

Wales Marine Action and Advisory Group 10th Meeting, key messages and actions

Title of Meeting	Wales Marine Action & Advisory Group (WMAAG)			Date	21.11.2018
Meeting Number	10	Start Time	10:00	End Time	16:00
Attendance	<p>Peter Davies (Chair) (PD Partnership), Steve Griffiths (British Association for Shooting & Conservation), Mark Russell (British Marine Aggregates Association), Phil Hollington (Cragen Llyn a Mon), Gill Bell (Marine Conservation Society & Wales Environment Link), Jetske Germing (Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum & Marine Energy Wales), Deanna Groom (RCAHMW), Emily Williams (RSPB), Lucy Taylor, Rhoda Ballinger & Tanya Cox (Severn Estuary Partnership), Jim Evans (Welsh Fisherman's Association), Becky Phillips (JNCC), Emma McKinley (Cardiff University), Tegryn Jones (Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority), Nick Barcock (Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water), Dan Crook (Natural Resources Wales), Hannah Osman (Refill Project), Gareth Bevington, Alison Kitchener, Julia Williams, Rob Floyd, Owain Edwards, Chris Parfitt, Polly Groom, Kathryn Roberts, Tamsin Brown, Amanda Wilson, Rebecca Gorman & Hilary Evans (Welsh Government)</p>				
Presenters	<p>Rob Floyd (Welsh Government) Alison Kitchener (Welsh Government) Owain Edwards (Welsh Government) Polly Groom (Welsh Government) Fernanda Balata (New Economics Foundation) Paul Renfro (Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum) Tamsin Brown (Welsh Government) Jasmine Sharp (Natural Resources Wales) Lisa Phillips (Natural Resources Wales)</p>				
Apologies	<p>Graham Rees (Welsh Government), Peter Barham (Seabed Users and Developers Group), Neville Rookes (Welsh Local Government Association), Mike Parry (Pwllheli Partnership), Lesley Jones (Keep Wales Tidy), David McDermott (Saundersfoot Harbour Association), David Tudor (The Crown Estate), Jonathan Monk (Port of Milford Haven).</p>				

#	Agenda Item
1.	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies
2.	Brexit update – Rob Floyd, Welsh Government
3.	Brexit Day One Readiness – Alison Kitchener, Welsh Government
4.	Brexit and Our Seas – Owain Edwards, Welsh Government
5.	Marine Heritage Guidance – Polly Groom, Cadw, Welsh Government
6.	Centre for Coastal Economies – Fernanda Balata, New Economics Foundation
7.	Developing a Nutrient Bank – Paul Renfro, Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum
8.	Marine Licensing – Tamsin Brown, Welsh Government, Jasmine Sharp & Lisa Phillips, Natural Resources Wales.

Introduction

The Wales Marine Action and Advisory group (WMAAG) provides a forum for discussion and debate, and the provision of support and advice to the Welsh Government, on strategic marine and coastal policy. It is the overarching stakeholder group for the work of the Marine and Fisheries Division of the Welsh Government, sitting alongside the Welsh Marine Fisheries Action Group (WMFAG), the lead Welsh Government fisheries industry forum in Wales.

The WMAAG is comprised of 32 stakeholder leads who represent the interests of all sectors with an interest or investment in the Marine in Wales. Details of sectors and lead organisations can be found within the group's [Terms of Reference](#).

