

## Marine Planning Decision Maker's Group (MPDMG)

6 February 2019



### Attendees

Phil Coates, Pat Cowdy and Rebecca Rees (Welsh Government), Nathan Slater (Vale of Glamorgan Council), Lisa Phillips (NRW), Judith Oakley (Swansea Council), Nick Barcock (Welsh Water), Martin Thomas (THLS), Tony Thickett (PINS), John Williams (Anglesey Council), Greg Tomlinson (Crown Estate), Mark Simmonds (British Ports), Lindsay Christian (Newport Council), Alan Groves (WG - planning), Marged Wyatt (WG – planning), Rachel Mulholland (Cefas), Sarah Jenkins (Swansea Council), Neville Rookes (WLGA), Simon Hampshire and Rory Shepherdson (UK Hydrographic Office), Elizabeth West (Devon and Severn IFCA), Laura Nokes (MOD), Inger Söderström (OPRED), Sarah Canning and Jillian Whyte (JNCC), Chris McMullon (Natural England), Deanna Groom (RCAHMMW), Debbie Nicholas (NRW).

1. Attendees were given an overview of progress on the dWNMP since the last meeting in October with a view to plan adoption in the summer. It was intended that Implementation Guidance (IG) would accompany the plan at sign off. Members of the group were given the opportunity to comment on an initial draft with a view to further input on a more finalised draft in the future.
2. Welsh Government were still looking at who the relevant public authorities were and what decisions they took in the context of marine plan sec 58 duties. A Consultant's Report on [\*"External Decision Making and Implementation Mapping of Marine Plans"\*](#) was circulated at the meeting to inform thinking. In addition to this forum Welsh Government would be happy to have one to one dialogue with individual organisations or groups.
3. The content of the IG and key areas were presented to the group. The initial IG would be available when the WNMP was finalised but it was recognised that it would evolve in the light of experience, with new versions likely to follow possibly supplemented by additional guidance (eg Planning letters and topic related Marine Planning Notices).
4. The plan would take effect once adopted (as per other planning examples) and decisions taken after adoption would need to be in accordance with the plan.
5. Attendees welcomed the changes that had been made to the IG since the version presented as part of the draft WNMP consultation documents.
6. A discussion took place on which bodies would be decision makers and who the consultees would be. Welsh Government said that these are the current bodies as are often laid down by statute and decisions will be taken in consideration of their existing duties which are unchanged by marine planning. The WNMP will add an extra consideration.

7. The more involved decision makers are with the WNMP planning process the better. WG will work with each RPA at their own pace to identify their roles and responsibilities and how to best to put them into effect. The WNMP draft for adoption, draft IG and any matters that arise from the case studies will be means of focussing this.
8. The meeting was then split into three workshop groups to look at the different case studies led by Mott Macdonald. These case studies will provide practical examples of what implementing the WNMP might look like for both decision makers and developers.

The date of the next meeting was set as 10 July but if MPDMG members saw merit in a further group meeting before plan adoption an additional meeting before July could be arranged.

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