

Wales Marine Action and Advisory Group

Key messages and Actions

Title of Meeting	Wales Marine Action & Advisory Group (WMAAG)			Date	15.11.2017
Meeting Number	8	Start Time	09.45	End Time	16:00
Attendance	Peter Davies (Chair) (PD Partnership), Eve Read (Dwr Cymru Welsh Water), Neville Rookes (Welsh Local Government Association), Emma Barton (Royal Yachting Association), Rachel Sharp (Wildlife Trust Wales), Lesley Jones (Keep Wales Tidy),), Mike Parry (Chair Pwllheli Partnership), David Harding (Mariteam Associates), Emily Williams (RSPB), Deanna Groom (RCAHMMW), David Tudor (The Crown Estate), Hannah Carr (JNCC), Declan Tobin (JNCC), Gill Bell (Marine Conservation Society & Wales Environment Link), David Jones (Marine Energy Pembrokeshire), Jim Evans (Welsh Fishermens Association), Phil Hollington (Cragen Llyn a Mon), Jonathan Monk (Milford Haven Port Authority), Lucy Taylor (Severn Estuary Partnership), Kirsty Lindenbaum (Natural Resources Wales), Tegryn Jones (Pembrokeshire Coastal Park authority), Graham Rees (Welsh Government), Andy Fraser (Welsh Government), Phil Coates (Welsh Government), Gary Douch (Welsh Government), Louise George (Welsh Government), Rebecca Gorman (Welsh Government), Zachary Shayler (Welsh Government), Rob Floyd (Welsh Government), Owain Edwards (Welsh Government)				
Guests	Claire Carew (Visit Wales) Mair Bell (Wales Centre for Public Policy), Griffin Carpenter (Wales Centre for Public Policy), Jetske Germing (Surfers Against Sewage), Caroline Dawson (Welsh Seafood Cluster)				
Apologies	David Clubb (Renewables UK), Dai Atkins (BSAC), Nick O'Sullivan (Wales Marine Fisheries Advisory Group), Peter Barham (Seabed Users and Developers Group. Trevor Jones (Welsh Aquaculture), Mark Russell (British Marine Aggregates Association), Dr John O'Connor (Welsh Federation of Sea Anglers), Rhian Jardine (Natural Resources Wales); Alan Morgan (Chair British Marine Wales),				

#	Agenda Item
1.	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies
2.	EU transition and the Seas and Coasts sub group feedback
3.	The Volvo Ocean Race and latest on the Year of the Sea 2018
4.	Marine litter Action group update and proposals
5.	Marine Energy Wales Update
6.	Wales Centre for Public Policy: Implication of Brexit for Fisheries Policy in Wales workshop
7.	Wales Marine Planning Consultation Q and A
8.	Natural Resources Wales: Area Statements and Marine Commissioning plan.
9.	Summary and reflections from the day and review of Stakeholder Engagement approach
10.	End

Introduction

The Wales Marine Action and Advisory group (WMAAG) provides a forum for discussion and debate, and the provision of support and advice to the Welsh Government, on strategic marine and coastal policy. It is the overarching stakeholder group for the work of the Marine and Fisheries Division of the Welsh Government, sitting alongside the Welsh Marine Fisheries Action Group (WMFAG), the lead Welsh Government fisheries industry forum in Wales.

The WMAAG is comprised of 32 stakeholder leads who represent the interests of all sectors with an interest or investment in the Marine in Wales. Details of sectors and lead organisations can be found within the group's Terms of Reference.

The WMAAG held its 8th meeting at the Life Sciences Hub, Cardiff Bay on the 15 November 2017. Key messages and actions from the meeting are found within this document. Members of the WMAAG have a responsibility for disseminating consistent messages with their respective networks and bringing forward any issues arising. Should you wish to discuss any of the agenda items in more detail please contact your sector lead. If you require the contact details of your sector representative, please contact the Marine and Fisheries Ministerial Mailbox: (MarineandFisheriesMinisterialMailbox@gov.wales).

