

## Wales Marine Strategic Advisory Group MINUTES July 2014

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| <b>Title of Meeting</b> | Marine Transition Programme (MTP) – Wales<br>Marine Strategic Advisory Group (WMSAG)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                   |       | <b>Date</b>     | 18.07.2014 |
| <b>Meeting Number</b>   | 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Start Time</b> | 10.30 | <b>End Time</b> | 16:00      |
| <b>Attendance</b>       | DH (BMAPA Trade Association), JE (Welsh Fishermen's Association), DL (Welsh Ports Group), SV (Severn Estuary Partnership and European Marine Site Officer at Severn Estuary Partnership), TF (Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum), MP (Chair Pwllheli Partnership), GC (RSPB Wales),<br>IB (WWF and WEL), GB (Marine Conservation Society) SF (Wildlife Trusts Wales), NR (Welsh Local Government Association), RC (Welsh Federation of Sea Anglers), TG (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales), JW (Welsh Aquaculture), RJ (Natural Resources Wales (Strategic Partner)), GR (Welsh Government),<br>RG (Welsh Government), CJ(Welsh Government),<br>DT (Welsh Government), AS (Welsh Government) PC (Welsh Government), MJ (Welsh Government), LL (Welsh Government),<br>LG (Welsh Government). |                   |       |                 |            |
| <b>Apologies</b>        | FO'B (Dwr Cymru - Welsh Waters), TR (Mineral Products),<br>CP (Royal Yachting Association), PB (Seabed Users),<br>AM (Chair British Marine Federation Wales), NO'S (Wales Marine Fisheries Advisory Group),<br>DT (The Crown Estate), SE (Welsh Government), JH (Welsh Government).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                   |       |                 |            |

| #  | Item                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Welcome, Introductions and Apologies                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 2. | Review and Agree Terms of Reference (ToR)                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 3. | The Programme, Stakeholders and WMSAGs role                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 4. | MTP Projects Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– MTP Project: Marine Planning</li> <li>– MTP Project: Marine Strategy Framework Directive</li> <li>– MTP Project: Effective Evidence Base</li> </ul> |
| 5. | MTP Projects Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– MTP Project: New Common Fisheries Policy</li> <li>– MTP Project: Sustainable Fisheries</li> <li>– MTP Project: Marine Protected Areas</li> </ul>    |
| 6. | Discussion, Questions and Inter-relationships                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 7. | Any Other Business and Next Meetings                                                                                                                                                                              |
|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24<sup>th</sup> November'14 – WG Cardiff</li> </ul>                                                                                                                      |

## 1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies:

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- 1.1 PD opened the meeting and welcomed the board members, gave apologies for those who were not able to attend and chaired the meeting.
- 1.2 PD set the scene and noted that GR and the Marine Transition Programme (MTP) team would be providing updates of current positions and future direction.
- 1.3 GR introduced RG to the board as the main engagement / communication lead who will be considering how the projects will impact on stakeholders and how the task and finish groups would co-author products and utilise wider expertise.

## 2. Review and Agree Terms of Reference:

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- 2.1 PD introduced the item and gave the group the opportunity to make comments and amendments.
- 2.2 PD noted the groups role is to work with WG to provide early input, engagement and challenge into co-production. Many items discussed will be emerging information and not policy.
- 2.3 PD noted the composition of the group is large, which requires breaking down into smaller task and finish groups. The group is expected to meet twice per year but to get the momentum going further meets will be required in the short term.
- 2.4 PD stated the notes of the meeting will be on the WG website and will follow a transparent process. Group individuals will be responsible to disseminate the information to organisational networks.  
**Action 1:** To agree a communications note / web links to be disseminated to group members / organisational networks.
- 2.5 PD noted that an electronic copy of the presentations be circulated to group members.  
A discussion around membership took place. It was noted and agreed that both the coastal partners and the Cragen Llyn a Mon and Pwllheli Partnership should be able to attend each meeting and not alternate in attendance as had been suggested within the draft ToR.  
**Action 2:** Group agreed that both coastal partnership groups attend the meetings.
- 2.6 The group asked about Universities representation and communities (coastal) representation as three seabed user related groups were invited and other sectors appeared light.
- 2.7 PD reiterated the importance of coastal forums and community representation. One Voice Wales had been invited to the meeting to represent community councils.
- 2.8 The relationship between the Welsh Fisherman's Association (WFA), the WMFAG and the IFGs which utilises existing stakeholder structures and sector expertise was highlighted to the group by DT.
- 2.9 It was noted that the membership list within the draft To R may not have captured all appropriate attendee's i.e. PH and One Voice Wales had not received the invitation.  
**Action 3:** RG and PD recognised the need to review the contact details currently held for the proposed membership.

