

Data Sharing and Survey Programme Integration

A story of collaboration on marine survey data

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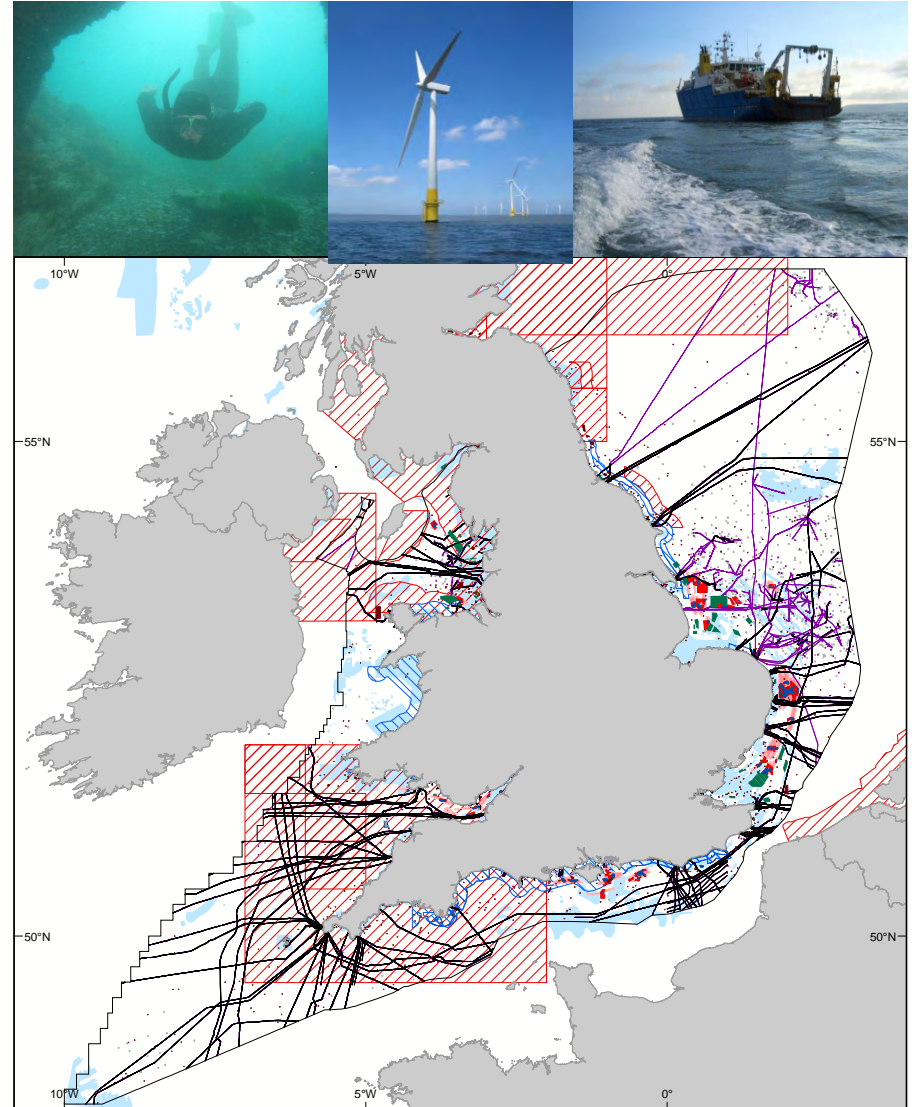
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The UK Marine Environment – a busy place!



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- Our Marine waters represents three times our land mass
- Range of activities occurring – from oil and gas and aggregates to the planning of marine protected areas



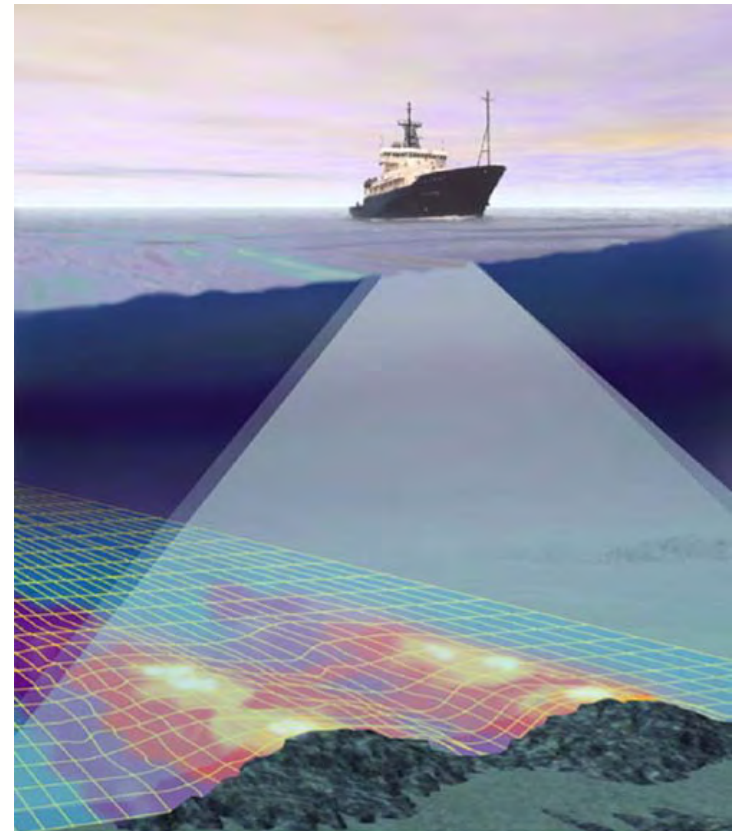
Marine Surveys and Marine Data – a problem to solve?

