

SELINK Marine Group meeting

3.00 pm-5.00 pm 4th November 2020

Attendees: Calum Duncan, Ruby Temple-Long, Rebecca Millar, Clare Cavers, Sam Collins, Alex Kinninmonth, Fanny Royanez

Apologies: Vhairi Tollan, Sarah Dolman, Stuart Brooker, Helen McLachlan

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92870819091?pwd=eG1ZQ0V4eG00STNwM3NhZDZVY1RWQT09>

Meeting ID: 928 7081 9091

Passcode: 135477

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	Item	Lead	Timing
1	Updates	CD	3.00 – 3. 15 pm
2	Marine Group process review and timelines	CD/All	3.15 – 3.30 pm
3	Ocean Recovery Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updates (plan, film)• ORP comms strategy: updated comms plan and link with MPA Poll results	CD/ FR All	3.30 – 4.00 pm
4	AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flapper Skate eggs site discovered• Loch Alsh- illegal dredging• Future Fisheries Management• UK Marine Strategy Consultation• Date of next meeting	CD All	4.00 – 5.00pm

Minutes

1- Updates CD

A/ Last Meeting Actions

CD ran through the minutes and actions from the last meeting (29th September):

- **Action 1: Contact Mark Ruskell.** CD, SD and RTL had a meeting with Mark Ruskell and the researcher of the Greens. Mark was updated on SELINK's concerns about not having the four nature conservation MPAs and the 13 marine birds MPAs. The party should issue a note on the progress of the programme for Government commitment. Mark was also interested in military noise and asked about ADDs. CD will get back to the programme for government timeline and suggested that the Greens draft anything on noise so that we can have a look at it to help.
- **Action 2: Get in touch with Marine Scotland to organise a bilateral catch-up, to include discussion on MPA designation and LINK ORP.** CD did not hear back from Marine Scotland. He emailed them after the last meeting, had a quick correspondence with Michael ahead of Ferret exclusive with the leaked report and the news of the decline in marine habitats. CD sent Katie Gillham and Michael the quote. Action: CD to pursue again for a catch-up.
- **Action 3: Advocacy plan.** The wider advocacy plan needs to be updated, but the most live aspects are in the comms plan, which is focused on our outputs and the MPA Poll.
- **Action 4: Facilitate any proposed alternative approach to disseminating MPA poll results.** CD and FR had a think about which parts of the results are the most helpful; they are highlighted in green in the comms plan (p5), to support the launch of the ocean recovery plan.

B/ Other Updates

MPA

Action: FR and CD proceed to get a meeting with Marine Scotland about MPA designation and MPA network and LINK ORP.

Aquaculture subgroup- consultation response in Wester Ross MPA salmon farm project

SC: the response had some coverage in the media (BBC News) and more coverage to come next week. Also received an email from Nature Scot saying that they don't see any unacceptable risk to protected features in the area.

Leaked Habitat status table and report (from Ferret).

Rob Edwards (journalist), asked CD for a quote regarding the leak of the progress report. CD also shared his quote with Katie Gillham:

Calum Duncan, Head of Conservation Scotland Marine Conservation Society:

"We await the final context for these findings, and welcome the hard survey work undertaken to gather them, but they paint a worrying picture. If hundreds of hectares of valuable carbon-storing, nursery-providing, biodiversity-enriching living reef and seagrass habitat has been lost in the years since the Marine (Scotland) Act was established to help protect and enhance our seas, particularly our most vulnerable habitats, then everyone should be concerned. The true picture of loss is likely to be even greater since the trends for most habitats in most regions appears to be unknown. During an intertwined climate and nature emergency, with multiple domestic and international targets to secure the health of our seas being missed, these latest results further underline the need for transformative change. Climate change coupled with business-as-usual is driving a spiral of ocean decline. We urgently need to chart a pathway to recovery that

ensures at least 30% of our seas are highly or fully protected and that all industry at sea is climate and nature friendly.”

2- Marine Group process review and timelines

From the last meeting. Nothing to add.

3- Ocean recovery plan

A/ updates

CD updated on the ORP. SELINK is a bit behind schedule, but nearing completion on the roadmap. FR sent the latest draft of the [ORP roadmap](#) to the marine group members, with remaining comments.

