

## Marine Group Meeting

13.00 – 16.00pm, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016  
SWT Office, Edinburgh

Attendance: Calum (MCS), Sarah (WDC), Richard and Jol (NTS), Sam (SWT), Alex (RSPB), Nick, Daphne, Charlotte, Emilie (SEL), Jamie (RZSS), Lauren (HWDT, skype)

### Agenda

|   | Item  | Who    | Timing        |
|---|---|--------|---------------|
| 1 | Welcome to Emilie and intros  | CD/All | 13.00 – 13.05 |
| 2 | Review of actions from previous meetings<br><i>Rolling actions list can now be found <b>and edited</b> online here: <a href="https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FlefkDvXOmX25MU-sUXKoPW7zSp7CZb-KFQHRqX6mg4/edit#gid=0">https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FlefkDvXOmX25MU-sUXKoPW7zSp7CZb-KFQHRqX6mg4/edit#gid=0</a></i> | CD     | 13.05 – 13.15 |
| 3 | Member updates  | All    | 13.15 – 13.25 |
| 4 | MPAs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Offshore MPA e-campaign plan review</li><li>• Second tranche inshore MPA management e-action</li><li>• 4pMPAs– action</li><li>• Aquaculture and MPAs</li><li>• Possibility of MSP boat trips</li><li>• JNCC MPA Review</li><li>• Marine SPAs</li></ul>                                | All    | 13.25 – 14.25 |
| 5 | Marine Planning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CMPP update</li></ul>  | CD     | 14.25 – 14.35 |
| 6 | Inshore Fisheries <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inshore Fisheries Bill</li><li>• Seafloor Integrity work</li><li>• Brexit Poll</li><li>• SIFT</li></ul>   | CD/All | 14.35 – 15.00 |
| 7 | Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EIA</li><li>• Species Champions/ECCLR</li><li>• ELUK Update</li><li>• Wildlife Watching (Swim with)</li><li>• Green Agenda</li><li>• ECCLR evidence MS budget</li></ul>   | All    | 15.00 – 15.20 |
| 8 | AOB   | All    | 15.20 – 15.25 |
| 9 | Salmon and Trout Conservation Scotland  | All    | 15.30 – 16.00 |

#### 1. Intros & welcome

#### 2. Rolling group actions

AL presenting 15 min slot at the Cross Party Group (Rec. Boating and Mar. Tourism) 29<sup>th</sup> Nov regarding wildlife watching code

**ACTION : Potential for meetings set up in and around side of CPG. Will discuss wildlife watching at later stage**

Joint warrior exercises will be added to the agenda for the MS Bilateral (15<sup>th</sup> Nov)

SBS/ECCLR Aichi targets: CD to attend next meeting (whether as MCS or LINK)

Wildlife subgroup managing species champions- Event 10<sup>th</sup> Nov, all organisations invited to participate (discussed further in meeting agenda)

MG to expect e-mails. Funding bids in place, expect e-mails from Jen about funding pitch in if haven't heard back from Esmee at end of year, to fit gaps.

### **3. Member Updates:**

MCS: MCS conference 26<sup>th</sup> Oct. New staff member- Iona Campbell, working on aquaculture, fish online ratings, MCS press release on tagging basking sharks and sea of the Hebrides

RSPB: staffing update- Peadar O'Connell starting as Seabird officer

HWDT: Joint warrior, business as usual

### **4. MPAs:**

Added to agenda – small isles MPOs – deadline later this week.

#### **Offshore MPAs.**

- Extended discussion at previous MG meeting
  - Government have now begun consultation for fisheries management for some offshore MPAs, deadline 30 Nov
  - Campaign plan and updated policy position document to reflect our response to consultation have been circulated and comments requested. Proposals are what we assumed them to be.
  - Launch time quite quick turn-around, launch on Monday. Rationale/consultation been published about 1 ½ weeks ago & ahead of MASTS next week, hope to use supporter bases of academic community around Scotland.
- Aim to get Scottish government to change their proposals to accommodate policy positions that are in the offshore Group Position Paper (updated and circulated by CH 07/10/16)
  - Public support and interaction. Responses come to us (not scot govt) to present to government at a later date. Raise public attention through social media (web, social media channels, specifically through production of video). Hopefully becomes useful centrepiece, circulate/promote it online to support action. Video doesn't need to be ready for the launch, can send out once campaign launched to boost it. Using #howdeepisyourlove. Getting people to connect with importance of offshore sites, and trust policy position that we've developed.
  - Academic letter that goes alongside that public facing support, basically gives same message, prompted by us (CH). MASTS conference next week is good opp. to bolster signatures on that. Important tool for use with MSPs. Does the letter itself need a comms plan around it?
  - Opportunity to alert interested parties ahead of launch, including fisheries and MS
- Campaign has been reviewed from previous meetings similar to don't take the P. main things to comment on are landing page, e-action page, 'thank you letter', content and videos.
- **ACTION – NU to circulate video**
  - MCS slight nervousness about Roseanna Cunningham and others speaking at the MCS conference. Mentioned campaign to David Millar, and he was okay with it (from a Roseanna Cunningham perspective). Within government FE viewed in particular way by some in govt., good to send messages to them all. Roseanna Cunningham would be

