

Wales Marine Action & Advisory Group

Stakeholder Update

November 2017

The Welsh National Marine Plan: Update

The WNMP has been refined following feedback from stakeholders. Additional time was taken to incorporate tidal lagoon policy in the plan and update the plan Sustainability Assessment (SA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

The draft WNMP contains General cross cutting policies, including: (e.g. nature conservation, coastal defence, litter, seascapes, coastal communities and economy) and sector policies (e.g. aggregates, aquaculture, defence and renewables). The sector policies are grouped as 'supporting' or 'safeguarding' policies; the latter intended to prevent unintentional "sterilisation" of an area important for use by another sector.

Strategic Resource Areas are proposed for aquaculture, aggregates, tidal stream, wave and tidal lagoon related resources.

A Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment has been completed to support consultation.

The Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs has agreed to consult on the draft plan subject to agreement from Defra SofS.

<http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2017/apporvalofdraftmarineplan/?lang=en>

We are awaiting a response from Defra SofS and hope to launch the 16 week consultation November 2017.

Stakeholder Reference Group

The group has formed and completed a T&F piece of work on plan implementation with recommendations for WG to consider. The group has had opportunities to comment on the draft plan and other policy areas and approaches as it has developed.

Marine plan consultation

The online consultation will include the consultation document, draft plan, HRA, SA, and aggregates review document. A short summary overview document of marine planning has been produced to support understanding.

Stakeholder events are planned to take place around Wales in January with support of Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum, plus a further national event.

WMAAG members are encouraged to respond to the consultation and suggest how you would like to be involved in testing and refining the draft following consultation.

Marine planning is a process; not an end point, and will evolve with time. The introduction of the first plan for Wales is merely a starting point.

Marine planning evidence

The marine planning portal has been refreshed so as to include plan policies and is available at: <http://lle.gov.wales/apps/marineportal/>

The portal contains spatial plan policies as well as other data layers to support engagement and understanding during consultation.

The “Marine planning evidence tracker” has started to keep an overview of new evidence to inform marine planning.

The EMFF Integrated Maritime Policy project secured (£400K) to support plan implementation. Project entitled ‘Sustainable Management of Marine Natural Resources’. A tender will be issued via Sell2Wales shortly.

A project to assess the value of marine in the context of marine planning is being developed.

WWF have completed a study on early stage plan ‘fit’ with ecosystem approach principles; WWF to report findings and release report once the plan is available.

Marine plan implementation

Work has started to understand how to monitor and report on plan effectiveness; Liverpool University undertaking questionnaire using aggregates policy as a case-study.

Work being developed to focus on public authority decision-making.

NRW is considering how marine Area Statement and land-sea Area Statements (under SMNR) will support WNMP implementation.

SRA guidance is being developed and initial thinking has been shared with Stakeholder Reference Group.

A Relevant Public Authorities group (i.e. decision makers group) is to be established.

Wider activity

WG is inputting to EU marine planning SIMCelt project.

WG consulted upon merits of sub-national planning and are assessing the consultation responses. A contract has been let to review experience and best practice in sub-national marine plan.

Marine Protected Area Management

We are working with the MPA Management Steering Group to develop a Marine Protected Area Management Priority Action Plan. The Plan will:

- set out the vision for the management of the MPA network across Wales;
- remind management authorities of their roles and responsibilities;
- describe the role of the regulatory process in managing MPAs; and
- set out the priority actions identified that will have the greatest impact on feature condition

The latest iteration of the Plan will be discussed at the Steering Group meeting on 30 November. We will also seek a steer from the Group on the best way to engage with other stakeholders, including WMAAG, prior to publication.

Site Condition Reports

Natural Resources Wales is finalising indicative site level feature condition reports for all European Marine Sites (SACs and SPAs) in Wales, including the cross-border sites at the Dee and Severn Estuaries and Liverpool Bay. The reports are currently undergoing a quality assurance exercise with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, ahead of publication by the end of the year.

Liverpool Bay SPA

Following the consultation earlier this year the Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs and the UK Secretary of State for Environment and Rural Affairs have agreed to extend and reclassify Liverpool Bay SPA. The changes are as follows:

- An extension of the SPA boundary to include additional marine areas, mainly in English inshore and offshore waters but including small additional areas in Wales;
- The addition of little gull (non-breeding), little tern (breeding) and common tern (breeding) as qualifying species of the SPA; and
- The addition of red breasted merganser and cormorant as named species of the waterbird assemblage.

