

## **Seas and Coast Subgroup**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **Context**

Due to the interconnected nature and management of our seas, the vote to leave the EU has led to significant challenges for Wales in terms of its role within the UK and within the broader sea region. Most aspects of marine and fisheries policy are devolved and other areas, for example ports policy, is being devolved by the Wales Act 2017. Additionally we have a complex mix of executive and legislative competence, different regimes for the inshore and offshore areas and direct legislation from the EU to consider.

Through EU exit, International obligations will come more to the fore. Wales will need to understand how it best meets its obligations, in conjunction with other parts of the UK. Welsh policies will need to be developed, in line with the Wellbeing of Future Generation and Environment Acts which encourage us to focus on multiple benefits for the people of Wales and ecosystem reliance, for example. There may be opportunities to refine management measures to better fit Welsh needs, whilst building on their overall contribution to a healthy and productive ecosystem.

As the Article 50 process gathers momentum, there is a need for the Welsh Government to work closely with stakeholders to obtain input into policy development and legislative changes affecting Wales. This may require more frequent workshops, which may sometimes be at short notice. There is also a need for the stakeholders involved to gain a broader and more detailed understanding of the intra / extra UK and Welsh policy and legislative landscape, to maintain key links with other sub-groups and the roundtable group and to advise how best to engage broader stakeholder interests in this complex and fast moving area.

The ERA Roundtable Group has determined that a series of thematic and cross cutting groups should be established to take forward work on developing our EU exit negotiation position and to shape the policies and actions to deliver the vision of the 'Wales we want' in relation to the environment and rural affairs. Marine and Fisheries already has established and mature stakeholder groups in the form of the Welsh Marine Advisory and Action Group (WMAAG) and the Welsh Marine Fisheries Advisory Group (WMFAG). Taking on board the views of stakeholders, that we should build on these and not seek to duplicate, we are of the view that instead of forming a separate "Rivers and Seas Sub-Group", we should form a "Seas and Coast Sub-Group". Membership is drawn from the EU Roundtable stakeholder group and WMAAG and WMFAG representation. The sub-group is further supplemented, where necessary, by colleagues from tourism and the academic sectors.

#### **Scope of the Seas and Coast Subgroup**

This subgroup is gathered together to assist the Cabinet Secretary and Welsh Government officials with expertise and leadership in:

- Assessing the impact of the Article 50 process and emerging issues on Wales' approach to its coasts and sea;
- Providing advice and input into policy and legislative considerations
- Engaging with broader stakeholder communities in the most effective way;
- Maintaining links with other sub-groups and the roundtable group; and
- Helping to identify the robustness of existing evidence, areas where evidence gaps exist, and potential evidence sources which might address any shortcomings

## Membership

The Seas and Coast Sub-Group will be chaired by Graham Rees, Head of Marine and Fisheries, Welsh Government.

For logistical reasons the membership of the group will be limited to twelve (including academia). This membership will be drawn from the Roundtable (list below) and will be representative of the areas most affected by EU exit, representing key stakeholders in socio, economic and environmental areas.

If stakeholders believe their sector will be directly affected by EU exit and will not be represented by those set out below additional nominations may be proposed by WMAAG or WMSAG members through a case to the [Chair](#).

[The Public Policy Institute for Wales](#) (PPIW) are currently undertaking some evidence work and will be asked to help identify suitable academics that may be able to supplement the group. The work of the group and any updates will be made via the WMAAG / WMFAG channels and

(Invited members - 11)

WMAAG member & new Roundtable member

Wales Wildlife Trust & Roundtable member

Welsh Fishermens' Association, WMAAG, WMFAG and Roundtable member

Aquaculture businesses, Food and Drink Advisory Partnership Member & Roundtable member]

Wales Marine Fisheries Advisory Group, Roundtable member and WMAAG member.

Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum/Director Marine Energy Wales & WMAAG member.

Natural Resources Wales & WMAAG member.

Welsh Local Government Association & WMAAG member.

Environmental Manager at the Port of Milford Haven (representing Welsh Ports Group), WMAAG & Roundtable member.

RSPB Chair & Roundtable member

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (representing Tourism and land / sea interface) also invited to join WMAAG

**Academia** - To be confirmed in conjunction with PPIW

## Ways of working

Given the key role this group will have in advising future Welsh policy, it is important that group members are able to:

- Understand the broad policy and legislative context;
- Offer the time to attend meetings and workshops (likely to be in Aberystwyth but, once established, would encourage meeting via teleconference or other remote means)
- Work collaboratively, seeing the bigger picture, understanding the needs of all marine users and interests, working in accordance with the Well Being of Future Generations Act to seek to get the best result for Wales as a whole.
- Reach decisions, agree communication, deal sensitively with the points discussed and avoid continuing debate outside of the workshops / meetings.
- Presenting the sub-groups findings to the Roundtable Group to inform their discussions on the implications of EU exit.

In particular, it will

- Work collaboratively – across organisations, but also with other stakeholders; and
- Work with integrity and respectfully challenge each other to consider how we can do things differently/better

### **Key Objectives and Tasks:**

[to be defined and agreed with the Group]

### **Meeting dates**

The initial meetings will need to be face-to-face to enable all members to develop a common understanding of the context. Beyond that, Welsh Government will seek to make use of video and teleconference to ease the burden on travel and time.

Initial meetings dates are set out below;

- 20 June 17: 11:00-15:00, Cilgerran Room, Rhodfa Padarn, Aberystwyth.
- 11 July 17: 11:00- 15:00 Cilgerran Room, Rhodfa Padarn, Aberystwyth

**Marine and Fisheries Division**

16/06/2017