Marine Surveys

- Various organisations completing surveys in UK waters

Marine Data:

- ‘Collect Once Use Many Times’
- Data held by individual organisations

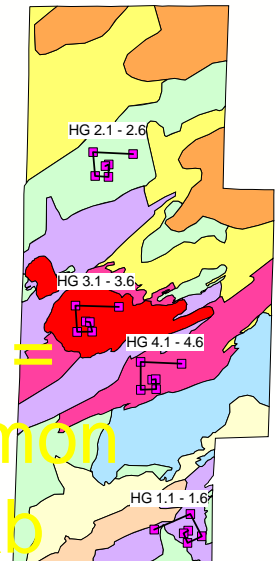
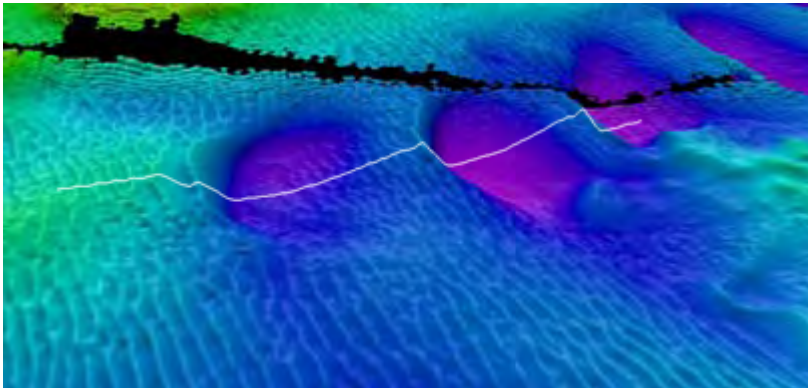


Crunch time.....an MoU....why?



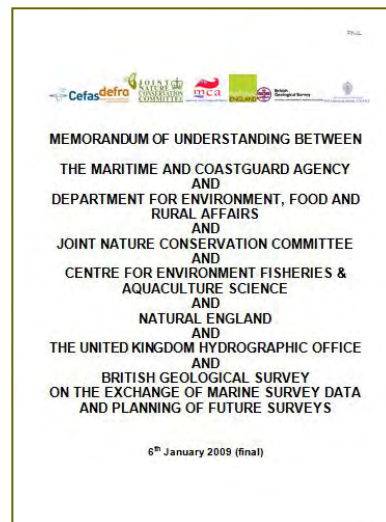
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- Marine survey is expensive & many areas of the marine environment still remain unmapped
- Recognition building that a formalised way of exchanging data and enhancing collaborative opportunities was required given the risk of duplication of survey effort (which has happened...)



What did we decide to do?

- From discussions at COSH 2007 Defra and MCA met again to discuss how to promote collaboration of marine surveys and access to marine survey data to ensure the same sites are not surveyed twice...
- After 9 months of negotiation and around 10 drafts of text the Marine Survey Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was finalised and agreed (6th Jan 2009)



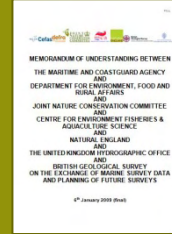
Key aims of the MoU and its participants



- The MoU has two principle aims:
 - To exchange existing (2003 onwards) and future multibeam echosounder data and backscatter data between participating organisations at no cost; and
 - To establish a mechanism to ensure that participating organisations' future surveys are programmed in such a way so as to avoid duplication where ever possible.
- Partners to the agreement are:



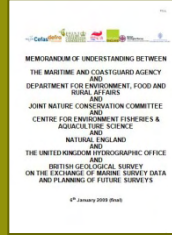
Benefits the MoU brings...



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- An annual marine survey meeting between participants to promote 'join-up' of survey operations (where possible) ~ Early October
- Clear listings of data available under the agreement
- Promotes easier exchange between organisations and avoid duplication of effort and resources
- Clear lines of who and where to get data from

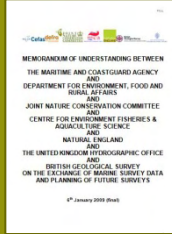
Further benefits....



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- MCA are developing a website (secure login) for participant organisations which will contain:
 - 2003 onwards data available under the agreement
 - Polygons of likely future survey areas/priorities for each participating organisation
- MoU - shows a willingness in the marine community to solve current data sharing issues and a desire to collaborate on marine survey activities

Where to now?



- Standard template fields for capturing data forming part of the agreement now issued to participants (whilst awaiting MEDIN approved listing)
- First meeting scheduled - last first week of October 2009
- Discussions on completing the website commencing
- Review of the MoU in 12 months to occur

In the future....

- Standard specification on marine survey to be devised and made available to all?

And Thank you....

- MoU is an agreement that all parties wish to be part of – thanks must be given to our participants in making this MoU a reality!



- Further information?
- Contact jo.myers@defra.gsi.gov.uk or 0117 372 8166