Wales Marine Fisheries Advisory Group (WMFAG)

**Highlight Report on Strategic Priorities
2016/17 Quarter 3 (July – Sept)**

Summary of key priority work streams

Scallops

The 4th meeting of the scallop task & finish group was held on 12 September, a number of issues were discussed and agreed upon. Officials are now preparing a 2nd consultation which will be launched during November. The timing of this consultation has yet to be decided upon, however a request has been received from industry for a shorter consultation period to be considered.

Work is progressing to ensure permits are issued to allow scallop fishing at the start of November.

Whelks

The whelk consultation closed on a total of 89 responses was received, and were supportive of the proposals put forward. A summary of the responses has been prepared and will be released before the end of October. Officials will be meeting with the CSESRA to outline proposals for new legislation and seeking agreement for legal services to be drafting the SI. It is anticipated the new legislation will be in place by the Spring of 2018.

Cockles

Officials have been working on the opening and closing of other fisheries, including intertidal cockle fisheries. Consequently work on the proposed new management plan has been delayed.

Bass

At the time of writing 2017 ICES advice has not yet been received. Update to be provided at meeting. Discussions have commenced with DEFRA on possible approaches for consideration at December Council.

CHERISH UPDATE

Background:

CHERISH is a 5 year Ireland - Wales project, bringing together four partners across the two nations, and will run until December 2021. It will receive €4.1 million of EU funds through the Ireland Wales Co-operation Programme 2014-2020.

CHERISH is a truly cross-disciplinary project aimed at raising awareness and understanding of the past, present and near future impacts of climate change, storminess and extreme weather events on the rich cultural heritage of our sea and coast. We will be linking land and sea and employing a range of techniques and methods to study some of the most iconic coastal locations in Ireland and Wales, from terrestrial and aerial laser scanning, geophysical survey and seabed mapping through to palaeoenvironmental sampling, excavation and shipwreck monitoring.

Update:

CHERISH began in January 2017 and the first 10 months has been a start- up phase including getting a full CHERISH team in place in both Wales and Ireland. In Wales that has resulted in the recruitment of a Project Manager – Clare Burgess, Project Investigator – Dan Hunt (both RCAHMW) and a Post-Doctoral Research Assistant – Patrick Robson (Aberystwyth University). The team have been meeting with various stakeholders since the project began and will continue to attend meetings to provide updates.

The CHERISH Survey team have also selected sites and study areas for survey and investigation over the next 5 years (map attached) and have started to gather essential baseline data at a number of locations, LiDAR information has been captured for 6 welsh islands and baseline coastal monitoring flights have captured oblique aerial images to record the current state of coastal heritage sites in the study areas, the University has also identified sites for palaeoenvironmental research and will start to gather samples from Ceredigion and North Pembrokeshire.

A Maritime sub group has been set up to identify the particular CHERISH areas to undertake mapping surveys and identify particular wrecks to investigate, survey vessels from Ireland are planning to commence work in welsh waters during 2018.

A website is being developed and will be fully functional by the end of the year, the project has an active social media presence both on Facebook – CHERISH Project and twitter - @CHERISHproj and the website www.cherishproject.eu

PCF Summary for WMAAG Marine User Update



Sustainable
Management
Scheme Bid
Approved
- Building
Resilience in
Catchments
(BRICs)

There is a growing concern over the loss of biodiversity in Pembrokeshire with the majority of Pembrokeshire Marine SAC features in unfavourable conservation status and nutrient loading into the Milford Haven identified as a key priority action. With the waterway considered as being “full” with no headroom in the Milford Haven catchment, this presents a potential barrier to development and therefore any future schemes requiring a permit to discharge into the catchment will require some form of offsetting scheme. The concern over nutrient loading also presents challenges for the agriculture sector through regulatory pressures.

In 2014, a new approach examined the creation of a payment for ecosystem services (PES) scheme in Pembrokeshire. Funded through the Nature Fund and managed by Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum (PCF), (*Developing a Delivery Framework for a Market Based Nutrient Offsetting Scheme for the Milford Haven and Cleddau Catchments*) recommended that there is a clear case for implementing a PES scheme in order to reduce nutrient loading in the Milford Haven and Cleddau Catchment. However, more work is required on how a PES scheme would function with the current stakeholders. Also, a pilot study was recommended to evaluate the actual costs and methods of reducing nitrogen using on the ground actions through best management practices. The work that lies ahead to achieve good environmental status while allowing Pembrokeshire’s economy to prosper requires focus and flexibility on how to achieve clear, enforceable goals, and target investment where it can most effectively improve water quality.

