

## Marine Planning Stakeholder Reference Group (MPSRG)

24 September 2020



### Attendees

**Eluned Jones, John Hamer, Phil Coates, Rebecca Rees, Rafe Osborne** (Welsh Government), **Rachel Mulholland** (Cefas), **Lucie Skates, Karen Perrow & Helen Bloomfield** (NRW), **Mike Butterfield** (RYA Cymru), **Mel Nicholls** (MMO), **Jonny Boston & Joe Smithyman** (Crown Estate), **Emily Williams** (RSPB), **Manon Kynaston & Jess Hooper** (Marine Energy Wales), **Kam Tang & Sara Barrento** (Swansea University), **Jillian Whyte** (JNCC), **Mark Simmonds** (British Ports), **Mark Russell** (Mineral Products Association), **Stephen Jay** (University of Liverpool), **David Jones** (BlueGen), **Jetske Germing & Paul Renfro** (PCF), **Jennifer Godwin** (SUDG), **Clair McFarlan** (Solway Firth Partnership), **Neville Rookes** (WLGA),

1. The main update from the Welsh Government Marine Planning team was that the contract to develop Sector Locational Guidance has now been awarded and work would be starting shortly. This Group has been updated on the proposals for this previously, which would be interpreted spatial evidence for specific early stage or emerging marine sectors. Stakeholder involvement will be key to shaping this work and therefore the contractor, Atkins, will be attending the next MPSRG meeting to talk through this. In the meantime they will be contacting stakeholders individually.
2. Marine Energy Wales (MEW) gave a presentation on the marine energy sector and highlighted the opportunities and challenges faced. MEW is the industry-led stakeholder group representing the wave, tidal and floating offshore wind industry in Wales. It brings together over 50 key stakeholders to establish Wales as a global leader in sustainable emerging offshore renewable energy generation.
3. The Group was updated on The Crown Estate's (TCE) Round 4 leasing process, its role in the context of offshore wind development, the pipeline of projects and longer term growth for offshore wind. TCE is an independent business created by an Act of Parliament and manages a diverse portfolio of property assets including the rights to the seabed. The role of TCE is to maximize the value of the estate and it plays an important part in offshore wind development. It was queried whether there would be a separate leasing process for floating offshore wind. TCE said whilst there was nothing in the pipeline yet some discussion was taking place with stakeholders.
4. The Solway Firth Partnership gave an update on local marine planning. Solway Firth is one of eleven Scottish Marine regions and is a cross border region. The Group discussed cross border stakeholder engagement and the merits of bringing stakeholders on the marine planning journey.
5. Swansea University presented on the Access2Sea project, for which it is one of the project partners. The project aims to improve the availability of the Atlantic shore for Aquaculture SMEs through enabling business opportunities and a more sustainable operating environment. The Group heard that between countries there were

common areas such as standards and certification and challenges were similar but the approaches taken slightly different.

6. Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum presented the [Wales Activity Mapping \(WAM\)](#) which is a recreation evidence base covering south west Wales, which aims to help inform decisions on the management of the marine environment. The project presents data on the type, amount and frequency and distribution of recreation / tourism activity, which is stored on a GIS system. The WAM was delivered through a steering group so there was a good level of stakeholder involvement.

The next meeting will take place on 11 November.

Queries to: [Rebecca.Rees2@gov.wales](mailto:Rebecca.Rees2@gov.wales)