

Welsh MPA and Relevant Authority Groups 2020-21 Update

Report by the Welsh Partnership of MPA's



Welsh MPA and Relevant Authority Groups

2020/21 Update

Introduction

The MPA Management Steering Group was set up to help provide a national steer for MPA management across the network of MPAs in Wales. The group has since produced an MPA Network Management Framework for Wales. The framework sets out the structure for improving the management and condition of the network of MPAs in Wales for the period 2018-23. Following this, an MPA Network Management Action Plan was produced for 2020-21. The plan sets out the priority actions identified by the MPA Management Steering Group to maintain and improve the management and condition of the MPA network across Wales.

It was agreed by the MPA Management Steering Group that maintaining links between the network and local level was important. Therefore the following action was included in the action plan:

‘Maintain links between the Network Action Plan and locally agreed actions where they exist, and support exploration of funding opportunities’.

MPAs and Relevant Authority Groups (RAGs)

This report covers five out of the 134 MPAs in Welsh waters, however they do represent the larger MPAs and as such cover a large portion of the Welsh MPA network. Many of the smaller MPAs such as SSSIs and RAMSARs fall within the boundaries of the five sites and help underpin them. Projects undertaken within the five MPAs will always consider the requirements of the smaller MPAs nestled within as well as other considerations e.g. Biodiversity Action Plans and the Water Framework Directive. Some of the projects will also help deliver management for the new Harbour Porpoise SACs as well as existing sites with no RAG e.g. Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC. Many of the projects outlined in this report are identified as local actions within the Network Action Plan 2020-21 Annex 1.

The RAGs included in this report:

- Pen Llŷn a’r Sarnau RAG
- Cardigan Bay RAG
- Pembrokeshire Marine RAG
- Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries RAG
- Association of Severn Estuary RAG

Other work

This report focuses on the projects undertaken by the RAGs and site officers of the MPAs listed above, that will help improve or maintain site condition. However, there are many tasks undertaken by the RAGs and site officers that are essential to maintain site management that are not covered by individual projects. These include, but are not limited to:

- Maintaining the RAG and Liaison Group
- Stakeholder engagement
- Raising awareness and education
- Sourcing and securing funding
- MPA contact point

- Providing advice and information
- Liaison and partnership working
- Working with other site officers to ensure consistency across the network
- Sitting on various groups to ensure MPAs are represented and promote joint working e.g. MPA Management Steering Group, Marine Planning Stakeholder Reference Group etc.
- Input into national work packages e.g. NRW Unlicensable Activities Project, Clean Seas Wales Partnership, UK MPA liaison etc.

Funding for MPA site officers has varied greatly over the years. This is reflected in the number of days a week each site has a dedicated site officer. It varies from one to five days a week, see table 1. This in turn reflects the amount of work possible on site.

MPA	Number of days per week
Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC	5
Cardigan Bay SAC	3
Pembrokeshire Marine SAC	2.9
Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries EMS	1
Severn Estuary EMS	2

Table 1: Number of days per week each MPA has a dedicated site officer

Partnership working

The benefits of partnership working are well documented and the SAC Officers across Wales have worked together for many years. The Officers have regular meetings to share best practice, share resources and discuss ideas to solve common problems. The Officers also work collectively on a number of network level projects that deliver against actions in the MPA Network Management Action Plan. This year's joint work include projects on:

- Reducing litter
- Reducing disturbance on marine mammals and birds

Management principles

The MPA Management Steering Group developed five management principles to guide delivery of the vision and objectives for the management of the network. Each action included in this report contributes to at least one of the five management principles. Local actions contribute primarily to management principle 5, wider management. But many also contribute to other management principles.

Management Principle
MP1: Strategic Planning
MP2: Regulation, development consenting and assessment processes
MP3: Management advice and guidance
MP4: Understanding the condition of, and pressures and threats on, sites and their features to inform management
MP5: Wider management

Table 2: Management principles

Land and Sea Llŷn / Summit to Sea

Work continues on two catchment level projects within PLAS. Land and Sea Llŷn covers the Llŷn Peninsular and has secured three years funding from the Sustainable Management Scheme Fund. Summit to Sea covers the bottom third of the SAC and has secured five years funding through the Endangered Landscapes Fund. The aim of these projects is to manage marine, freshwater and terrestrial environments together. AH is marine lead for both these projects. Many of the projects below are delivered under one or both of these projects. As well as project delivery, a lot of time has been spent on stakeholder engagement and involvement.



