**Marine Group Meeting**

**3rd July, 14.30- 17.00**

**National Trust for Scotland, Hermiston Gait, Edinburgh**

PRESENT: Richard Luxmoore (NTS), Esther Brooker (WWF), Calum Duncan (MCS), Emilie Devenport (LINK), Sarah Dolman (WDC), Daphne Vlastari (LINK), Alison Lomax (HWDT – phone)

Chair: Sarah Dolman

**Agenda**

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|  | **Item** | **Who** | **Timing** |
| 1  | Welcome and intros   | SD | 14.30 |
| 2 | Review of actions from previous meetings *Rolling actions list can now be found* ***and edited online*** *here*: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FIefkDvXOmX25MU-sUXKoPW7zSp7CZb-KFQHRqX6mg4/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FIefkDvXOmX25MU-sUXKoPW7zSp7CZb-KFQHRqX6mg4/edit)   | SD | 14.30 – 13.40  |
| 3 | Member updates  | All  | 14.40 – 14.50 |
| 4  | MPAs: * T2 – confirm action plan for consultation expected over summer.
 | SD |  14.50 – 15.00 |
| 5  | Marine Planning: * NMP – ECCLR invitation for comment
* NMP – Sectoral plan
* Sea Scotland feedback/update
 |  SD   | 15.00 – 15.20  |
| 6  | Fisheries * PMF – action plan for consultation
* Aquaculture (update) – RECC report action plan/ next steps
* IFC stand (quick question)
* MSC fisheries Improvements Project
 |  SD   | 15.20 –15.40  |
| 7. |  Brexit* Brexit Comms update from Daphne
* Fergus Ewing meeting feedback
 |  DV | 15.40- 16.40 |
| 8.  | Other * Next marine group meeting – September, West Coast
* MG Communications strategy – suggested press, blog content & authors over summer.
 | All | 16.40 – 16.50 |
| 9. | AOB* Marine Tourism
* David & Jean Ainsley Complaint to Europe ADDs
 | All | 16.50-17.00 |

**2. Rolling Actions**

Actions were reviewed by Emilie following the meeting. New actions:

**ED to coordinate response to NMP Ecosystem Based Implementation and invite member input.**

**ALL to meet/call to advance thinking on PMFs in first week or two of consultation.**

**ALL to provide Esther with other PMFs we would like to consider in GIS work.**

**SC/ED to keep in touch with RECC to get a heads up about when the report comes out.**

**ED to pursue Inshore Fisheries Conference Stand, discuss Brexit opp with Daphne.**

**ED to connect RL with MSC staff on Project UK Fisheries Improvement Projects**

**ALL Member to provide Daphne with ideas of potential allies, stories and key dates for Brexit Comms Strategy.**

**ALL to meet to discuss Fisheries White Paper & actions once it is out.**

**ALL to arrange a meeting with Marine Scotland fisheries (Jim, Jane) and Brexit (Caro) teams once White Paper is out.**

**ED to arrange for MG meeting in September in Oban.**

**SD & CD to confirm next steps for responding to David and Jean with MG**

**4. MPAs**

T2 expected to be launched at some point over recess. We have draft consultation and campaign material ready to review once the consultation is live. We should be ready to review materials in the first few weeks after the consultation launches, with a view to launch the campaign around 1 month in (expected to be a 12 week consultation). Those present felt that our media efforts should be focused around campaign launch, rather than consultation launch.

**5. Marine Planning**

NMP - ECCLR Invitation

ECCLR Committee have invited us to provide our views on the ‘effectiveness of the National Marine Plan on Ecosystem Based implementation’ by 25th July.

This request follows a meeting that Esther and Emilie had with ECCLR Clerks, where we flagged that recent review of the NMP was limited in scope and did not provide opportunity to discuss wider concerns.

Those present agreed we should submit a brief response based on our previous responses to the NMP.

**ACTION: ED to coordinate response to NMP Ecosystem Based Implementation and invite member input.**

NMP – Sectoral Plan

Sam Collin (SWT) drafting response for LINK Marine Group. WDC, MCS and WWF have expressed support for a joint response. RSPB also responding.

Sea Scotland

Held 20-21st June, well attended (approx. 90 on first day, dropped to 60-70 for rest of the conference). Well received and seems to be well established event, recognised as a useful event and expected by stakeholders. Sea Scotland steering group will be meeting later this week for final mop up and discuss next steps. They will be undertaking reporting from the conference, workshops, and youth survey over the summer. Some interesting avenues opened up, diverse groups/delegates, such as Youth Parliament. More information will be made available on [www.SeaScotland.scot](http://www.SeaScotland.scot)

CMMP meeting

CD attended the latest CMPP meeting (26th June). The meeting focused on how work for the draft Plan is coming along, and the outline (chapters) of the Plan. CMMP have held a series of workshop on topics where the ground work was missing. One held on Marine litter that followed on from a marine litter conferences a few years ago, then decided the format and content etc. Fiona Mills from CMPP clarified that these workshops are open to all CMPP members.

