**Marine Group Meeting**

**10.00-12.00, RSPB Scotland, Thursday 15th March 2018**

Please remember to have a copy of the Advocacy Strategy with you

Chair: Sarah Dolman

Attendance: Esther Brooker (WWF), Rhona Kent (WWF), Richard Luxmoore (NTS), Alex Kinninmonth (RSPB), Calum Duncan (MCS), Sarah Dolman (WDC), Emilie Devenport (LINK), Charles Nathan (RSPB – for Planning section only).

Apologies: Alison Lomax (HWDT), Helen Senn (RZSS), Sam Collin (SWT), Daphne Vlastari (LINK)

**Agenda**

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|  | **Item** | **Who** | **Timing** |
| 1  | Welcome and intros   | SD/All | 9.45-9.50 |
| 2 | Review of actions from previous meetings *Rolling actions list can now be found* ***and edited online*** *here*: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FIefkDvXOmX25MU-sUXKoPW7zSp7CZb-KFQHRqX6mg4/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FIefkDvXOmX25MU-sUXKoPW7zSp7CZb-KFQHRqX6mg4/edit)   | SD | 9.50 – 10.00  |
| 3 | Member updates  | All  | 10.00 – 10.05 |
| 4  | MPAs: * T2 timeline, consultation & campaign update
* Loch Carron MPA – 20th Consultation launch
* 4ncMPAs - money from MPA FF
* Offshore MPAs
* SPAs
 | SD |  10.05 – 10.45  |
| 5  | Marine Planning: * National Marine Plan (Review)
* Offshore wind sectoral plans
* Sea Scotland (update)
* Firth of Clyde
 |  SD   | 10.45 – 11.10  |
| 6  | Fisheries * Future of Fisheries Management (MS Andrew Brown work)
* PMF
* Aquaculture update
 |  SD   | 11.10 –11.40  |
| 7  | Other * Brexit – ELUK/ GUK update
* MSFD – next steps for Scotland/ELUK.
* REC Legislative Scrutiny
* ECCLR Environmental principles inquiry
* Gairloch
* ECCLR work programme – marine tourism; marine indicators
* Salmon workshop 27-28th March
* MG Communications strategy – Press opportunities, suggested blog content & authors.
* Dolphin and Porpoise Strategy
 | All | 11.40 – 11.55 |
| 8  | AOB   | All  | 11.55 – 12.00  |

**NEW ACTIONS**

**ALL** to review and get back to Daphne if there are areas you would like LINK to raise.

**ALL** to review acts proposed for legislative scrutiny by REC and email Daphne/Lisa by 20th March

A**LL** get back to Daphne with input to LINK response on ECCLR Environmental principles inquiry

**All** to share any final comments on Future of Fisheries work with Emilie by end of March.

**ALL** to provide comment on MPA T2 feature blogs

**AQ** subgroup to consider how to respond to the REC inquiry and what to do with briefing.

**CD, ED, SD** to draft letter to ECCLR clerks to discuss workplan.

**CD** to follow up REC Committee on 6 GUK asks.

**CD** to check with MM about where MSFD is in Scotland.

**CD, SC, EB, RL** to provide ED with quotes for Loch Carron press on Tuesday

**EB, CD, CN** to prepare lines for NMP to input to WWF press.

**EB, SD, ED, LHM, AL** to meet separately to make follow up plan with 4ncMPAs

**ED** to check whether Jen, Daphne have met with SNH Chair yet, review whether to draft letter to SNH Chair to talk about marine (depending on above).

**ED** to liaise with Sam about using NMP as hook for re-sharing LWTS briefing.

**ED** to follow up with ECCLR to see if we can get timings on work plan, review potential for briefings

**ED** to draft Loch Carron blog and liaise with local fisher perspective

**ED/CD** to arrange to meet Stuart McMillan about tourism.

**ED/CN** to set up follow up meeting when the offshore wind sectoral plan consultation is out

**ED** to add MSFD to next agenda with MS Conservation

**ED/SC** to review potential to Gairloch blog next week

**3. Member updates**

LINK Update – Capacity will soon be increasing. LINK are currently recruiting sustainable economic officer. There is another position open for a Policy Officer (0.6FTE) to support Daphne’s work. There is already a Species Champion (Calum) intern in post, main point of contact for all things relating to species champions.