quite comfortable if FE was getting messaging around offshore MPAs, and good for getting everyone in govt. on same page around fisheries management.

- MPA network briefing:
- SIGN OFF by end of tomorrow.
- RSPB - good to align where we're asking organisations to do things, are there members with e-actions in the pipeline?
- AK attending NWWAC on 27<sup>th</sup> October with Kenny.
  - North Sea and Northwestern water science – check if anyone is going Two day workshop. 27/28<sup>th</sup> October, northwestern waters. North Sea unsure. (RSPB can't cover this one). CD to clarify if he is going or anyone from MCS to second.

## Second tranche inshore MPA management e-action

- This tranche will include wider features than first and will include a wider range of mobile species, i.e. cetaceans, seals, seabirds. General support for an e-action, especially if positive about mobile species. If MS planning on set nets then that's a really good thing. Might need to be more measured about habitats, depending on management options.
  - It might not be an e-action, maybe parliamentary event? Something to say great!
  - Could be a press release and statement and nod to relevant MSPs.
- Advice from SNH is ban on set nets in seabird, seals, mobile species site, will also include contentious sites like Sound of Barra, messaging may not be straight forward.
- NU potential for quite intense and contentious re. second tranche management. Scottish creel fisheries federation not high capacity at the moment, those with fishing interests interested last time might feel emboldened to do same again
- Unethical to publish images of cetaceans and birds tangled in set nets? Perhaps a good campaign tool, have been out a while and could strengthen the hand to show MPAs are good
  - If set net ban proceeds, Scotland would be 1<sup>st</sup> country in Europe to do so.
    - **ACTION – All Start thinking about Tranche 2 management requirements. SD taking the task of mobile species, CD to focus on habitats.**
  - Hopefully a bilateral with MS fisheries team, may be space to talk about tranche 2.

## 4pMPAs

- To add to agenda with meeting with MS
- Programme for government: 18 new MPAs before 2017 – this doesn't include 4 ncMPAs (15 SPAs, 1 historic MPA, 1 D&R MPA and 1 HP SAC).
- **ACTION Raise another PQ.**

## Aquaculture & MPAS

- RL – quite a few fish farm proposals within new MPAs (2 Wester Ross, 1 sound of Jura, 2 small isles, possibly others – see e-mail chain). We need to react or a precedent will be set. We haven't been keeping an eye on wider environmental impacts. MPA may be an opportunity to get involved in how to scrutinise environmental impacts.
  - Need to scrutinise how SEPA assess impact and press for different approach. SEPA- assesses impact- underneath farm- 25m allowable zone of effect, accept that but don't want any impact outside that. But assume no effect outside that zone. Accounts of acute not sublethal impacts. Will probably require conversations with SEPA.
  - CD proposal for sub group to work up position in relation to AQ & update policy position) last updated 3 years ago.
  - SD need to be thinking about AQ more generally too, if we're going to be focusing on MPAs, need to make sure general one if also fit for purpose.

- RL – biggest impact probably on salmon and sea trout. Sea trout are a PMF. MS said not going to designate MPAs, going to use wider sea measures to look after them. Sea trout effectively wiped out on west coast.
- AK – Limited capacity for casework
- SD- on the agenda for one of the Rural Economy and Connectivity committees (
- NU –Strong rationale (in joint advocacy plan) to monitor first applications of salmon farms in MPAs so that no precedent that gets set. Difficult to engage with, starting to acknowledge cumulative impact.
- What is the impact/outcome – discussion should happen in workshop, come up with clear objectives and how, if members want to engage further outside then that's okay.
- ACTION- NU – find out when deadlines for these applications are, some might be longer, some might be in a few weeks.
- ACTION: Identify how and when new Aquaculture Subgroup will meet
- Going to need to work closely with SEPA
- Guy Linley Adams coming this afternoon, they might want to join LINK, they potentially are very focused on this.
- Last week – SNH published their guidance on PMFs.
- ACTION- AK to circulate guidance for case work regarding PMFS.

