

Marine Planning Stakeholder Reference Group (MPSRG)

11 November 2020



Attendees

John Hamer, **Eluned Jones**, **Phil Coates**, **Rebecca Rees**, **Rafe Osborne** (Welsh Government), **Adrian Judd & Rachel Mulholland** (Cefas), **Lucie Skates**, **Karen Perrow & Lee Murray** (NRW), **Mike Butterfield** (RYA Cymru), **Mel Nicholls & Abby Haines** (MMO), **Rosie Kelly** (Crown Estate), **Emily Williams & Claire Stephenson** (RSPB), **Manon Kynaston** (Marine Energy Wales), **Kam Tang & Ruth Callaway** (Swansea University), **Jillian Whyte** (JNCC), **Mark Russell** (Mineral Products Association), **Stephen Jay** (University of Liverpool), **Jetske Germing** (PCF), **Peter Barham** (SUDG), **Emma McKinley & Katie Havard-Smith** (Severn Estuary Partnership), **Clare Trotman** (MCS), **Phil Horton** (RYA), **Michael Igoe** (UK Chamber of Shipping), **Martin O'Meara** (Government of Ireland), **Rhona Fairgrieve**, **Abi Cowing**, **Elspeth McIntyre & Ria McCann** (Atkins)

1. The group were updated on a number of Marine Planning documents that have been produced or are in production. It was noted that 12 November marked a year since the WNMP had been adopted. Since publication the team has been progressing a range of work to support plan implementation and a number of these items were covered in detail during the meeting.
2. There was an update on a report that Welsh Government [published last week](#) looking at current practice in project level mitigation and compensation. This report looks at the legislative requirements for designated sites in Wales particularly in relation to marine renewable energy. ABPMer had been commissioned to produce the report and had flagged a number of areas for further discussion with stakeholders.
3. The Government of Ireland gave an update on their National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) which had recently been out for public consultation. There were 225 responses to the consultation and a number of areas within the Plan have been addressed including Heritage Assets policy and maps. Useful comments around transboundary issues were received from the neighbouring marine planning authorities in Welsh Government and Marine Management Organisation. The final NMPF would be sent for Ministerial approval winter 2020 and the approved NMPF sent to the European Commission March 2021.
4. The Marine Planning team are taking a spatial approach to marine planning which includes further development of the Marine Planning Portal, development of Sector Locational Guidance (SLG) and the potential identification of Strategic Resource Areas (SRAs) to apply WNMP safeguarding policy. A paper was presented to the group outlining this approach and comments sought.
5. There was update from Atkins, contracted to produce SLG for the aquaculture, wave energy and tidal stream sectors. Three separate SLG reports will be produced.
6. The group were updated on the EMFF funded [Sustainable Management of Marine Natural Resources \(SMMNR\) project](#) that has been running for three years to provide collated and interpreted evidence to support marine environmental protection and

sustainable use. The project focuses on the tidal stream energy, wave energy and aquaculture sectors. ABPMer have undertaken this work which will be completed by December 2020 to meet the final EMFF project deadline of April 2021. Face to face workshops with stakeholders, to discuss the final project, were planned but due to the current situation the intention is to hold virtual meetings.

7. With Offshore Wind and renewable energy a strategic priority at both the UK and Welsh Government level the group were presented with a paper setting out current activity and planned work.

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