- 2.10 The omission of Visit Wales from the membership was raised and the group asked if there was a place for them. GR noted that existing WG governance and bi-monthly meetings already exist with Visit Wales and Whitehall colleagues.
- 2.11 PD would meet with the Chief Executive - MA w/c 22<sup>nd</sup> July and re-iterate the Visit Wales link and contacts to be invited specifically as appropriate.
- 2.12 PD welcomed any points of clarification to be submitted to the secretariat.
- 2.13 It was agreed that organisation would aim to send the same attendees to each meeting to avoid the need to cover old ground to bring representatives up to speed.

### 3. The Programme, Stakeholders and WMSAGs role

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- 3.1 GR notified the Board that the previous Minister had confirmed that he was content with the approach to stakeholder communications and that the first meeting would focus on updating stakeholders, affirming roles and asking advice about the project / programme engagement.
- 3.2 GR expressed his gratitude to the various teams and key partners for the considerable effort during the mobilisation phase.
- 3.3 GR provided the background context and drivers including the Ministerial Strategic Action Plan, achieving blue growth, statutory changes, Programme for Government commitments and the Marine Transition Programme. As a lot of expertise is vested in stakeholders, then the importance is to find a way to work together to find solutions. The first meeting of this group will focus on updating stakeholders, affirming roles and asking advice about the project / programme engagement using a product based approach.
- 3.4 GR explained the programme and project governance arrangements and linkages through the programme board. With over 200 stakeholders with an interest in marine and fisheries, the group's purpose is to provide the strategic direction and enable communication with stakeholders. Stakeholder engagement is key to delivery due to the technical and legislative nature of the areas of work.
- 3.5 Question: What has changed within Wales since the objective and vision of blue growth has been around for some time. Why is this programme going to be different and how can delivery be assured?
- 3.6 The group noted that this was an ambitious challenge with less money about and organisational support structures will cost to support the programme.
- 3.7 PD noted this has a key question to hold for the afternoon session and to see if the presentations will help achieve the outcome / answer the question.

#### 4. MTP Project Updates:

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##### Marine Planning (MP):

- 4.1 AS introduced the Wales National Marine Plan (WNMP) project and described the project enablers are from a statutory and legal duty under the MCAA with economic, social and environmental drivers. With competition for space the WNMP is an opportunity to consider a 20 year plan for our seas.
- 4.2 Welsh Government has committed to a Marine Plan by 2015 which is an ambitious challenge and the process had already started to deliver to meet with the timescales. Under the MCAA process, letters of intent / notification were sent on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2013 and the Statement of Public Participation (SPP) by 28<sup>th</sup> March 2014, which commits government and the public as to when and how to engage. This has never been undertaken before. The SPP timetable and key milestones are available online and were adopted on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2014. The vision and objectives for the WNMP will be available for consultation.
- 4.3 AS highlighted that under the MCAA there is a joint Welsh and UK interface and marine planning follows a cyclical evaluation and review cycle.
- 4.4 AS also noted the new EU Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) (due by end July 2014), which will need to be transposed but on the face of it does not have an impact, other than a compliance aspect on the Marine Plan.
- 4.5 AS informed the group the Welsh Ministers responsibility for the inshore area (high spring mean to 12nm) and offshore area (from 12nm to median line). This excludes powers for offshore energy, marine renewables / ports and shipping which are under Defra / UK Secretary of State (SoS) responsibility. The Scottish marine plans followed the same approach.
- 4.6 AS highlighted MCAA needs to be compatible with land based plans and joining up the land / sea interface. Welsh Ministers are reviewing the process under the Inter Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). A lot of duties under the ICZM will be operationalized within the WNMP. Iwan Ball is leading on the drafting of a paper to be submitted to the WG Policy group, which will be submitted to Welsh Ministers reading meaningful changes to the ICZM.
- 4.7 AS also noted the need to create an effective evidence base and first phase of a Strategic Scoping Exercise (SSE), which is considering key issues and evidence gaps and the needs of the end user (e.g. sea users / processes / licences) to add value. AS added that we are using lessons learned from Scotland and England.
- 4.8 AS asked the group to consider the following questions:
  - Q1 – What do you want from the Marine Plan & how to achieve sector / community ambitions goals?
  - Q2 – How do we get the best from multiple use of space – we want to make the most and get stakeholders working together.
  - Q3 – What lessons can we learn from other planning processes? Including key broader relationships e.g. Ireland / Isle of Mann / International / MMO.