#### MSP Boat Trips

- DV spoken to ECCLR committee clerk. If we're interested, log in the request through the clerks, they take it up to discuss with the committee. If they're interested then they'll get back to us with information and see when it can be done. If we're pursuing this, natural next steps to go back to vice convenor of group and Kate Forbes. Others on the ECCLR showed interest in doing group boat trip, if not whole committee.
- ACTION- DV AND SD to meet and discuss. Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> of ECCLR.
- If that goes well can see about reaching out to other committees, building networks, with committees not so familiar with us e.g. Rural economy

#### ELUK CONF

- Marine planning workshop – JNCC gaps analysis flagged, very England focused, looking at North Sea and Irish Sea. Possible ELUK output to summarise that report, might be some bits that we can take from that.
- In Scotland JNCC/SNH process was own process, involved own gap analysis.

#### Small Isles Consultation

- Due Friday 14<sup>th</sup> Oct.
- RL – substantive comment on small isles is to do with small % of burrowed mud feature that is covered.

#### SPAs

- Consultation on 10 spas closed last Sunday
- Consultation on 4 pSPAs opened last Tuesday, deadline January.
- UK govt didn't agree to Solway firth. Heard from Michael McLeod that has been taken forward – on 27<sup>th</sup> October on consultation. Then all 15 SPAs will be under consultation, huge chunks of Scotland waters covered by SPAs.
- Thanks to all for quick inputs on joint SPAs response + letter to DEFRA, went down well with Scottish government.
- ACTION: NICK to check DEFRA response to letter
- RSPB e-action about inshore, got about 1,000 responses. Difficult to go back to same constituents and do it again. Difficult to do with RSPB timing etc. now directing people straight to SNH response page. Likely to do some communications until the end of the last one. These 4 are true seabird sites (inshore were mainly ducks, divers and greens), can legitimately put puffin next to those.

## MPA Fighting Fund

- Focus on large strategic outputs.
- MPA fighting fund meeting this morning. Have that in mind if we want to do anything for next tranche (Funding etc.).

## D&R Moray Firth (in-confidence)

- Scot govt has made decision to have D&R MPA over bottlenose dolphin Moray Firth SAC for dolphin watching industry. Industry is at capacity. SG plan is that it will be run by the industry itself.

## 5. Marine Planning

### CMPP Update

- 1<sup>st</sup> meeting attended as LINK.
- Concern from CFA that planning partnership would have too much power over fisheries
- ACTION CD to circulate minutes when come out.
- MS to clarify when CMPP can go forward. Bit of confusion how powers delegated – to be sorted. Persons 'and/with' local authorities- legality of wording will be sorted or 're-write' which could take 9 months
- Concern about wording of the act – applies to all regional marine planning partnerships
- Question of how SIFT now engages as was voted not to be included in the CMPP.
- Input to Clyde Regional Assessment was welcome
- Tavish Scott offered to bring some Shetland fisherman down to the Clyde to talk about how Shetland process worked and how it worked. If we could help facilitate that that would be helpful.
- ACTION – CD to talk to Tavish Scott regarding sharing expertise
- AK – RSPB involved in Clyde and Shetland plan. Concerns that Clyde will need govt step in.
- IF CMPP is not dynamic enough, maybe other things that can be involved in brokering, if first port of call.

## 6. Fisheries

### Inshore Fisheries Bill

- Calum sent note from IFMAC meeting
- Meeting with MS Fisheries some point soon. Will need to be clear about an agenda for the meeting, Fisheries Briefing should inform this.
- Fisheries Briefing to be refined.
- IFB flagged to IFMAC group that it was in programme of government

### Seafloor Integrity

- DB has substantive comments
- Need a plan for how to use the report.
- Money for a video output.
- Idea behind it to have a report to give a sense of footprint of fishing being such that asks we were making in relation MPAs and fishing could be seen as proportionate asks. Complexity of report has significant issues for advocacy position. Indicators for GES are being revised (MSFD working groups). We need to make sure that any recommendations we have in that report are in line with those of the working groups
- ACTION – CD to e-mail DB to check recommendations of seafloor integrity report line up with what the working groups

