

Marine Planning Stakeholder Reference Group (MPSRG)

9 July 2020



Attendees

John Hamer, Eluned Jones, Phil Coates, Rebecca Rees, Rafe Osborne, Hishiv Shah (Welsh Government), **Adrian Judd & Rachel Mulholland** (Cefas), **Lucie Skates, Karen Perrow & Helen Bloomfield** (NRW), **Mike Butterfield, Richard Hill & Phil Horton** (RYA), **Abby Haines** (MMO), **Rosie Kelly & Joe Smithyman** (Crown Estate), **Katie Havard-Smith** (Severn Estuary Partnership), **Emily Williams** (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), **Mark Russell** (Mineral Products Association), **Clare Trotman** (MCS), **Stephen Jay** (University of Liverpool)

1. The Group were given an update on the work of the Marine Planning team, noting that the previous work plan had been reviewed with some areas of work slowed or refocussed and others progressing as planned given the current COVID situation. WNMP [Implementation Guidance \(IG\)](#) had recently been published, the Marine Planning Portal updated, with the team now progressing locational guidance. Additional material had also been produced to support plan accessibility, this includes five webinars covering a number of aspects of the Marine Planning process that Welsh Government are aiming to publish by end July. A contract was shortly being procured to develop Sector Locational Guidance for the Aquaculture, Tidal Stream and Wave Energy sectors.
2. Welsh Government are introducing two products to support implementation of the Welsh National Marine Plan; the IG and a marine planning Governance document. Now the IG had been published there would be a systematic update of the document as and when appropriate. Welsh Government will notify stakeholders when an update is planned but in the meantime feedback is via the [Marine Planning mailbox](#). Following publication of the WNMP, Welsh Government had produced a number of separate supporting documents.
3. The Group were updated on the approach Welsh Government was taking to monitor and report on the Welsh National Marine Plan. In January the Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) framework had been published which outlines the broad approach to M&R. The full set of indicators were still on track to be developed and published in 2020 and in 2022 the first M&R report will be published. In the intervening period baseline data will be collected and new evidence gathered in relation to the indicators. Potential indicators have been divided into three groupings; those to focus on in the short term, medium term (through collaboration with stakeholders) and long term.
4. Cross border M&R considerations were discussed. Prior to the meeting questions had been issued to the group following discussion with the Marine Management Organisation. Discussion took place around the merits and challenges of linking reporting regimes for neighbouring authority Marine Plans and having something less formal was thought to be preferable.

5. The group were given an update and overview of the [Marine Planning Portal \(MPP\)](#) which makes available spatial evidence related to Marine Planning in Wales. The MPP was hosted on the LLE platform which held data from both Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales. The MPP compiles spatial data layers that are relevant to Marine Planning from the LLE datasets and datasets from other parties can also be added in. Within the near future the MPP will be moved onto Datamap Wales which will provide more functionality and was a consistent platform across Welsh Government.

The next meeting will take place on 24 September.

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