Q4 – What does the marine planning system need to change to achieve our long term vision? Marine Planning is about affecting change. What do we need to change? Opportunity to take incremental steps to create a useful system on a cyclical basis.

- 4.9 AS noted the Task and Finish groups and some had already started such as the Stakeholder reference group. The project will need help form this group and NRW to embed an ecosystem approach.
- 4.10 PD asked for any points of clarity.
- 4.11 Question: Will the process and MSP Directive be a burden?
- 4.12 AS informed the group that the MSP Directive should not burden the WNMP system but there may be an EU reporting burden by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 when the Directive is adopted.

### **Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD):**

- 4.13 TB introduced the project and the drivers which are to progress a holistic approach to protect the marine environment and management measures to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) by 2020. GES is broken down into 11 descriptors of what the environment will look like when we achieve it. MSFD follows a 6 year review cycle, with the next review in 2018. The UK has received a good report from the EU for the first phase.
- 4.14 TB noted that the regional approach to MSFD must co-operate with the other 4 marine regions. Defra lead on the administration.
- 4.15 TB highlighted the 3 key parts of MSFD. Part 1- describes the descriptors. Part 2 - the programme of monitoring, which will be published over the following weeks. Part 3 – programme of measures, which we are currently working on with the existing projects (Common Fisheries Policy, Marine Planning, Marine Licensing, Water Framework Directive) and working alongside the Natural Resource Management (NRM) Framework.
- 4.16 TB asked the group to consider the following questions:
  - Q1 – How would you like us to engage with you and what do you want to know?
  - Q2 – What descriptors are of interest and how can organisations add value?
- 4.17 Question: the Celtic Seas partnerships are looking at similar groups and what are the opportunities for collaboration / overlap?
- 4.18 TB stated the project would work with the partnership.

### **Effective Evidence Base (EEB):**

- 4.19 PC introduced the project which underpins the whole programme. The project is at a discovery stage and is understanding the gaps and challenges.
- 4.20 PC presented the slide deck to the group and highlighted some key points such as the establishment of the GIS portal, links with other organisations evidence base (NRW, MEDIN and Academia) and the new marine Knowledge Group (MKG).
- 4.21 PC asked the group to consider the following questions:
  - Q1 – What comprises marine evidence? What do you need to know / like to know?

Q2 – How do we best collect and distribute it and make best use of scarce resources?

Q3 – Who should be involved? How best to engage with various parties?

Q4 – How do you want to be involved?

- 4.22 PD asked if there were any questions.
- 4.23 GR also noted that the SSE compendium will be published early August 2014 and GIS portal around the same time to assist with the data audits and inform current position.
- 4.24 Question: Group noted the complexity and costs of gathering and utilising evidence in the marine environment. It was also noted that the UK has progressed Part 1 MSFD to achieve GES and highlighted Wales should not be disadvantaged by the manner in which the UK apply these requirements as compared with other member states.
- 4.25 GR explained that MSFD is a cyclical process and the UK will need to settle into an approach including parity across Europe.
- 4.26 The group discussed the merits of having design tool such as portals that can reduce complexity and aid decision making. The use of shoreline management plans were also raised.
- 4.27 AS noted that as part of the sustainability appraisal the land sea interface is considered in a systematic way which looks at LDP / shoreline plans etc. and Kim Flanders sits on the WNMP reference group.
- 4.28 The work of Marine Energy Pembroke was noted by the group which used the sector, licensing teams, industry and academia to look at gaps and prioritisation for the sector to develop i.e. Horizon 2020.
- 4.29 The group also discussed the inadequacy of marine knowledge evidence and that using 'best available evidence is quite' amorphous.
- 4.30 It was stated that UK has good compliance in terms of GES, so where does that leave other EU countries. There is a risk of 'gold plating' the standard and this could impact on businesses trying to operate in European Markets which could result in competitive disadvantage.
- 4.31 The group broke for lunch.

## 5. MTP Project Updates:

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### New Common Fisheries Policy (NCFP):

- 5.1 LL and MJ introduced the project. Wales is required to manage fisheries and the new CFP was introduced this year including fishing within sustainable limits, regionalisation, discarding, marketing of fish and new financial instrument. The project links to the eco-system approach under the MSFD / GES requirements.
- 5.2 MJ noted there is a pan European dimension to CFP and Wales / UK can't make decisions in isolation.
- 5.3 LL noted that the small scale of fishing in Wales is challenging both economically and sustainably. The discard ban for pelagic fish from January 2015 will have limited impact in Wales. The demersal ban from 2015 is the biggest risk due to the classifications (i.e. TR1 – Cod) and uncertainty of implementation timescales (i.e. 2016 or 2019?)