## Brexit Poll

- Suggested using a poll as a tool to engage with fisheries policy. Fishing industry 'few rep. heads' have been using it as a tool to get dominant position on discussion because saying rep all, when maybe don't represent them all. AK not convinced of purpose of it. AK not sure that finding out who voted what way could be useful, lots going on maybe not priority. RL agrees with AK.
- Would need funding and agreement from MG.
- Leaving EU, no longer in CFP. Maybe look to future. All fishermen who want to keep CFP and what changes. Use the poll, get impression that, as with CAP, fishers will want to deregulate. We want to see CFP continue and stronger, if we can do a poll that can show fishermen support this that would be helpful.
- RL - Report that came out yesterday showed non UK fishers in UK waters, but didn't show breakdown of English fishers in Scottish waters etc. Also offshore split as differently to inshore, scot govt. could be keen to get more control on offshore waters.
  - Governance meeting next week. Brexit sub group.
  - ACTION: SD to flag that we would be interested to input to that. Think about our asks (maybe make time today/another time). CD to meet on 9<sup>th</sup> Nov. would be good to have clear.
- If we are going to be doing something about this, maybe line up with offshore management etc.
- CD – how members engage post Brexit in relation to CFP.
- Fisheries meeting? We haven't yet discussed Brexit until now.

## Brexit

- AK – lot of uncertainty, what is the impact to EU directives that are backbone to a lot of our policies. Tory conference last week, proposed great repeal bill to hold on to all EU legislation at point of EU withdrawal (possibly March 2019) Although we may hold on to nature directives, there will be no accountability.
- Agriculture and fisheries policy not wholesale transferred into UK policy.
  - What does fisheries management look like post 2019?
  - What do we want from exit negotiations in next two years?
  - What do we want with negotiations with UK going forward?
- In terms of legal process, GRBill, will have to amend Scotland act, unless pulls back legislation, scot govt can have veto that if they don't agree with anything they could stop it.
- ACTION: Calum to recirculate e-mail.
- Debate coming up in parliament worth getting evidence together for. All to keep an eye out for and recirculate.

## 7. AOB

### EIA

- WDC drafting something to circulate Monday

### Species Champions

- SD: list marine species, MSPs and species and habitats that have been taken, and identify gaps of lack of priority representation (think about priority areas for next years, particularly sea fisheries. i.e. sea trout, *nephrops*, sea birds).
- ACTION – EMILIE to look at existing species champions & lists to identify gaps.

- Opportunity for advocacy i.e. with offshore campaign there will be some species that will be relevant and could add another level.

#### ECCLR

- Budget for MS. Flagged to PC.
- ACTION – DV to speak to PC and RP
- MPA network update briefing will go to ECCLR
- Infographic table is nice snapshot but needing clarity regarding management. Not specifically mentioning fisheries, suggesting no management is arguable change. Some of the offshore sites will have offshore management.
- ACTION: ED Change terminology to 'Incomplete fisheries measures'.

#### ELUK Update/M Steering group

- ACTION- CD to circulate final version Environment Link's UK Marine Steering Committee.
- Idea to have two meetings a year

#### Wildlife Watching/Swim with

- SNH reviewing Scottish marine wildlife watching code. Currently specifies no swim with. Happening with basking sharks most obviously and expanding out to seals and cetaceans. Question of whether it's appropriate with basking sharks/ cetaceans and seals. Masters student (Anna) work on this, published, shown to MS, not responding to it.
- RL – link with Moray Firth? If you can demonstrate new management techniques, that licencing is necessary and being useful.
- SD – What might be useful with D&R is monitoring to see if there's an impact, particularly basking sharks.
- HWDT – Some really well regulated, but HWDT concerned with the expansion of some swim with programmes.

#### Green Alliance Feedback (post Brexit chat AK)

- UK NGOs have been aligning themselves around Westminster organisation (Green Alliance/Green UK). Essentially grouping of NGOs, that have formed a board and are working on areas of Brexit on 4 pillars:
  - International leadership (climate change)
  - Legal issues (Safe guarding environmental protection and law from EU)
  - Land use, agriculture
  - Marine and fisheries (late addition), group convened around this, RSPB, WFF, MCS, SWT), Good expertise on fisheries, PEW, Greenpeace, loose fitting alliance on Brexit work, particularly fisheries. Agreed as 4 NGOs these are common principles, next phase to extend the group, what the principles are going forward, engage with any new legislation going forward. Quite Westminster focused AK leading on it and RSPB UK, becoming increasingly Westminster facing. Happening outside WCLINK for various reasons.
- Feeling at RSPB that they still do not get devolution.
- This will be on the agenda at governance meeting, make sure all keeping links etc.

ACTION – Decide date of next MG meeting, preferably before 15<sup>th</sup> Nov