

Marine Group Meeting

9:00-12:00, SWT 15th November 2016

Lauren Hartney Mills (HWDT – by phone), Lorna Scott and Alex Kinninmouth (RSPB), Sam Collin (SWT), Calum Duncan (MCS/Chair), Charlotte and Emilie (LINK), Sarah Dolman (WDC – by phone), joining later Sam Tedcastle (WWF)

Agenda

	Item	Who	Timing
1	Welcome and intros Rolling Actions	Chair	9:00 – 9.05
2	MPAs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offshore MPA consultation• 2nd Tranche inshore MPA management• Marine pSPAs• 4pMPAs• Aquaculture subgroup update• MSP boat trips	All	9.05 – 10.05
4	Marine Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clyde Marine Planning Partnership• Sea Scotland 2017 planning	All	10.05- 10.40
5	Fisheries <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inshore Fisheries Brief• Future of Fisheries in Scotland Brief/position paper		10.40- 11.15
6	Other <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence MS plans to present to ECCLR Committee• Wildlife watching• Ian Duncan Consultation	All	11.10 – 11.25
7	AOB	All	11.25 – 11.30
8	David Nairns- Clyde Marine Mammal Project		11.30-12

Rolling Actions

Review of rolling actions.

Note regarding MOD actions and whether any further action is to be taken. HWDT not at this time.

Action for ED to co-ordinate with RSPB, WDC and HWDT regarding Island biosecurity

MPAs

Offshore MPAs

Recap on what has happened regarding E-Action Offshore campaign.

In light of the reaction to the e-action campaign at the north west offshore workshop, the e-action was reviewed. CD- standing by the principle of why we wanted to do it (i.e. public support for the concerns we were raising as LINK), but the decision was taken to suspend the e-action following internal discussion. LINK is continuing to compile the bigger formal written response and continuing to help facilitate the academic letter.

CD: How do we use the blog space on SSS between now and the end of Nov? Do we want a blog before the written response and point to the public documents available on the Marine Scotland website?

AK: Continue our input as invited by the end of Nov, use a blog to publicise the response/ coincide the response. Academic letter remains stand-alone but a decision is required over whether we want to aid this with communication but maintain LINK independence from the letter, i.e. suggesting rather than initiating press contact. Further suggested we retain independence by facilitating letter but nothing further regarding proposing press outreach, leaving that for the academics to decide.

Discussion regarding whether the blog should be an information piece or an action piece. Is the subject niche with a handful of readers or are we attempting to bring this to the wider public information. Likely decision to be an information piece rather than an action piece.

Action: redraft and circulate website blog text- CD/ED/CH

Action: Seek clarity with Marine Scotland over how they document the concerns in light of the inshore process.

Action: CH- to finish draft by Friday 18th and update academic letter by end of this week.

Action: CD to find out which of the headline asks had KC thought had been met regarding the offshore campaign.

2nd Tranche Inshore MPA Management

Need to know when and what the management approaches are for the second tranche of inshore management, and there is an opportunity to seek clarity from MS this afternoon in the Bilateral meeting.

Do we feel comfortable with the principle of doing public e-action for public consultation on next tranche of inshore sites?

All depends what's in the package. AK would support that shift in narrative around different protection methods coming into play for marine mammals and birds. Moving emphasis away from benthic.

SC OK with inshore public campaign.

CD we need to recognise the inshore fisheries stuff doesn't properly do benthic either. Can't shy away from benthic protection but recognising it may not be the main story i.e. set nets e.g. spiny lobster, mobile species and birds.

Marine pSPAs

10 been consultation, 5 in live consultation which ends in January.

RSPB in dialogue with SNH and MS. No update needed from the MS Bilateral meeting this afternoon particularly.

RSPB response to the live consultation is being put together, supported by seabird tracking work, and should be ready to go for before Christmas. This gives a longer lead in time than last time for a LINK response to be drafted. RSPB have no plans for a campaign, a newsletter encouraging response and blog are planned but overall this is reasonably low key.

4 pNC MPAs

Action: Seek clarity whether it's 2017 or not for the pNCMPAs.

RC said it was, but the answer to the recent PQ didn't mention them. Have verbal commitment from RC at the MCS conference so we would seek to hold to that, but seek clarity.

HP SACs: seek further information regarding timeline for considering additional sites this afternoon at the Bilateral meeting.

The option of SSS doing something regarding these sites is resource dependent.

CD subsequently clarified with Sebastian Howell at Marine Scotland who emailed:

'The speech Ms Cunningham gave said that "The remaining four MPA proposals are likely to be considered next year." As with the discussion earlier today regarding resources and the amount of work we are trying to deliver, she was acknowledging that have not at all been forgotten, but with everything else a decision can only be taken once there is breathing space to realistically consider them, which should be sometime in 2017.'

In other words, not necessarily a consultation next year, merely a decision on if/when to consult.