LINK Parliamentary event on 17th April – Generation Earth: Celebrating Young Environmental Campaigners

Species Champion event – 100 day challenge. This will begin before recess and continue over summer. To encourage participation of species champions in topics related to their species, and across species. The wildlife subgroup will be developing a list of suggested ‘actions’ they can take, MG will have an opportunity to feed into this. Could be a good opportunity to get MSPs out and about in the seas this summer.

MCS: Recruiting Dornoch Firth Officer. Good Fish Guide ratings renewed 15th March. New Public Affairs post holder will be coming up for LINK Parliamentary reception. Aim to meet Caro, possibly also MS Fisheries team and Fergus Ewing.

NTS: New Marine and seabird officer on St. Kilda

**4. MPAs**

Update consultation timeline

March (20th) - Loch Carron MPA consultation opens. Site boundary will be extended to reach Plockton to join Loch Alsh. More features (i.e. maerl). Boundary and management (12 weeks)

June – PMF sustainability appraisal (Phase 1 - 8 weeks), Phase 2 MPA management measures (12 weeks)

Summer (July/August) – consultation on SEA on SPA network (as the sites have been amended) (Assume 12 weeks). SEA on 4ncMPAs.

November – 4ncMPA site designation (12 weeks), PMF approach consultation (Phase 2 - 12 weeks)

There will be 5 big events over the year. We will want to draw attention to them from our membership and the public. We will need to consider all events collectively and think strategically about which ones we want to make a fuss about, and which ones we just draw attention to. We will need to think about where we use LINK and/or member capacity.

Priorities going forward: We should reserve our campaigning power for T2 and possibly more work on 4ncMPAs later in the year. We should take the opportunity to draw attention to PMF work (milestone in marine conservation and use of NMP).

Loch Carron - we expect Scottish Government will produce press on the consultation launch as ‘easy win’, widely accepted site, and that it will be of interest to Kevin Keane and others who covered the story last year. We should be opportunistic – prepare some reactive quotes to expected press, and a short blog introducing the consultation on SSS webpage. EB suggested we might want to get a fisher perspective on Loch Carron (Bally). The blog should focus on – welcoming quite a bold step from the minister, excellent collaborative survey work from SNH and Sea Search divers. Opportunity to shine spotlight on Scotland’s marine resources, importance of maerl beds. RSPB no particular plans.

WWF are preparing lines on Loch Carron, largely welcoming the measures, looking at blue carbon angle. Agreed that LINK will lead in co-ordinating press response to the consultation. WWF on blue carbon, RL NTS on local support, CD on Maerl, flame shell beds, potential for SC on NMP.

**ACTION: ED to draft Loch Carron blog and liaise with local fisher perspective**

**ACTION: CD, SC, EB, RL to provide ED with quotes for Loch Carron press on Tuesday**

WWF UK Seas project – looking at different approaches to MPA management. Just recruited project officer at SNH. North Devon, much more developed, western isles.

RL flagged Sound of Canna activity in MPA (no management yet) incursions – look for hooks to use this.

**ACTION: EB, SD, ED, LHM, AL to meet separately to make follow up plan with 4ncMPAs**

**5. Marine Planning**

NMP review

Report from the NMP review coming out on Friday (23rd). This will be a report to Parliament and there won’t be Parliamentary scrutiny of it. We don’t expect there to be a recommendation to make a new plan. WWF will be preparing a media statement, with member quotes.

Only been in place for 3 years, only one statutory marine plan. There is nothing over and above existing legislation. If it has contradictory policies then that is an issue for implementation. WWF have a draft letter to flag the NMP report to the ECCLR Committee. They will wait and see what the report says before doing this.

**ACTION: All to review NMP report on Friday**

**ACTION: EB to draft WWF letter to ECCLR for sign up by MG (if appropriate)**

**ACTON: CD, SC, CN to provide quote to EB for planning press**

Offshore Wind sectoral plans

CN and EB attended Marine Scotland workshop on offshore wind sectoral plans in early March.

Previously these plans weren’t formally adopted but were included in the plan. Marine Scotland are looking to update all the sites that are indicated in the national marine plan, and take them through site assessment, review whether they are technically feasible or not. In addition, they are looking at potential for floating wind.

The workshop was to flag this to approach stakeholders, their baseline data that will be used and how it will be done. There will be a HRA and a business and socio-economic impact study of different potential scales - potentially double what is being consented. Beatrice site is being constructed in the Moray Firth, there are four other projects that are consented but not built yet, a couple of others that are not built yet.

The sectoral plan is for everything that is not in the pipeline. Aim for sites to be in operation by 2035.

