



BERWICKSHIRE & NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND  
COAST EUROPEAN MARINE SITE

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**Steering Group Meeting**  
**11.00am 18<sup>th</sup> August 2011**  
**Berwick Library**

**Present:**

John Elliot	JE	Chairman BNNC EMS
Claire Carey	CC	EMS Implementation Officer
Chris Burgess	CB	Northumberland County Council
Mel Nichols	MN	Northumberland Coast AONB
Jon Green	JG	Northumberland Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority
Catherine Scott	CS	Natural England
Andy Tharme	AT	Scottish Borders Council
Jill McCormick	JM	Environment Agency

**Apologies:**

Janet Khan-Marnie	JKM	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Georgia Conolly	GC	St Abbs & Eyemouth VMR
Richard Kehoe	RK	Scottish Natural Heritage
David Feige	DF	Northumberland County Council

**1. Welcome & Apologies**

Catherine Scott was introduced as the new Natural England representative on the Steering Group. Aisling Lannin will no longer attend as she will be moving to the Marine Management Organisation within the next few months. CC read out a message from Aisling to the Steering Group thanking them for their support over the past years. JE Suggested forwarding a message to Aisling on behalf of the Group to thank her for the work she has dedicated to the EMS and to wish her well for the future.

**Action: CC to pass this message to Aisling. ✓**

**2. Terms of Reference**

CB explained that, historically, the Steering Group was chaired by an officer from Northumberland County Council. Over the past few years this was not possible due to resource issues but NCC is able to take responsibility for the position again and this is reflected in section 4.4.1 of the draft Terms of Reference. CB thanked JE for chairing the meetings over the past four years. JE asked the Group if they were happy to accept a move back to the previous arrangement and all agreed. JE handed over to CB.

The remainder of the draft Terms of Reference document was discussed. A number of changes and edits were suggested by the Group and the document will be amended by CC. CC also suggested adding a section on quorum for the Steering Group. A number of 6 members was agreed by the Group. It was agreed that a review of the TOR would take place annually and that it should be a standing agenda item at the meeting prior the annual Forum. It was also agreed that those signing the TOR should include the relevant authorities and the Chair of the Management Group.

**Action: CC to make suggested changes to the document and circulate to Steering Group by 24<sup>th</sup> August 2011. ✓**

**Action: SG members to read and provide any feedback or suggested amendments by 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2011. ✓**

**Action: CC to make final amendments and re-circulate to SG members for final sign-off by 6<sup>th</sup> September 2011. ✓**

**Action: SG members to read and authorise final TOR by 23<sup>rd</sup> September. ✓**

**Action: Circulate to Management Group members for ratification by end of September. ✓**

### **3. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising**

Actions carried over:

<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>
Identify whether a link for the EMS website can be placed on the web pages of the Environ. Agency and Natural Eng.	JM, CS ✓
Find out whether the NE underwater video footage can be placed on the EMS website	CS ✓
Ensure a link to the EMS website is placed on the NIFCA web pages	CC, JG
Contact Euan Calvert about including EMS info. In coastal walk 'app'	CC ✓
Keep up to date on the Drone Hill wind farm community fund	AT, CC

### **4. Implementation & Officer Update**

CC discussed the update report, explaining that the implementation meetings and annual progress report were going well. CC explained that a Management Group update newsletter would be produced following each Steering Group meeting to keep the wider group informed and engaged. It was agreed that different 'branding' should be used for this version and that 'Cross-Border Currents' should be maintained for the wider stakeholder newsletter. CC discussed the Sea Mammal Stranding project that she will be working on and JM suggested that British Divers Marine Life Rescue should also be included in the discussions and any protocol that is put in place for dealing with live animals. The Blue Reef Aquarium in Cullercoats also has facilities to care for injured seals. CC will liaise with JM once work begins. CC explained the details of the INDEMARES Project and the workshop she will be presenting a talk to in Madrid this September. The ecosystem model project which will be undertaken by Annie Cunningham, a post-graduate student, was discussed. CC then explained her future work programme as follows:

- Produce e-newsletter for Management Group
- Produce more general e-newsletter for wider stakeholder group
- Complete implementation meetings with all authorities
- Produce annual progress report by autumn