RP asked a question about the aim of this document. CD answered and gave the context of the roadmap: The document is the timeline roadmap of the Ocean Recovery Part I, signed off a while ago. A year ago, Seas at Risk published a manifesto for the EU. LINK decided to adapt it to the Scottish context. The ORP contains four key asks related to LINK manifesto and nature recovery targets. Vhairi already engages with SNP and Labour. This document is complementary to our engagement with decision-makers and law-makers.

Marine group members worked together on the roadmap. They addressed the comments and edited the document during the meeting:

- 2021: fisheries and the need to improve data – comments addressed
- National Marine Planning views included in the roadmap
- 2021: commercial and recreational tourism – sentence rephrased and comment addressed
- 2027: fisheries management plans and IFCA equivalent – comments addressed
- 2030: SC to have a look at the aquaculture part and simplify the text – done

Action: FR addresses the last comments and SC adds notes in the document. FR sends the roadmap to Veronica, Heedi Design and we can send it to the members. – **Done**

B/ Ocean recovery Film

The film is nearly finished. The initial main focus is the EFN event, 10th December.

Action: FR gathers the logos to add them to the film.

C/ Comms plan

FR presented an updated version of the comms plan.

The first table contains suggestions of timeline and blog ideas for the coming weeks. The Ocean recovery plan could be launched during w/c of 16th or 30th Nov. Should we work on a press release?

FR will collaborate with FFNS campaign and comms, as the campaign aims to ask for nature recovery targets.

CD proposed to use the key results of the MPA poll as a hook to communicate on the ORP and the main asks. The questionnaire findings, such as the public perception of MPAs, might help in the press release.

AK mentioned the publication of the updated Marine Atlas as a window of opportunity to communicate. AK also suggested sending the ORP to political parties researchers. Marine group members agreed, and CD added that Vhairi is already engaging with parties (SNP and Labour). SNP group is interested in the roadmap. CD or Vhairi will send the final text to SNP and Labour as soon as ready, no need to wait for the design to be done.

Action for CD: Research more details regarding the marine atlas and publication date etc.

D/ Blogs

SC suggested to wait for Marine Scotland to produce their report on ADD use and write a blog to respond to the findings. Marine group members approved and suggested to update the comms plan.

RLT reminded the Marine Group that 21st November is the world fisheries day, and could be used as a communication opportunity.

SC asked about the briefings and how these briefings fit in the comms plan. CD gave some context to marine group members: 4 briefings are to be produced. EB drafted the first one. CD writes one on recovery targets. SC does the one on investment (ask 4), and RTL does the fisheries one. The different political parties will have the plan and if they want more details, the briefings. CD suggested linking some social media to the briefings and some of the findings on the MPA poll.

SC proposed to stagger in the publication of each of these briefings (e.g. one a day in the week) following the publication of ORP.

CD asked if the briefings can be ready in the two coming weeks. Members in charge to write them agreed.

Action for CD and FR: Think about the briefings, how to publish them and if there is any coordination necessary with the FFSN nature recovery targets briefings.

Action for FR: Gather the briefings.

E/ MPA Poll Results and Asks

CD suggested that some of the key findings of the MPA questionnaire map across to the ORP's asks. The most important findings could be included in the press release with the launch of the ORP. Other results might feature on social media, tweet etc. They may also be linked to the briefings.

Action: FR with support of SD and CD to build that into the comms plan (link the briefings, the MPA poll results that could help etc.).

RTL: asked how the 3 000€ can be spent, and whether something was planned. CD said that nothing was explicitly planned and suggested that the fund can be used to create infographics.

Action: FR shares a Google Doc. to capture members' ideas on what we can use that money.

4- AOB

A/ Future Fisheries Management

The Scottish Government has published the report: Future Fisheries management policy in 10 Responses. CD, AK and Fergus Ewing had a phone call for Fergus to outline the Scottish Government's intend and SELINK members to speak about the *5 Points Plan for Climate Smart Fishing* sent by MCS, RSPB and WWF. It was a useful conversation—Fergus supports REM.

