



BERWICKSHIRE & NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND
COAST EUROPEAN MARINE SITE

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Steering Group Meeting
11.00am 16th February 2012
Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Berwick

Present:

Claire Carey	CC	EMS Implementation Officer
Chris Burgess	CB	Northumberland County Council
Jill McCormick	JM	Environment Agency
Jodie Royal	JG	Northumberland Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority (NIFCA)
Catherine Scott	CS	Natural England
Karen Rentoul	KR	Scottish Natural Heritage
Annie Cunningham	AC	Newcastle University and MSc Student

Apologies:

David Feige	DF	Northumberland County Council
Janet Khan-Marnie	JKM	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Richard Kehoe	RK	Scottish Natural Heritage
Andy Tharme	AT	Scottish Borders Council
Georgia Conolly	GC	St Abbs & Eyemouth VMR
Jon Green	JG	Northumberland Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority (NIFCA)
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 and will be published on the EMS website. Minutes of each meeting will be approved at the following meeting before publication. This will give members the chance to remove anything sensitive.

Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage are still interested in a trip to St Abbs to look at joint working opportunities.

ACTION: CC to liaise with CS and RK to ensure a valuable agenda is set for the St Abbs visit. Ask JKM if she would like to be involved.

Since the meeting was held, however, the marine ranger, GC, is on indefinite leave due to personal circumstances. A meeting will be arranged following her return

3. Implementation update

CC talked through the implementation paper with particular reference to the letter written by the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) and Client Earth to the Marine Management Organisation. CC has met with Mike Hardy and JG of NIFCA, and CS to discuss how NIFCA should respond to the issues raised. The MCS and Client Earth have responded to the MMO reply but this has not yet been shared with the public.

JM stated that the Environment Agency (EA) may be able to assist with monitoring fishing activity, or the absence of such activity.

ACTION: CC to inform Mike Hardy of NIFCA of possible assistance from the EA.

ACTION: CC to share the MCS and Client Earth response with the Steering Group if it becomes available.

4. EMS officer update

CC talked through the officer update paper.

CC plans to produce a short paper for the next meeting outlining some initial thoughts on what works/doesn't work with the current Management Plan. The Plan is due for revision in 2013, to be published in April 2014. CC will be liaising with DF over the coming months to start to plan the review. CS suggested that some discussion should be had within the Steering Group to gather the views of each member. CB suggested that views should also be sought about the next Management Forum to ensure the right balance between EMS/AONB and English/Scottish issues and topics.

ACTION: CC to present papers for next meeting about the Management Plan and to think about how members' views can be captured. Also begin to plan the next Forum with DF.

CC mentioned the large amount of time being spent on the Peregrini Lindisfarne Partnership Project. This is taking up a great deal of time and will be keeping an eye on the level of commitment required as a Board member and involvement in sub-groups.

5. DEFRA review of EMS management schemes

CC informed the group of the review commissioned by Defra to look at the effectiveness of EMS management schemes. Bright Angel Coastal Consultants is undertaking the work and has sent a questionnaire to all EMS officers to complete. Roger Morris (consultant) is also contacting relevant authorities to discuss the management framework in place for the Berwickshire & North Northumberland Coast EMS. It is hoped that the review will highlight the need for more secure funding, and will promote the need for effective management frameworks for all English EMS. The results of the review are due to be published in summer 2013.

ACTION: CC to keep members up to date about progress and outcomes of the review.

6. Finance

CC informed that most of the expected funding for 2012-13 has now been confirmed. A grant application to SNH was submitted in November last year and the outcome is still to be decided. CC should hear back before the end of February. If successful, it will provide three years funding. CB expressed the need to think about alternative sources of funding in case authorities are not able to fund in future years.

Action: CC to chase up the funding requests who have not yet responded and see if Northumbria Water Ltd is able to fund specific project work.

7. Partner Update

JM – will be working with CS to undertake survey work within the EMS. The Water Framework Directive status around Holy Island and Budle Bay needs to be confirmed, although there may be issues relating to nutrient levels. If problems are identified, an action plan will need to be established. A new member of staff will be employed to support JM.