Aquaculture Subgroup Update

Meeting date set for the first aquaculture subgroup meeting is: 7/12/16 with a small attendance so far, but RL and DP have indicated they can attend as the two primary interested parties in the issue.

Raised that LINK will not become involved with the recent COAST social media output surrounding fish farms in the South Arran MPA but will include an update from their action in the subgroup meeting.

MSP Boat trips

DV has sent an email and has spoken to several MSPs and several shown interest. DV is currently sorting out potential logistics.

CD: Do they have an expectation of where?

ED: These are DV's questions to the MSPs at present and questions to the marine group over the value of site/trip. Suggested that we match the relevance of the trip to ECCLR priorities and include a detailed briefing of what the trip involves and why they should go. The work programme is currently light on marine issues but huge things are coming up for climate change, Crown Estate and Land Use. These are overlapping broad issues. There are also other things coming down the line.

Action: DV/All to draft a brief of trip details and why they should go relevant to their work programme.

Not going to happen until next year when the weather is better

LHM: HWDT can take 11 people (11 is the entire ECCLR committee, unlikely we would get everyone) good to have that offer on the table. Agreement from group that the HWDT research vessel trip would be a great package to offer. HWDT are keen to facilitate and the site is at the intersection of MPAs and lots of features and marine planning. HWDT could also travel to another pick up site on the mainland.

Action: LHM update Daphne with HWDT offer and dates for trips

Marine Planning

CMPP

Minutes and Clyde 2020 interview from CD to be circulated. CD mentioned a functional unit approach in the Clyde 2020 interview.

Action: CD look at what SS was saying on state of the Clyde report at the comments in the email.

CMPP is being held up by CFA. Noted that it is a frustrating misinterpretation of what the partnership is trying to achieve and holding up progress. The CFA are really concerned that the

process has the power to stop fishing anywhere. CFA still not coming on board as partners due to the wording of the constitution. CFA concerned that this wording gives the power over fishing.

RSPB have written with frustrations- meeting with Fiona and Sarah 6/12/16 to go through that. AK to feed back to MG.

Action on CD to get in touch with Tavish Scott MSP (Done – TS confirmed in principle).

Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters have recently won a planning award, an award for innovation around stakeholder engagement (not structural about the actual plan).

Solway Firth Partnership, Catherine MCS attending

Ambition for the next phase of regional planning is how can we co-ordinate at these regional events. Potentially RSPB local staff heading to meetings. Wider discussion to be had in the marine group over capacity to attend these regional events.

SS17- Sam Tedcastle arrived.

Update on last SS17 SG meeting which focused on shaping the content around the theme of constitutional change i.e. Brexit and constitutional change.

Phone conference and Face to face meeting dates to be confirmed for end of November and early January. Group members to respond to doodle polls.

RSPB may have a financial contribution, AK to check

Charlie Nathan- marine planning- on judicial review but likely to engage in the future

AOB

Linda Rosborough has retired from Marine Scotland, Mike Palmer is now the interim director.

ED attended Planning Group meeting. Recent EIA consultation- LINK missed the deadline, still option to take forward joint LINK response/position paper on EIAs.

Action: CD Take forward EIA position paper option to strategic planning meeting next Tuesday.

Fisheries

IFMAC

Meeting on Quota tomorrow. Minister invites stakeholders along as a pre negotiation stakeholder meeting. Has gone out on other lists as well as the IFMAC mailing list.

Annual Westminster debate in December to decide quota.

Future of Fisheries Brief

Discussion over whether the Future of Fisheries Brief has a December debate role? However, the December debate is always about quota leading into negotiations. AK: not really a LINK MG agenda item. Decided that the brief is not a document for this debate.

Clarity on that in Bilateral on 12th December with fisheries Marine Scotland. This meeting gives an impetus to get the briefing finished and outline collective thinking ahead of the meeting. Find out the process for Inshore Fisheries Bill. The briefing document will help form the basis of our formal input for the IFB.

Action: Keep in touch with DV on the lead up to that meeting and brief.

Remind whole group of the prompt for the briefing and get everyone up to speed on briefing. Briefing document came out of a meeting between DV and MSP, asking for collective input from LINK group of the things we would want, took the marine one from that. Things that the LINK marine group would want out of the future of fisheries. Useful as LINK engagement .

Action: Emilie to circulate briefing to rest of marine group for comments

CD: Do we still agree that there is a role for a Scottish focused brief (in light of Brexit/Green Alliance points)?

AK: do not want to duplicate effort as this is effectively the same organisations into putting out two different products. Effectively doing same thing to same audience.

ST: what's the strategy for communication between Green Alliance and LINK?

AK: acts as the informal link, happy to update and flag up duplication of effort

CD: also a LINK process to engage with Mike Russell, as he would be keen to hear what LINK members in Scotland think.