RSPB supportive of floating technology, and would like to see swift shift from traditional to floating wind. This is on the basis that these can be operated further offshore, which would be lower ecological impact to seabirds than existing sandbanks and other seabird hotspots. Not underpinned by evidence but likely to be less diverse in the water column – caveating that there may be risks to deployment of large scale risks of tethered floating to other mammals (i.e. cetaceans). Each turbine would have a mooring line and power cable. Over vast areas of sea they could potentially form a barrier.

Environmental Assessment: RSPB will push for them to do an in combination assessment. They now have consented information from existing and consented developments. They can extrapolate that out to proposed increases to get a better idea of impacts. This can be matched by impacts other groups (i.e. for cetaceans).

WDC have pulled back due to priority and capacity. MCS similar, supportive in principle, happy to review/input to documents where needed. Depends whether RSPB think wider LINK support would be helpful. RSPB want to make sure that the sites are well surveyed.

In terms of European goals of where we need to be in terms of renewables by 2050, this kind of expansion is needed.

Concern in previous work is that ecological data was not included early enough. At the workshop MS had identified search areas (all of Scottish waters bar the Minch, the Solway and St. Kilda). There aren’t really any ‘no-go’ areas in terms of broad areas of research. Only 1-2% likely to become available.

Also worth considering that the Crown Estate Scotland are the ones who will be leasing, won’t do any leasing.

WWF Scotland will be responding to the consultation. Likely to have wider renewables interest but will be considering all aspects. Wait until consultation comes out in April. Don’t expect anything to come out for the next year.

**ACTION: ED/CN to set up follow up meeting when consultation is out**

Sea Scotland

Registration is now open via [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sea-scotland-2018-empowerment-in-marine-stewardship-emerging-opportunities-for-citizens-and-tickets-43595295703) site – please share with your networks.

The conference is planned for 20-21st June in Kinghorn, Fife. A [draft programme](http://www.seascotland.scot/conference-2018/programme/) is now available on the website. The first day will feature keynote speakers (Graham Black, Director of Marine Scotland, and Jack Dudgeon Youth MSP) and speeches on changes to policy and devolution (both at political level and translation on the ground). There will be evening reception with a talk from Sarah Conner, Assistant Producer at BBC Blue Planet 2. Second Day will consist of workshops to delve into more depth, and an outdoor activity session (Co-Coast survey, beach clean and marine mammal watch options).

We are still working with Young Scot on the conference, and seeing if we can do a survey to gather youth views on the marine environment before the conference.

**ACTION: CD to invite Alasdair McKinlay to speak in second session**

**6. Fisheries**

Andrew Brown Future of Fisheries work

LINK briefing put together following workshops. ED has had comment from WWF and WDC. Additional comments required before end of March for ED to follow up with MS Fisheries team – see below.

AK provided update on MS Fisheries team. Jane McPherson (leads on Scottish Government landings obligation work) will now be leading on future of fisheries work.

Greg Chalmers moving from fisheries team to education. Andrew Brown will be moving into Greg’s role. Jane will be doing Future of Fisheries work alongside existing work on landings obligation.

Jane has been doing Brexit work on future catching policy. It was identified that an opportunity of Brexit is to say that we want a landings obligation going forward but the current one is not working. Could Scotland do it better. Future catching policy already in her work programme and bringing over AB’s work. Greg was doing technical conservation work – now moved over to Andrew.

**ACTION: All to share any final comments on Future of Fisheries work with Emilie by end of March.**

PMF review

CD, SD and ED caught up with Katie Gillingham and Morven Carruthers (SNH) end of February. LINK had considered whether additional PMFs or other options (i.e. further than 0.5nm) should be included. Katie was making the point that if LINK took it as an opportunity to raise more features then it might overhaul whole process.

RL suggest we look at the report as an approach, first step, and then consider what implications that might have for other PMFs. These 11 could have been the first that MS consider rather than the only ones that need considering.

Could use the PMF to raise the point that all species need protecting and various tools to do this (i.e. Marine Planning, MPAs, PMF review etc.)

Michael McLeod said MS will be reviewing the list of PMFs after this year. We could also raise that while reviewing the PMF list, it follows to review protection to PMFs.

LINK could work up something that looks at how PMFs are currently protected (for these 11 and others). Scotland should arguably be going through continued review process. Should be cyclical reporting process (such as CFP Clause 11 need to report to EU every 6 months). Should be part of reviewing national marine plan (i.e. for policy 9b).

