

MPA Management Steering Group

Key Messages and Actions

Title of Meeting	MPA Management Steering Group – telecon meeting –		Date	02.10.2019
Meeting Number	7	Start Time	1:15	End Time 2:00
Attendance	Gareth Bevington (Welsh Government - Chair), Wendy Dodds (Welsh Government), James Millington (Welsh Government) Helen Bloomfield (Natural Resources Wales), Maggie Hatton-Ellis (Natural Resources Wales), Jonathan Monk (Welsh Ports Group), Kerstin Kröger (Joint Nature Conservation Committee)			
Apologies	Chris Jenkins (Welsh Government), Eve Read (Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water), Tegryn Jones (Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority/Snowdonia National Park Authority), Rhian Jardine (Natural Resources Wales), Yolanda Arjona (Joint Nature Conservation Committee)			

No	Agenda Item
1	Welcome & introductions
2	Annual timetable for development of 2020-2021 Action Plan & 2019-2020 Annual Report
3	WMAAG Sub-group
4	Actions from last meeting

Introduction

The Marine Protected Area Management Steering Group (MPAMSG) provides strategic co-ordination for the management of all MPAs in Welsh seas. The Group provides advice, guidance and a collective steer to authorities involved in the delivery of MPA management actions. It champions effective MPA management, and is tasked with raising the profile of MPA management and increasing buy-in from management authorities and wider stakeholders across Wales.

Membership of the MPAMSG is drawn from the key management authorities in Wales, as defined by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

The Steering Group held its seventeenth meeting on 02 October 2019 via teleconference. Key messages and actions from the meeting are found within this document. Members of the MPAMSG have a responsibility for disseminating consistent messages with their respective networks.

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 lead, please contact the Marine and Fisheries Ministerial Mailbox: (MarineandFisheriesMinisterialMailbox@gov.wales)

Key Messages and Actions

Item 2: Annual timetable for Action Plan & Annual Report

Key messages	Actions
<p>Members discussed a draft timetable for the Steering Group for the production of the next Annual Report (2019-2020) and Action Plan (2020-2021).</p> <p>Members reflected on their experiences of the last cycle of Action Plan and Annual Report production. Suggested changes from Members to the upcoming timetable included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • need for input and feedback by the new WMAAG Marine Biodiversity Resilience Sub-Group into the next Call for Actions; • light touch approach on mid-year reporting that enables any risks to the delivery of actions to be identified; • revision to the templates used for information collection in relation to the Annual Report (i.e. mid-year review and the Call for Information) to capture essential information once that can then be re-used; • consideration of risks to, and timings of funding streams; with this to be communicated to the Steering Group when possible; • adequate time to be factored in for scoring of Actions by individual members, compilation by the secretariat and a collective discussion and consensus agreement by the Steering Group; • desire for the Annual Report to be more visual and impactful for the reader, including the communication of key message. Therefore, greater time to be afforded to synthesising and visualising the range of actions undertaken & successes. • adequate time for drafting, sign off and publication of both Annual Report and Action Plan. <p>Members agreed a timetable (Annex 1).</p>	<p>Welsh Government to produce template, guidance, with worked examples, to support the submissions of actions under the next Call for Action.</p> <p>Welsh Government to revise proformas associated with the Annual Report (i.e. mid-year review and Call for Information).</p>

Item 3: WMAAG Sub-Group

Key Messages	Actions
<p>Members welcomed proposals from Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales regarding the creation of WMAAG Sub-Group on Marine Biodiversity Resilience.</p> <p>Members discussed and agreed a collaborative process for engaging with the Sub-Group in the development of the next Action Plan (2020-2021), including the approach for the first Sub-Group where the Call for Actions will be opened & discussed through in order to enable effective submissions.</p>	<p>Welsh Government / NRW to ensure agenda for 1st Sub-Group meeting to include dates for 2020-2021 Action Plan Call for Actions (open & close).</p>

Item 4: Actions from last meeting

Key messages	Actions
<p>Members were advised that there were no outstanding actions from the last meeting (16 May 2019).</p>	

Annex 1: Annual Timetable

ANNUAL TIMETABLE 2019-2020		
MONTH	ACTION PLAN (AP)	ANNUAL REPORT (AR)
<p>October 2019</p>	<p>Virtual MPA Management Steering Group <u>meeting</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss & agree timetable for AP & AR development • Discuss & agree approach to upcoming WMAAG sub-group meeting 	
<p>November 2019</p>	<p>AP to be an agenda item on WMAAG Marine Biodiversity & Resilience Sub-Group (13th Nov) <u>workshop</u> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an overview of the Framework, purpose of the action plan & summary of the current 2019-2020 action plan 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present timetable going forward including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ open Call for Actions for 2020-2021 AP (3 months, deadline mid -January) ○ opportunity for partners to provide updates on actions that complement the AP (as well as for partners to update on AP actions). • Present guidance / prioritisation criteria for scoring actions, with worked examples • Feedback from stakeholders 	
	<p>Request info via template on mid-year review of 2019-2020 actions</p>	
<p>December 2019</p>	<p>Virtual MPA Management Steering Group meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal update on mid-year review progress of 2019-2020 Action Plan • WMAAG Sub-Group feedback • Discuss the format of the AR & information needed to be collected • Update (where possible) on future funding levels & risks 	
<p>January 2020</p>	<p>Close AP's Call for Actions (mid-January)</p> <p>Scoring of actions & submission of scores to secretariat</p>	
<p>February 2020</p>	<p>Scoring of actions – compilation by secretariat</p> <p><u>MPA Management Steering Group workshop</u> (mid Feb):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree actions to carry forward from current AP into next AP • Review actions submitted through the call, including screening out actions which are inconsistent with the management principles • Agree consensus score of actions 	

	<p>Virtual WMAAG Marine Biodiversity & Resilience Sub-Group <u>meeting</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Present & discuss the outcomes of the Steering Group i.e. the scoring and prioritisation <p>MPA Management Steering Group (by correspondence):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Agree final list of actions and consider where funding might be needed 	
March 2020	Confirm budget availability (if possible) and allocate as appropriate to agreed list of actions requiring funding.	Open AR Call for Information (2 months, deadline end April)
April 2020	Grant letters out to those who have secured funding.	Close AR Call for Information
May 2020	<p>MPA Management Steering Group (by correspondence):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Agree content of draft AP ● Drafting, full design, translation of AP 	<p>MPA Management Steering Group (by correspondence):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Agree content of draft AR ● Drafting, full design, translation of AR
June 2020	Final sign off of AP by MPA Management Steering Group and Minister	Final sign off of AR by MPA Management Steering Group and Minister
July 2020	Publish AP	Publish AR
August 2020	Delivery of actions	