To move forward with the development and delivery of a functioning PES scheme in Pembrokeshire, PCF has partnered with PLANED to develop ambitious landscape scale collaborative action, bringing together partners from across the Supply Chain, with land managers, industry, conservation managers and communities within Pembrokeshire. The project is called BRICS (Building Resilience in Catchments).

BRICs involves working in 3 diverse sub-catchments to develop Climate Change mitigation plans and actions to improve soil management, water management and related habitat measures. The sub-catchments are chosen to protect drinking water intake and commercial development with targeted measures such as nutrient soil mapping, precision farming and constructed wetlands that will benefit farms economically as well as environmentally, creating a business leader culture with earned regulatory recognition. Improvements will be

	<p>measured financially and environmentally through modelling and analysis.</p> <p>An important legacy is the creation of an enterprise capable of running a nutrient trading scheme taking forward the outcomes of the Ecosystem Enterprise Partnership.</p> <p>PCF will work with partners and with consultancy support, develop a Business Plan to deliver PES in Pembrokeshire. We will also examine potential delivery agents for the proposed enterprise alongside the mechanisms required to make PES a reality in Pembrokeshire.</p>
<p>Marine Energy Test Area (META)</p>	<p>PCF has received a further £1.2 million in funding to accelerate marine energy development in Wales. The investment is to develop a Marine Energy Test Area (META) project in the Milford Haven Waterway.</p> <p>The funding will support the work of Marine Energy Wales in developing a network of pre-consented areas of seabed that will support research, component testing, innovation, deployment techniques and scaled device deployment.</p> <p>The £1.9 million META project is set to contribute towards Wales' plans to play a key role in a growing global market and will add to the UK's current world leading network of test sites.</p> <p>Marine Energy Wales is an initiative developed and managed by Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum.</p> <p>META forms part of Pembroke Dock Marine, a £76 million project to develop a world class centre for marine energy development, fabrication, testing and deployment in Pembrokeshire. This is one of 11 projects included in the Swansea Bay City Deal that was signed by the Prime Minister and Welsh First Minister on the 20th March this year.</p> <p>META has also received funding through the Coastal Communities Fund. The next steps of the project will build on previous work to select the most appropriate sites within the Waterway, continue to engage with stakeholders and formally begin the leasing and licensing process.</p> <p>PCF have been procured by the Port of Milford Haven to undertake community consultation in Pembroke Dock to raise awareness of Pembroke Dock Marine and facilitate discussion around proposal for change in Pembroke Port.</p>
<p>Welsh Government: Marine & Fisheries – Stakeholder Engagement on the Welsh Draft</p>	<p>PCF were successful in tendering to deliver 6 marine planning events across Wales for public engagement on the Welsh National Marine Plan.</p> <p>Dates to be announced in January for locations including – Cardiff, Swansea, Bangor, Aberystwyth and Saundersfoot.</p>

National Marine Plan	
Coastal Communities Adapting Together (CCAT)	<p>CCAT aims to build adaptive capacity to the impacts of climate change by improving knowledge flow and awareness of climate change impacts and adaptation for the Irish Sea and coastal communities. The project will develop and test shared digital and non-digital tools and learning resources for citizens of all ages to observe their environment, interpret their findings, and co-create new ways of doing things.</p> <p>CCAT is to be delivered by a transdisciplinary team consisting of 6 Irish and Welsh beneficiaries in a 2-year pilot project focused on the communities in Rush (County Fingal, Ireland) and Milford Haven (Pembrokeshire, Wales). CCAT will provide the basis for further development and wider deployment of the tools and learning resources in the future. Project is UCD led.</p> <p>INTERREG Project: Ireland Wales Co-operation Programme 2014-2020 core data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Priority Axis 2: Specific Objective 2:</i> To increase capacity and knowledge of Climate Change adaptation for the Irish Sea and coastal communities. <p>Coastal Communities Adapting Together (CCAT) business plan submitted in October 2017.</p>
Marine Energy Wales Consenting Group Meeting	<p>NRW are moving ahead with Discretionary Advisory Scheme for pre-planning application support. This will be a charged regime and NRW are in the process of consulting with the marine energy sector, facilitated by <u>Marine Energy Wales</u> which is an initiative developed and managed by PCF.</p>
NRW – Adventure Smart Wales	<p>PCF are to support NRW with the development of the Adventure Smart Wales, a Visit Wales funded project. The aim of the project is to promote the safe and sustainable enjoyment of Wales’ natural outdoor resources by providing live information and education opportunities for the thousands of participants who enjoy our coastline, woodlands, lakes and mountains as well as supporting and promoting safe and sustainable usage of the natural environment by our local communities that will lead to a lifetime of participation and enjoyment in the outdoors.</p> <p>This project hopes to increase the proportion of people enjoying themselves safely in the outdoors by promoting standardised key</p>