CS – will be working with JM to undertake survey work. Sample work will be carried out on *Zostera* and the mussel beds. Samples of mussels have already been taken and are awaiting analysis to determine levels of contaminants. Funding to undertake sampling work in 2013-13 has been applied for. Sam Mercer, an MPhil Student from Newcastle University is beginning to look at potting intensity in the EMS and its effects upon habitats.

AC – will be attending a workshop on ecosystem modelling and hopes to apply the techniques to the EMS through her MSc project. AC is still undertaking the initial research but will hopefully develop a simple ecosystem model that can be used for the EMS.

JR – the NIFCA continues to work with Martin Kitchin looking at cetaceans within the district. Martin is also carrying out the Sea Angling 2012 data gathering. No further work has taken place at Lindisfarne NNR due to a lack of suspected bait digging activity in this area. The MMO is chartering the St Oswald to monitor areas beyond the IFCA district. The 2012 mussel survey at Fenham Flats will take place in March and CC will help with the work. JM mentioned that the EA collects mussels to look at bioaccumulation and would be interested in looking at the Fenham Flat mussels. Previous attempts to locate the beds have been unsuccessful.

ACTION: JM to liaise with CS and NIFCA if there is a desire to come along on the mussel survey in March.

The NIFCA will assist with an event for the Wildlife Trust. The SEA is underway and funding has been secured from Natural England to assist with this. Informal monitoring work was carried out at Boulmer to see if the bait digging byelaw was being breached. Enforcement and monitoring of this byelaw is the responsibility of Northumberland County Council but the NIFCA offered to keep an eye out when in the area. CC would like to thank the NIFCA for this support.

ACTION: JR to send CC the figures from the bait digging monitoring at Boulmer. CC to pass these on to Northumberland County Council.

JKM – CC read out an update sent by JKM. More redundancies are expected within SEPA and it is unclear how this will affect the marine department at this stage. The Marine Non-Native Species (MNNS) surveillance trial has been accepted and adopted at national level and has been expanded to also include locations regularly sampled by marine chemists. This has already started and, over the winter period, no reports of MNNS have been reported on the East Coast. SEPA now has a new Chief Executive – James Curren – who is very keen on setting up Citizen Science projects. JKM is trying to get marine and coastal on the agenda, with regard to marine litter reporting or a joint project with the MCS on jellyfish reporting. This is all in a development stage but there is potential to trial work in the EMS.

ACTION: CC to discuss opportunities for citizen science work in EMS with JKM.

KR – No reports from SNH.

8. Date of next meeting

The next meetings have been set for:

THURSDAY 3RD MAY 2012 11am Council Offices, Berwick upon Tweed

THURSDAY 26TH JUL 2012 11am Council Offices, Berwick upon Tweed

THURSDAY 1ST NOV 2012 11am Council Offices, Berwick upon Tweed

Table of Actions

Actions	Status
CC to liaise with CS and RK to ensure a valuable agenda is set for the St Abbs visit. Ask JKM if she would like to be involved. Since the meeting was held, however, the marine ranger, GC, is on indefinite leave due to personal circumstances. A meeting will be arranged following her return.	On hold
CC to inform Mike Hardy of NIFCA of possible assistance from the EA regarding monitoring fishing activity	Done
CC to share the MCS and Client Earth response with the steering group if it becomes available.	Pending
CC to present papers for next meeting about the Management Plan and to think about how members' views can be captured. Also begin to plan the next Forum with DF.	Pending
CC to keep members up to date about progress and outcomes of the review.	Pending
CC to chase up the funding requests who have not yet responded and see if Northumbria Water Ltd is able to fund specific project work.	Done
JM to liaise with CS and NIFCA if there is a desire to come along on the mussel survey in March.	Done
JR to send CC the figures from the bait digging monitoring at Boulmer. CC to pass these on to Northumberland County Council.	Done
CC to discuss opportunities for citizen science work in EMS with JKM.	

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