

Wales Marine Action and Advisory Group

Key messages and Actions

Title of Meeting	Wales Marine Action & Advisory Group (WMAAG)		Date	07.06.2018
Meeting Number	9	Start Time	10:00	End Time 16:15
Attendance	Peter Davies (Chair) (PD Partnership), Nick Barcock (Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water), Neville Rookes (Welsh Local Government Association), Rachel Sharp (Wildlife Trust Wales), Lesley Jones (Keep Wales Tidy), Mike Parry (Chair Pwllheli Partnership), Emily Williams (RSPB), Deanna Groom (RCAHMW), Becky Phillips (JNCC), Gill Bell (Marine Conservation Society & Wales Environment Link), David Jones (Marine Energy Pembrokeshire & Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum), Phil Hollington (Cragen Llyn a Mon), Jonathan Monk (Milford Haven Port Authority), Lucy Taylor (Severn Estuary Partnership), Rhoda Ballinger (Cardiff University), Jetske Germing (Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum & Surfers Against Sewage), Rhian Jardine (Natural Resources Wales), Kathryn Hughes (Natural Resources Wales), Mary Lewis (Natural Resources Wales), Dan Crook (Natural Resources Wales), Tegryn Jones (Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority), Graham Rees (Welsh Government), James Watkins (Welsh Government), Gary Douch (Welsh Government), Louise George (Welsh Government), Pat Cowdy (Welsh Government), Michelle Billing (Welsh Government), Sharon Davies (Welsh Government), Owain Edwards (Welsh Government), Rebecca Gorman (Welsh Government), Hilary Evans (Welsh Government)			
Guests	Gareth Hall (Welsh Government), Gemma Christian (Welsh Government), Cath Osborne (Welsh Government) Dom Ferris & Jack Middleton (Surfers Against Sewage)			
Apologies	Jim Evans (Welsh Fishermen's Association), Nick O'Sullivan (Wales Marine Fisheries Advisory Group), Trevor Jones (Welsh Aquaculture), Alan Morgan (Chair British Marine Wales), Emma Barton (Royal Yachting Association), Eve Read (Dŵr Cymru), David McDermott (Saundersfoot Harbour Association), Mark Russell (British Marine Aggregates Association), David Tudor (The Crown Estate),			

#	Agenda Item
1.	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies
2.	EU transition and the Seas and Coasts sub group feedback
3.	Group familiarisation session
4.	Clean Seas Partnership workshop
5.	National Development Framework presentation
6.	NRW Area Statements and Evidence Base workshop
7.	Marine Evidence Requirements Plan
8.	Brexit: Seas and Coast product consideration workshop
9.	Summary and reflections from the day
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 9th meeting at the Life Sciences Hub, Cardiff Bay on the 7 June 2018. 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 1: Welcome, introductions and apologies

Key messages	Actions
<p>There were a number of apologies as some members were committed to other meetings such as the EU Brexit Round-table and being involved in the Volvo Ocean Race.</p> <p>Actions from the last meeting in November were noted as either complete or being addressed in the meeting.</p> <p>WMAAG members provided the chair with some helpful contributions on how the group functions.</p>	<p>1.1 Members to note the dates of the Marine Planning workshops detailed in the Marine User Update and invited to input into some of the key implementation themes.</p> <p>1.2 Members to submit any future contributions for shaping the thinking for the group and stakeholder engagement going forward to Peter@pdpartnership.com.uk</p>

Item 2: Group Familiarisation Session

Key messages	Actions
<p>During the familiarisation session members discussed top achievements by individual organisations and sectors. The group reflected on how the collaborative nature of WMAAG has contributed to delivering in a number of key areas.</p> <p>Notable achievements are:</p> <p>The Marine Planning Stakeholder Reference Group and Aggregates Working Group have provided constructive and informed engagement which has helped with the co-development of the draft Welsh National Marine Plan.</p> <p>Lots of positive work has been going on within Marine Protected Areas (MPA). The MPA</p>	<p>2.1 MPA Steering Group Action Plan – Louise George to raise the request for any Action Plan to be consulted upon before publication.</p>