	<p>messages which will be jointly promoted by several organisations and accompany the drive to get more people active and enjoying the outdoors.</p> <p>Key to this project is implementing interventions which will work on all levels. Integral to this is understanding business interaction with visitors. Therefore we will work with businesses such as B&B's, self-catering establishments, hotels, restaurants, pubs, etc. to work out where the best place for them to intervene would be; find out what questions they get asked; confirm they know where to go for information themselves and what they would find there - summit conditions, sea state, weather conditions, etc.</p> <p>The Tourism Trade will be in a position to signpost (via the new website, utilising the newly created mountain peaks web widget and existing weather/surf forecasting web widgets for the coastal environment etc.) the visitor to where relevant information can be obtained to enable them to make an informed decision about where to go and what to do safely.</p> <p>PCF will support a Tourism Trade Engagement Toolkit.</p>
<p>Pembrokeshire Marine INNS Awareness Day</p>	<p>Event held through SAC, Biodiversity Partnership, NRW and PCF Marine Code project to raise awareness around marine invasive non-native species in Pembrokeshire.</p> <p>Received praise from attendees and Dale Fort will also use the information (available on request) for relevant educational programmes.</p> <p><u>Marine Code App</u> also highlighted as useful tool for recording sightings of Marine INNs.</p>
<p>Pembrokeshire Sustainable Shellfish Pilot Initiative</p>	<p>The Pembrokeshire Sustainable Shellfish Pilot Initiative (PSSPI) is testing voluntary measures to try to improve fishing sustainability within the local potting fleet. It aims to encourage fishermen to incorporate one or more trials within their fishing practices. The pilot allows trialing of gear modifications at no cost to fishermen and incorporation of feedback into final outputs that will be shared widely. The pilot aims to raise awareness and understanding of the environmental and economic issues associated with ghost fishing of static gear, and of voluntary measures to improve fishing sustainability.</p> <p>For more information about this innovative project, visit the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC website here or watch the video here.</p>



Area Statements and Funding Update, September 2017

Environment Act – Update

Natural Resources Policy - The Welsh Government published the Natural Resources Policy in August 2017. It sets out the Welsh Ministers' general and specific policies for contributing to achieving sustainable management of natural resources in relation to Wales. This is the second of the three key products to emerge from the Environment Act – building on the recent State of Natural Resources Report produced by NRW – and now enables the task of development of Area Statements (to help implement the policy) to begin.

The policy, and accompanying written statement from the Cabinet Secretary (found [here](#)) sets out three National themes. These are:

- **Delivering nature-based solutions** - working more effectively with nature to tackle our big challenges. This in particular reflects the conclusions drawn in our SoNaR report;
- **Increasing renewable energy and resource efficiency** – and setting out a clear pathway for investment in these areas; and
- **Taking a place-based approach** – to respond to local needs and opportunities.

The NRP covers and integrates a broad range of traditional policy areas (including water, food and drink, farming and agriculture, forestry, waste, energy, countryside access and environment) and intends to maximise contribution across the 7 Wellbeing Goals.

It can be found on the Welsh Government website here:

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/natural-resources-management/natural-resources-policy/?lang=en>

Recap on role of Area Statements

Area Statements will help to facilitate the delivery of the Welsh Government's Natural Resources Policy at the local level. The Environment Act requires the Statements to include information about the natural resources in that place, the benefits they provide, and the priorities, risks and opportunities that need to be addressed, to achieve sustainable management of them.

Area Statements are an evidence base to help deliver sustainable management of natural resources at a local level right across Wales. They will bring together data, information, organisations, and ways of engaging others to help better understand the state and trends of natural resources in an area, the pressures on them and the benefits we receive. In doing so, they should also stimulate action and collaboration around management of natural resources.

Area Statements are a fundamental building block for other planning processes in Wales – in particular (but not exclusively) Well-being Plans, Local Development Plans, National Park

and AONB Management Plans, Water Company Plans and NRW's own statutory and operational planning processes. Because they need to feed into these processes in a relevant and timely way – we need to ensure the process for their development is done collaboratively, using the collective knowledge from a broad range of stakeholders.

What has NRW done since the last update (May 2017)

As set out in the last update, the first step we will need to consider is how the natural resources policies could be addressed at different spatial scales. Since the three priority areas are so high level, we have been talking to Welsh Government about how to now turn the policy into implementation.