As they were sectoral workshops the intention was to capture industry aspirations to *filter* these through the 'clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse' overall objectives. Calum was assured that there would be the 'green thread' running through the plan, including ecosystem objectives for each sectoral chapter as well as the chapter on protected species and habitats itself.

CMPP staff clarified that the Partnership members will all get the chance to see the draft policies as they are developed, with the plan being that all draft policies are available for the Sept 26th members meeting, and we all have until the end of November to comment. Everyone on CMMP, and LINK members will have an opportunity to comment on draft Plan 6 weeks before consultation.

**6. Fisheries**

PMF review

PMF workshop on SEA/SEIA, LINK provided written comment. We were expecting consultation on the SEA/SEIA by end of recess, now likely over summer. We can use the written comment to inform our response to the consultation this, though we still need to decide our line (if we are pushing for protection around recorded feature or distance from shore option). We should be ready to ‘react’ and may need a specific meeting/call to develop our position when the consultation papers are out.

Marine Scotland originally suggested that there would be three options/approaches to the PMF protection. Though at workshop in May, they outlined their preferred approach as buffers around known records.

We suggested that 0.5nm limit would be a good option with additional buffers. MM replied that he doesn’t think this would be legally feasible (as existing fisheries orders, MPAs etc. already exist there, technically not possible..). David Donnan seemed quite interested in this option when we met with him and Michael.

EB has been doing some GIS work to see how feature distribution overlaps with 0.5nm (with exception of cold water corals). 0.5nm looks quite feasible from a conservation perspective at a national level. We will need to have a fair bit of discussion on this to see whether we think this would work, what other controls might be needed (e.g. if just to restrict mobile gear, don’t then want static gill nets popping up everywhere), consider how this would look at regional levels.

Esther has asked for a list of other PMFs we might want to include in our initial review/discussions to consider our position.

SD suggested we might want to review literature on advice for recovery, any evidence on nm buffers if we are going to opt for a distance from shore option. If evidence says 1nm we might want to go with this – seemingly no scientific basis for 0.5nm other than MS suggestion.

CD offered to lead on consultation response for others to feed into. We can use written comment for workshop to use as basis for future discussion, as well as Esther’s GIS work. Potential to invite Nick and Phil to that discussion as well.

**ACTION: All to meet/call to advance thinking on PMFs in first week or two of consultation.**

**ACTION: All members to provide Esther with other PMFs we would like to consider in GIS work.**

Aquaculture

Waiting for RECC Committee report to come out – expected in Autumn once Parliament back in session. Aquaculture subgroup agreed not to meet until that report is out. SD suggested we should be ready to react to this.

**ACTION: SC/ED to keep in touch with RECC to get a heads up about when the report comes out.**

IFC Conference Stand

Could be a good option to do something around Brexit – see Brexit section below.

**ACTION: ED to pursue Inshore Fisheries Conference Stand, discuss Brexit opp with Daphne.**

MSC Project UK Fisheries Improvement Projects

We have been invited to join a Steering Group for stage 2 of the MSC Fisheries Improvement projects. Calum, Sarah and I met with Rhiannon and Claire from MSC in May where they outlined the scope of the project and how we could contribute. Stage 2 will cover:

* Irish Sea, North Sea & West of Scotland Nephrops, demersal trawl & creel
* Scottish waters and Irish Sea King Scallops, scallop dredge

MSC envisage PUKFI as a way to drive change in the industry. Using industry, processors to fund the projects. Pre-assessments will be undertaken to show where the fisheries are to show where they are in relation to MSC fisheries standard. These pre-assessment will feed into the development of an action plan – up to 5 years, to identify and action the priority areas in the Analysis.

The first steering group meetings were held over two days in June in Glasgow (15 people Day 1 scallops, 27 people day 2 nephrops). The meeting focused primarily on an introduction to the project, and discussion of the Terms of Reference. Those present expressed interest in being part of the Steering Group (this will be formalised in October). Industry wanted to understand what was needed but they were happy to be in the room to identify what might need to be changed.

DAY 2 Nephrops

      27 in room, 4 on the line – Isle of Man government called in, COOP

      Retailers: TESCO, Morrisons, LIDL

      Processors – Youngs seafood

      North east processors, Scottish seafood association

      Number of industry – NI Industry, Scottish Industry, POs, some from Fife, West Coast, NI POs.

      Government – Marine Scotland, Isle of Man. NI Government.

Irish Government and Irish fisheries lacking.

Steering Group members will be finalised at the next meeting (October). Those at June meeting agreed that it would be valuable to have SE LINK directly on the steering group.

We had previously talked about feeding in via Clarus from WWF UK had been involved in previous pilot projects, but there is value in having Scottish representation. WWF may be involved as funders, weren’t able to make it to this first meet.

N.I. Marine Taskforce have also mentioned they are interested in being involved in/keeping an eye on this – they could be involved separately, or via us. There is some flexibility to call in specific expertise/organisations in as and when required (e.g. sharks trust).

Richard volunteered to be involved on behalf of Scottish NGOs. Calum suggested we look into option of rolling seat (to help free up capacity).