Water quality



Water quality is an issue that many MPAs across the network face. This project focuses on the Daron catchment on the Llŷn. Working closely with partners, such as NRW, the Daron River has been sampled at regular intervals at multiple locations over an extended period. A contract was also run to walk the entire catchment to identify sources of pollution. As a result a report was produced identifying sources of pollution as well as providing recommendations that will lead to improved water quality. A successful workshop was then run with landowners to present the results and discuss the recommendations. In 2020-21 the focus has been on working with landowners to implement the

recommendations in the report. The project had been able to fund work such as fencing.

Litter



Litter projects in PLAS focus on a number of different elements mainly, beach cleans, litter monitoring and reducing litter from source. A number of beach cleans have been run across PLAS. The Last

Straw campaign has continued with many businesses pledging to stop using straws or switch to biodegradable versions. Work has also gone into maintaining the



#2minbeachclean stations. PLAS also worked with a team of universities who sailed a Welsh long boat into Arctic waters to study the effects of plastic. Images and film taken during this voyage was used to create a PLAS litter exhibition and a stakeholder event. AH also coordinated work on the litter review for Wales.



Education Pack

Education is a key element of marine management. AH has been leading a partnership to develop a bilingual education pack for primary schools. The pack will cover marine, freshwater and terrestrial environments in line with the catchment approach to management. The pack, some 'how to' videos, equipment packs and poster are almost complete. The finished pack will be available to download on the PLAS website.

Marine Code



In partnership with Ceredigion SAC and stakeholders a new Marine Code was produced for PLAS in 2016. AH then went on to produce a code for Anglesey and Conwy. The same code is now promoted across the four counties and has been adopted and distributed by each local authority. In 2020-21 work focused on distributing and promoting the code. Work has also begun on developing supporting promotional material for the code. Work has also begun to identify wider opportunities for promoting the code with relevant harder to reach audiences.

PLAS Biosecurity Plan

AH has been working with NRW to develop a biosecurity plan for PLAS to help prevent the spread of invasive non-natives. This year AH has worked with NRW on stakeholder mapping, engagement and awareness. This has included an online workshop to engage both site users and managers.

Seal Pup Disturbance

The seal pup panels were installed again this year using the network of contacts created last year.

Porthdinllaen Seagrass Project

This project looks at options to reduce the impact of anchoring and mooring on seagrass. Porthdinllaen has one of the largest and densest seagrass beds in Wales. This year the project has looked at options for trialling advanced mooring systems as well as re seeding options. These options will be implemented in 2021-22. Awareness raising and stakeholder engagement has also been a focus of the work.



Awareness and Education

Awareness and education plays an essential role in marine management. In order to reach as many people as possible AH has:

- Produced issue two of the PLAS magazine O Dan y Don
- Been active on social media accounts and maintained the PLAS website
- Written articles for a number of publications including local papers and newsletters
- Been on local radio discussing marine issues
- Given a number of online presentations
- Arranged and attended a number of online workshops
- Visited local schools when Covid restrictions allowed
- Promoted PLAS films
- Met (online) with a large number of groups and organisations to promote PLAS and encourage partnership working



Input to National MPA work

AH worked with other MPA Officers in Wales to deliver outputs for two network level projects on species disturbance and community litter, funded by the MPA Management Steering Group Action Plan. AH was the Project Manager for both projects, this included:

- Delegating work appropriately
- Managing the finances
- Reporting to Welsh Government
- Ensuring effective delivery of the outputs

Outputs included:

- Report: Review of the effectiveness of the seal pup panels
- Report: Plastics in our environment
- Social media engagement plan
- Online training events

AH also worked closely with NRW to review the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC actions in the actions database. This information is then fed into the site management plan.

For further information about these projects or the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC please contact Alison Hargrave at alisonpalmerhargrave@gwynedd.llyw.cymru or visit the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau website and social media platforms using the links below.



Cardigan Bay SAC RAG – 2020/21 Update

Melanie Heath

2020 – 2021 was obviously a very different year to usual.

The season began with the usual Skippers' meeting in mid March to ensure that all the trip boat companies comply with the Marine Code of Conduct. A large number of pairs of binoculars had been purchased at the end of the 2019 – 2020 financial year for sharing with the trip boat operators to support them to maintain the 100m distance from the bird nesting colonies and seal haul out sites. The distribution was agreed in March but wasn't actioned, initially as there were no boat trips, and from July onwards due to the need to prevent the risk of spreading COVID 19 from sharing equipment between passengers.

