

Marine Ecosystem Group meeting 1

24th March 2009

Sports Council for Wales, Cardiff

Present:

Louise George (chair, WAG)
Blaise Bullimore (Pembrokeshire Marine SAC/Carmarthen Bay & Estuaries EMS)
Alison Palmer-Hargrave (Penllyn Ar Sarnau SAC/North Wales LBAP rep)
Virginia Prieto (North Western & North Wales SFC)
Nia Haf-Jones (North Wales Wildlife Trust)
Gill Bell (Marine Conservation Society)
Tim Hall (Wildlife Trusts Wales)
Kate Collins (Environment Agency)

Aditee Mitra (Bridgend LBAP/South Wales LBAP rep)
Lyndsey Dodds (WWF)
Annie Smith (RSPB)
Mick Green (independent)
Leanne Llewellyn (South Wales SFC)
Martyn Evans (Monmouthshire CC)
Jo Bayes (South Wales SFC)
Aethne Cooke (CCW – secretariat)

Not present:

Sarah Perry (Cardigan Bay Marine Wildlife Group)

Ben Sampson (Cardigan Bay marine SAC rep)
Stephen Atkins (North Western & North Wales SFC)

3 key messages for LBAP partnerships (and others):

1. The first meeting concentrated on introducing attendees to the origins of the Marine Ecosystem Group (MEG), how it fits into the overall devolved structure for Wales and the tasks that need to be undertaken.
2. Strong endorsement from those present at the first meeting for the Assembly chairing the Marine Ecosystem Group.
3. Various tasks assigned to the MEG are to be undertaken through a series of Task & Finish Groups. Initially these tasks include target setting, and identifying priority actions, including policy related actions. AC to initiate these tasks, then form T&F to develop further, with membership of the T&F groups from both within MEG and beyond.

	Action	Outcome	Who	Progress
1	The following representation is to be sought for the group – WAG fisheries, Crown Estate, National Trust, Wales Coastal & Maritime Partnership and Local Authority.	Representation on the group reflects the multi-sectoral interests in the marine environment.	LG and AC	Incomplete
2	Amend the 'The Delivery of UK Biodiversity Priority Habitats and Species Actions in Wales' document (outlines the overall implementation structure for Wales). BB (and ALL) to send comments to AC.	Implementation structure for Wales better reflects the marine environment, and there is clarification of the relationship between the resolution of Section 42 habitats and species and the ecosystem approach.	ALL	Complete
3	Circulate membership details to the members of the group.	Everyone is clear as to the membership of the group and is	AC	Complete

		in a position to identify membership gaps. Facilitates communication within group members.		
4	Group is to develop Terms of Reference for the group based on generic ToR for all Ecosystem Groups (outlined in 'The Delivery of UK Biodiversity Priority Habitats and Species Actions in Wales' document. AC to initiate draft and circulate to the group.	Common understanding of the Group's remit. The formality of ToR can guide the Group to work to an agreed remit, or can also identify gaps in a Group's responsibility.	AC and All	Incomplete
5	Various tasks assigned to the MEG are to be undertaken through a series of Task & Finish Groups. Initially, these tasks include 1. target setting, 2. identifying priority actions, including policy related actions. AC is to initiative these tasks, and then form T&F to develop further, with membership of the T&F groups from both within MEG and beyond.	Through having 'technical' tasks undertaken by time limited task & finish groups means that the Marine Ecosystem Group can focus on furthering implementation. Broader membership for these task & finish groups means that required membership can be identified depending on the task in question, pulling in the right people, at the right time, for only as long as necessary.	AC and All	Incomplete
6	AS to circulate research undertaken by Wales Environment Link on protecting nationally important marine biodiversity in Wales. Report is also available at http://www.waleslink.org/what-we-do/documents-publications-1	Group members are aware of WEL recommendations for protecting Welsh marine biodiversity, both through better application of existing mechanisms (EMSs) and the need for effective new mechanisms (MCZs and HPMRs).	AS	Complete
7	BB to circulate summary of work undertaken by Plymouth Marine Laboratory on the economic valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment. Monetary values for goods and services provided by marine biodiversity in the UK are identified. http://www.pml.ac.uk/pdf/Socio-economic.pdf	The approach developed highlights the social and economic importance of marine biodiversity and marine ecosystems. This work is relevant to the development of future policy development.	BB	Complete
8	AC to circulate guidance produced by Biodiversity South West and Natural England for public authorities on conserving marine biodiversity in southwest England. http://www.biodiversitysouthwest.org.uk/lib_our.html	Group members are familiar with ways in which the NERC biodiversity duty can be taken forward in the marine environment.	AC	Complete
9	AC circulate powerpoint presentation on marine habs/spp listed for Section 42.	Group members are familiar with marine component of Section 42 list, and also enables others to promote marine component of the Section 42 list as opportunities arise.	AC	Incomplete
10	APH is to be the LBAP representative for North Wales LBAP partnerships, and AM is to be the LBAP representative for south Wales LBAP partnerships.	Allows the MEG to progress whilst also taking into account views and input of LBAP partnerships.	AHP and AM	Ongoing
11	AC is a contact point for LBAP partnerships on the Group.	Individual on group identified for LBAPs / LBAP representatives to contact.	AC	Ongoing