

Marine Group Meeting
9.30-12.00, LINK Hunter Square, Friday 27th January 2017

Sam Tedcastle (WWF), Alex Kinninmonth (RSPB), Sarah Dolman, (WDC), Calum Duncan (MCS),
Daphne Vlastari (LINK), Emilie Devenport (LINK)

Agenda

	Item	Who	Timing
1	Welcome and intros	CD/All	9.30 – 9.35
2	Review of actions from previous meetings <i>Rolling actions list can now be found and edited online here: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FlefkDvXOmX25MU-sUXKoPW7zSp7CZb-KFQHRqX6mg4/edit#gid=0</i>	CD	9.35 – 9.45
3	Member updates	All	9.45 – 10.00
4	MPAs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second tranche inshore MPA management positions and outreach plan • 4 ncMPAs - Strategic talk - how to influence RC • Moray Firth pD&R MPA 	All	10.00 – 10.30
5	Marine Planning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea Scotland 2017 • CMPP Direction/LWTS hook 	CD	10.30 – 10.45
6	Fisheries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inshore Fisheries Bill • Caro Cowan MS Brexit meeting • LINK Future of Fisheries brief position paper • OH IFG consultation outcome • CPG Fisheries 	CD/All	10.45 – 11.20
7	Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Bill – Blue Carbon asks • Plan for Seafloor Integrity report’s publication and dissemination • Plan course of action to develop consensus on location of offshore renewables • Getting feedback from newsletter readership to judge size of community and value of continued investment. • Aquaculture updates • Swim with update • Microplastics consultation update 	All	11.20 – 11.50
8	AOB	All	11.50 – 12.00

New actions:

AK to share key points on SPAs with SD ahead of RC meeting next Tuesday (31/1/17).

ED to contact Lucy Greenhill to potentially present at SEW planning session.

DV set up follow-up meeting with Ian Duncan

ST to forward Fishing for Data reports. MG members to review and see if they want to sign up.

Review of rolling actions

SPA response submitted. Thank you to RSPB for sharing notes and Charlotte for pulling it together in short time frame. The LINK response shows continued value of collective support for SPAs as part of the MPA network. Apologies from RSPB about delays in supplying a supporting information, RSPB working to the line to clarify key positions relevant to ongoing judicial review. RSPB document now part of court case appeal.

Should be looking to keep an eye on Westminster engagement through WCL Marine PO. Spencer interim cover while recruiting new MPO. Once in post, engage with new MPO to understand what ELUK/SEL engagement is included in their remit, and also convey what we expect from them.

LINK meeting with Roseanna Cunningham next week, SD to attend on behalf on MG. Aim to discuss EEB and Marine. Raise 4nMPAs, SPAs and understand what is happening internally in Government. We've been hearing that MS had to overcome a lot of internal hurdles to achieve network progress so far. Aim to understand what they find it useful for us to be doing, keep constructive working relationship.

Project Funding - ST raised concern that there may not be anyone in post to follow on from Sea Scotland funding (21/22nd June) as project funding set to end at end of June. Steering Group meeting 8th Feb, will be discussing and co-ordinating efforts. Discussion that members are keen to ensure project doesn't just fall away.

Ian Duncan consultation response submitted last week. Thanks to DV for co-ordinating and ED for MG input. DV to set up follow-up meeting with ID.

Member Updates

WDC – Launching Bycatch project

MCS – Launching Ocean Devotion Feb. Volunteer Manager Matt Barnes has moved on to sunnier pastures, MCS interviewing for his replacement.

WWF – CSP coming to an end (end of March). Fishing for Data work has had really good sign up in Scotland, England and Wales. Working with fishermen encouraging them to take ownership of the project and helping them develop a strategy for taking the project forward. Working on potential

EMFF funding bid, developing gap analysis to find useful things that fishing industry can contribute to (i.e. data collection of habitats, stock assessments for shellfish). Still developing the list, waiting on CEFAS to produce a gap analysis report that will inform what they will look at. Opportunities to get involved with the project. Three posts (Scottish, English and Welsh), to co-ordinate strategy at UK level.

Seas Project is the next WWF project for MPAs in UK. At the moment they are looking at working within a small number of MPAs to see how different management methods work, challenges of MPAs from data collection to scientific research to evidence the impact of MPAs. At the moment all England and Wales, some potential it may be extended to Scotland, in which case likely to be Isles of Hebrides (Isle of Barra).