We were unable to operate the Boat Patrol to encourage users of all forms of sea going vessels and equipment from snorkelling to motor boats to comply with the Marine Code of Practice by us, initially due to the restrictions and partly due to ongoing lack of funding.

Anecdotally, there was evidence of dolphins spending more time at their feeding areas close inshore while there was very little human activity on the sea. However, since the Dolphin, Porpoise and Chough Watch sessions could not go ahead for most of the early part of the season, this is difficult to illustrate.

During the first few months of the financial year, the MPA Officer concentrated on ICT based work, including in-putting Dolphin, Porpoise and Chough Watch data to the data base and on producing the most recent dolphin watch reports.

The MPA Officer was unable to offer the usual schools education visits or other public events during the year.

The MPA Visitor Centre had to remain closed for the year as it is not big enough for social distancing with the public.

The MPA undertook regular Dolphin, Porpoise and Chough watches at different locations along the coast as restrictions allowed, to cover for the usual volunteer base.

As restrictions were lifted, some, but not all, of the volunteers felt safe and able to return to the dolphin watch activities. The number and distribution of watch records is much lower than in previous years and the data is going to be difficult to compare because of this.

Once restrictions were lifted, the MPA Officer maintained a regular presence in New Quay on the pier, beaches and coast path. Actions included distributing the variety of interpretation leaflets including crabbing and seals. The MPA Officer also distributed copies of the code of conduct to kayakers and paddle boarders launching from the New Quay beaches and placed the seasonal Sabellaria and Seal panels at key sites along the Ceredigion coast.

There were more seal pups and on a larger number of beaches in the autumn than in previous years. This may have been because when the expectant mothers were looking for suitable pupping beaches earlier in the year, there were fewer people than usual on the beaches and they felt safe to return to pup in August / September/October. However, in the autumn the number of visitors to Ceredigion's beaches vastly exceeded the numbers in previous years. This and peoples' increasing interest in the natural world but relative inexperience and understanding resulted in a significant proportion of the

seal pups and mothers being disturbed and pups having to be rescued by the RSPCA or marine rescue organisations. This experience will be input to the Ceredigion Destination Management Plan for 2021 – 2022.

The Cardigan Bay SAC website had previously been hacked and has now been updated and relaunched using a different provider.

For further information on the Cardigan Bay SAC please contact ecology@ceredigion.gov.uk or biodiversity@ceredigion.gov.uk.



Pembrokeshire Marine SAC RAG – 2020/21 update

Sue Burton

SWEPT (Surveying the Waterway Environment for Pollution Threats)

SWEPT was a successful citizen science water quality project run in 2018-19, funded initially by NRW, and later benefitting from prize money from *The Park Protector Award*, run by the Campaign for National Parks, and funding from the Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership which aided sharing and follow-on work.



Soil and nitrate-laden run-off from agricultural land enters the Milford Haven Waterway and causes excessive macroalgal growth. These green algal mats smother the mudflats and saltmarsh within the estuary and are at their peak during the warm summer months when mats can detach and cause aesthetic, recreational and fisheries/aquaculture conflicts in addition to wildlife impacts. ©Sue Burton

Sharing of the SWEPT experience was delayed until September 2020 due to Covid-19; in the end the sharing event was held on the zoom virtual platform on 28th September; 75 participants attended and many more caught up with the recorded event afterwards. Presentations can be found via the SAC website www.PembrokeshireMarineSAC.org.uk (on the latest news page) where links to the SWEPT report and appendices can also be found. (Note that the SAC website is overdue an update which is planned to take place as soon as resources allow). Positive event feedback was received including inspiring possible projects elsewhere in Wales and on the Isle of Wight. SWEPT was also shared at the online Wales Biodiversity Conference on 24th November and NRW's "Our Coasts and Seas" marine area statement event in January 2021. The SAC Officer went on to support and help find funding for a SWEPT-inspired project in North Pembrokeshire. At the time of writing this and a further project utilising SWEPT methodology on the Pembroke River have taken place.

It is hoped that following the identification of the Cleddau and Milford Haven area as an Opportunity Catchment and then news in January 2021 of new agricultural regulations to be introduced by Welsh Government on 1st April 2021, the levels of nutrients entering the marine SAC can be reduced thereby helping the waterway to meet 'Good' status which is required for Water Framework Directive compliance by 2027 and contribute to improving SAC feature condition.