Key Messages and Outputs

Item 2: EU transition and the Seas and Coasts sub group feedback

Key messages	Actions
<p>WMAAG received an update from the Welsh Government on the latest position in terms of European Transition and the work of the Seas and Coast groups;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the referendum result the Cabinet Secretary for the Energy, Planning and Rural and Affairs (EPRA) established a round table to ensure early engagement with stakeholders on the implications of Brexit. • A series of sub-groups were later established, one of which focuses on the Seas and Coast, and is mainly comprised of WMAAG members. • The WMAAG discussed the current Brexit position, the Withdrawal Bill and the importance of taking a longer term post Brexit vision. • Seas and Coast sub group members commended the positive way the Seas and Coasts sub-group was working, recognising that; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It had provided a forum to challenge thinking on the impact of Brexit on Welsh inshore fisheries, coastal communities and ecosystems. ○ There was good read-across from the other sub-groups ensuring broader implications were picked up through cross-fertilisation. 	<p>Action 3.1: Seas and Coast group members to maintain communications to wider WMAAG membership.</p> <p>Action 3.2: Maintain an ongoing review of the Seas and Coast sub group, and assess the benefit it provides, in order to identify when its function should end.</p>

Item 3: Year of the Sea

Key Points	Actions
<p>WMAAG were given an overview of the Year of the Sea 2018 Campaign and the Volvo Ocean Race;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Year of the Sea will be officially launched in Wales at the Pier head building on the 11 December by celebrity chef, Tom Simmonds. • The Volvo Ocean Race set sail on the 22 October 2017 from Alicante stopping 	<p>Action 4.1: WMAAG agreed to work with their sectors to identify activities across the YoS and provide these to Visit Wales.</p>

<p>in Melbourne, Hong Kong, Auckland and Newport USA, before heading to Cardiff for a two week stop over between 25 May and 10 June 2018.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The significant investment in the race reflects the importance of this opportunity to put Cardiff and Wales on the international map, through hosting this event. <p>The WMAAG group recognised;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The unique opportunity presented by the Year of the Sea and the Volvo Ocean Race and agreed that a collaborative approach was essential in order to maximise this. • The Year of the Sea has the potential to create both short and longer term benefits for the Marine sector and coastal communities in Wales. <p>Through a workshop the group highlighted;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The range of opportunities within the Marine Sector in Wales that had the potential to compliment the Year of the Sea campaign plan, captured in Annex A. • The need to take a whole Wales approach and ensure that activities, places and opportunities were supported and promoted outside Cardiff. • The need to look at innovative ways to promote marine ecosystems, as part of promoting Wales as Tourism destination. 	
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Item 4: Marine Litter Action Group and Proposals

Key messages	Actions
<p>The Marine Litter Task Group (established by the WMAAG to develop a Wales Marine Litter Action Plan) brought forward a set of proposals to the group.</p> <p>WMAAG were reminded of the global challenge that ocean plastics presented and the breadth of work already ongoing across Wales to help to address this.</p>	<p>The proposal to be submitted to Cabinet Secretary EPRA, including the request to make the lead Clean Seas Pledge</p> <p>WMAAG members to consider their</p>

<p>The Marine Litter Task Group proposed to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate a 3 year programme of collaborative action to tackle marine litter. • Establish a ‘Wales Clean Seas Partnership’ • Seek commitment from WMAAG members to making a Wales Clean Seas Pledge aligned to the UN Clean Seas pledge. <p>The WMAAG group endorsed these proposals.</p> <p>The WMAAG recognised that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The coordination of the Clean Partnership as part of the Year of the Sea had the potential to increase the impact of any marine litter initiatives. • Private sector involvement was required. Small businesses would be easier to engage. The challenge would be to get buy-in from larger corporations. • The Welsh Government is required to make a Clean Seas pledge as part of their commitment to the Volvo Ocean Race 	<p>own pledges and respond to task group.</p> <p>Communications planning meeting of Marine Litter Task Group/ Steering Group for Clean Seas Partnership planned for 2pm Dec 5th in Cardiff arranged through Keep Wales Tidy.</p> <p>WMAAG to build on the Wales Clean Seas Partnership and associated pledges/activities for launch around the Ocean Summit on June 5th planned as part of the Volvo Ocean Race</p>
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Item 5: Marine Energy Wales

