

Marine Planning Decision Maker's Group (MPDMG)

20 November 2019



Attendees

Phil Coates, Rafe Osborne & Rebecca Rees (Welsh Government), Rachel Mulholland (Cefas), Claire Kavanagh and Mel Nicholls (MMO), Karen Perrow and Peter Morrison (NRW), Teresa Davies (WG – Planning), Thomas Bulpit and Helen Crosson (MCGA), Laura Nokes (MOD), Alan Groves (WG – Planning), John Williams (Anglesey Council), Eunice Pinn (Seafish), Wayne Hope (Denbighshire Council), Inger Soderstrom (OPRED), Sharon Davies (WG – Marine Licensing)

1. On 12 November the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs made an [oral statement](#) adopting and publishing [the Welsh National Marine Plan \(WNMP\)](#). Published alongside this were a number of other [supporting documents](#) (Habitats Regulation Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal and Addendum and the Summary of changes). The webinar was the first opportunity to liaise with group members post adoption, answer any queries they may have and consider processes going forwards. In accordance with Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA), the plan has statutory effect from 12 November 2019 and members were notified on the day.
2. A refreshed [Marine Planning Portal](#) accompanied the plan and included new data layers and the adopted plan policies. There would be further documents published this year including the SA Post Adoption Statement, a Vision, Objectives & Policies summary, an Overview of WNMP and an updated animation.
3. Following stakeholder feedback the Implementation Guidance (IG) had been separated from the Plan so it could be amended separately from the statutory plan. The IG is non-statutory guidance and a “relevant consideration” in decision-making, but has lesser weight than policies and guidance within the plan itself. This group had viewed the initial guidance in February and the follow up version in May. Since then the draft guidance had been reviewed for clarity and practical application and tested with Natural Resources Wales Licensing. The refreshed IG will be circulated to the group for consideration in due course.
4. Now the WNMP is adopted each Relevant Public Authority (RPA) will need to consider how to ensure they are in compliance with WNMP policy. Welsh Government marine planning staff will be supporting plan implementation where possible.
5. Engagement had started with RPAs with MCAA S58.1 type decision duties being prioritised. The biggest marine plan user is NRW permitting, in the issue of marine licences, and the marine planning team have held an introductory session with the NRW Licensing team.
6. A piece of work had been commissioned through consultants to map out all the relevant decisions taken by RPAs, building upon work commissioned by the Marine Management Organisation for English plans.

The next face to face meeting is planned for February 2020.

Queries to: Rebecca.Rees2@gov.wales