<p>Steering Group is developing an Action Plan, which members are keen to be consulted on before its publication.</p> <p>Members have contributed to the Brexit preparations through sub groups such as the Seas and Coast group. New technologies in monitoring and catch reporting are being developed to enhance our knowledge through data collection.</p> <p>The Clean Seas Partnership provides a unique task and finish group where stakeholders developed and are implementing a marine litter action plan for Wales. Partners are individually and collectively taking forward actions to tackle marine litter.</p> <p>The Volvo Ocean Race has helped put Wales firmly on the world platform. The Environment Minister committed to the Clean Seas agenda and announced Wales to become the first Refill nation giving free access to drinking water along length of coastal path.</p> <p>Development of a Marine Wales website provides a shop window for all marine activities and focusses on promoting investment in the Welsh marine area. The vision of which was from feedback and engagement with WMAAG.</p> <p>Annex 1 includes further details.</p>	<p>2.2 Refill – Members requested to provide useful information and ideas to assist the Wales co-ordinator in rolling out the Refill project. Email Catherine.Osborne@gov.wales</p> <p>2.3 Members to view the Business Wales Marine Wales website and provide feedback to Becky and Hilary.</p> <p>2.4 Members to nominate communications representatives who can receive training to provide additional content for the website.</p>
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Item 3: Clean Seas Partnership workshop

Key Points	Actions
<p>The Environment Minister gave a speech commending the CSP group on their work and reiterating her commitment to tackling marine litter in Wales. At the end of the speech she endorsed and launched the NARC video. Following the speech the Minister then joined the groups in their workshop.</p>	

Themes around the tables discussed the Refill project, Turning the Tide on Plastic by supporting businesses to go plastic free; the All Wales Beach Clean and sharing plans on behaviour change through the plastic free communities and schools.

Key messages from the workshop are grouped into the following themes:

Support

Funding is needed for research and development and to support business opportunities where focus is on reducing amount of plastic waste. Procurement should have requirements ensuring a reduction in plastic use.

Awareness

Momentum has gained rapidly and the challenge is to harness and maintain that momentum. Education and awareness should be targeted towards providing guidance on how people and businesses can become plastic free.

Supply chains

Work required in understanding why companies are not single-use plastic (SUP) free and move businesses away from the disposable mind-set. Good progress being made with the Plastic Free Communities initiative.

Enabling

Activities such as the All Wales Beach Clean to be promoted and publicised through the Clean Seas Partnership across national organisations and take a long-term co-ordinated approach.

Prevention

Prevention needs to be through a mixture of voluntary measures, incentivising and legislation. Extended Producer Responsibility, the Refill project and commitment to DRS are

3.1 Steering group for All Wales Beach Clean to be set up.

3.2 All Wales Beach Clean to be promoted through the Clean Seas Partnership webpages.

positive steps to turn the tide on plastic. See Annex 2 for workshop output.	
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Item 4: National Development Framework Presentation

Key messages	Actions
Gareth Hall gave a presentation on the National Development Framework which articulates the WBFG Act and Programme for Government. The NDF has a shared structure with the new Planning Policy Wales (PPW) and provides direction for Strategic Development Plans and Local Development Plans.	4.1 Members to provide feedback on the consultation and spread the message to their stakeholders.

Item 5: NRW Area Statements and Evidence Base Workshop

Key Messages	Action
<p>Kathryn Hughes (NRW) gave an introduction on Area Statements which NRW have a requirement to complete to raise awareness and progress made to date. Stakeholders will be the main drivers in what goes into the area statements.</p> <p>The workshop focussed on gathering feedback on the marine Area Profile and Emerging Themes, and to discuss engaging with key stakeholders and partners throughout Wales, at a national and local scale.</p> <p>See Annex 3 for workshop output.</p>	<p>5.1 Members to complete Area Statements stakeholder online survey at: https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/AreaStat/</p>

Item 6: Marine Evidence Requirements Plan

Key Message	Actions
<p>James Watkins presented an initial draft Welsh Marine Evidence Requirements Plan to share the plan at its earliest stage and test whether stakeholders felt there is a need for this plan.</p> <p>The purpose of the WMER Plan is a strategic plan to capture the policy requirements evidence gathering and influence government to steer key priorities as we enter Brexit negotiations. Priorities fall into 3 key areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strategic research - monitoring - analysis <p>The vision is to create an online space where users can search all available evidence in one place.</p> <p>In order to determine what research is going on a panel of experts will be required to co-develop and review the plan.</p> <p>Members welcomed the vision for the WMER. Some concern was raised regarding establishing baselines. Members agreed the focus of the plan should be on evidence <u>needs</u> not evidence gaps.</p>	<p>6.1 Members to provide feedback on draft Marine Evidence Requirements Plan to james.watkins@gov.wales</p>