Key Messages and Outputs

Item 1: Welcome, introductions and apologies

Key messages	Actions
<p>There were a number of apologies, including Graham Rees, Deputy Director for Marine and Fisheries).</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Gareth Bevington and Alison Kitchener to the meeting.</p> <p>Gareth Bevington is a newly appointed Deputy Director for Marine and International Negotiations and will work alongside Graham Rees.</p> <p>Alison Kitchener is newly appointed Deputy Head of Marine and Fisheries and is working on preparing the fishing industry for EU withdrawal including Day 1 readiness.</p> <p>The chair reminded members of the Clean Seas Partnership meeting on 11th December.</p> <p>The Chair informed the group there will be a call to members in January to set up a Task and Finish Group regarding the designation of MCZs. Further information available from Sharon Davies, Conservation and Biodiversity Team.</p> <p>The Chair apologised for not being able to accommodate all agenda items requested due to the necessity for prioritising Brexit related issues.</p> <p>3 outstanding actions from last full WMAAG meeting in June</p> <p>2.1 MPA Steering Group Action Plan – consultation</p> <p>The MPA Management Steering Group considered this issue at its meeting on 2 July. Further consultation was not considered necessary as WMAAG members, via the Marine User Updates, had already had the opportunity to comment on the structure and content of the draft MPA Network Management Framework and Action Plan; the five management principles and the prioritisation</p>	<p>1.1 Members to consider the Business Wales – Marine Wales website and send content and ideas to hilary.evans2@gov.wales</p>

<p>criteria used to score actions for inclusion in the Action Plan.</p> <p>It was however agreed to publish the full criteria for screening and scoring the actions as an annex of the Action Plan 2018-19.</p> <p>The Steering Group also agreed to produce an Annual Report on delivery of MPA management actions. In order to capture actions being delivered across Wales at a more local level the Steering Group intends to issue a call for information focusing on progress towards any of the five MPA management principles. WMAAG members will have the opportunity to contribute to this exercise.</p> <p>2.3 Members to view the Business Wales Marine Wales website and provide feedback to Becky and Hilary.</p> <p>2.4 Members to nominate communications representatives who can receive training to provide additional content for the website.</p> <p>The Chair urged members to have a look at the website and work with Hilary and Becky to generate more content. Action ongoing.</p>	
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Item 2: Brexit Update

Key messages	Actions
<p>Rob Floyd, Head of Marine EU Transition gave the latest Brexit update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rob re-iterated this area is constantly changing day by day, but gave members an overview of the latest developments. • EU and UK Government have agreed at the technical level a draft text on 'Withdrawal Agreement' • Welsh Ministers do not support the Withdrawal Act and want a continued membership of a 	

<p>customs union; to secure full access to the single market and a sensible approach to migration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Withdrawal Act draws all EU law into UK law. • Welsh Government are currently working on redrafting and laying Statutory Instruments to ensure Wales has workable legislative framework post exit. • Welsh Government are broadly content with the drafted UK Fisheries Bill – however there are some concerns. • Rob re-iterated the Cabinet Secretary’s commitment to maintaining and improving our environmental standards and that our natural resources are fundamental to Wales’s future post EU exit. 	
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Item 3: Day One Readiness (D1R)

Key Points	Actions
<p>Alison Kitchener gave a verbal update on Day One Readiness preparations.</p> <p>Welsh Government are determined to secure a positive future for fisheries in a post Brexit world; there are three scenarios.</p> <p>Fisheries and a transition period: Welsh Government wants a deal with the EU that allows for a transition period, with minimal or no disruption, full participation in the single market and customs union. So, exports would continue as now until the end of the transition period in December 2020, when new arrangements would come in. However, there is a possibility that the UK will leave without a deal.</p> <p>Fisheries with a trade deal: Any trade deal could mean the introduction of tariffs. The EU may also require exports of fish and shellfish to have catch certificates and export health certificate (which could be issued by Local Authorities, but they may incur a fee). Fish and shell fish exports would need to enter the EU through a Border Inspection Point (BIP); Calais is not a BIP, so many fisheries exports will need a different route. It is predicted that there will be infrastructure and capacity issue at EU BIPs and delays are possible.</p>	<p>3.1 Members to share the Brexit Fisheries Bulletin with their stakeholder networks.</p>

