



Marine Planning Stakeholder Reference Group (MPSRG)
23 May 2018
Virtual meeting

Purpose: Discuss Marine plan structure and supporting material

Attendees

Chair – **John Hamer** (Welsh Government), **Phil Coates** (Welsh Government), **Sarah Bound** (Welsh Government), **Rebecca Rees** (Welsh Government), **Mark Russell** (Mineral Products), **Clare Reed** (MCSUK), **Johnathon Monk** (Ports Milford Haven), **Rosie Kelly** (The Crown Estate), **Peter Barham** (SUDG), **Catrin Jones** (Tidal Lagoon), **Christopher O'Brien** (RSPB), **Mel Nicholls** (MMO), **Stephen Jay** (University of Liverpool), **Sarah Canning** (JNCC), **Adrian Judd** (Cefas)

1. The Group welcomed new member Christopher O'Brien representing RSPB.
2. Consultation on the draft Welsh National Marine Plan closed on 29 March with 86 responses received. The responses were broadly positive with a number of constructive comments. The team were currently working through the responses with advice going to the Cabinet Secretary in the next few weeks and the summary of responses and next steps statement to be published by end of June. The main themes emerging from the consultation will be discussed with stakeholders during the July workshops.
3. The Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee [had reviewed the draft WNMP and written a report](#) to the Cabinet Secretary with 13 recommendations. Members of the group felt that the Committee had done a good job of considering the plan and were impressed with the report. Some felt that the report didn't do justice to the amount of work that had been put into the plan to get to this stage. The group had a short discussion around the recommendations and the main messages that would be in the response. WG officials would be providing the Cabinet Secretary with advice on how to respond to the recommendations before the end of May.
4. WG talked about making the plan more accessible by moving content into an online format – this would minimise out of date links and ensure areas could be updated more regularly. There also needed to be a simple way to track any amendments to the plan to ensure transparency. Approaches to online plan presentation were discussed. Prior to the meeting written feedback had been provided by NRW and RSPB.



5. There was detailed discussion held on options to restructure the plan and provide supporting material outside of plan. There was agreement to make the plan more concise by moving material to annex's or external documents.

Comments received included:

- The status of any external documents would need to be made clear;
- A balance would need to be struck between planning authority producing material and other responsible authorities taking the lead;
- The introduction should be shortened;
- Implementation guidance should be moved out of the plan;
- Economy data to move to the evidence report;
- Ecosystem interactions to move to Environment report and supporting guidance to be produced.
- Implementation guidance to move out of plan;
- Safeguarding policy to be rationalised;

6. The group said they wished to see the redrafted structure to agree the approach, this was likely be ready in September.

Next meeting:

- July workshops 4 / 5 2018 – Llandudno Junction Office

Queries to: Rebecca.Rees2@gov.wales