

Environment and Rural Affairs EU Transition Roundtable

Seas and Coast Subgroup – Key Points and Actions

Wednesday 13 September 2017 13:30 - 17:00

Conference Room, Llys y Ddraig, Penllergaer, Swansea. SA4 9NX

Attendees

WLGA	Chair of WMFAG
Natural Resources Wales	Welsh Fishermen's Association
MHPA	Graham Rees – Welsh Government (Chair)
Wales Wildlife Trust	Andy Fraser – Welsh Government
PD Partnership	Welsh Government
RSPB	Welsh Government
Pembs Coast National Park	Welsh Government

Apologies

Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum

Key points

- Need to establish the value of the Marine environment (public good agenda).
- Need to recognise the specific issues affecting coastal communities as well as those affecting rural communities when drafting the white paper. Economic impact of age demographic and lack of support payments for coastal communities were noted.
- The issue of different marine codes (and Local Authority byelaws) in different parts of Wales was raised.
- Consideration of brand Wales - the investment needed and the importance of pushing through pre brexit. 2018 is 'Year of the Sea' and should be used to push through brand Wales and the sustainability agenda. Volvo oceans race next year - opportunity to hold Marine events (UN clean seas pledge as a branding or messaging platform). Also a suggestion that Wales could benefit from its own fisheries marketing board to promote the fish that is caught in seas around Wales.
- International or domestic environmental obligations should not be undermined or watered down and in some cases need to strengthen post brexit. Schemes should be considered to raise funds to be pumped back into coastal communities. Some ideas were discussed such as a Tourist tax; scheme involving making payments or giving additional quota to fishermen to help clean the oceans by bringing plastics found in gear to shore for disposal.
- Medium and long term objectives need to be considered in the white paper.
- A suggestion that the 'Synthesis of Strategic Priorities' document is split into one high level summary and a 'Risk Register'.
- Comments / Suggestions for the Discussion document:
 - Principles – include MACCA in the list of Overarching obligations.
 - Objectives
 - reference the right to challenge.
 - ensure reference to 'fishing communities' includes 'coastal'
 - 'Interventions and Capability' should be prioritised.

Actions

Number	Description	Owner
1	Carried Forward – Ensure representation of the academic & Tourism sector is achieved by appointing appropriate representatives	GR
2	Carried Forward - Explanatory Notes on subjects such as the CFP – add 'EU Institutions' – how they function, what powers they use, how they will be replaced.	WG
3	Carried Forward - Notes from Round Table sessions to be circulated.	WG
4	Carried Forward - Final Terms of Reference to be circulated.	WG
5	WG to attend a future meeting to give a presentation on work being commissioned on value of marine activities	WG
6	Pose questions regarding coastal communities to People & Communities Subgroup	WG
7	WLGA to provide link to 'Future of the Sea – Health & Wellbeing of Coastal Communities' for circulation to the group.	WLGA
8	Comments back from Members on 'Scenarios Papers and slides'.	All
9	WLGA to provide a synopsis of work undertaken by the WLGA in relation to marine byelaws	WLGA
10	A few areas of 'Synthesis of Strategic Priorities' document to be included on agenda and discussed at future SG meetings.	AF
11	Recast synthesis of strategic priorities paper to ensure effective risk management and monitoring of actions.	AF
12	WWT to provide Aarhus Convention briefing on Greener UK for circulation.	WWT
13	Feedback on discussion document required from members by Wednesday 20 September.	All
14	RSPB to forward a link to the MCS Ministerial briefing for circulation.	RSPB