

Marine Planning Decision Maker's Group (MPDMG)

16 October 2018



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), John Williams (Anglesey Council), Lindsay Christian (Newport Council), Alan Groves (WG - planning), Teresa Davies (WG – planning), Sarah Jenkins (Swansea Council), Neville Rookes (WLGA), Simon Hampshire and Samuel Gilchrist (UK Hydrographic Office), Sarah Clarke (Devon and Severn IFCA), Laura Nokes (MOD), Inger Söderström and Nicola Abrams (OPRED), Chris McMullon (Natural England), Deanna Groom (RCAHMW), Shelley Vince (NRW), Ken Cook (WG – WEFO), Wayne Hope (Denbighshire Council), Mike Simmons (Pembrokeshire Council), Michael Gubbins (CEFAS), Eunice Pinn (Seafish), Michel Regelous (Pembrokeshire Coast National Park), Mel Nicholls and Clare Kavanagh (MMO), Helen Croxson (Maritime & Coastguard Agency)

1. Following the initial webinars back in August, this was the first face to face meeting of the MPDMG. Welsh Government welcomed attendees and gave an update on progress to implement the first Welsh National Marine Plan. As marine planning is a new concept our understanding will develop in a similar manner to that for land planning. Welsh Government didn't have all the answers and this group was intended as a forum to work through questions and address considerations that arose.
2. Once the WNMP has been adopted decisions taken by public authorities under the Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA) must take account of it in two ways;
 - **S.58(1) - Authorisation or enforcement decisions must be taken “in accordance with”** “unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise”;
 - **S.58(2) - Public authority must ‘have regard’ to marine policy documents** in taking any decision relating to the ***exercise of functions capable of affecting the whole or any part of the UK marine area.***
3. Types of relevant decisions these authorities may make include; management measures, consenting and permitting, policy making, nature conservation designation, fisheries management, marine resource strategic management and funding decisions.
4. Welsh Government would develop case studies which will give practical examples of what implementing the WNMP might look like for both decision makers and developers. A working group would be established to help develop these and the next full meeting of the MPDMG would look in further detail.

The date of the next meeting was set as 6 February 2019.

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