

MPA Management Steering Group

Key Messages and Actions

Title of Meeting	MPA Management Steering Group (telecon)		Date	14.02.2019
Meeting Number	15	Start Time	10:45	End Time 2:30
Attendance	Gareth Bevington (Welsh Government - Chair), Louise George (Welsh Government), Richard Lowcock James (Welsh Government), Maggie Hatton-Ellis (Natural Resources Wales - advisor), Kate Griffiths (Natural Resources Wales), Alison Palmer Hargrave (Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC – advisor to the Steering Group), Jonathan Monk (Welsh Ports Group), Tegryn Jones (Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority/Snowdonia National Park Authority), Becky Phillips (Joint Nature Conservation Committee)			
Telecon	Eve Read (Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water), Greg Tomlinson (The Crown Estate), Alice Collier (The Crown Estate)			
Apologies	Rhian Jardine (Natural Resources Wales), Trevor Theobald (Welsh Local Government Association/Pembrokeshire County Council)			

No	Agenda Item
1	Welcome, introductions and housekeeping
2	Action Plan 2019-20 – results of the prioritisation exercise
3	Funding needs and options
4	Summit to Sea Project update
5	Review of Steering Group Terms of Reference
6	Any other business

Introduction

The Marine Protected Area Management Steering Group (MPAMSG) provides strategic co-ordination for the management of all MPAs in Welsh seas. The Group provides advice, guidance and a collective steer to authorities involved in the delivery of MPA management actions. It champions effective MPA management, and is tasked with raising the profile of MPA management and increasing buy-in from management authorities and wider stakeholders across Wales.

Membership of the MPAMSG is drawn from the key management authorities in Wales, as defined by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

The Steering Group held its fifteenth meeting on 14 February 2019 at the Welsh Government offices in Aberystwyth. Key messages and actions from the meeting are found within this document. Members of the MPAMSG have a responsibility for disseminating consistent messages with their respective networks.

Should you wish to discuss any of the agenda items in more detail please contact your sector lead. If you require the contact details of your sector lead, please contact the Marine and Fisheries Ministerial Mailbox:
(MarineandFisheriesMinisterialMailbox@gov.wales)

Key Messages and Actions

Item 2: Action Plan 2019-20 – results of the prioritisation exercise

Key messages	Actions
<p>Steering Group members discussed their scores for each of the six potential new actions for the 2019-2020 MPA Network Management Action Plan. Subject to some further work on the Community Litter Project, Saltmarsh Grazing and Water Quality Project and the potential action to reduce disturbance of marine mammals and birds, Steering Group members agreed the overall scores and thus the prioritisation order of the new actions for 2019-2020. The six new actions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a Plan of Action to reduce the incidental bycatch of seabirds in UK waters • Community Litter Project • Deliver Phase 3 of the Non-licensable Activities Project • Reduce disturbance of marine mammals and birds • Pilot project on saltmarsh grazing and water quality • Impacts of marine litter on MPA features 	

Item 3: Funding needs and options

Key Messages	Actions
<p>Steering Group members noted which of the new actions already had funding attached, and which are in need of financial support. It was agreed to consider funding and the final list of actions for inclusion in the 2019-2020 Action Plan at the next meeting of the Steering Group.</p> <p>Steering Group members agreed that in future it would be preferable to hold discussions on prioritisation once budget allocations were known for the forthcoming financial year.</p>	<p>The Welsh Government to review the annual timetable for producing the Action Plan to take account of annual budgeting processes.</p>

Item 4: Summit to Sea Project update

Key messages	Actions
Steering Group members received an update on the Summit to Sea project and noted the progress made for the marine aspect of the project.	

Item 5: Review of Steering Group Terms of Reference

Key messages	Actions
The Welsh Government suggested this item should be postponed to allow time for exploration of how the Group could encourage greater involvement from the Wales Marine Action and Advisory Group in MPA management. Steering Group members agreed to postpone discussion on the Group's Terms of Reference until the next meeting.	The Welsh Government to draft a paper for the next Steering Group meeting outlining options to strengthen engagement with the Wales Marine Action and Advisory Group.

Item 6: Any other business

Key messages	Actions
There was no other business.	