RSPB – Watershed moment in Seabird tracking work. Working on a paper – to be published at some point in the future – using tracking data to identify areas of high conservation for Seabirds (i.e. identify hotspots). Initial results showing that areas that qualify as SPAs, potentially enormous, need to review how this will be represented. The work aims to inform the sufficiency of MPA network and offshore developments, casework for renewables. Judicial review appeal is being heard in February.

MPAs

Second tranche inshore MPAs

Uncertainty about proposed dates. Marine Scotland lacking expertise and capacity, items being delayed by STS Transfer, Moray Firth.

ED to clarify with MM/SH on timescales. Once measures come out, plan to use existing workshop notes to compare with suggested sites.

AK – likely to be some contentious sites. Updated on his meeting with Rhoda Grant (26/1/17). Rhoda heard two creel boats been put out of business from MPAs. She is under the impression that Marine Scotland are riding roughshod over communities and the voices of individual fishermen are not being heard. The site in question was East Mingulay (50% of the site is closed to all fishing because of the reef, the other 50% open exclusively to creels).

Informal discussion in group that while boats were not out of business from MPAs, it is worth considering that this is the type of narrative that is going around. MG should be more sensitive to that, and encourage creels to go along and engage at a local level through national consultations (i.e. in MPA process). Would be in both our interests.

4 ncMPAs

Raise at meeting with RC next week. Convey that we acknowledge the team are capacity restricted, but equally we are frustrated that these (and inshore) sites are being delayed. Understand what RC/ David Miller think we be doing to best support it.

Moray Firth pD&R MPA

In response to dolphin watching. Marine Scotland have said they won't put a licence on this, so they have proposed a D&R MPA. Moray Firth Partnership will officially propose it, operators include WDC, SNH and local authorities. Operators will be put in charge of making it work. Recognition that industry is at capacity, all boats will have to carry black boxes so they can see what they are doing and where they are going. Not the ideal way to proceed, but as there is no funding MS favour this approach. SG ultimately have the responsibility if something happens. Evidence will be decline in populations that may not come for a while and will not be easy to pin to one particular industry (i.e. wildlife watching) with so much going on in the area at the moment.

Planning

SeaScotland

Initial funding requests have been sent out. Steering Group meeting 31/1/17. CD and ST apologies in advance. CD suggested Caro Cowan and Mike Russel/RC as speakers.

CMPP

CMPP Direction now been issued and Calum has responded on behalf of the MG (as per emails), expecting an official response from Lady Glasgow. Now CMPP has legal clarity, can move forward, providing an opportunity to share LWTS report. MG continue to look at how we can share our collective thoughts on what planning should include. Next CMPP meeting is 22nd March. 'Extraordinary AGM', aim to appoint a Board.

Planning white paper

Planning Group planning to respond. One main point is the need for better integration with other planning processes, i.e. needs to include land-use strategy, biodiversity strategy. If there are particular points that are relevant to marine planning that match up to what NPF is about that could be included as well.

SEW - Planning Futures hosted by Maurice Golden.

21st February, lunch time session. Hoping RTPi will be involved in that, planners response to how planning should be more sustainable. James Curran speaking on NEN and work that James Hutton Institute is going. Expect Maurice will be thinking of actual structures on land, rather than what happens in the sea, if we can bring marine planning discussion that could help to bring in that part. If we can't have a speaker on that can raise it in a question and answer session. Suggested point of contact - Lucy Greenhill (SAMS).

Sam T will be facilitating a meeting with marine planners (how to integrate land and sea) that same day. Noted that Liverpool University have been developing work on linking land and marine planning as part of the CSP project. Could have an insight into principles/guidelines for doing this.

Fisheries

Inshore Fisheries Bill

'Shopping list' in development to compile thoughts for Jim Watson on Inshore Fisheries Bill. Meeting with David Donnan this afternoon for feedback and further discussion.

CD raised the point of whether we want to be asking for IFG's/IFCAs.

AK second that suggestion, going back to meeting with Rhoda, all discussion about local involvement could have been resolved if IFG had bi-law powers and local people had powers in local process. Individuals on an IFCA. 10 IFCAs have 32 vessels combined, compared to Scotland – 2? Integration right there – fisheries and conservation. They have a dual purpose - to ensure fisheries law and conservation goals (within 6nm). Also consider Royal Navy fisheries protection squadron – 3 vessels.

Sam T – Also should consider the licence to fish (& implementation mechanisms). No-one has ever had their licence to fish revoked. Within MS it's up the minister. We should look at the way it's managed and how the decision is made. If there is a licencing agency that would remove the political element of it, and enable licencing to act as a deterrent. There isn't a deterrent at the moment.

