

**Marine Group Meeting**  
**10.00 – 12.30, WWF, Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

**Lauren Hartny-Mills (HWDT - On the phone), Sarah Dolman (WDC - CHAIR), Calum Duncan (MCS),  
 Sam Collin (SWT), Peadar O'Connell (RSPB), Emilie Devenport (LINK), Charlotte Hopkins (LINK),  
 Daphne Vlastari (LINK)**

**Agenda**

	Item	Who	Timing
1	Welcome to Peadar and intros	CD/All	10.00 – 10.05
2	Review of actions from previous meetings <i>Rolling actions list can now be found <b>and edited</b> online here: <a href="https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FiefkDvXOmX25MU-sUXKoPW7zSp7CZb-KFQHRqX6mg4/edit#gid=0">https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FiefkDvXOmX25MU-sUXKoPW7zSp7CZb-KFQHRqX6mg4/edit#gid=0</a></i>	CD	10.05 – 10.15
3	Member updates	All	10.15 – 10.25
4	MPAs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offshore MPA update</li> <li>• Second tranche inshore MPA management positions and outreach plan</li> <li>• Aquaculture subgroup update</li> <li>• MSP boat trips</li> <li>• Update briefing</li> <li>• Marine Charter Parliamentary meeting</li> </ul>	All	10.25 – 11.00
5	Marine Planning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CMPP and Clyde 2020 updates</li> <li>• Practical principles of RMP paper/report</li> </ul>	CD	11.00 – 11.15
6	Inshore Fisheries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MS meeting update</li> <li>• Inshore Fisheries Bill</li> <li>• Future of Fisheries brief position paper</li> <li>• Static gear consultation</li> <li>• SIFT meeting update</li> <li>• Electrofishing update</li> </ul>	CD/All	11.15 – 11.55
7	Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Species Champions</li> <li>• Marine Strategy Forum update</li> <li>• Seaweed harvesting consultation</li> <li>• Wildlife Watching – CPG meeting update</li> <li>• Ian Duncan consultation</li> <li>• Climate Change Bill</li> <li>• SSS blog space, social media outputs &amp; newsletter</li> <li>• Decommissioning/renewables comparative sustainability assessment briefing</li> <li>• Plan for Seafloor Integrity report's publication and dissemination</li> </ul>	All	11.55 – 12.25
8	AOB	All	12.25 – 12.30

## Rolling Actions

### **Additional actions:**

**All** members to send feedback on draft LINK positions (Sent with minutes) to CH ahead of January workshop to discuss there.

**CD** to raise island biosecurity with Stuart McMillan.

**CD** to contact SS-S re: review the potential to engage with Scottish MPs following the launch of the UK marine charter

**CD** to contact DD at SNH to arrange meeting to discuss fisheries legislation

**CH/LHM/DV** draft options plans for MSP boat trips

**DV** to add marine and resourcing (budget) as agenda item at next meeting with RC.

**DV** coordinate response to Climate Change Bill Consultation

**DV** to governance group in contact with SAMS re. budgets.

**DP/CH** Aquaculture position paper to be produced with member input

**ED** contact MS fisheries to clarify timeline for Inshore MPA consultation and arrange January meeting to discuss proposed measures.

**ED** to check with RSPB about presenting on island biosecurity at next CPG meeting.

**ED** organise meeting with Caro Cowan and send Future for fisheries brief

**MPOs** facilitate response to Static Gear Consultation deadline February

**MPOs** to draft bulleted list of Inshore asks to circulate to MG for comment/additions.

**PO** to circulate RSPB Seabird response summary to CH to inform short LINK response.

**PO** to check with AK and LWA for feedback following their recent meeting CMPP staff to update MG.

**PO** to circulate LWA note from MSF when complete

**SC** coordinate SWT response to Seaweed Harvesting Consultation and share with MG deadline 1/2/17

### **Ongoing Actions:**

SPA consultation response- Deadline 17/1/17

**All** Decide what MG asks/priorities for new fisheries legislation might be; **DV** to facilitate development. Deadline January

**CD/SD/AK** to look at proposed inshore measures and make sure we are generally happy with the measures.

**CD** Seafloor integrity report to be finalised

**DV** coordinate response to Ian Duncan Consultation

**MPOs/CD/SD** Review explore and compile a LINK 'best practice' approach to the RMPPs against which we can develop our feedback on the CMPP process

## **MPAs**

### Offshore consultation

Consultation submitted in line with LINK positions. CD clarified response acknowledges question mark around JNCC advice to allow trawling in zones within SAC sites, and inconsistencies with reaching Article 6.

