



**Marine Planning Stakeholder Reference Group (MPSRG)
Strategic Resource Areas (SRA) Workshop No 2
4 September 2018**

Purpose: Discuss options and solutions to the concept of SRAs.

Attendees

Phil Coates (Welsh Government), **Rebecca Rees** (Welsh Government), Adrian Judd (Cefas), **Mark Russell** (Mineral Products), **Peter Barham** (SUDG), **Christopher O'Brien** (RSPB / WEL), **Adrian Judd** (Cefas), **Lee Murray** (NRW), **Gary Douch** (WG marine licensing), **Lisa Phillips** (NRW), **Mike Butterfield** (RYA), **Duncan Savage** (RYA), **Rachel McCall** (SUAG), **Mike Frost** (Wood Group), **Gemma Christian** (WG planning)

1. Following the initial workshop on Strategic Resource Areas (SRA) in Llandudno Junction in July, members of the Marine Planning Stakeholder Reference Group were invited to a follow up workshop to build on the last workshop and provide greater clarity on SRAs.
2. Welsh Government officials had looked through the different sectors in the Welsh National Marine Plan and had tried to address the concerns or the perceived concerns raised in the July workshop. Broad comments that had previously been received had been added into the document and presented against the key themes with suggestions. Proposals were set out to the workshop that changes be made to:
 - the wording of supporting policies and that they became less area specific and;
 - the safeguarding policies be set to an overall model that better reflected activities (as opposed to being purely resource based), and future area potential (as SRAs) that reflected the current evidence base; whilst retaining the same level of previous safeguarding policy actions.

This proposal was considered in the context of:

 - proposed marine planning guidance that would shape plan implementation actions and
 - the evidence base within which to take decisions (and role of the Portal).
3. The group were presented with policy implications and working of suggested safeguarding policies SAF-01(a & b) and SAF-02 (SRAs). Areas in which there is an existing activity or permission would still be the most heavily



safeguarded (“exceptional circumstances”), to which would be added exploration / option areas thus reducing two previously separate polices to one.

4. Comments received included the implications for Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment and whether there was a need to re-consult on the changes that were being made. It was confirmed that as the changes were being made as a result of stakeholder feedback on the consultation, legal advice had indicated that this didn't need to be consulted on again.
5. Attendees made comments relating to the weighting of different Strategic Resource Areas and how these were aligned in the plan and the implementation guidance.
6. Attendees felt they needed time to consider the implications of the suggested changes e.g. on decision process, on existing sector management and sector interactions. Also to consider the context of what the actual sector policy texts might say once revised, how sectors interact and how the polices are to be guided to be implemented via revised guidance.

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