “State of the Environment” activities, no one has taken a “National” view of how adequate, efficient, effective, comprehensive the current investment in marine baseline collection and monitoring is.
- There is a strong appetite from agencies to work together and find improvements in:
 - the way baseline data (user) needs are understood, assessed and prioritised,
 - how baseline and monitoring activities are constructed to meet these needs,
 - how data is analysed and made available for public access; and
 - how all parties (government, research, industry and community) can better work together to achieve the NMSP objective for baseline data

Item 2 involved a discussion of the WG’s objectives. A number of common themes emerged:

- Data from baseline monitoring and observing, where possible, should be publically available
- Systems for collecting, evaluating, and reporting on data should, where possible – noting there were genuine instances where specific needs dictated specific processes – be consistent, comparable and additive.
- There have been a number of audits in recent times of baseline data collections, including for example for the GBR region, for geo-spatial data, and within a number of jurisdictions.

John Gunn summarised the key points of the discussion as below (while noting that these topics would be further developed and/or added to prior to detailed discussion at the forthcoming workshop):

- In determining the current gaps and assessing proposals for future baseline monitoring systems and data the group should focus on what end-users want, and we should do this within the frame of what our domain is - as marine science and regulatory/policy agencies.
- It would be useful to work out ‘best-practice’ procedures and guidelines for baseline monitoring/observing programs.
- The WG should set principles for data sharing and for developing data platforms.
- Data from baseline systems nationally should feed into a regular update report (perhaps 5 yearly).

Item 3 and 4 were concatenated into a discussion of the future workshop. The WG agreed:

- To hold a workshop in late October to be hosted in Canberra by Geoscience Australia.
- To form a sub-group to develop an agenda and to guide WG members work on preparatory papers for the event.
 - WG members would be invited by John Gunn to join a sub-group
 - John Gunn and Tim Moltmann would talk offline about the support the NMSC could provide to the event
- To bring to the workshop the results of audits of existing monitoring and observing programs - this particularly applying to state and national government agencies that had, or were in the process of undertaking/acquiring, such information.
- That Roger Beeden would share with WG members the recent survey/audit on GBR Monitoring Program and the process GBRMPA used/is using to draw out the priority needs from this

- That Britta Schaffelke and David Souter (AIMS) would present at the workshop on the RIMREP program
- That Tim Moltmann would present to the workshop on IMOS
- That Britta Schaffelke would send around (via Linda McNamara) a document on the GBR that could be used to develop a proforma for developing a user-needs assessment document

Item 5 was not discussed, having largely been covered in item 1, with the exception that Tim Moltmann volunteered use of the NMSC website as a locating to host document sharing and logistics information for the WG. Tim will advise WG members when a sub-site has been established for member's use. In the meantime documents for sharing within the group should be sent to Linda McNamara (AIMS) for email circulation

Item 6. John Gunn advised that he would hand over his role as WG chair to another member of the WG and that he would do this via a follow up conversations with a small number of current working group members.

ACTIONS

1. John Gunn to approach members of the WG about their willingness to form a Sub-Committee to organize a WS.
2. Sub-Committee of the NMSC B&M WG to be formed to develop the agenda and convene a Workshop to be hosted by GA in Canberra in late October.
3. Roger Beeden (GBRMPA) to provide a copy of the GBR Monitoring Program Audit.
4. Britta Schaffelke/Roger Beeden to send out the GBR Integrated Monitoring Program design brief.
5. Tim Moltmann/IMOS (as NMSC Chair/host) to establish a page on the NMSC website for exchange of WG documents.
6. John Gunn to contact NMSC Chair and members to find a replacement as Chair of WG.

Footnote:

Carolyn Stewardson (FDRC) was unable to join the meeting but provided a written submission on behalf of FRDC on what they saw as important considerations for the WG's action plan. This will be circulated to WG members out of session, but in short their points accorded with the general agreements at the meeting.

NATIONAL
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Agenda

NMSC National Marine Baselines and Monitoring Working Group

Teleconference

Wednesday 28 June, 2017: 1400 – 1600 (AEDT)

Dial: +61 2 8015 2088

Meeting ID: 725 192 204

Item	Time	Item
1	1400	Introductions/Outline of personal/Institutional Interest in the WG mission (30 mins)
2	1430	Discussion of WG broad objectives – setting the goals for the next 2-3 years (20 mins)
3	1450	How should we work together? Meetings, Sub-Groups, Intersessional projects, End-User engagement.... (30mins)
4	1520	Views on a start-up 1-2 day workshop? To explore what we are doing now, plan to do in the future, benefits/avenues for enhanced collaboration, capability/infrastructure requirements, funding options? (20 mins)
5	1540	Brief round-up of current initiatives that the group should be aware of, and entry points into initiative information portals. (20 mins).
6	1600	Close & next meeting