



BERWICKSHIRE & NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND
COAST EUROPEAN MARINE SITE

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Steering Group Meeting
11.00am 15th November 2011
Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Berwick

Present:

Claire Carey	CC	EMS Implementation Officer
David Feige	DF	Northumberland County Council
Georgia Conolly	GC	St Abbs & Eyemouth VMR
Jon Green	JG	Northumberland Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority
Catherine Scott	CS	Natural England
Karen Rentoul	KR	Scottish Natural Heritage

Apologies:

Chris Burgess	CB	Northumberland County Council
Janet Khan-Marnie	JKM	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Richard Kehoe	RK	Scottish Natural Heritage
Andy Tharme	AT	Scottish Borders Council
Jill McCormick	JM	Environment Agency
Tom Cadwallender	TC	EMS Chair

1. Welcome and apologies

The members introduced themselves and apologies were given.

2. Previous minutes and matters arising

The previous minutes were accepted. Two actions were carried over:

Action	Who
Ensure a link to the EMS website is placed on the NIFCA web pages	CC, JG
Keep up to date on the Drone Hill wind farm community fund	AT, CC, GC

3. Implementation & officer update

CC commented on the length of time taken to produce the annual progress report. CC has based the report on the format used for the previous management plan but feels that, given the high number of actions, it is not time effective to continue with this approach. Instead of a textual update for every action, CC proposed to provide a tabular update with a concise summary of overall progress to date. The bulk of the information will still be gathered from authorities during the annual implementation meetings that CC holds each year, but only a summary of the findings

will be presented in the annual report. This will not only free up a considerable amount of time for CC to concentrate on delivery work, but will also reduce the amount of information that authorities need to read in the report. This is an important factor as authorities will be asked to check the report before it is published on the website and distributed to wider stakeholders. The detailed implementation briefs will be archived by CC and will contain a more detailed account should anyone require more information on a particular action or authority. The group was happy for CC to proceed in this manner.

CC asked the group about bait digging responsibilities as the bait digging bylaw at Boulmer was recently discussed at a Beach Management Group meeting. The Beach Management Group is made up of representatives who deal with 'on-the-ground' coastal management on the Northumberland coast. CC usually attends these meetings but was unable to attend the recent November meeting where it was reported that a breach of the Boulmer bylaw may be taking place. It was suggested at the Beach Management meeting that CC may be able to undertake monitoring at Boulmer to assess the situation. The Boulmer bylaw, however, was established to restrict the digging of holes in the area used to launch boats and was not established due to an impact upon the EMS features. It was first established under Alnwick District Council and enforcement and monitoring now falls under the remit of Northumberland County Council. The Steering Group agreed that, given that the bylaw was not established to meet EMS objectives, CC would not be responsible for monitoring the activity. It was also deemed to be unsafe for CC to undertake monitoring of this nature and that this type of work should only be carried out by those trained in enforcement. JG confirmed that, following regular surveillance carried out by the NIFCA in that area, no breach of the bylaw had been witnessed. JG offered on behalf of the NIFCA to undertake informal monitoring as and when officers are in the area, and to keep a record of activity. JG also advised that, following enforcement work at the Lindisfarne NNR, illegal activity has reduced.

Action: NIFCA to undertake informal monitoring of Boulmer for breach of the bait digging bylaw. CC to inform the Beach Management Group and Northumberland County Council that the NIFCA will keep an informal record of activity and alert CC of any breach.

CC discussed a recreational activity impact assessment that will be undertaken for the area surrounding Holy Island as part of the Peregrini Lindisfarne Landscape Partnership Project. CC asked the group whether a study of this nature would be beneficial for the EMS as a whole rather than just the area surrounding Holy Island. The group agreed that this type of work would be useful. DF advised that he may have budget to contribute to this type of work if it considered impacts upon wading winter birds. KR advised that SNH may be supportive due to the benefits the work could bring for the St Abbs NNR.

Action: CC to discuss using HLF funds as match funding with the Peregrini Development Officer and explore other avenues of funding to deliver a wider study.