Item 7: Brexit: Seas and Coasts product consideration workshop

Key Message	Action
<p>Owain Edwards gave an update on the work of the Brexit Seas and Coasts group and outlined the agreed key strategic priorities.</p> <p>Members were invited to provide suggestions to help influence future agenda items. Members felt there was a degree of uncertainty around day one readiness. A paper will be</p>	<p>7.1 Members to put forward agenda items and suggestions for future meetings.</p>

produced to set into place our position to ensure we hold onto our position going into Brexit.	
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Item 8: Summary and reflections from the day

Key Points	Actions
<p>Deanna Groom gave an update on the CHERISH project.</p> <p>Graham Rees thanked the group for their committed efforts to ensuring the success of WMAAG and emphasised how the group will only work if everyone continues to put in this effort and contribute towards our collective goals.</p> <p>The Chair believed the collaborative working demonstrated in the Clean Seas session was very well-received by the Environment Minister and agreed to send a thank you note on behalf of members for her attendance and support given to the group.</p> <p>Members were encouraged to send in suggestions for locations and agenda items for the next WMAAG meeting which will be 21st November, location tbc.</p> <p>The Chair thanked members for a productive meeting and commended the group on the positive achievements which have been made in the last 12 months.</p>	<p>8.1 Thank you note to be sent to the Environment Minister</p>

Annex 1 - Group Familiarisation Session

Marine Planning and Sustainable Development

- The **Marine Planning Stakeholder Reference Group** played an instrumental part in providing constructive and informed engagement. This helped greatly with the co-development of the draft Welsh National Marine Plan. General positive response to the consultations.
- The **Aggregates Working Group** has reviewed the marine aggregates dredging policy which has been consulted upon as part of the Welsh National Marine Plan.
- Lots of positive work on Brexit and development of the Marine Plan.
- NRW supporting sustainable development in the marine environment and providing input to the marine plan and plan level assessments.

Marine Environment and Sustainable Resource Management

- **NRW** improving understanding of the marine environment through such things as developing a monitoring programme, producing indicative Site Feature Condition Reports and MPA Network Condition Improvement Project and the Area Statement process.
- **NRW** have developed and applied a funding scheme for partners to deliver innovative work.
- **Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum** have progressed three EOIs into business plans with NRW.
- **Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum** has been taking Sustainable Resource Management messages to new audiences to pass on to their customers.
- Pembs Marine Code project being taken to the Pen Llyn a Sarnau SAC. Lots of valuable lessons to be learnt regarding spatial approaches on marine codes of conduct.
- The Marine Protected Areas are a big priority and there has been positive progress with work on these sites.
- **RSPB** - The Living Levels is a landscape partnership reconnecting people to nature in the Gwent levels using Heritage and lottery funding.
- **RSPB** reported increasing lapwing numbers on the coast.
- Marine Protected Areas – this is a big priority area and there has been a lot of positive work on protected sites. The MPA Steering Group are in the process of developing an Action Plan which members expressed a wish to consult of a draft Action Plan before it was published.

Brexit

- Work going on in science and ICT in light of Brexit.
- Vessel monitoring on <12m vessels where Brexit has been the main driver, however monitoring and catch reporting is increasing knowledge through the collection of data.
- Export catch certificates post Brexit will be relevant to monitoring and science.
- Ports are carrying out preparation for Brexit.

Tackling Marine Litter

- The [Clean Seas Partnership](#) provides a unique task and finish group where stakeholders are committed to tackling marine litter through developing and implementing a marine litter action plan for Wales. Its partners are delivering much work to tackle marine litter.
- **Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum** As a coastal partnership in its 18th year, in challenging conditions PCF has grown to now have ten members of staff making the largest coastal partnership in the UK.
- **Surfers Against Sewage** reported the success of **Plastic Free Communities** and Schools projects launched in July. Aberporth, Aberystwyth and Newquay have achieved plastic free status with 17 communities in Wales currently working towards it. Carrying out 53 beach cleans in Wales.
- **Marine Conservation Society** – Plastic Free Challenge campaign.
- **Keep Wales Tidy** - Presence and engagement with Volvo Ocean Race stop over in Cardiff to raise profile of plastic pollution and marine litter.
- School events to raise awareness around the issues.
- **All Wales Beach Clean** – aim for the first time to clean all accessible beaches over a period of few days.
- The **Volvo Ocean Race** has helped put Wales firmly on the world platform. The Environment Minister committing to the Clean Seas agenda. The Marine Conservation Society received positive and supportive conversations and how industry are keen to support the Government in turning the tide on plastic. Keep Wales Tidy received a round of applause when it announced Wales has more blue flags than the rest of the UK.
- **Refill** – the Environment Minister announced at the VoR the Welsh Government’s ambition to become the world’s first refill nation giving free access to drinking water along length of coastal path. The Welsh Government are working with the City 2 Sea project to appoint a Wales co-ordinator.