- 5.4 LL stated the project is looking at a comprehensive discard programme including rates and choke species which is a major challenge. Exemptions, de-minimis and dispensations all require strong evidence and robust data.
- 5.5 LL also noted that member states are required to have robust monitoring programmes for quota species under the DCMAP, with potential infraction proceedings if the data is not collected. DCF requirements are undertaken by CEFAS on behalf of WG to undertake data analysis, audit and commission return. DCMAP and DCF also cover recreational fishing (including spearfishing) and not just commercial fishing.
- 5.6 LL highlighted the current stakeholder engagement arrangements include the Inshore Fisheries Groups (IFGs) to get information to industry.
- 5.7 LL asked the group to consider the following questions:
  - Q1 - What are the data / evidence gaps?
  - Q2 – Why do we need to know?
  - Q3 – Appropriate quality assurance (QA) of monitoring and research
  - Q4 – Effective communication and involvement. How do you want to be involved?
  - Q5 – Can the industry commit to the regional management advisory committees?

#### **Sustainable Fisheries (Sufi):**

- 5.8 DT introduced the project as slightly different as not being EU led but something that we need to do. DT also highlighted Welsh income during 2012 from shellfish (£18m), aquaculture (£5.7m) and finfish (£5.2m)
- 5.9 DT explained the project is about delivering change through integration and consolidation in a sector that is taking the industry forward.
- 5.10 DT noted some of the project commitments around legislation for crabs and lobsters, cockle management regime, scallop industry, aquaculture plan, reviewing policy approach to inland fisheries; scoping out the value of sea angling to the Welsh economy and to set up the Welsh Fisheries partnership.
- 5.11 DT asked the group the following questions:
  - Q1 – What do you think the key messages are?
  - Q2 – How can we best communicate these?
  - Q3 – How can we best engage with you, avoid duplicating existing structures?
  - Q4 – What is of key interest to you?
- 5.12 Question: The Group asked why aquaculture isn't contained within the NCFP project as aquaculture plays an important role as stated by the EU growth target. Aquaculture needs to be recognised as obligation and not a voluntary commitment.
- 5.13 DT responded that aquaculture growth targets and not mandated but to have a corresponding plan.
- 5.14 PD noted the essential point is the relationship between the two projects.

#### **Marine Protected Area's (MPA's):**

- 5.15 LG introduced the project and the projects purpose is to deliver Wales' contribution to an eco-coherent and well managed network of MPAs and to ascertain the social / economic benefits.

- 5.16 LG stated the project has 3 streams running in parallel. These include: i) coherence of the network, which protects the range of marine habitats and species and allows for linkages between areas; ensuring Wales makes the right network contribution by December 2016; the MPA network will form part of the programme of measures for the MSFD ii) network contribution is well managed by building on the review of MPA management undertaken in 2012, reviewing the conservation advice package (i.e. regulation 35 docs); and iii) understanding MPAs and associated socio-economic benefits and opportunities for building on these .
- 5.17 LG asked the group to consider the following questions:
- Q1 – How can the project best engage?
- Q2 – How do you want to be involved?
- Q3 – How do we ensure we reach the right people?

## 6. Discussion, Questions and Inter-relationships

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- 6.1 PD provided the group with the questions asked from the projects and noted that the programme comprises complex political and legislative relationships. PD highlighted the Future Generations Bill and blue / green growth which are long term goals and will provide a focus and difference to make all these programmes happen.
- 6.2 PD asked the group for comments.
- 6.3 The group recognised that input through formal consultation e.g. IFGs was working and that pre-consultation through task and finish groups could be appropriate for validation purposes.
- 6.4 The importance of the legal structure was raised and a plea made that Welsh Government try to encourage their legal advisers to take an enabling approach to how we interpret legislation DT confirmed that this was well understand and that a balance needed to be struck.
- 6.5 The group discussed wider public stakeholder engagement and requested that WG provide a time-line of all consultations and also where possible describe any interrelationships to avoid stakeholder fatigue.
- 6.6 The group discussed with WG officials what the term 'Transition' referred, it was explained that the term was used to capture a range of legislation, statutory requirements and business activities that needed to change and would be facilitated within the programme.
- 6.7 AS noted the use of the WNMP stakeholder groups including policy leads at Welsh and UK level, stakeholder reference group to promote early engagement and co-production. Further examples included the consultation and engagement of the vision and objectives / SPP / marine planning portal and use of the WG website for informal feedback.
- 6.8 PD highlighted the role of the group was to be independent and support the programme to make key points to Ministers. There are different models for engaging and the Severn Estuary partnership has representation from each council.
- 6.9 An example was provided of the coastal partnerships (3 in total) where consultations have an area based session and statutory bodies invite WG to explain the consultation. Could be of use for WNMP.
- 6.10 The group recognised the need for cascading information to local communities.