During 2020-21 the SAC Officer also embarked on a follow-on project taking SWEPT (Surveying the WELSH Environment for Pollution Threats) to the open coast of Pembrokeshire. This project was conducted in partnership with the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority. Phosphate and nitrate results from 81 open coast sites are currently being analysed and written up. Some highly polluted results were observed amongst the varied range recorded.

(SWEPT also contributes towards Action 15 “Explore how outcomes from pilot projects on diffuse and atmospheric pollution at Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau, Pembrokeshire Marine and Severn Estuary SACs can be applied across the network”.)

Seagrass Restoration.

The SAC Officer continued to support the Seagrass Ocean Rescue project. Further planting of seeds occurred in autumn 2020 to complete the 2 hectares in Dale; over 1 million seeds were planted in total. A lot of mature plants have been observed in the restoration area; in many places the clumps are quite dense. Despite these signs of growth, germination has been slow, probably due to the 2019/20 winter seed storage. Swansea University will continue to monitor the site in 2021 to assess overall germination success. A thorough report summarizing the lessons learnt from the project has been written and submitted to WWF who commissioned the stakeholder engagement work. The SAC Officer drew upon these lessons learnt when presenting a joint talk (with Pembrokeshire Coastal



Forum) on the importance of stakeholder engagement at NRW’s “Our Coasts and Seas” marine area statement event and the Ocean Recovery online conference, both in January 2021. The SAC Officer is secretary to the Dale Seagrass Stakeholder Group and virtual meetings have taken place to help keep stakeholders involved and to discuss and agree arrangements for visitor moorings and signage.

Some seagrass shoots from within the Dale restoration area during extreme low water in September 2020. ©Sue Burton

The SAC Officer has also been working with Project Seagrass to help facilitate future seagrass restoration in Wales including setting up a Welsh Seagrass Network.

Pembrokeshire Marine Bilingual Education Pack.

The Seashore Activity Pack was again delayed due to constraints on the SAC Officer’s time, but enthusiasm for the resource is building and liaison has been expanding to facilitate sharing of the pack after completion. Stand alone resources such as the spotters guide and beach bingos continue to be used.

Input to National MPA work.

The SAC Officer worked with the other MPA Officers in Wales to help deliver outputs for the two joint projects on species disturbance and community litter funded by the MPA Management Steering Group Action Plan. The lead was taken for marine code related work streams, commissioning Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum to help facilitate a sustainable recreation management workshop and training events, and to develop a joint social media campaign.

The SAC Officer also welcomed the opportunity to work with NRW on reviewing actions for the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC to help improve/maintain feature condition. Many of these actions have national or multi-site relevance. It is hoped that further joint working will lead to suitable projects to implement these actions.

Regular contact is maintained with MPA practitioners elsewhere in the UK; the network is a useful one for sharing of information and good practice.

Additional work.

As well as the above projects which filled the bulk of the SAC Officer's part-time hours during 2020-21, the SAC Officer also input to the following:

- Native oyster regeneration within the Milford Haven waterway led by NRW.
- Bait digging management review of The Gann led by NRW.
- Local marine recreation management – contributing to local recreation planning and also supporting the work of Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum (Pembrokeshire Marine Code and Pembrokeshire Outdoor Charter) including helping with rocky shore training.
- Building Resilience into Catchments (BRICs) led by PLANED and Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum.
- Local fisheries project work as part of the local Fishing Liaison Action Group.
- Awareness raising work including maintaining Twitter and Facebook accounts and responding to *ad hoc* enquiries. Filming for ITV Wales for *Coast and Country* took place in September 2020.



Plaice on the Gann flats taken during a field trip with the marine biological Porcupine Society 20th September 2020. ©Sue Burton

For further information about these projects or the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC please contact Sue Burton at sue.burton@mhp.co.uk



[@PembsMarineLife](https://twitter.com/PembsMarineLife)



[@PembrokeshireMarineWildlife](https://www.facebook.com/PembrokeshireMarineWildlife)

Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries EMS RAG – 2020/21 Update

Judith Oakley

Currently, the Carmarthen Bay & Estuaries European Marine Site Officer is only employed for one day per week. This is due to availability of funding from the Relevant Authorities Group partners or other external funding. It is therefore difficult to undertake much project work in such limited time.