Stakeholder Engagement

- Development of the [Business Wales: Marine Wales](#) website. The vision for the website was formed from feedback and engagement with WMAAG. The site now provides a shop window for all marine activities and focusses on promoting investment in the Welsh marine area.
 - **Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum** taking sustainable coastal management and issues into local schools and delivered as part of curriculum.
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Annex 2 – Clean Seas Partnership Workshop outputs

Themes around the tables discussed the Refill project, Turning the Tide on Plastic by supporting businesses to go plastic free; the All Wales Beach Clean and sharing plans on behaviour change through the plastic free communities and schools.

Refill Project and other initiatives

Group discussed the rollout of the Refill project with Cath Osborne. There will be a co-ordinator however they will rely on information and assistance from stakeholders. Members asked to provide useful information and ideas to assist the Wales co-ordinator to Cath - Email Catherine.Osborne@gov.wales.

Existing and potential initiatives were discussed:

- Refill initiative linking to City to Sea
- MCS Plastic challenge
- One plastic free day which could contribute to a plastic free world
- Surfers Against Sewage plastic free communities
- Coffee cup levy – lots of coffee companies already focused on this issue.
- DRS Commitment for Wales/ Producer responsibility statement by Minister
- Iceland plastic free label foods.
- Labels with “currently not recyclable” should not be allowed.
- Wales led the Carrier bag charge – let Wales lead again.
- Reduce – Reuse – Recycle: Emphasis needs to be on Reduce
- Blue Flag – link to RNLI use as a vehicle to promote
- Visit Wales – Year of the Sea
- Message - why and where from to where to when recycled
- Salt Marsh Sweep – Severn Estuary Partnership

Supporting businesses to go plastic free

Funding is needed for research and development and to support business opportunities where focus is on reducing amount of plastic waste.

Research opportunities

- Extended Producer Responsibility report
- Other European nations have schemes in place, extending the consumer responsibility – i.e. Norway’s bottle and cans deposit recycling scheme.
- Modelling where litter comes from – public litter, fishing litter, public perception re: litter.
- Compostables need further investigating ie Veg ware, phone cases, (flaxseed, compostable but some plastics).
- What residual is left?
- Where can it be composted?
- Cardboard packaging – impact on forestry (here/elsewhere)
- Biocomposites – using bio materials to replace plastics i.e. bags/cups
- Need to be mindful of unintended consequences eg: replacing use of plastics – does it just move the problem elsewhere?
- Some materials still needing to be incinerated – would replacements increase this?
- Where does the biodegradable waste get sent to biodegrade – what are the waste processes and potential issues of these?
- Wider use of environmental impact assessments – on initiatives other than legislative.

Development Opportunities

Encourage business to explore opportunities to reduce plastic usage:

- Opportunities for producing re-usable items i.e. bags/ cups.
- Plastic free aisles
- Businesses need the advice, support and supply chain networks to be in place.
- Working with retailers/companies to look at how they use plastics in packaging – some use of plastics will continue, but where can that plastic be used again – adding value for re-use.
- Anaerobic digesters
- Alternative materials - Production of biodegradable materials needs to be sustainable.
- How to go to the next level – plastics being the driver for initiatives to reuse other waste.

Funding examples which could be utilised:

- Visit Wales funding
- LA funding? - unlikely
- Energy from waste = major income stream for Local Authorities.
- Circular Economy Capital Investment Fund – 2019 - £6.5m to support Welsh SMEs move towards a 'circular economy' approach.

