

Marine Planning Decision Maker's Group (MPDMG)

10 July 2019



Attendees

Phil Coates & Rebecca Rees (Welsh Government), Judith Oakley (Swansea Council), Nick Barcock (Welsh Water), Martin Thomas (THLS), John Williams (Anglesey Council), Alice Collier (Crown Estate), Stephen Williams (Newport Council), Alan Groves (WG - planning), Rachel Mulholland (Cefas), Nicola Abrams & Inger Söderström (OPRED), Jillian Whyte (JNCC), Chris McMullon (Natural England), Deanna Groom (RCAHMMW), Kevin Ashcroft, Lisa Phillips & Lucie Skates (NRW), Mike Jones (Environment Agency), Wayne Hope (Denbighshire Council), Suzanne Thomas (WG – Tourism), Jonathon Monk (MHPA), Claire Kavanagh (MMO), Andrew Brown (Big Lottery Fund), Helen Croxson (MCGA).

1. Attendees were given an overview of progress since the last meeting and the development of the plan. The plan was currently being designed and translated before submitting to the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs for approval and then to the UK Secretary of State. Welsh Government officials have been in liaison with Defra about the plan for some time and the sign off process would take place over the Summer. When the plan was published it would be accompanied by a suite of supporting documents including a Summary of Changes Report, Sustainability Appraisal (SA), SA post adoption statement, Habitats Regulation Assessment, Implementation Guidance and a Monitoring & Reporting Framework.
2. The group was thanked for their input to the Implementation Guidance (IG) which was currently being finalised for internal Welsh Government sign off. The IG and Welsh National Marine Plan for adoption will be circulated to the Group with the caveat that there is the possibility for change still until the plan receives final sign-off. Quite a lot of feedback had been received from both this group and the Marine Planning Stakeholder Reference Group on the IG. We have considered all the comments received, however, the IG would not address everything in its first iteration.
3. Feedback was requested from the group on the practical implementation of the plan from when it was adopted and therefore came into effect. What further support Welsh Government could offer authorities. Members of the group provided suggestions for Welsh Government to consider.
4. It was queried whether the day of adoption could be phased to give Relevant Public Authorities a longer opportunity to prepare. Welsh Government said there was no opportunity to phase the introduction of the plan as, statutorily, it would come into force on the day of sign off/adoption. From this point any decisions would have to be taken in compliance with the plan and this includes any already submitted but undetermined, open applications, following the same approach taken in land planning. Welsh Government would give as much advance notice as possible about the final adoption date and

progress with the plan sign off to try to help the transition, and would consider any further supportive measures to assist both applicants and decision makers.

5. An overview of our work on a Monitoring and Reporting framework for the WNMP was presented. It was agreed to establish a sub group to help develop the indicators for our Monitoring and Reporting work and group nominations were requested. To develop our approach we were looking for information from group members about what information they were already gathering for other regimes and their experience of this.

The suggested date of the next meeting was in October, at around the expected time of plan adoption.

Queries to: Rebecca.Rees2@gov.wales