<p>Fisheries without a trade deal: If the UK leaves without a trade deal and becomes a third country without listed status, it will not be able to trade with the EU. Foreign vessels may not be allowed to fish in Welsh Waters. The UK benefits from access to EU trade agreements with over 50 other countries, e.g. South Korea. These will fall. The UK Government has started negotiating new agreements, but they are not ready yet and once in place, may include tariffs.</p> <p>It is vital that fishing businesses prepare for the EU withdrawal.</p> <p>To help the industry prepare the D1R Team have issued a Brexit Bulletin. To ensure you receive a copy sign onto the Stakeholder Register, which will ensure you receive all newsletters or register specifically for the Brexit only bulletin:</p> <p>https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKWALES/subscriber/new?topic_id=UKWALES_160</p> <p>https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKWALES_CY/subscriber/new?topic_id=UKWALES_CY_86</p>	
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Item 4: Brexit and Our Seas Consultation workshop

Key messages	Actions
<p>Owain Edwards outlined the draft consultation document “<i>Brexit and our Seas</i>” which is intended to provide an overview of the Welsh Government’s current position and seeks views on different aspects of marine and fisheries policy.</p> <p>Members were presented with a set of commitments and propositions before the meeting and broadly agreed the content.</p> <p>Several stakeholders raised the issue of clearly defining the scope of the consultation from the start, as well as what will be changing, setting a clear expectation of what the Government is consulting on.</p>	<p>4.1 Members to note and share with their networks the forthcoming consultation on ‘Brexit and Our Seas’.</p>

<p>While Welsh fisheries would be significantly impacted, it is important not to neglect the Marine side, and what it has to offer. High quality marine environment is beneficial not only from an environmental point, but also the potential benefits such as attracting tourism. Revenue raised from fishing opportunities in the future could be fed back into the industry and further afield.</p> <p>Regarding the non-food opportunities, better examples were sought from the stakeholders.</p> <p>After meeting with WMAAG members, the consultation is currently going through drafting stages and clearances.</p> <p>The Welsh Government plans on publishing the consultation next year. The consultation response period will run for 12 weeks following publication.</p>	
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Item 5: Marine Heritage Guidance

Key messages	Actions
<p>Polly Groom, Cadw, Welsh Government delivered a presentation on the importance of marine heritage and informed members of Marine Heritage Guidance consultation.</p> <p>Historic environment of coastal and offshore zones represents a unique aspect to our cultural heritage. It is an important economic and social asset.</p> <p>Cadw principles are echoed in the UK's marine policy statement which underpins marine planning. See Conservation Principles (published in 2011).</p> <p>Cadw will be publishing guidance document which will be going out for full public consultation in 2019.</p> <p>Managing the Marine Historic Environment of Wales</p>	<p>5.1 Members to note and share with their networks the forthcoming consultation on 'Managing the Marine Historic Environment of Wales'.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A guidance document produced to support the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 • Explains Cadw’s position on the marine historic environment • Outlines relevant legislation and consenting regimes • Signposts further information <p>Cadw will use designation or scheduling on a case-by-case basis to protect the most significant of our underwater sites. Explicitly stating that Conservation Principles apply underwater as well as on land.</p>	
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Item 6: Coastal Economies, New Economics Foundation (NEF)

Key messages	Actions
<p>Fernanda Balata, New Economics Foundation (NEF) delivered a presentation on the progress of the Blue New Deal project and its work with coastal communities.</p> <p>NEF’s mission is to transform the economic system so that it works for people and planet. NEF works across a range of issues important to society, including fisheries and marine conservation.</p> <p>The Blue New Deal is a framework and action plan to deliver better jobs, wellbeing and economic resilience for coastal communities through a healthier coastal and marine environment.</p> <p>Coastal communities are in need of an economic transformation. The coastal and marine environment is their unique asset. Healthier and more productive seas can be an engine to more and better jobs.</p> <p>Mechanisms for change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to put people in control • Investing in coastal communities and the coastal and marine environment • More needs to be done to rebalance power to coastal communities, building capacity and engagement. • Coastal and marine stakeholders need opportunities to meet; effective ways to share and 	<p>6.1 Members to put their networks in touch with Fernanda to hold discussions fernanda.balata@neweconomics.org</p> <p>6.2 Members to note the highlighted publications:</p> <p>2015 Blue New Deal: good jobs for coastal communities through healthy seas</p> <p>2016 Turning Back to the Sea: a Blue New Deal to revitalise coastal communities</p> <p>2017 Not in the same boat: the economic impact of Brexit across UK fishing fleets</p> <p>2018 Implications of Brexit for Fishing Opportunities in Wales</p>

communicate; and support that enables them to effectively work in collaboration.