Public Procurement

- Put pressure on contracts to state reduce plastic usage eg: Health sector – 50% of devolved budget goes on health – what pressure could be brought on the sector? High level of single use plastics, some necessary for hygiene reasons – what about others?
- Use of plastic cutlery in secondary schools in Pembrokeshire – of 8 secondary schools only one school using stainless steel cutlery.
- Festivals/promotions – putting restrictions on single use plastics as a condition of support/endorsement from organisations such as Visit Wales.
- Likewise on grants/funding – conditions attached to approvals.
- See attached article on health service using disposable cups - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-44362392>

Supply Chain

- Understand reasons why companies are not single-use plastic (SUP) free.
- Need to map supply chain
- How to get away from disposable mind-set?
- How mainstream is plastic free?
- Voluntary measures only go so far – need legislative measures too.
- Other incentives – not just financial.
- Food on-the-go sector – currently voluntary

All Wales Beach Clean

Group discussed the co-ordination and potential opportunities for All Wales Beach Clean event in September.

- First time taken place – needs to be promoted through Clean Seas Partnership
- Raising awareness and embedding public dialogue
- Regional manager KWT leading and resource to extend
- Steering group to be set up – registration available online.
- Beach cleans connect their lifestyle to impact

- Importance of well-being of being outside – links to WBFG Act
- Tie to Welsh language – Beach cleans available in Welsh
- Beach sieve – make things from the plastic recovered.

What else should we think about and attract publicity?

- Reaching out to national organisations – scouts / WI / YFC/ Duke of Edinburgh / Welsh BAC / University (students union)
- 15/16 September – MCS UK Beach Clean
- Local Authority volunteer days
- Business organisations such as FSB
- Severn Estuary (cross border) = consistent data set
- Promoting MCS service
- Photos before and after.
- World Oceans Day 2019 – update and tell the story 12 months from today.

What are our key messages?

- Think about the source
- Think about how to motivate change

Actions for All Wales Beach Clean:

- Steering group to be set up (Contact Lesley/Peter for details)
- Promote event through Cleans Seas Partnership webpages

Enabling behaviour change

All groups discussed avenues for behaviour change through community involvement and education.

Fishing for Litter

Fishing for litter is needed in some areas – ie Hobbs Point & Pembroke Dock.

Get out of the like minded bubble – through legislation, through incentivising.

- Port of Milford Haven – Fishing for litter skip
- Needed in fisheries. Can legislate – re: pots, escape hatches. Some fishermen now requesting escape hatches. Eg Canada – every pot needs to be labelled, string of pots is labelled here.
- SAC / Sue Burton – initiative in Pembrokeshire worked well however such an initiative needs paying for.
- Ghost fishing – even if we work well in Wales global waste is still an issue.
- Grassholm Island - annual freeing of birds (Gannets) from fishing line – but we don't know where it comes from.
- Angling – one of the largest participation sports in the UK – alternatives to nylon fishing line?

Community level

- Public momentum very high and interest has grown rapidly how do we maintain the momentum?
- Blue Planet effect has raised awareness in a way government can't which could help make behavioural changes.
- Community guidelines – support for communities to raise awareness of the problem and inform people of what can be done to reduce waste.
- Focussing on small wins in the right direction.
- Awareness raising; signposting; harnessing the public momentum.
- Realistic targets for waste reduction – what is achievable – 'plastic free' sounds unattainable.
- Make it achievable and easy to be plastic free.
- Plastic Free communities
- Link video's on to website.

- Make littering socially unacceptable and 'fine-able'.

To encourage behaviour change we need to be asking the questions:

- Do we need to use it?
- How are we using it?
- How do we dispose of it?
- Putting a value on waste – deposit refundable bottles etc – “5p matters when you can get it back”.

Education

Mix needed Education, legislation, fines and other incentives

Language links – tie to Welsh language aspiration

- Urdd
- Embed in Welsh school curriculum
- Welsh BAC
- Influence behaviour change in young people.

Longer term approach

- Now is the time to ride the Wave – develop Brand Cymru
- Fit work streams together
- Lead the way – like with carrier bag charge.
- LAs want to coordinate with volunteers
- Possible vehicles:
- Facebook to highlight group
- Wild Seas Wales site
- Clean Seas Partnership page - Functionality of a diary on CSP webpage.
- Wider use of environmental impact assessments – on initiatives other than legislative.

Annex 3 – NRW Area Statements and Evidence Base workshop



Writeup External
WMAAG June 2018.p

END