

Wales Marine Action and Advisory Group 13th Meeting, key messages and actions

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| Title of Meeting | Wales Marine Action & Advisory Group (WMAAG) | | | Date | 16.07.2020 |
| Meeting Number | 13 | Start Time | 13:30 | End Time | 15:31 |
| Attendance | <p>Peter Davies (Chair) (PD Partnership),</p> <p>Steve Griffiths (BASC), Mark Russell (British Marine Aggregates Association), Phil Hollington (Cragen Llyn a Mon), Jennifer Grubb (Dwr Cymru), Jonathan Monk (Port of Milford Haven), Jonathan Hughes (National Trust), Jetske Germing (Marine Energy Wales), Mike Parry (Pwllheli Partnership), Phil Horton (Royal Yachting Association), John Wrottesley (European Subsea Cables Association), Jack Middleton (Surfers Against Sewage), Rosie Kelly (The Crown Estate), Gill Bell (Marine Conservation Society & Wales Environment Link), Jim Evans (Welsh Fishermen's Association), Rachel Sharp (Wildlife Trust Wales), Sarah Young (World Wildlife Fund), Nicola Gandy (Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority), John O'Connor (Welsh Federation of Sea Anglers), James Moon (NRW), Jess Hooper (Marine Energy Wales – CSAG Secretariat), Kirsty Lindenbaum (Natural Resources Wales), Jennifer Goodwin (Seabed Users and Developers Group)</p> <p>Gareth Bevington, Mike Dowell, Chris Jenkins, Elen King, Julian Bray, Hilary Evans, Louise Durns (Welsh Government)</p> | | | | |
| Presenters | <p>James Moon (NRW)</p> <p>Jess Hooper (Marine Energy Wales)</p> <p>Chris Jenkins (Welsh Government)</p> | | | | |
| Apologies | <p>Emily Williams (RSPB)</p> <p>Tegryn Jones (PCNP)</p> <p>Katie Harvard-Smith (Severn Estuary Partnership)</p> <p>David McDermott (One Voice Wales / Saundersfoot Harbour)</p> <p>Nick O'Sullivan (WMFAG chair)</p> | | | | |

| # | Agenda Item |
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| 1. | Welcome, Introduction & Meeting Etiquette |
| 2. | Marine & Fisheries Divisional update (including Welsh Fisheries Grant) |
| 3. | Role of Marine in Green Recovery post Covid-19 |
| 4. | NRW Offshore Renewable Energy Programme (OREP) |
| 5. | Marine Energy (CSAG) Consenting Strategic Advisory Group |
| 6. | Marine Biodiversity Update |
| 7. | Q&A session |
| 8. | Dates for diary & Sum up |
| 9. | Close |

Introduction

The Wales Marine Action and Advisory group (WMAAG) provides a forum for discussion and debate, and the provision of support and advice to the Welsh Government, on strategic marine and coastal policy. It is the overarching stakeholder group for the work of the Marine and Fisheries Division of the Welsh Government, sitting alongside the Welsh Marine Fisheries Action Group (WMFAG), the lead Welsh Government fisheries industry forum in Wales.

The WMAAG is comprised of 36 stakeholder leads who represent the interests of all sectors with an interest or investment in the Marine in Wales. Details of sectors and lead organisations can be found within the group's [Terms of Reference](#).

Key Messages and Outputs

Item 1: Welcome, Introduction & Meeting Etiquette

| Key messages | Actions |
|---|----------------|
| <p>There were a number of apologies mainly due to prior engagements.</p> <p>The chair welcomed everyone to the first virtual meeting and gave a quick guide on how to use MS Teams and the logistics for the afternoon.</p> | |

Item 2: Marine & Fisheries Divisional update (including Welsh Fisheries Grant)

| Key messages | Actions |
|--|----------------|
| <p>Mike Dowell, Head of Marine and Fisheries provided members with an update.</p> <p>Given the current circumstances Marine and Fisheries still have an ambitious 20/21 work plan despite the challenges presented by C-19 and home-working for all staff. In addition to responding to C-19 and EU Exit, the Division also has priorities under a revised Programme for Government.</p> <p>As well as staff being deployed to cover Covid work in other areas of WG, the Division mounted its own Covid response providing £500k of financial support to our active Welsh fleet of fishers. Like all Divisions in WG, Marine and Fisheries surrendered budget to the central WG response to protect public health, however funding for marine biodiversity was protected.</p> | |

Item 3: Role of Marine in Green Recovery post Covid-19

| Key Points | Actions |
|---|--|
| <p>The recovery post Covid-19 is concentrating on 3 strands (environmental, social and economic justice). “Environmental Justice” will cover the marine components within the recovery and each Minister will want to work with their stakeholders.</p> <p>Peter Davies is a member of the Green Recovery Group and will feedback after meetings and set up a sub group after the next GRG meeting being held in 2-3 weeks’ time.</p> | <p>1.1 PD to set up meeting post GRG Meeting – scheduled for 11 August</p> |

Item 4: NRW Offshore Renewable Energy Programme (OREP)

| Key messages | Actions |
|---|----------------|
| <p>James Moon presented on the NRW Offshore Renewable Energy Programme – All areas of offshore are covered within the programme.</p> <p>Jess Hooper and Phil Horton to be put in contact with each other, PH invited to join CSAG meetings.</p> | |

Item 5: Marine Energy (CSAG) Consenting Strategic Advisory Group

| Key messages | Actions |
|---|----------------|
| <p>Jess Hooper presented on the Marine Energy Wales Consenting Advisory Group.</p> <p>Members discussed the need for consideration of language around marine renewables and for marine NGOs to have speaking slots at future meetings. Further discussion between MEW and Wildlife Trust Wales to continue ‘offline’.</p> | |

Item 6: Marine Biodiversity Update

| Key messages | Actions |
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| <p>Chris Jenkins provided an update on Marine Biodiversity. The date for the UK Marine Strategy Consultation will be published shortly.</p> <p>Some concerns were raised as to the possibility of reaching certain Good Environmental Status targets this year, though it was acknowledged that the C-19 public health crisis will delay delivery across many policy areas in 2020/21.</p> | |

Item 7: Q&A session

| Key messages | Actions |
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| <p>Members discussed next steps for MPA Management and whole site approach. Work continues to deliver both the annual MPA management report alongside this year's 2020-21 action plan. Welsh MPAs are managed through assessing the potential impacts of given activities on site features. Licensable activities are also assessed through EIA and HRA as to their potential impacts on integrity as well as site specific conservation objectives.</p> <p>Members discussed the Good Environmental Status goal and what is needed to achieve GES in the next 6 months. The UK administrations are working together through the UK marine strategy (UKMS) to achieve GES. The UKMS Part 2 consultation is due in the coming months and members will be notified upon its initiation. Both programmes of measures and monitoring plans continued to be developed across the administrations.</p> <p>Members agreed the importance of community consultation and voiced concerns that any restrictions following Covid-19 could be viewed negatively by coastal communities. A clear and effective communication strategy will be required to</p> | |

| Key messages | Actions |
|---|---------|
| ensure that communities feel informed but also have the opportunity to engage with the process. | |

Item 8: Sum up

| Key messages | Actions |
|---|---------|
| Peter Davies asked for any feedback on the first virtual meeting of WMAAG to be shared with Hilary Evans and Elen King. | |