**POST MEETING** – Mike Palmer's call to CD was about Brexit. CD spoken with Michael McLeod 14/12/16 re. 2014/2015 minutes. CD clear that 'no deal was done', MM confirmed the process was iterative and 'rolling forward' so inaccuracies in the very late minutes from the 2014 and 2015 workshops would not prejudice how our response of 30<sup>th</sup> November would be considered at the next stage.

**ACTION: Raise at next Bilateral with MS Conservation to understand where they're at with offshore process and ICES.**

#### Inshore 2<sup>nd</sup> Tranche

MG understanding that if Small Isles MCO got laid before Christmas, then expected the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tranche Inshore sites will begin before the end of the year.

**POST MEETING** – ED spoke with Rhona Cairns who said MS still do not have a date set for opening the consultation. As per our previous meeting with Michael McLeod they will be in touch with us to meet *before* the consultation goes live to discuss the proposed measures.

**ACTION: SD to look at marine mammals, CD to look at Benthic, RSPB on black guillemots to make sure we're generally happy with the measures.**

**ACTION: ED to set date for MG workshop on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tranche Inshore management positions (w/c 16<sup>th</sup>/following).**

**ACTION: Members to send feedback on draft LINK positions (Sent with minutes) to CH ahead of workshop to discuss at the workshop.**

#### Aquaculture updates

Subgroup met for the first time last week (7/12), rough plan of opportunities and possible position papers produced conclusion to produce two position papers (Aquaculture & MPAs and Aquaculture & marine planning). Following this Dawn aims to draw up an action plan early in the New Year, expected this will be a member-led body of work, not core MPO capacity (i.e. MCS, NTS, with input from interested members and MPO staff).

**ACTION: Members to provide feedback to Dawn on these proposals by 23/12.**

#### MSP boat trips

DV recap: Came out of discussion SD had with Kate Forbes that morphed into ECCLR. DV has flagged interest to the group, we need to send more detailed plan of the day/rationale to Graeme Day (Convenor). Once enough visits have been requested, ECCLR committee will review.

HWDT have offered their boat for W. Coast trips. Agreed that as there was no specific timeline/hook for this, the trip could be planned for July/August when there is a higher chance of sightings and better weather. Benefit of using the *Siluran*, could have lunch on the boat, also use it as a classroom if the weather is bad. Alison (HWDT) sent an update of potential dates and locations. Discussed potential of departure from Oban. Question whether we would/could cover travel expenses.

Discussed policy links - There is still some government activity on MPAs and it is something MSPs are generally aware of, could show them a designated site, how it is working etc. Noted that Graeme Day wants to go to an established MPA (not new &/or potentially controversial). Given Directives decision makes sense to go to an SAC.

Noted that the invitation could extend to other MSPs (outside ECCLR). I.e. Stuart McMillan. Preference, not to mix MSPs and Government (i.e. FE with ECCLR). Depending on interest LINK could host two boat trips on consecutive days. Max 11 MSPs per trip.

ACTION: CH, LHM and DV put together options list for sites and places, with potential costings and links to MSP agenda.

#### Westminster Marine Charter event 14/12/16

Sarah Stuart-Smith flagged the event to SD noting that two SNP MPs would be attending. SD sent the MPA Network update briefing to SS-S to inform about Scottish process, proposed sending it on to SNP MPs and follow up after the event. CD raised concern at sending the briefing as it had been viewed as criticism of Scottish Government here, the briefing could become a potential 'stick' for Westminster to use. For MPs could be very high level - Scottish network been laid in Scotland, some delays, some financial.

Decided not share the briefing with SNP MPs on this occasion, but for SS-S and volunteers at the event to let SNP MSPs know they can come and talk to us/follow up with them on Scottish context after the event.

Scot LINK is beginning to engage more directly with Westminster, given Brexit to increase coordination with MSPs and Scottish MPs. Noted this as a good opportunity to open doors with Scottish MPs.

Discussed that if we will want to use the briefing to engage with MSPs we may need to re pitch it in a way that takes into account the issues SG raised. No plans set for either at the moment, need to get clarity on budget and other issues before deciding. Revisit at future meeting.

**Action: SD to update SS-S/WCL and Willie McKenzie/Greenpeace of above approach.**

**POST MEETING** – CD also emailed SS-S and WM saying that a useful role for Scottish MPs would be to remind all MPs of devolved competencies in relation to nature conservation and MPAs in particular with SG leading

#### Delayed ncMPAs

Agreed not to push directly on this matter but explore MS budget constraints and ways to help with this. DV already lodged a request for RC meeting with marine on the agenda. DV mentioned potential of different PQs from MSPs on the funding/resource issues that Marine Scotland has. Agreed to discuss budget challenges at meeting with RC first, and then decide what to do. We know there is a lot on their plate, but do they have enough resources to make sure they can complete what they are expected to do. CD mentioned that this was raised by Lloyd Austin at the Marine Strategy Forum so we also need feedback from that before taking further action on the budget.