**ACTION: ED, EB, CD meeting with Phil Taylor to review OS PMF mapping.**

**ACTION: CD to draft LINK position on PMFs to share with MG before workshop**

Aquaculture

RL provided evidence to REC Committee 14th March on inquiry on salmon farming, on behalf of LINK. REC felt that ECCLR Committee had come out with some serious recommendations, they weren’t questioning it, accepting that something needed to be done. Looking at recreational angling industry, how much it is worth and potential impact on this. Quite positive outcome, doesn’t seem they are down playing ECCLR but working with their recommendations.

Next steps: REC will presumably produce a report on the inquiry that takes into account ECCLR notes. It will presumably provide an opinion and recommendation to government. Written evidence open until 24th April. The report will give us an opportunity to ask for a meeting.

**ACTION: AQ subgroup to consider how to respond to the REC inquiry and what to do with briefing.**

**ACTION: SC set up next AQ subgroup meeting to decide next steps.**

**7. Other**

Brexit – ELUK/ GUK update

AK GUK Update- GUK Steering group meeting this week. Questioned whether they are right to get Westminster to talk on environmental issues and topics that are devolved, they are more relaxed about it now. There also needs to be space for English colleagues to push for fisheries act that works for England too. Seems that the penny is dropping that Scotland is very important in all of this.

RC has given positive statements on wider environment several times. There is still appetite for FE to do the same, vacuum of noise to set out a shared positive vision – the principles of where we might go forward. MS officials agree with that. Action to make contact via officials with FE. AK flagged that same conversations going on re. agriculture.

Helen McLachlan (WWF) is going to meet George Eustice on Tuesday, communicate GUK 6 key asks.

CD has sent these 6 acts to REC Committee.

White Paper now expected any time after 24th March (final sign off supposed to be). Published in Fishing News last week.

WWF media story out about Fishing for Leave asking for days at sea, instead of Quotas.

**ACTION: CD to follow up REC Committee on 6 GUK asks.**

MSFD – next steps for Scotland/ELUK.

CD/ED phoned in to an ELUK meeting on Monday. We had anticipated that the consultation on the next stage of MSFD would take place now, but this has been delayed. Previously we have engaged via WCL to DEFRA (in December). To consider whether we want to do more as ELUK – i.e. create a briefing. Feeding into a UK strategy, and have a UK strategy group.

Meeting next week. DEFRA engagement has been through fisheries team. Greener UK part of fisheries team. Other part of the marine division are putting together a marine stakeholder group (without fisheries stakeholders). Chris Tuckett (MCS), Gareth (RSPB) going to that in terms of Brexit and marine environment (wider than fisheries).

**ACTION: CD to check with MM about where MSFD is in Scotland.**

**ACTION: ED to add MSFD to next agenda with MS Conservation**

REC Legislative Scrutiny

REC Committee have put a call out for legislative scrutiny on

* **Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Amendment (Scotland) Act 2000**
* Transport (Scotland) Act 2001
* Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003
* **Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003**
* Transport (Scotland) Act 2005
* **Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007**
* Crofting Reform etc Act 2007
* Transport and Works (Scotland) Act 2007
* Abolition of Bridge Tolls (Scotland) Act 2008
* Crofting Reform (Scotland) Act 2010
* **Marine (Scotland) Bill 2010**

**LINK are proposing to submit a response to this and would welcome views from members, groups and subgroups.** Therefore, pleasecan you get back to daphne@scotlink.org and lisa@scotlink.org by **Tuesday 20 March**, outlining which Acts you think should be scrutinised and why, taking into account the following questions:

* Do you consider that the Act has had sufficient time to have made a difference?
* Does the Act have a measurable outcome or policy objective, and has it fulfilled its intended purpose?
* Has another committee of the Parliament already carried out post-legislative scrutiny of the Act?
* Does the Act contain an in-built mechanism for post-legislative scrutiny?
* Has the Act been subject to, or could it be subject to, significant revision?
* Has there been a call from relevant stakeholders for the Act to be reviewed?
* Would there really be merit in undertaking post-legislative scrutiny of the Act?
* Is the Act subject to legal challenge?
* Do the Acts raise any equality or human right issues?

**ACTION: ALL to review acts proposed for legislative scrutiny by REC and email Daphne/Lisa by 20th March**

**ACTION: ALL to review and get back to Daphne if there are areas you would like LINK to raise.**

ECCLR Environmental principles inquiry

ECCLR have launched an inquiry into environmental and animal welfare principles. LINK has been looking into this. Raising awareness about this issue has been one of our key priorities at both UK advocacy level (via GUK/ELUK) but also in Scotland. As a result it will be critical for us to engage and mobilise others to engage as well.