AK updated on the Joint Fisheries Bill (post-Brexit), which is going through the Houses of Parliament, should get Royal Assent in December. It is a framework bill and should outline the governments, their policies they would put in place. The objectives are sustainability objectives, ecosystems objectives, climate change etc. Governments have two years to develop their objectives and strategies after the bill gets Royal Assent, so it should be published and adopted by 2022. However, Marine Scotland and the other administrations are working hard to get a first draft ready over the next three months. A lot of engagement over email on the draft sections and skeleton should be done. One thing highlighted: All Governments look at it like a fisheries plan, but **the bill itself covers fisheries and aquaculture**, and all the objectives relate to both fisheries and aquaculture.

B/ UK Marine Strategy Consultation

CD reminded that the deadline for the consultation response is 17th Nov. ELUK hopes to get a final draft on the 10th. There is an expectation of SELINK to write the pelagic habitat species. CD asked if there would be any volunteer to help writing this section. Marine group members are already involved in the writing of several sections of the consultation respond (e.g. RSPB on seabird and food web monitoring)

AK added that the consultation on monitoring programme for the Marine Strategy in 2014, contained some things important then are still important today and can be used in this year's consultation. Also, the draft is supposed to be a UK-wide response. It is important to have a look at it to make sure that they are Scottish angles to the response.

Action: CD will write the section and asks other members to have a look at the consultation response. **Done**

C/ Flapper Skate and Loch Alsh – Open Seas email

Phil Taylor, Open Seas, contacted CD about the Flapper Skate eggs site discovered. Nature Scot and Marine Scotland are investigating about creating an emergency MPA. Phil wonders if SELINK marine group support Open Seas and our seas coalition on asking for the designation of an emergency MPA.

Actions for CD: respond to Phil and may ask for more information about Nature Scot and Marine Scotland plans.

Phil Taylor also contacted CD on scallop dredge damage spotted by scallop divers and asked what the marine group views on this are and whether we would agree to coordinate action on this issue.

SC asked if there were anything in the media highlighting this event. CD answered that Phil shared a link, but can't think of something else. RM mentioned that a question is going to be taken in the Chamber of Parliament on actions for Flapper skate.

CD suggested telling Phil that SELINK is concerned but pursue their strategy, and Open Seas is free to link to that. Open Seas can also send their briefings to SELINK so that marine group members can sign up if they want.

Action CD: get back to Phil and ask for more information on the subject.

D/ Aquaculture Subgroup Update

SC gave an update of the Aquaculture subgroup. They had a couple of meetings regarding consultations around increasing charges for Salmon farms. These charges aim to fund for benthic surveys (as required in the new legislation), and correlated increase of capacity in ecology and chemistry teams. The Aquaculture subgroup is writing an answer to this consultation to supporting the increase in charges, which will improve the monitoring and management of salmon farms.

SC had a meeting with the director of sustainability for SSPO. The aquaculture subgroup attended a workshop at the beginning of the year on the 2030 vision of the industry. This document aims to address how the industry is going to improve its image and performances related to impacts on the environment.

The Aquaculture subgroup has been cited on actions within the 2030 vision, which should be published next week. SC had a meeting with SSPO on that 2030 vision and highlighted a lack of clarity in SSPO's visions and information. The aquaculture group was asked to provide a quote endorsement of the vision, that would be published in the vision itself. SC responded that they needed to read the document first, and will comment once it is published.

A consultation from the technical working group, who have been developing a model around sea lice and wild salmon is supposed to happen this year. There is also supposed to be a government response to salmon interaction working group on their report and recommendations.

The group sent an objection to the salmon farm application in the Wester Ross MPA. SC has a meeting with Katie next Tuesday to discuss the work that they are doing around mapping PMS and aquaculture in general, but also this specific application.

E/ Sectoral Marine Plan about Renewables

AK updated: The final sectoral marine plan for offshore wind was published last week with an offshore policy statement and other documentation. All available on the Scottish government website. RSPB did not write any public response to that. In general terms, we were happy with the process that was undertaken to identify the development plan options. A lot of RSPB's attention is on the English process.

F/ Last Updates

CD reminded that the LINK networking meeting on 11th November There is also the MCS online AGM on the 19th November.

SC: The next Scottish Marine Fund meeting next Monday. A job advert for the project manager of that fund was published.

Next meeting: FR will send a doodle to find a date in Dec. before the 10th Ideally.