

## Marine Planning Stakeholder Reference Group (MPSRG)

28 May 2020



### Attendees

**Eluned Jones, John Hamer, Phil Coates & Rebecca Rees** (Welsh Government), **Adrian Judd & Rachel Mulholland** (Cefas), **Lucie Skates, Lee Murray, Karen Perrow & Helen Bloomfield** (NRW), **David Jones** (Blue Gem Wind/Simply Blue), **Mike Butterfield** (RYA), **Mel Nicholls** (MMO), **Rosie Kelly** (Crown Estate), **Emma McKinley** (SEP), **Claire Stephenson** (RSPB), **John Wrottesley** (ESCA), **Manon Kynaston** (Marine Energy Wales), **Eunice Pinn** (Seafish), **Ruth Callaway & Kam Tang** (Swansea University), **Jillian Whyte** (JNCC), **Mark Simmonds** (British Ports), **Michael Igoe** (UK Chamber of Shipping)

1. The Implementation Guidance (IG) document had now been finalised following Welsh Government and UK Government policy lead review. It was hoped it will be published soon. Moving forward, updating the IG would be an iterative process. There would be no set timetable but it would be under continual review and would be updated when necessary – looking at what had worked well and learning by understanding. Stakeholders would be informed in advance of any updates in order to provide input but could also provide this at any time via the [Marine Planning mailbox](#). The Group were given an overview of the IG.
2. The Group were updated on wider aspects of plan implementation. A reference document on sector governance arrangements was being produced looking at the same sectors as the Welsh National Marine Plan (WNMP) and would cover organisational roles and responsibilities in the Welsh Marine Plan area. An early draft of this technical document and aquaculture sector text will be shared with this Group in June. We would then be working with representatives of the other ten sectors to fact check the document. A Governance layer for the Marine Planning Portal was also in development. The Marine Planning Decision Maker's Group (MPDMG) had met regularly since August 2018 with the last meeting in February and had received a draft version of the IG last year to inform decision making. A number of one to one training sessions had taken place with the NRW marine licensing team and Local Authorities since adoption of the WNMP – however, these had been scaled back due to COVID work taking precedence.
3. There was an update on the Expert Panels, which had been convened on 14 May to look at the SMMNR EMFF project for the areas of Wet Renewables and Aquaculture. The Expert Panels were updated on the constraints and opportunities outputs and introduced to the evidence packages. There was the intention to convene the Expert Panels every 4 – 6 weeks.
4. At the last meeting there had been an update on the Marine Area Statement following its launch in March. This Group had helped identify the four main themes under this Area Statement and the team in NRW were now keeping track of what was being delivered and were keen to engage this Group in the first task which was:

- Gather information on what projects / activities partners are already involved in that support the delivery of the actions identified;
  - Start to collate ideas from Group members for new projects / activities (and partners) that could help deliver against the actions to achieve the shared outcomes.
5. The Group were updated on Cross border planning. There was continuing engagement with colleagues on cross border matters – whether this was through attendance at each other's events, input to consultations or coordination on guidance. Engagement has also taken place through the Coastal Partnerships and we are also engaging with a number of interested parties across the Welsh Marine Plan Area through the MPDMG. There was also an update from the MMO on their consultation on the draft English plans. It was suggested that cross border planning should be a standing agenda item for the MPSRG and the Group agreed.
6. Future agenda items were suggested and included Indicators for Monitoring and Reporting and the Marine Area Statement. The next meeting will take place on 9 July.

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