Daphne drafting response expected soon, MG to feed in to this with suggestions. Daphne worked on getting questions of principles into the continuity bill. Debate in parliament 14th March that considered getting these principles into the continuity bill, seemed positive. Draft coming soon.

The Committee is seeking responses to the following questions on this issue:

1. How important are the EU principles of:

* the precautionary principle
* preventive action
* environmental damage should as a priority be rectified at source
* the polluter should pay
* animal sentience.

2. How and where have these principles had an impact on environmental and animal welfare policy in Scotland?

3. Views on the appropriateness of retaining/adopting/enshrining these EU principles in law or alternative principles/approaches that could be adopted.

4. Views on if and how environmental principles could and should be enshrined in law in Scotland and enforced.

5. Examples of where key environmental principles have been enshrined in domestic legislation elsewhere.

Link: [http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/107913.aspx](http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=6600&d=toid2gxjwAbHeGAJZwEUdxrJgz5-ZtJCeOGsxu3LVQ&s=852&u=http%3a%2f%2fwww%2eparliament%2escot%2fparliamentarybusiness%2fCurrentCommittees%2f107913%2easpx) & [http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/107915.aspx](http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=6600&d=toid2gxjwAbHeGAJZwEUdxrJgz5-ZtJCeOumlLnFUA&s=852&u=http%3a%2f%2fwww%2eparliament%2escot%2fparliamentarybusiness%2fCurrentCommittees%2f107915%2easpx)

**ACTION: ALL get back to Daphne with input to LINK response on ECCLR Environmental principles inquiry**

Gairloch

ED had previously offered SSS blog space to SWT for piece on proposed changes to water quality in Giarloch. SWT asked to hold off last week until they finalised their position. Since the meeting, SC has clarified that SWT will be objecting to the proposal on the basis that the downgrade will not be good for snorkel trail site nearby, or Scottish biodiversity strategy, marine act, tourism etc. SWT blog expected next week. MCS staff looking into it as well.

**ACTION: ED/SC to review potential to Gairloch blog next week**

* ECCLR work programme – marine tourism; marine indicator

ECCLR committee work plan

ECCLR Committee recently took an item to discuss their work programme on marine issues. It seems they have come up with the following topics to cover:

* Post-legislative scrutiny of marine act,
* Write to MS about national marine performance indicator, PMF review, forthcoming MPAs,
* Some work about marine tourism.

National Performance Indicators. Currently looks at fish catches. RSPB have been feeding ideas into the team about national performance indicators, i.e. breeding seabirds.

Suggestion for LINK to write briefings. Invitation for convenor, co-convenor and clerks to get into the meat of the topics before they get onto them.

**ACTION: ED to find out about timings for these items.**

Salmon workshop 27-28th March

LINK have been invited to attend and give a presentation on outreach (i.e. Don’t Take the P) campaigns, at a workshop on Salmon. Workshop for NASCO parties to think about outreach on topics related to Salmon (2019 is International Year of the Salmon)

MG Communications strategy

Press opportunities for Loch Carron, NMP, MPA T2, PMF noted and discussed earlier on.

ED has sent draft blogs on MPA T2 features for members to review and provide comment. Liaising with WWF on Earth Hour blog from interns, also draft Loch Carron blog.

ED flagged that on joint google docs, there is a tab ‘web/media’ that serves as a timeline for upcoming events and associated blogs, social media, traditional media and website. This is to allow members and MPEO to keep track of press and communications, and for members to flag upcoming opportunities on there.

**ACTION: ALL to provide comment on MPA T2 feature blogs**

Dolphin and Porpoise Strategy – 19th 20th April

LINK, WDC have received invites to this workshop. AK and CD received via Advisory Councils. SD already flagged to UK WCL colleagues, likely that they will be interested too. Restricted invitation, number of spaces. Expecting a report a couple of weeks before.

Intention is to respond to the strategy as ELUK.

Ministerial meetings

Meetings coming up with Mike Russell (17th April) and Roseanna Cunningham (separately) are coming up – CD and SD have noted that they will talk about marine. RL suggested following up with Mike Russel on MPAs and fishing, and communities and MPAs.

**ACTION: CD to raise MPAs and fishing with Mike Russel at LINK meeting.**