CC discussed the attached officer update report.

Action: CC to arrange a day in St Abbs with GC, LC, RK, CS, DF and TC to explore future joint working opportunities.

4. Management Group meeting & Forum feedback

DF thanked CC for arranging the meeting and Forum. CC stated that feedback so far had been positive regarding the joint nature of the Forum, although there are improvements to be made to address the balance of English/Scottish topics and to better cater for the wide ranging audience. CC plans to contact Pam Taylor at the Solway Firth Partnership as this EMS is adjacent to a coastal AONB and held a very similar joint event in November.

Action: CC to contact Pam Taylor at Solway Firth to discuss common issues.

5. Finance

CS asked if Natural England funding had been resolved for 2011-12 as there has been some delay in getting the PO number. CC advised that the issue remains but Michelle Sullivan is dealing with it within NE. The documentation should hopefully be issued soon so that CC can raise the invoice. CC explained that a funding application will be submitted to SNH by the end of November to request 4 years funding. The Environment Agency is currently considering its contributions towards the EMS project and CC will be liaising with the organisation over the next couple of days. CC tabled a spreadsheet showing the funding contributions received from each authority since the EMS was established in 2001. CC plans to re-write the supporting paper that has been sent out with funding request letters in previous years, which outlines the value of supporting the EMS officer post. A wider range of authorities will be contacted this year to request a contribution.

Action: CC to re-write supporting paper and send funding requests by the end of December.

6. Partner Update

GC – A number of projects for 2012 are being planned including a Young Marine Rangers Project, a bi-annual e-newsletter that will be issued at the end of summer and at the end of each financial year, and the VMR Science Group. Funding has been secured from the Newman's Own Foundation – an American Organisation keen to support Scottish charities. This will provide financial security for the Ranger's post until 2014.

KR – There have been a number of joint monitoring projects between SNH and NE, such as drop down camera work and subtidal surveys of the faunal turf and kelp. The drop down camera work will finish at the end of November and the report should be published by the end of the financial year.

JG – Martin Kitchin of the North East Cetacean Project continues to carry out cetacean surveys from St Oswald. The NIFCA is also carrying out seabed mapping for Natural England using sonar equipment. Work is still ongoing with Lindisfarne NNR to support the enforcement of bait digging bylaws. The planning team from the Marine Management Organisation came on board St Oswald and a good relationship has been formed.

CS – The funding is in place to support the MPhil student who will look at potting intensity within the EMS and the effects on habitats. This will be used as a pilot study which can then be applied to other areas. Other PhD work is taking place outside of the EMS at Blyth to look at lobsters but sites

within the EMS may be used in the future as a control sample. A second potential PhD student is deciding on project ideas but may undertake work within the EMS looking at the crab fishery.

DF – NCC has gone through a recent re-structure which will bring the work of the EMS and AONB closer together. Recruitment of new staff for the AONB will begin in the next few weeks.

7. AOB

CC mentioned the Defra review of management within EMS. Authorities will hopefully be contacted as part of the review.

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting has been set for Thursday 16th February 2012.

Table of Actions

Actions	Who	Status
Ensure a link to the EMS website is placed on the NIFCA web pages	CC, JG	
Keep up to date on the Drone Hill wind farm community fund	AT, CC, GC	
Undertake informal monitoring of Boulmer for breach of the bait digging bylaw	NIFCA	
Inform the Beach Management Group and Northumberland County Council that the NIFCA will keep an informal record of activity and alert CC of any breach	CC	✓
Discuss using HLF funds as match funding with the Peregrini Development Officer and explore other avenues of funding to deliver a wider study	CC	✓
Arrange a day in St Abbs to explore future joint working opportunities	CC, GC, LC, RK, CS, DF, TC	
Contact Pam Taylor at Solway Firth to discuss common issues	CC	✓
Re-write supporting paper and send funding requests by the end of December.	CC	

(The status column will be populated over the coming three months prior to the next Steering Group meeting).