- 6.11 The group discussed their in keeping things on track and that this could be conflicting at times. It was noted that there may be a role for the group to point out what is and isn't achievable.
- 6.12 The group also discussed that need for clarity from WG about what was required from them, and noted that it may be difficult to manage expectations. They expressed a desire to receive early updates and details of any Task and Finish requirements to support this, and enable them to asses, review and bring products back to the table. They noted that they all had limited resources and this needed to be considered.
- 6.13 The potential to have regional groups was raised which could address some of the issues and noted that there were potentially groups in place that could accommodate this but that there were gaps in NE Wales. It was noted that this could be considered and PD recognised the value of an integrated approach at local level.
- 6.14 It was noted that the establishment of the group was positive in that it gave all stakeholders an opportunity to contribute, whether that be from industry, renewable or those who fish for pleasure. That this was of value and it positive to be able to see who was having an input, where this previously may not have seen this that the Programme approach gave a framework to do this. PD noted that openness was a critical point and the group needed to make sure the programme delivered.
- 6.15 The need for measures / benefits / KPIs was also raised.
- 6.16 PD noted the Future Generations Bill has set national measures of progress and how these measures will incorporate Marine.
- 6.17 PD asked the group for questions.
- 6.18 The need for areas such as Marine Planning to benefit Wales than add another level of bureaucracy was reiterated.
- 6.19 AS highlighted that the WNMP can provide opportunities to investors / stakeholders. Innovative ideas will need to be submitted by stakeholders and how we utilise multiple space.
- 6.20 Question: By not acting in isolation and losing the visibility and transparency by writing and planning policies solely within WG departments.
- 6.21 AS reiterated the need for advice and input from stakeholders, as Ministers and Cabinet will decide on the final policy output.
- 6.22 Question: the use of industry data and other data sets requires training. Could be an opportunity to link with academia.
- 6.23 LL noted the existing links with the Welsh Universities especially with regard to audits and specific species led research.
- 6.24 PC highlighted the potential to link academia into the forthcoming Marine Knowledge Group (MKG).
- 6.25 Question: The marine licence review i.e. consenting and licensing and fit with this group.

**Action 4:** PD to redraft the groups purpose and be more specific about the required functions to fulfil the objectives. To include length of time and representative capacity; communications to individuals networks and outreach through individuals; benefits / KPIs to reflect and check with any external groups (i.e. Future Generations Bill).

- 6.26 GR informed the group that the WNMP and SSE will be seeking a less formal consultation to gather stakeholders views via the Welsh Government website around August 2014.

## 7. Any Other Business & Next Meetings

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- 7.1 Glossary of acronyms to be produced
- 7.2 PD noted that next meeting will take place during November in the WG Cathays, Cardiff Office, CF10 3NQ.
- 7.3 Other Future Meeting dates to be confirmed and circulated and whether additional meetings need to be held next year, starting February 2015 to mobilise the group.

**Action 5:** Secretariat to circulate future meetings dates and locations to group.

| Number                      | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Owner    | Status    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| <b>WMSAG: 18/07/14 (1)</b>  | To agree a communications note / web links to be disseminated to group members / organisational networks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | MPT team | completed |
| <b>WMSAG: 18/07/14 (2):</b> | Group agreed that both coastal partnership groups attend the meetings.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | PD       | completed |
| <b>WMSAG: 18/07/14 (3)</b>  | BG and PD recognised the need to review the contact details currently held for the proposed membership.                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | BG/PD    | Completed |
| <b>WMSAG: 18/07/14 (4)</b>  | Redraft the groups purpose and be more specific about the required functions to fulfil the objectives. To include length of time and representative capacity; communications to individuals networks and outreach through individuals; benefits / KPIs to reflect and check with any external groups (i.e. Future Generations Bill). | PD       | Completed |
| <b>WMSAG: 18/07/14 (5)</b>  | Secretariat to circulate future meetings dates and locations to group.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | RG       | completed |

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