- Local experiences of coastal life must resonate with decision makers and be used to reshape policy

Discussion points around

- How the Blue New Deal framework could work for Wales?
- What are the priorities in Wales to secure better coastal economies and a healthier marine environment post-Brexit?
- How can a renewed approach to fisheries management work together with coastal economic regeneration and marine conservation?
- Group questioned the difference between coastal and rural as Wales' coastal areas are mostly urban.
- How do you determine what is a coastal community – no fixed determination but based on coastal economy.
- Previous engagement with Pembrokeshire Fishers, Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum, Visit Wales, Local Authorities, Swansea University.
- Noted that Seas and Coasts group have looked at these questions, specifically Coastal Authorities network.
- Welsh Government commissioned a report to look at the impact of Brexit on Fisheries; WG has also requested similar analysis reports on other areas in the marine.
- Members highlighted groups who NEF could work/hold discussions with:

Building Communities Trust; Coastal Communities Fund and Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum; Welsh Coastal Groups forum; John Allen Foundation – Coastal management.

Members to put their networks in touch with Fernanda to hold discussions

fernanda.balata@neweconomics.org

Item 7: Developing a Nutrient Bank in the Milford Haven Waterway

Key messages	Actions
<p>Paul Renfro delivered a presentation on Building Resilience In Catchments (BRICs). Ensuring sustainable economic development while addressing the unfavourable conservation status of the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC, the moderate ecological status of the Milford Haven Waterway and help deliver clean drinking water for the people of Pembrokeshire.</p> <p>EEP – Eco-bank Ecosystem Enterprise Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market-based Nutrient Trading Scheme • 'Nutrient credits' to be generated by landowners who commit to improve and enhance management practices on their land over and above regulation • These credits can then be sold, generating funds for the management of the site • Credits can be used to counterbalance the impacts of nutrient loading as result of future development • Using a trading ratio of 2:1 or 4:1 with each trade the nutrient levels entering the catchment would be lowered • The credits can also be sold to those seeking to invest in conservation outcomes, including Wildlife Trusts and government <p>Key points – A nutrient credit scheme could generate economic and environmental benefit, reduce risk to WG for EU infraction and reduce risk of no development, to an area of limited economic opportunities.</p> <p>Credit exchange would be approved and overseen by a regulatory agency, which should be a new body.</p> <p>Members questioned how this would work alongside existing regulations eg Cabinet Secretary's recent announcement to tackle agricultural pollution. Paul Renfro stated this system can work within legislation to raise maximum feasible reductions.</p>	

Item 8: Marine Licensing Session

Key messages	Actions
<p>Joint presentation delivered by Tamsin Brown (Welsh Government) and Jasmine Sharp and Lisa Phillips (Natural Resources Wales). Presentation gave an overview of the marine licensing system including the new fees introduced last year.</p> <p>No major issues in relation to Day One Readiness for marine licensing.</p> <p>Members to sign up to receive the marine licensing newsletter through the Stakeholder Register. And to disseminate the information through their networks.</p>	<p>8.1 Members to reflect on what they want to hear from the marine licensing team in the future.</p> <p>Contact: marinelicensing@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk</p>

Item 9: Summary and reflections

Key messages	Actions
<p>Members were asked to ensure they sign up to the Stakeholder Register as the Register is now the main database being used by the Marine and Fisheries Division to hold members' details to ensure compliance with GDPR and to keep records up to date.</p> <p>The Chair introduced Hannah Osman – the newly appointed Refill Project Co-ordinator. Hannah announced dates for Refill launch events, which were also circulated separately to members on email after the meeting.</p> <p>The Chair closed the meeting by thanking all the presenters for their time. Members were urged to reflect on the presentations and disseminate the information to their stakeholder networks.</p>	<p>9.1 Members asked to ensure they sign up to the Stakeholder Register</p>