Key Messages	Action
<p>The WMAAG heard how Marine Energy Wales (MEW) brings together technology developers, the supply chain, academia and the public sector to help to establish Wales as a global leader in sustainable marine energy generation</p> <p>MEW explained how they have taken an evidence based approach involving thorough resource assessment, development constraints, infrastructure and potential and factual economic impact.</p> <p>MEW described the range of investors they are working with to develop renewable energy projects across Wales. Including tidal stream, wave, tidal range projects and device development and testing zones.</p>	<p>No actions for WMAAG</p>

<p>The WMAAG commended the work of MEW in developing the renewable energy sector in Wales.</p> <p>WMAAG noted that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 sets a target of 70% renewable energy by 2030. • The marine is a key asset to Wales for the renewable energy sector. • There was an appropriate and overarching drive to move towards green energy. • There was also a need to take time to understand the environmental impacts within the context of SMNR. 	
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Item 6: Wales Centre for Public Policy (WCPP): The Implications of Brexit for Fisheries policy in Wales

Key Messages	Action
<p>The WMAAG received a presentation from the Wales Centre for Public Policy, on the implications of Brexit for Fisheries policy in Wales. The presentation considered what was meant by a fair share of fish, and how fisheries could be managed in the Welsh Public interest.</p> <p>It focused on fisheries policy in the context of different Brexit scenarios. Drilling down into these scenarios through a range of factors: (setting fishing limits, division between countries, division between administrations, overall management systems allocation to fleets or vessels, and post allocation policies).</p> <p>The group explored a number of issues including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the fleet can adapt to sustainably fish for other species. • What port infrastructure requirements may be required in the future. • Fishing at Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) versus Maximum Economic Yield (MEY) to determine what may be of benefit to the Wales' and other fishing fleets. 	<p>Becky Gorman to circulate the New Economics Foundation paper 'Not in the Same boat- The economic impact of Brexit across UK fishing fleets. When published on the 17 November 2017.</p> <p>Welsh Government to circulate final WCPP report when published.</p> <p>Welsh Government to consider further areas of research based on the policy options identified in the WCPP report.</p>

<p>The group also discussed;</p> <p>Maximum Sustainable Yield and the application of the eco –system based approach. As the scales of marine ecosystems are substantial in area, it requires international co-operation in the form of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. The descriptors under the directive cover sustainable management of fish and the achievement of MSY or equivalent measures and also includes the requirement for a network of marine protected areas, marine litter and a number of other important ecosystem considerations..</p>	
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Item 7: Wales Marine Planning Consultation

Key Message	Actions
<p>The WMAAG received a presentation on the progress of the Welsh National Marine Plan. This set out the legislative basis for marine planning, the planning process and described the structure and content of the plan, including the general and sector policies and a number of key strategic resource areas.</p> <p>Subject to Defra Secretary of State sign-off, the Marine plan will go to consultation in early December 2017 for a period of 16 weeks.</p> <p>During the consultation period a series of public drop in sessions will take place across Wales, as well as a Marine planning conference in January 2018.</p> <p>The group discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next steps in terms of implementation and monitoring of the plan and the challenges or changes which would need to be considered in the future, such as Brexit and changes to devolved powers. <p>WMAAG members noted;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That some sector policy elements of plan were not clearly described within the presentation. Also, there were some questions remaining around the scope 	<p>Welsh Government to Share dates for the public sessions and conference</p>

and extent of strategic resource areas and the evidence available to inform them. The opportunity for future dialogue, including through a marine planning conference, would be beneficial during the consultation period.

Item 8: Natural Resources Wales: Area Statements and Marine Commissioning plan.