- Arrange speakers for annual forum
- Begin metadata/GIS project once forum and progress report are complete for 2011
- Support the Peregrini Lindisfarne Landscape Partnership Project
- Support and develop the joint Sea Mammal Stranding Project
- Explore opportunities for wider recreational disturbance study
- Attend and host knowledge transfer days between Humber, Flamborough and BNNC EMS
- Continue awareness raising and social networking opportunities
- Continue to liaise with partners and stakeholders

A full copy of the update report can be provided by contacting CC on 01670 533 780, [claire.carey@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:claire.carey@northumberland.gov.uk)

**Action: CC to send a copy of the draft stranding reporting protocol to JM for comments. ✓**

**Action: JM to send contact details for Richard Ilderton to CC. ✓ (I have these)**

**Action: CC to pass contact details for Dave Thompson on to JM. ✓**

**Action: CC to send details of the ecosystem project and introduce Annie to CS, JM, RK and JKM. ✓**

## 5. Governance

CC explained that JE, after four years as the EMS Management Group Chair, is willing to step down if a suitable replacement can be found. CC passed a short paper round the group bullet pointing the key duties and attributes that would be required from the Chair. CC then told the Group that an expression of interest had been made by Tom Cadwallender, a former officer of the Northumberland Coast AONB. CC explained that Tom has an excellent understanding of the Northumberland and Berwickshire coast due to 21 years experience and involvement in the management of the area. Tom's enthusiasm and motivation for the post was also noted by CC, who recommends Tom as very suitable candidate for the position, particularly given his recent appointment as Marine Ambassador for the Wildlife Trust. It was agreed by the Steering Group that Tom should be presented to the Management Group as a nominee and that comments and further nominations should be invited. Should no objections or further nominations be made, JE will officially hand over the Chair's position to Tom at the November Forum. CB suggested that if any members of the Steering Group had an objection or concerns regarding Tom as a nominee, they should contact CC following the meeting. It was agreed that the TOR would allow the Chair to be in place for three years with an optional one year extension. This term would allow the next Chair to be in place until after the review of the management plan in 2013/14.

**Action: SG members who may have an objection or concerns about the nomination of TC to contact CC by 2<sup>nd</sup> September. ✓**

**Action: CC to send a letter to the Management Group members presenting Tom as nominated Chair by 9<sup>th</sup> September. Invite objections or further nominations to be presented to CC before the end of September. ✓**

**Action: CC to liaise with JE to discuss a formal hand over at the November Forum should TC be accepted by the Management Group. ✓**

## **6. Forum**

Discussions were held over the balance of Scottish and English speakers as well as timing and the balance of EMS/AONB topics. The Group was happy with the topics suggested but some thought needs to be given to the order. CC asked where funding for the Forum has come from in the past. CB advised that the EMS core funds have provided the funds in the past but to double check this with Aisling Lannin. JE queried the absence of Miranda Krestovnikoff, the patron of the EMS, from the day's talks. CC explained that Miranda had been contacted and had not yet replied.

**Action: CC, CB and MN to meet and discuss the order of event further. CC to keep Group members informed. ✓**

**Action: CC to check with Aisling where funding came from for past Forums. ✓**

## **7. Finance**

CC explained that funding for 2011-12 was in place. The three-year funding agreements with SNH and EA will come to an end in March 2012. CC will be submitting a grant application to SNH for continued support and has been liaising with RK. JM said that funding may be difficult to secure from EA but that she would support any funding request submitted. CB suggested that a statement of support from the EMS chair as well as the Chief Executive from NCC may support applications and requests. CB also suggested that a meeting between executive members from NCC and SBC may be beneficial. There is still no definitive news on whether funding will be provided by NE or the MMO in the future. CC will continue to seek updates.

**Action: CC to continue to source funding and ask Aisling Lannin who she dealt with previously in the EA. ✓**

## **8. Partner Update/AOB**

JG – Representatives from Marine Scotland have been on board the St Oswald to learn about the pot limitation scheme in place in England. CC also attended and made good links with MS as well as identifying a suitable representative to sit on the Management Group. Other partnership working has taken place with Martin Kitchin of the North East Cetacean Project and Helen Quayle from RSPB. The NIFCA is also carrying out seabed mapping for Natural England using sonar equipment. A project looking at lobster potting is being conducted outside of the EMS but will hopefully be broadened out to incorporate the designated area in the future. The officers are currently working with Andrew Craggs at Lindisfarne to help enforce the NNR byelaw related to collection of bait. Three individuals from Sunderland were questioned and sent away. Representatives from the marine planning department within the MMO will be coming on board the St Oswald on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