CC Brexit meeting - Future of Fisheries

Quick recap from phone call earlier in the week. Acknowledged that while there is the GA doc (from handful of NGOs at UK level (including MCS, RSPB, WWF)), there is still space for voice from Scotland, for other NGOs that don't have UK voice, and demand - Caro Cowan had received SFF list and specifically asked what NGOs were thinking.

Call on Tuesday to review Brexit asks ahead of meeting with Caro Cowan. Sam T (see above licencing) and Sam C suggested points on fisheries to group via email. Opportunity to ask for more.

RSPB and WWF met with Caro in August/September, fisheries based. Feedback from GA report had been that it was not ambitious enough (from JNCSS/Natural England). Noted that agencies are curtailed in what they can say, would be helpful if NGOs were being bolder.

We want to make sure no legislative black holes (i.e. MSFD). What we've heard from Mike Russel is not just transpose over, but also parity going forward in line with EU regulations.

CFP is the main thing at risk/greatest opportunity with Brexit – current focus of our headline points and Future of Fisheries brief are fisheries focused. Keep positive aspects that we've fought hard with CFP reform for.

Discussion around Sam C's point for regulating foreign vessels in UK waters. Noted it is tricky to control access rights and ban foreign vessels, hence why RSPB have stayed away from this previously. SD suggested that whatever happens out to 200nm has to apply to UK rules, i.e. AIS on fishing vessels, know where they are and what they are doing.

Opportunity to ask for more with wider seas regulations too. Discussion as to whether we are happy with the current level of other legislation (i.e. MSFD), would we be happy with it being transposed as

it is? Do we know what we'd want to build on (i.e. wider aspirations for marine environment, NTZ (natural England suggestion)). Assuming all European legislation (Hab, Birds, SEA, EIA etc.) remains, what else would we want to be doing? Potential to ask for more match up on policy areas? MG to be thinking about this.

Ambition and wording of legislation is usually there, but falls through because of funding or other reasons – may not be resolved with primary legislation.

Meeting with CC will be useful to gauge what she's been hearing from others, what it would be useful for us to be saying – and how. Open discussion next week, not a hard and fast list of asks.

RSPB met with NFFO went through RSPBs red lines. Opportunity to engage more with fishermen directly on Brexit/CFP.

Brainstorming session on Brexit.

CPG Fisheries

Several members and representatives received an invite to the inaugural CPG on Fisheries, currently SFF led, looking to discuss Brexit on future agendas. Agreed it would be helpful for the Marine Group to attend – co-ordinate attendance. May be potential to influence agenda, and use as a platform for us in future meetings. Noted that the creel sector hadn't been invited. WWF pushing for other (non SFF) fishers to be included in these wider discussions too.

Initial thought for SD, AK, CD, HM to attend, one to have a LINK hat.

OH IFG consultation outcome

Consultation outcome – proposals being taken forward as they were. Initial thoughts not to respond/write a letter at this time. Review IFG wider engagement process at next bilateral with Jim's team.

Other

Climate Change Bill

There will not be a joint LINK response. Land group keen not to duplicate work of SCCS, DV in touch with SCCS. CH preparing a short evidence paper on blue carbon to send round MG by the end of this week.

Plan for Seafloor Integrity report's publication and dissemination

Seafloor Integrity report progressing. CD has asked Charlotte to write a foreword to the report, doesn't consider it would be a conflict of interest. Need to develop forward plan for the report. CD feeling a bit unsure of how to use the report, with fisheries content.

Plan course of action to develop consensus on location of offshore renewables

Decided to take back for discussion at upcoming Steering Group meeting.

Getting feedback from newsletter readership to judge size of community and value of continued investment.

As above. ED has pulled out headline readership stats, to circulate to MG ahead of steering group meeting.

Aquaculture updates

Next meeting 6th February, email Dawn Purchase if you would like to attend

Swim with update

ED met with Environmental Lawyer who is preparing a review document of existing legislation/best practice around

Microplastics consultation update

WCL preparing an ELUK consultation response to the consultation on Microbeads, will be sent around for review and comment. Two sections to the response (one more general, one more specific).

WCL – EIA paper

There have been several EIA consultations that WCL are submitting a response to this week. WCL marine representatives decided the response didn't need to include marine points. RSPB submitted responses to Scotland and Westminster consultations, raised the point that inshore and offshore Marine Works Regulations should have more join up.