Key Message	Action
<p>The WMAAG received a presentation from Natural Resources Wales (NRW), on supporting Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the marine area.</p> <p>The group heard how;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRW were embedding (SMNR) in within their way of working, supported by the development of Areas Statements and aligned to the Well Being and Future Generations (WBFG) Act 2015. • The Welsh Policy framework for SMNR and Areas Statements will facilitate the implementation of Natural Resources Policy priorities in the marine. • NRP signposts the Welsh National Marine Plan as the key framework for delivering SMNR in the marine area. • A marine Area Statement coordinator was now in place within NRW 	<p>NRW will engage partners through WMAAG in 2018 on marine issues and opportunities through the development of the marine the Area statement</p> <p>WMAAG member welcome to contact the marine Area Statement coordinator email: Kathryn.Hughes@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk</p>

Item 9: Summary and reflections from the day and review of Stakeholder Engagement approach

Key Points	Actions
<p>The WMAAG discussed elements of stakeholder engagement throughout the day:</p> <p>In his conclusion, the WMAAG Chair recognised that the Marine and Fisheries engagement model was good, but there was a need to ensure it continued to strike a balance between engagement which facilitated meaningful contribution and response, whilst avoiding stakeholder fatigue.</p> <p>The group noted that;</p>	<p>The Chair of the WMAAG committed to work with WMAAG members and the Welsh Government to survey and further refine the existing engagement approach.</p> <p>The Welsh Government will capture key messages and actions from the WMAAG meetings, and share these on the Marine</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are a number of subject specific stakeholder groups in place within the existing Marine and Fisheries stakeholder group model.• Officials explained, that the cross cutting nature of work undertaken in the Marine meant that a whole WMAAG view would be sought when engaging stakeholders on certain areas of work, such as the Nature Recovery Action Plan and Marine Biodiversity.• WMAAG members expressed a desire for further improvement in the communication of outputs from some Marine and Fisheries stakeholder groups.	<p>and Fisheries website, alongside the Marine User update.</p> <p>An additional meeting of the group will be scheduled for 2018. Therefore three meetings will be scheduled to take place across 2018.</p> <p>Stakeholders will provide bilingual content for future Marine User Updates.</p>
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Annex A: Year of the Sea - Content Theme Planner Feedback

<u>Epic Seascapes</u> (Jan, Feb, Mar)	<u>Coastal Capital and Communities</u> (Apr, May, Jun)	<u>Coasts Alive</u> (Jul, Aug, Sep)	<u>Connected Coasts</u> (Oct, Nov, Dec)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link with food community / network / cluster / food and drink board / strategic approach • Seafood cluster – Mermaid Seafood (N Wales); new shop raising profile of seafood (mid and south Wales possible also) • Develop National Dish for Wales (Seafood based) • Raise profile of seafood available in Wales (Milford Smoked Kippers). Quality of Welsh seafood (promote), underpinned by environment • Seaweed, Sea salt, as a food item • Heritage of Marine Industry • Explore the Severn – 17 most iconic spot. Good practise. Severn Estuary Partnership – new engagement officer being recruited to link in with Explore project • Storms, coastal erosion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for Businesses to link / take advantage of VoR • Eco-schools – encourage children to get involved with VoR • Marine Litter Action Plan / Clean Seas Partnership • Blue Flag 30th Anniversary • RSPB – Visit Wales funding for interactive experience • Seafood visitor experience – ‘buy local’ (subject to funding) • Mapping data coast path • Understanding effect of storms (i.e. Storm Brian) • Seafood EXPO Global – YoS presence, Epic Welsh Seafood, Visit Wales Tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using coast sustainably. Responsible use, Codes of Practice (NRW leading) will soon be published 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to link with Wales Way Pride • Promoting sustainable development via Marine Plan • Promote the management of Welsh seas (Env. Act / WBFG) Welsh Brand (Food) • Micro-beads Ban • Health benefits

<p>mitigation, Epic Nature tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need to reflect wildlife (Puffins, Harbour porpoise, Dolphins etc.)• MPA features• Underwater archaeology (Wrecks, 360 degree virtual tours)• Diving tours• Value of Recreational Fishing			
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