The main areas of work include:

- acting as Secretariat to the RAG
- attending external meetings and providing feedback to RAG
- responding to consultations
- liaison with other Welsh EMS Officers
- liaison with NRW officers responsible for different aspects of the site
- answering queries
- contributing to funding bids/projects

However, in the past year the site officer has participated in two joint projects with the other Welsh SAC Officers. These were funded by Welsh Government and involved: marine and plastic litter work and marine species disturbance project work including some joint awareness material. The site officer drafted an all Wales Seashore/Coastal code.

There are various projects ongoing concerning the North Gower saltmarsh, led by NRW. These include research to further understand the effects of sheep overgrazing on the site, and saltmarsh run-off and impacts on water quality and shellfish health in the Burry Inlet.

The site information leaflet distributed last year continues to help raise awareness of the important species and habitats and conservation designations of Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries EMS.

The site officer has contributed to Swansea Council Biodiversity work to ensure that the Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries EMS is covered throughout, including Marine Planning guidance notes.

The Llangennech diesel spill on 26 August 2020 resulted in the site officer attending multiple on-line meetings and workshops.

To assess for any impacts of the Llangennech diesel spill NRW sampled the marine life near the Loughor Bridge where the diesel had been found on the high tide mark and also within the surface sediments.

(Photo NRW).



Due to Covid -19, the site officer has continued to work from home since March 2020. The RAG has held on-line meetings, which have been successful with good representation from partners.

For further information about Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries EMS please contact Judith Oakley at: cbeems.officer@gmail.com.

Association of Severn Estuary Relevant Authorities (ASERA) – 2020/21 Update

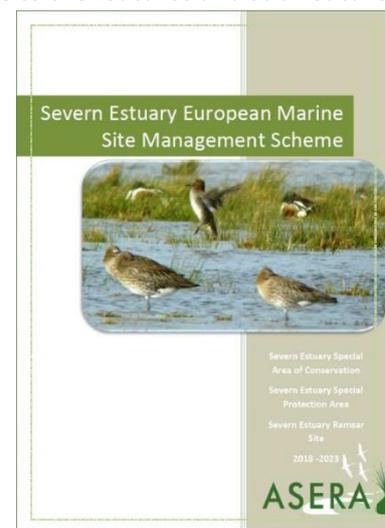
Katie Havard-Smith

Severn Estuary European Marine Site Management Scheme & Relevant Authorities Action Plan

ASERA was pleased to publish the new 2018-2023 Severn Estuary European Marine Site (EMS) Management Scheme & Relevant Authority (RA) Action Plans in May 2018. The ASERA Management Scheme provides a mechanism for Relevant Authorities to set the framework within which their activities will be managed, either voluntarily or through legislation, to achieve the nature conservation objectives of the site. It considers whether activities are causing adverse effects and, if so, how such activities can be regulated by Relevant Authorities to prevent damage to the features and sub-features of the site. The impact of an activity can depend upon its scale, location and frequency, as well as the vulnerability of a feature.

Action Plans provide the mechanism for Relevant Authorities to address the following:

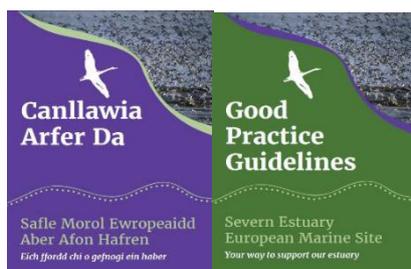
- Activities identified as likely to be causing deterioration or significant disturbance to the site;
- Activities of which the effects are unknown (i.e. there is insufficient evidence available at present to determine the level of deterioration or disturbance to the site);
- Specific plans and projects of an ongoing and repetitive nature for which ASERA may facilitate the production of guidance notes.



The Severn Estuary European Marine Site Management Scheme 2018-2023

The reporting year for the RA Action Plans is 1 April to 31 March. The 2019-2020 report is available upon request and the 2020-2021 report will be available later this year.

Severn Estuary Good Practice Guidelines



Recreational disturbance has been identified by ASERA as one of the key issues affecting the conservation status of the Severn Estuary EMS. Disturbance is any activity or noise that could change behaviour of an animal (feeding, resting or breeding) or habitat structure. Repeated disturbance can threaten the survival of some of the key species and habitats designated under the Severn Estuary EMS.

Severn Estuary Good Practice Guidelines in Welsh and English language

Although produced in 2017, promotion of the guidelines remains a key component of ASERA's work to ensure they are actively supported by RAs and are respected by user groups. In 2021, the ASERA officer has been updating the guidelines to include new guidance on using drones and the potential disturbance they can cause in a protected area. The updated guidelines will be promoted through the SEP social media channels, on the ASERA and SEP websites, through RA's and at any in-person events. It is hoped that the guidelines will be promoted through the joint social media campaign created for the MPA officers in Wales as well as raising awareness of disturbance and the special features of the EMS.