MN – The Holy Island Partnership is working from their Management Plan to help manage visitor access on the island. The Board for the Peregrini Lindisfarne was successful in securing a £1.9 million Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant with additional match funding for the delivery of conservation projects across a large land and seascape area. CC is a member of the Board and contributed towards the funding application to the HLF. The Action Plan outlining how projects will be delivered will be complete in November 2012. CB noted the high level of significance

placed on the Northumberland coast which is highlighted by this project as well as an additional HLF project further south at Druridge Bay. The AONB team are supporting the annual Bird Fair. A woman fell from the coastal path at Seahouses at the start of August and died. The cause of death is still to be announced but this may have health and safety implications for coastal access. The AONB design awards were held in August and there may be potential to present a joint award next year between the EMS/AONB. CC and MN will consider this and present ideas to the Steering Group in the future.

CS – Two M.Phil post-graduate students are undertaking work to look at lobsters and crabs population dynamics. Both students hope to convert to Ph.D.s: Dan will be looking at lobsters around the Narec project area as well as reference areas within the EMS. Andrew Spencer will be looking at shellfish fisheries, likely edible crab fisheries, in Marine Protected Areas. An additional M.Phil project, starting Oct-Nov 2012, will be looking at potting intensity and the effects on habitats within the EMS. Analysis of historical (2002) and current (2011) drop down camera video data and in situ experiments will be used. These are joint projects with the NIFCA and University of Newcastle funded and supervised by CS at Natural England.

JM – The EA has been undertaking monitoring on Zostera at Fenham Flats and Holy Island to support Water Framework Directive work. Surveys recorded extent, density and species composition within the beds. Classifications of water within the EMS were also recorded and are available on the EA website. JM has also been involved in the Net Gain process for identifying potential Marine Conservation Zones.

AT – Berwickshire coast has been recommended for a Special Landscape Designation for its landscape quality. The areas will be covered by Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG). There is currently a 12-week consultation on the recommended areas.

**Action: AT to forward details of Special Landscape Designation Consultation, the SPG and Land Use consultants report to CC. CC to circulate to Steering Group. ✓**

## **10. Date of Next Meeting**

11.00am Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2011, Berwick. Venue to be confirmed.

Future dates:

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2012

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2012

**Many thanks to JE for his time and support in chairing the Steering Group for the past 4 years.**

## **Table of Actions**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Status</b>
Send message of thanks and good luck to Aisling Lanning on behalf of Steering Group	CC	✓
Make suggested changes to TOR document and circulate to Steering Group by 24 <sup>th</sup> August 2011	CC	✓
Read and provide any feedback or suggested amendments to TOR by 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2011	All	✓
Make final amendments and re-circulate TOR to SG members for final sign-off by 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2011	CC	✓
Read and authorise final TOR by 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	All	✓
Circulate TOR to Management Group members for ratification by end of September	CC	✓
Identify whether a link for the EMS website can be placed on the web pages of the Environ. Agency and Natural Eng.	JM, CS	CS ✓ JM ✓
Find out whether the NE underwater video footage can be placed on the EMS website	CS	✓
Ensure a link to the EMS website is placed on the NIFCA web pages	CC, JG	
Contact Euan Calvert about including EMS info. in coastal walk 'app'	CC	✓
Keep up to date on the Drone Hill wind farm community fund	AT, CC	
Send a copy of the draft mammal stranding reporting protocol to JM for comments	CC	✓
Send contact details for Richard Ilderton to CC	JM	✓
Pass contact details for Dave Thompson on to JM	CC	✓
Send details of the ecosystem project and introduce Annie to CS, JM, RK and JKM	CC	✓
Send objection or concerns about the nomination of TC as EMS Chair to CC by 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	All	✓
Send a letter to the Management Group members presenting Tom as nominated Chair by 9 <sup>th</sup> September and invite objections or further nominations to be presented to CC before the end of September	CC	✓
Liaise with JE to discuss a formal hand over at the November Forum should TC be accepted by the Management Group	CC	✓
Further discuss the order of event further. CC to keep Group members informed	CC, MN, CB	✓
Check with Aisling where funding came from for past Forums	CC	✓
Ask Aisling Lanning who she dealt with previously in the EA regarding funding	CC	✓
Forward details of Special Landscape Designation Consultation, the SPG and Land Use consultants report to CC. CC to circulate to Steering Group	AT, CC	✓