**ACTION: ED to connect RL with MSC staff on Project UK Fisheries Improvement Projects**

**7. Brexit**

LINK Brexit Campaigns work

LINK looking to do communications campaign on Brexit to create an informed public context to balance current climate focused on fisheries quotas. Link are trying to create a climate/more informed public context, so that media stories and discussion becomes more than just quotas. This is about creating communications content to create a receptive atmosphere rather than advocacy work.

DV asking MG members to thinking about what other voices are out there that could be potential allies, saying similar things but maybe more effective coming from them. For example, could be three restaurants who supply and use sustainable fish, and they make the case for sustainable fish – a high level message that we can use/join.

Also an opportunity to set the record straight – for example, reformed CFP has been working well. There is some budget available to create infographics and other supporting visuals. Some Academics have been creating ‘myth buster’ styles documents on CFP that we could look into.

CD mentioned LINK Marine Group vision, we should think about how we can communicate key messages from here – any stories we can tell.

SD – The Scottish Government keep reinforcing that they want to keep EU protections, but at the moment they aren’t necessarily doing that, how do we hold them to account and walk that thin line?

DV – this is a good example of where we can say that there is still a way to go, the principle is there and we support that & work to achieve that. Goes back to Governance issue.

Daphne also asked us to consider key dates/events that we could use as media hooks.

CD flagged Greener UK Fisheries pillar developing communications work on Brexit. LINK are aiming to create something with a Scottish focus with something that is complementary. DV – explicit decision that Greener UK would focus on Westminster. David Miller has expressed frustration with all advocacy coming from Westminster and not Scotland.

We know quite a few academics, we could do a joint open letter, if they are publishing something relevant we can use that as a hook.

**Timelines:** Create a plan over the summer – gather three or so ideas that others can agree with or not. Members to provide ideas/input. CD suggested creating a sub group focused on this issue (informally discussions between Helen, Alex, Sarah and Calum already occurring on fisheries/Brexit).

**ACTION: ALL Member to provide Daphne with ideas of potential allies, stories and key dates for Brexit Comms Strategy.**

Fisheries White paper

Expected tomorrow (4th July), will go until middle of September, if 10 weeks.

Once we’ve seen the White Paper we can decide whether we need to develop a LINK response or campaign to the White Paper in addition to Greener UK work (developing a response). Members to discuss this once it is out.

**ACTION: ALL to meet to discuss Fisheries White Paper & actions once it is out.**

**ACTION: ALL to arrange a meeting with Marine Scotland fisheries (Jim, Jane) and Brexit (Caro) teams once White Paper is out.**

Fergus Ewing Meeting

Calum and others met with Fergus Ewing last week and he was quite receptive – a note from this meeting has been sent around to the group with minutes from this meeting. He was comfortable with the idea of a discussion paper or a speech that commits to a sustainable model, acknowledging ICES advice, maximum sustainable yield. Considered CFP to be flawed – discards. He said that Scottish Government not representatives of SFF.

**Next steps from FE meeting (summarised from Calum’s note provided separately)**

* Make these meetings six-monthly
* Follow-up with officials on FE fisheries statement/paper/speech etc
* Follow-up with officials to secure place/s on aquaculture working groups

**8. OTHER**

Next Marine Group meeting

As part of MG intention to have at least one meeting a year in a location easier for remote members to access, we are intending to hold the next meeting in second half of September on the West Coast. Oban was suggested as a viable area, with potential to hold the meeting at SAMS. Lucy Greenhill (Sea Scotland Steering Group), or HWDT could help us to arrange this.

Those present considered it would be beneficial to also try to invite Basking Shark Scotland to the end of the meeting to discuss marine tourism, and the upcoming MPAs.

There are also several community groups in the area (e.g. CROMAICH, Friends of Sound of Jura, Save Seil Sound, COALAS). We could try to arrange something informal to get the groups together, also try and involve SAMs. Potential to organise a dinner/drinks or something, someone could give a talk about something (maybe someone from LINK to SAMs & community groups, public? about MPAs, or another organisation).

**ACTION: ED to arrange for MG meeting in September in Oban.**

Communications strategy

Blog ideas: Marine Tourism, PMFs over the summer.

Marine Tourism

Letter has been sent to Roseanna Cunningham, supported by all 8 members. Article last weekend by Ilona Amos raising same points, flagging issue of licensing.

David Ainsley EC complaint

David and Jean have compiled a complaint against use of ADDs on harbour porpoise from fish farms, that they contravene the Habitats Directive/constitutes disturbance. They are asking for LINK support.

SNH guidance indicates that ADD use will be limited, only in certain areas (not sensitive habitats) and for short amounts of time.

SD feeling that we should wait for RECC Committee report – it was raised at that meeting. If it deals with the issue and it comes up with an issues that deals with ADDs, then we can make an informed judgement to the EC in support of the complaint or not. Suggested that we produce a letter in support of the complaint in principle (against use of ADDs) to buy us time to wait for RECC report.

RL mentioned that NTS have provided David with their response to the Aquaculture inquiry (that involved reference to ADDs), and suggested that David could reference this if he wanted to show similar support. Suggested that we do the same for LINK (point them to LINK joint response that mentioned ADDs).

**ACTION: SD & CD to confirm next steps for responding to David and Jean with MG**