**ACTION: PO to circulate LWA note from MSF when complete**

**ACTION: DV/CD/All to raise budget at meeting with Roseanna.**

## **Planning**

CMPP – CD had not had the opportunity to contact AK prior to AK/LWA meeting CMPP staff on 6<sup>th</sup> December.

**ACTION: PO to check with AK and LWA for feedback following their recent meeting CMPP staff to update.**

## Clyde 2020

Met on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Steering Group still figuring out what it wants, some frustration from members who thought this was already clear. Isobel Glasgow, keen to emphasise not about fisheries management but about ecosystem enhancement and habitats. Elaine White (CFA) made a holistic point that fisheries are part of the environment. It was noted that that this is covered by the West Coast IFG, subgroup of which report to CMPP. . Alex Watson-Crook at SIFT frustrated that option to ‘talk through’ the spatial elements of their rejected RO proposals not provided. Mike Heath of Strathclyde University also concerned if Clyde 2020 are not looking at stock status in the Clyde. Potential consensus that looking at Clyde as a Functional Unit for king scallop is an option.

## RMP best practice principles

CH/DV/ED met last week to discuss options on how to take this forward. Suggested undertaking a scientifically structured comparative study of Clyde and Shetland MPPs– with interviews of board/Planning partnership members and literature review. Aim to understand how RMPPs work on the ground, determine similarities/differences between the two areas (Shetland quite unique set up), as well as opportunities/challenges to inform future RMPPs. Outputs could be a scientific paper, as well as policy report/executive summary [best practice principles, key opportunities/challenges] and abridged version of study (more detailed, could use infographic). Could then be used for MSPs and policy relevant publications to inform forward looking policy making. Potential to publish as scientific paper around May, and present findings at Sea Scotland Conference, with potential follow on workshop. Open to comments from the group.

Noted that Living with the Seas does a general view of Shetland, with principles, discussed whether this idea overlaps with this and NAFC stakeholder assessment work? Difference with LWTS is that this would include an interview component and comparison. Current bottleneck in the CMPP discussed as an issue, and whether this sort of study might be more beneficial further down the line. May come out as critical of Clyde as LINK/RSPB are members at a time when LINK only just started on the CMPP and following another set of interviews with largely the same stakeholders on Clyde 2020. Needs further discussion in MG, might need to take it offline in terms of capacity. Noted we would need something more than ‘checklist’.

**ACTION: Circulate ‘conclusions’ from our meeting for comment. Discuss in project catch up.**

**ACTION: CD to circulate minute from Clyde 2020 when it comes out.**

## **Fisheries**

### Update on MS Fisheries meeting (11/12)

CD, SD, SC, PO, HM, CH and ED met with Jim Watson's team at Marine Scotland, and joined by David Donnan (SNH). Discussed Inshore Fisheries Bill, Brexit implications and upcoming consultations. Noted continuing as normal approach until Article 50 triggered.

**ACTION: ED to send MS/SNH/LINK minutes around this week.**

### Inshore Fisheries Bill

Jim Watson clarified that MS are committed to developing an Inshore Fisheries Bill, meeting with a few stakeholders over the winter and welcome written feedback from LINK on what the Bill should include (end of Jan). They will put advice to RC and FE in spring (March/April) and expect it to be taken forward next autumn, although the final decision lies with ministers (i.e. if Article 50 were to be triggered and it could then become a 'fisheries' bill). MS briefing sent before the meeting, can inform some of the 'asks' we want to make. Noted JW wants to include a section on spatial management. Potential to meet FE in the spring to reinforce what MS advice on bill. MG to form 'positions' on what they want from Inshore Fisheries Bill.

**ACTION: CH/ED to draft bulleted list of Inshore asks to circulate to MG for comment/additions.**

**ACTION: CD to liaise with David Donnan over potential IFB specific workshop with LINK MG.**

### Future of Fisheries brief

Sent in draft to JW and SNH. Getting feedback from MS and SNH (by end of 2016), incorporate this into brief and then agreed to take that to the SpAds, not something public at this stage. CD Noted that JW was very aware of what SFF are saying publically, do we want to do the same? SD - Can easily say publically the new principles of CFP, and future of Scotland fisheries need to be holistic, needs to all be managed well. Explained Caro Cowan has received a bulleted list from SFF on their main 'asks'. Suggested we do the same sooner rather than later. DV advised against public statements at this stage since so much is up in the air

**ACTION: SD to send brief to Caro with ED cc'd to organise meeting with Caro.**

**ACTION: ED to incorporate MS/SNH feedback into brief, send to SpAds in New Year.**

### Static Gear consultation

Consultation closes on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Requirements for static gear deployed within 12nm, including gear marking.