It's clear that we would like to develop some National Spatial Priorities that reflect some of the key opportunities in the NRP – this will help to frame our work on area statements at a National Level. This could bring together existing spatial evidence on opportunities to deliver nature based solutions, for example (not exclusively):

- Opportunities to maintain Wales' productive capacity; for crops, livestock, fish, timber and natural fluxes of energy
- Opportunities for supporting health outcomes, including in relation to air and noise pollution through to conditions associated with physical inactivity.
- Opportunities for hazard protection, particularly in relation to the impacts of flooding and climate change, etc.

These are still early discussion and we'll be providing more information in the coming months to confirm what will happen next and the opportunities for stakeholders to be involved.

Taking a place-based approach

The operational teams leading on the development of Area Statements are beginning to gather a range of evidence around the natural resources in their place, the key stakeholders and active groups. We have focused a lot of initial energy in supporting the development of local Wellbeing plans through the Public Services Boards. This has included providing evidence and data packs for every PSB in Wales and offering support with drawing together elements of the Assessments of local wellbeing. These assessments, along with the response analysis, and the connections we are making with other stakeholders through this process, will be important elements to build on when developing the area statements.

For the marine area, the Natural Resources Policy confirms that the marine planning process will be a key additional driver and opportunity to deliver SMNR at sea. We intend to begin engagement through existing strategic networks such as the Wales Marine Advisory and Action Group and the Wales Marine Fisheries Advisory Group. A current focus is to understand and agree ways of working over the coastal boundary, so we can ensure the process adds value in supporting integrated management over this important and unique boundary.

We are in the process of developing a communications framework, to support officers working in place to have conversations with local stakeholders, as well as the ongoing National conversations.

If your organisation has local representatives, or you operate at a local level in Wales, please get in touch with one of the Area Statement coordinators for an initial chat, and to be added to local stakeholder contact lists.

North West Wales Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Snowdonia National Park	Gethin Davies	Gethin.Davies@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk
North East Wales Flintshire, Wrexham, Denbighshire	tbc (Contact Justin Hanson in the interim)	Justin.Hanson@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk
Mid Wales Powys, Ceredigion	Patrick Green	Patrick.Green@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk
South West Wales Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire Swansea, Neath Port Talbot	Jerry Griffiths	Jerry.Griffiths@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk
South East Wales Monmouthshire, Newport, Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly	Fen Turner	Fen.Turner@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk
South Central Wales Cardiff, Vale of Glamorgan, Merthyr, RCT, Bridgend	Christian Servini	Christian.Servini@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk
Marine Area	Kathryn Hughes	Kathryn.Hughes@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

Or you can email the central mailbox at SMNR@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

Timescales

We hope to develop a loose timeframe for Area Statements setting out our work over the next 12-18 months, but are keen that we retain a flexible and adaptive approach. We expect that rather than one area statement document, there will need to be a range of different resources developed over time, depending on the stakeholders and delivery mechanisms that we need to work with and inform.

This is very much an iterative process. As soon as we begin to see the first products, and maybe even projects emerging from the area statement process – for example, mapped data and evidence about the natural resources, benefits they provide, priorities and risks – we will be sharing them, and seeking further feedback on their value and use.

Funding Update

One of the early opportunities that has been identified is to use our partnership funding to support both the development and delivery of Area Statements.

Funding other organisations to deliver environmental and other benefits has been central to our way of working. This has been via both grant funding and contributing to projects, large and small. The work of our partners is crucial to support the sustainable management of our natural resources.

We're committed to continue being a funding organisation but we want to improve the way we distribute funding, in line with the new ways of working enshrined within legislation, and we need a new funding approach to support this. With that in mind:

- We are going to fund projects in each of the areas covered by Area Statements – over time, aligned to the priorities, risks and opportunities in those places.
- We will fund 'All Wales' projects recognising the interventions that are best delivered once for Wales, or at a particular spatial scale.
- We will use this process to help identify challenges that together we need to address.

Full detail on the challenges and guidance on submitting Expressions of Interest will be available at the end of November.

We will have a 2-stage process, inviting initial expressions of interest, followed by invitation to make a full application. For **general enquiries** please contact: external.funding@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

We are keen to use this approach to have conversations with partners about the local priorities and opportunities for sustainable management of natural resources, which in turn can be captured and reflected back in area statements. Even if expressions of interest are not successful in accessing funding this time round, we hope that the information collated will help to shape future work. We hope the approach will help to make connections between different organisations seeking similar objectives and may lead to other forms of support.