SD: doesn't matter that we produce more than one, but make sure they are consistent with each other given the overlap of organisations. No harm in LINK having product. Mike Russell has shown interest. As time goes on, if fishing lobbies have high profile we might need a range of tools, so would not discount a LINK product at this stage.

CD: mutually supportive outputs.

ST: how are the Green Alliance working with the other LINKS?

AK: not sure. No barrier to work outside it, but as RSPB invested in as an avenue for doing Brexit work, LINK is sidelined a little bit.

Key thing: to speak to each other and make sure that we're not diverging. LINK to see Green Alliance document. AK go on with briefing but make sure it's saying the same thing.

Action: CD/CH/ED/AK/SD and all to finalise the LINK briefing

Brexit

Green Alliance work: one of pillars is fisheries. Met last week. Action from the meeting was a shared vision of whatever the outcome these are the principles for fishing going forward. Looking to do that within the next two weeks. Met with DEFRA, fisheries, and got no update at all, genuinely don't know what's going on and cannot confirm/deny negotiating positions. Likelihood any future plan not going to be quick and will therefore carry over status quo in short term. Mentioned recently launched industry campaign 'Seas of Opportunity' around Brexit.

A lot of organisations already doing briefings as general as possible to be used all over UK. Essentially building on reformed CFP, not roll back and maintain progress. Whilst we're still in the EU we need to maintain CFP. Make sure NGOs update country colleagues appropriately. Sign off brief by next Monday.

Action: Circulate Green Alliance and WWF paper to MG when convenient.

SIFT

In 2015, LINK initiated meeting with SIFT, COAST and FFI as a means to reduce duplication and show to Esmee that groups are engaging. Alex Watson Crook initiated SIFT/LINK/COAST/FFI meeting 12th December. Are people happy to see this meeting proceed as it did last year? Agreement from group.

Meeting to review work areas and strategic priorities and open understanding of each organisations place.

AOB

SFF annual dinner: BA speech mentioned need for conservation and happily stand on any stage and happily hold up Scottish MPA process as an example, even though a couple of bumps along the way. Useful to hear BA say that (in front of FE), FE acknowledged that and was very interested to hear that.

Reinforce integration of RC and FE portfolios with MM in the Bilateral.

Fisheries mediation: report will be circulated (ST). Feedback has included that some participants have seen the least change in the ENGOs as a result of the process.

Other

Evidence to ECCLR committee

MM suggested the MSF appropriate place to discuss budget

Action: see how we are covering MSF; AK to ask if Lloyd is available

Wildlife Watching

Swim with: ED Environmental Law Academic at Edinburgh University undertaking research on regulations around laws involving basking sharks etc. back in touch with findings Dec/Jan.

AK: hook for that will be the refresh of the marine wildlife watching code. Radio silence from SNH. Fairly updated state, submitted written comments. Fundamental things about swim with- needs to go in as an advocacy target. Feeling that updated code is available and promoted before new season- not seen new code. Worth prompting again.

WDC anti swim with cetacean organisation.

Action: SD is to get in touch with SNH about code.

Ian Duncan Consultation

ED: meeting between DV and ID. Consultation closes in Jan. ED looking at marine angle to consultation. Whether it would be wider LINK response. Spoken to DV who will mention to Agriculture subgroup.

Using other materials to match up, if not too onerous and already have core materials.

Ian Duncan did present some results in the EU Parliament from his previous consultation.

Essentially says which bits would you like to improve/refit/repeal- how dangerous it is to open up these pieces of legislation- need to be very strategic in how we respond.

AOB

Biodiversity 2020 Challenge

CD: Flag its there to inform other responses following evidence given to ECCLR committee. The marine Priority Project in the Biodiversity 2020 Challenge is next to meaningless, measuring the health of Scotland's seas as being whether 10% are in MPAs, a figure already the case with SACs etc prior to the new MPAs and with inadequate management in place.

David Nairns- Clyde Marine Mammal Project

Started informally 2015. Community by the coast, based in Fairlie

Towed hydrophone array to collect porpoise data. A lot collected in the few months so far. Community led. Concerned generally no sightings data for the Clyde. 123 regular people inputting sightings. Regular people out on the boat. General lack of people going out and doing stuff.

Developing marine mammal toolkit. Generally giving experience and training them up in vocational skills and using hydrophone and collecting distance stuff. A lot of development going on in the Clyde. We would like to offer our services to do marine mammal mitigation at low cost- citizen science, get people engaged and on the boat. Organically grown.

Visual and opportunistic sightings. Marine litter, trawlers, leisure boating and potential impacts. Idea of noise pollution in the Clyde. 2000km of transects looking for porpoises.

Based in Largs lots of work around the Cumbraes and upper Clyde.

Detected one porpoise every 8 minutes. Potentially big calving and nursing area.

Concerned about MSP- started a group within the community council. Liaising with CMPP- but frustrating.