

WMAAG Marine Resilience Sub-group

Key Messages and Actions

Title of Meeting	WMAAG Marine Resilience Sub-group			Date	13.11.2019
Meeting Number	1	Start Time	10:30	End Time	15:30
Attendance	Gareth Bevington (Welsh Government – co Chair), Wendy Dodds (Welsh Government), James Millington (Welsh Government), Mark Bloomfield (Welsh Government), Rhian Jardine (Natural Resources Wales, NRW – co Chair), Mary Lewis (NRW), Dan Crook (NRW), Maggie Hatton Ellis (NRW), Nick O’Sullivan (WMFAG), Jim Evans (Welsh Fisherman’s Association), Dr Andrew Lucas (JNCC), Gill Bell (Marine Conservation Society), Phil Hollington (Cragen Lyn a Mon), Tabea Wilkes (RSPB Cymru), Clive Pearce (Welsh Federation of Sea Anglers).				
Apologies	Chris Jenkins (Welsh Government), Nick Barcock (Dwr Cymru), Rachel Sharp (Wildlife Trusts Wales), Jonathan Monk (Port of Milford Haven).				

Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

Key Messages	Actions
<p>Gareth Bevington as co-Chair welcomed members to the first meeting of the sub-group. He noted that Welsh Government, and NRW, recognised the need to create a dedicated forum for marine stakeholders to discuss, engage and work together on marine ecosystem resilience policy issues, and have therefore, established the sub-group for that purpose. He stated his support for the group and thanked members in advance for their engagement and input.</p> <p>Rhian Jardine expressed NRW’s commitment to the group and to work collaboratively with members on the range of marine resilience issues that the group will likely cover over the coming months and years.</p>	<p>Welsh Government to publish the terms of reference on the Welsh Government website.</p>

<p>Members discussed the need for the group to have focussed meetings only when agenda items require the group to be convened.</p> <p>The group agreed to adopt the terms of reference for the sub-group.</p> <p>Welsh Government apologised to 2 phone-based participants who had to call off due to the poor audio quality.</p>	<p>Welsh Government agreed to follow up individually after the meeting those participants that had tried to call in.</p> <p>Welsh Government and NRW to provide Skype facilities for future meetings to allow some attendees to dial in.</p>
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Item 2: MPA Network Management – Developing The Next Plan

Key Messages	Actions
<p>A presentation was given on the role and membership of the MPA Management Steering Group, the purpose of MPA Network Management Framework and the production and review cycle associated with the annual Action Plan.</p> <p>An overview was given of the process used by the Steering Group to prioritise actions submitted for potential inclusion in the Action Plan. This included a worked example of an action currently in the Action Plan, with an explanation as to how it was scored against each of the 5 scoring criteria (note: the criteria and management principles are set out the Framework and current Action Plan).</p> <p>Stakeholders were then put into 2 groups, given a hypothetical example action, the re-drafted guidance document for the prioritisation and scoring criteria. They were asked to score the action in their groups and come to a consensus on whether it would be a successful action for inclusion in and Action Plan. Members then provided feedback on the guidance document and the scoring process.</p> <p>The proposed timetable and key steps for the development of the next Action Plan by the Steering Group, including the role of the Sub-group, was discussed and agreed. Members also agreed to meet</p>	<p>Welsh Government and NRW to reconvene the Sub-group late February 2020.</p>

<p>again in late February to be updated on the outcomes of the Steering Group following the compilation and scoring of the Call for Actions.</p> <p>A three-month Call for Actions for the 2020-2021 MPA Network Management Plan was then opened, closing 17 January 2020. It was suggested that the Call should be widely circulated.</p>	<p>Welsh Government to disseminate the Call for Action, guidance document and template for submitting actions, to the WMAAG contact list and others.</p>
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Item 3: SoNaRR 2

Activities

Stakeholders were talked through the formulation and changes which are being made to SoNaRR 2 to make the report more user friendly and enable users to better access the data in a useable format. There was also a discussion of the forthcoming SoNaRR interim report, due to be published in December 2019.

Interactive sessions were held with stakeholders invited to begin discussions on two key areas of the report

1. **Ecosystem state and trends**
2. **Ecosystem services for well-being**

A consultation on these topics will be sent out to a wider Stakeholder audience in due course and feedback will be considered in the final drafting of the report.

Key Messages	Actions
<p>The Environment Act requires Natural Resources Wales to produce a State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) every five years (following the second report in December 2020), in the year prior to Assembly elections. It is NRW's most important evidence product.</p> <p>A key outcome is to inform the production of the Welsh Government's Natural Resources Policy (NRP). It provides an assessment of biodiversity in Wales, the state of our natural resources and the extent to which sustainable management of natural resources (SMNR) is being achieved. It contributes to the evidence base for the production of Area Statements and guides our</p>	<p>NRW to seek input from stakeholders regarding Ecosystem state and trends for inclusion into SoNaRR 2</p>

<p>objective to embed SMNR in all of our activities. The first SoNaRR strongly influenced the NRP of 2017. It looked at the state of Wales' resources and ecosystems, the pressures and threats to them and past and predicted future trends. We also assessed the resilience of Wales' ecosystems and the contributions they make to well-being. This resulted in key messages for each broad habitat and a series of broad priorities.</p>	
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