**ACTION: MPOs to begin draft, send around MG by mid Jan for comment.**

### SIFT meeting update

EFF funded organisations (FFI, COAST, SIFT, LINK, OPEN SEAS, SCFF, with an invitation extended to SSACN) met for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time to catch up on work areas, highlight areas for collaboration &

coordination. SIFT are doing legal work on inshore fisheries bill, CD invited SIFT to talk to the MG, possibility of a dedicated meeting with them.

**ACTION: CD/ED/CH to circulate minutes to the group when they are ready.**

**ACTION: CD to liaise with SIFT over potential meeting/workshop.**

#### Electro fishing

On hold until consultation response decision. Eamon Murphy made clear if this proceeds, it would not be in Luce Bay or SACs.

#### **Other**

#### Ian Duncan

DV compiling LINK response, ED fed into this with marine comments.

**ACTION: DV to share response to group for comments.**

#### Seaweed Harvesting

SC leading on SWT response, deadline 17<sup>th</sup> Feb.

ACTION: SC to circulate response to group for sign up?

#### Species Champions

CD made contact at Parliamentary Event with three MCS Species Champions, Anas Sarwar is new Species Champion for Northern Sea Fan.

HWDT flagged communication issues with Species Champions process, may be missing on some email lists, Alison was unable to attend the Parliamentary event due to short notice, but HWDT chair was there. Currently they don't have any species assigned, looking into Minke whale (jointly sponsor with WDC), and humpback whale. DV mentioned that some labour MSPs had mentioned they might want to be SCs, could be an option.

**ACTION: DV to check if LH-M/AL on the wildlife subgroup list.**

#### CPG update

Alison presented at the last meeting on HWDT's recent research on wildlife watching, and opportunities for operators to get involved in sustainable wildlife watching. Well received by the CPG, interested to find out more. Fuller note was sent to MG at the time. Agreed to keep engaging with the group and influencing the agenda where possible. Noted we were not able to advance on Island Biosecurity at this meeting, discussed options for future engagement on this.

**ACTION: ED to check with AK about presenting on Island biosecurity at next CPG meeting.**

#### Climate Change Bill

Flagged by Jim Densham (SCCS) at ScotLINK steering group meeting. SCCS looking for opportunities to bring marine into their asks, as currently just agriculture. DV met with ministers on CC last week and noted there was nothing about marine. JD and DV expected to lead on consultation response to Climate Change Bill (Expected early in the NY). If we have capacity in the MG we may want to add in to discussions, i.e. Blue Carbon.

CD noted that LINK has influenced Holyrood manifesto to include Blue Carbon previously (2011). DV agreed to look in to this to find out the original reference to Blue Carbon. SWT have already written article on blue carbon, already been sent around MSPs.

**Post Meeting** – See ‘Carbon Sinks’ making reference to *‘including the development of those in the marine environment’* here [http://votesnp.com/campaigns/SNP\\_Manifesto\\_2011\\_lowRes.pdf](http://votesnp.com/campaigns/SNP_Manifesto_2011_lowRes.pdf)

**ACTION: SC to send blue carbon piece around MG.**

#### Media platforms review

Discussion that MG outputs and the blog are not policy updates, but to fill the ‘space’, often looks like nothing happening, also many organisations involved in marine, useful to inform the wider marine stakeholder community and public in Scotland, usually not controversial content. Typically been written by MPOs on behalf of the MG. Idea to structure blog and newsletter further, to maintain interest in campaign platform, useful advocacy tool when needed. Also useful to demonstrate outputs for funding asks.

**ACTION: SD/CD/CH/ED to discuss in project catch up.**

#### Decommissioning v. Offshore renewables

Phoebe Cochrane (LINK Economics) had passed on a request to the MG about writing a brief to support the shift in investment from full decommissioning to renewables. Agreed that MG can’t afford to focus on it and also no joint position.

**ACTION: CD to put SC in contact with PC.**

#### Seafloor Integrity Report

On hold, CD waiting to hear back from David Bailey, and David Donnan.

**ACTION: CD to check in with David Donnan about report and revise the deadline with David Bailey and Lissa Batey at the MPA Fighting Fund.**