

MPA Management Steering Group

Key Messages and Actions

Title of Meeting	MPA Management Steering Group		Date	16.05.2019
Meeting Number	16	Start Time	10:30	End Time 2:00
Attendance	Gareth Bevington (Welsh Government - Chair), Louise George (Welsh Government), Richard Lowcock James (Welsh Government), Wendy Dodds (Welsh Government), Helen Bloomfield (Natural Resources Wales), Mary Lewis (Natural Resources Wales), Alison Palmer Hargrave (Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC – EMSO advisor to the Steering Group), Jonathan Monk (Welsh Ports Group), Trevor Theobald (Welsh Local Government Association/Pembrokeshire County Council), Eve Read (Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water)			
Apologies	Tegryn Jones (Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority/Snowdonia National Park Authority), Rhian Jardine (Natural Resources Wales), Yolanda Arjona (Joint Nature Conservation Committee), Greg Tomlinson (The Crown Estate), Alice Collier (The Crown Estate), Maggie Hatton-Ellis (Natural Resources Wales)			

No	Agenda Item
1	Welcome, introductions and housekeeping
2	Engagement with WMAAG
3	Annual Report 2018-2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Returns from the “Calls for Information” • Outputs and outcomes • Headlines
4	Action Plan 2019-2020 – sign off <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding
5	Next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisational sign-off • Use of logos for publication
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 sixteenth meeting on 16 May 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: Engagement with the Wales Marine Action and Advisory Group (WMAAG)

Key messages	Actions
<p>Members received an update on current plans for wider engagement on marine issues with WMAAG. This could see the creation of a new sub-group focused on biodiversity issues, which would encompass the work of the Steering Group as well as other marine biodiversity and ecosystem resilience and restoration based work. The remit and membership of the new group is to be determined. Steering Group members were supportive of the idea in principle and asked for feedback once the idea had been discussed with WMAAG at their next meeting on 22 May.</p>	<p>Louise to feed back views from WMAAG on proposals for wider engagement to the Steering Group.</p>

Item 3: Annual Report 2018-2019

Key Messages	Actions
<p>Members received an update on the drafting of the Annual Report. In addition to a progress update on the 21 actions in the 2018-2019 Action Plan, additional information had been returned from four organisations on MPA management work they had carried out during 2018-2019. Although members generally welcomed the progress made, they raised the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duplication of effort – it was noted that information returned from the RSPB Cymru suggested they were developing a marine code for North Anglesey Marine SAC, even though one has already been produced by PLAS. Alison agreed to follow this up with the RSPB. • Outputs and outcomes – although a lot of work had been done to populate this section some significant gaps remained, particularly for Action 2 on regulatory consenting processes and for the additional information supplied by other 	<p>Alison to contact RSPB Cymru regarding the marine code for North Anglesey Marine SAC.</p> <p>Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales, RSPB Cymru, Marine Conservation Society and Dŵr Cymru Welsh</p>

<p>organisations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key messages from the Annual Report – members agreed it would be beneficial to draw out any highlights and headlines from the information returned, linking them to the five management principles. 	<p>Water to strengthen the outcomes and outputs section as it relates to their actions.</p> <p>WG/NRW to draw out key messages where possible and link them to delivery of each of the five management principles.</p> <p>Alison to revisit the update for Action 20 and make the links between it and the five management principles.</p>
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Item 4: Action Plan 2019-2020 – sign off

Key messages	Actions
<p>Members agreed that the proposed Community Litter Project action should sit as a standalone action, rather than be captured under the Marine Litter Action Plan/Clean Seas Partnership action.</p> <p>The Welsh Government confirmed that, subject to ministerial approval, it would be able to fund the four actions still in need of financial support in 2019-2020. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 3 of the Unlicensable Activities Project • Community Litter Project • A project to reduce disturbance to marine mammals and birds • A pilot project to investigate the impact of saltmarsh grazing on water quality at Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries SAC 	<p>The Welsh Government to seek ministerial approval to fund the four actions still in need of financial support in 2019-2020, and publication of the MPA Network Management Action Plan for 2019-2020 by end of June.</p>

Item 5: Next steps

Key messages	Actions
<p>Members were asked to confirm whether they were content to sign off the 2019-2020 Action Plan, subject to the remaining minor revisions needed to it. They confirmed that they were, and agreed to provide written confirmation including that their respective organisational logos may be used for the final published version of both the Action Plan and Annual Report.</p>	<p>Minor revisions to the Action Plan to be made by the Welsh Government and NRW and recirculated to the Steering Group w/c 17 June.</p> <p>Steering Group members to confirm sign-off and permission to use organisational logos for design purposes end June.</p>

Item 6: Any other business

Key messages	Actions
<p>Jonathan mentioned that he and Tegryn would be accompanying Sue Burton, European Marine Site Officer for Pembrokeshire Marine SAC, to give evidence before the National Assembly for Wales's Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee on 22nd May. This is as part of the committee's follow-up work on their inquiry on MPA management in Wales.</p> <p>Trevor highlighted an initiative in Cardigan Bay whereby local business are working together to reduce their single use plastic. He also noted the Marine Energy Test Area (META) project in and around the Milford Haven Waterway for testing wave and tidal devices (project is seeking a marine licence from NRW and also one from Milford Haven Port Authority). Trevor also noted the work underway by Pembs County Council to develop a Dark Skies SPG. He noted that a survey of tanker lights at night that was affecting Manx Shearwaters was a cause of concern, with a roundtable meeting being convened with the likes of SWW Wildlife Trusts, Pembs Marine SAC RAG to look at what can be done, including production of guidance/infographics that can be given to tankers to help reduce their light levels at night.</p>	

Agreed that an informal joint RAG meeting (Pembs Marine, CBEEMS, PLAS and Cardigan Bay) with Gareth Bevington would be useful for all.

Mary suggested including an item on NRW's revised organisational structure covering the Marine Team for the next meeting of the Steering Group.

WG to look at dates.