Recreation Studies

As mentioned above, recreational disturbance has been identified as a key issue for the Severn Estuary EMS. A key focus of the ASERA Officer has been to undertake a review of activities in order to understand the potential impact they may be having on the features of the EMS.

Land-based Recreation

Phase 1 of this study aims to bring together existing data on a range of land-based recreational activities (e.g. bird watching), beach-based activities (e.g. kite surfing, sand bugging, motor cross) and coastal access. Data has been collected on the intensity, frequency and location of these activities alongside and adjacent to the Severn Estuary and is currently being updated for 2020. The Phase 1 report, which presented the data collected, was reviewed by a sub-group of ASERA members and formed the basis for the summary report, which will be completed by summer 2021.

Right: A busy Severn Way, taken at Oldbury-on-Severn ©Katie Havard-Smith

Bait Digging & Recreational Angling

This study includes both shore and boat-based angling, and bait digging for recreational purposes. Phase 1 of the study has involved collating and mapping existing information on these activities, in order to identify where there are gaps in data/evidence. Phase 2 is likely to involve site surveys, with the project completed by 2022. This evidence will inform whether there are any management actions required for RAs.



Left: Recreational angling on the Severn Estuary ©Katie Havard-Smith



Coastal Access

This study includes coastal access using public rights of way around the EMS for recreational purposes, including the Wales Coast Path and the proposed England Coast Path routes. Phase 1 of the study has involved collating and mapping existing public rights of way around the EMS. Phase 2 is likely to involve meeting with coastal access leads and site surveys to understand concerns regarding specific locations and existing management measures. A summary report will be produced by 2022. This evidence will inform whether there are any management actions required for RAs.



Public Rights of Way within the Severn Estuary EMS © Katie Havard-Smith

Biosecurity in the Bristol Channel – What’s the Risk?

In May 2018, ASERA provided a platform to pilot and ‘test’ the RAPID LIFE project biosecurity training package aimed at user groups most at risk of spreading Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) in coastal environments. As a result of these discussions, the group agreed to undertake a high-level risk assessment of INNS in the Severn Estuary EMS. In 2019, we were successful in attaining funding for an 8-week student placement to support this review. This involved collating available information on the presence and location of established INNS within the EMS, the potential types of pathways for INNS spreading within and adjacent to the EMS and how both recreational and commercial use of the estuary may influence the spread of INNS. This was further supported by an undergraduate student dissertation, which provided understanding (informed by both proforma responses from RAs and public data) of the likely pathways for INNS into the EMS, through source-pathway-receptor models, and horizon scanning for the future. ASERA has been working with the [Living Levels Landscape Partnership](#) in promoting their Gwent Levels ID guide and encouraging coastal users to identify and report any INNS found around the Severn Estuary EMS. The ASERA Officer also represents the group at Wales Biodiversity Partnership INNS meetings.

Input to National MPA work

The ASERA Officer worked with other MPA Officers in Wales to help deliver outputs for two joint projects on disturbance and marine litter funded by the MPA Management Steering Group Action Plan.

Also, the ASERA Officer fed into the Condition Improvement Programme with NRW by reviewing actions for the Severn Estuary EMS to help improve feature condition, including writing two case studies which will be used to inform other MPA officers. The topics included the set-up and management of ASERA and addressing disturbance in the Severn Estuary EMS.

The ASERA Officer often attends meetings with other MPA officers across the UK through the MPA network. The network provides helpful resources and sharing of good practice.

Awareness Raising, ASERA Meetings & External Engagement

The ASERA Officer continues to support the Relevant Authorities Group (RAG), facilitating meetings of both the ASERA Management and Working Group, and organising the Annual General Meeting (November 2021).

We have also had a presence at many events over the year, continuing to engage with groups virtually, promoting our recreational Good Practice Guidelines, raising awareness of INNS and communicating the work of ASERA.

ASERA have also been represented by the ASERA Officer on Welsh Government’s Marine Planning Stakeholder Reference Group and the Wales Marine Advisory and Action Group (WMAAG), ensuring the cross-boundary Severn Estuary EMS has been taken account of in decision-making related to both Wales’ and England’s marine environment.

For further information on the activities of ASERA, please contact Katie Havard-Smith at Havard-SmithK@cardiff.ac.uk.