



Berwickshire & Northumberland
Marine Nature Partnership

Management Group Meeting
10.00am 5th December 2017, Berwick WorkSpace

Present:

Tom Cadwallender	TC	Chairman B&N MNP
Nick Brodin	NB	MNP Project Officer
David Feige	DF	Northumberland County Council (AONB)
Neil Robinson	NR	Marine Management Organisation
Jon Green	JG	Northumberland Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority
Catherine Scott	CS	Natural England
Andrew Craggs	AC	Natural England
Aurelie Bohan	AB	Northumberland Wildlife Trust
Liza Cole	LC	National Trust for Scotland
Sue Wells	SW	National Trust
Wull Drybrugh	WD	SEPA
Hannah Westeroby	HW	Environment Agency
Zara Ravenscroft	ZR	Environment Agency
Liz Hall	LH	Scottish Borders Council
Richard Lawton	RL	Eyemouth Harbour
Jane Delany	JD	Newcastle University
Stephanie Dickens	SD	Newcastle University (CoCoast)

Apologies:

Ann Brown	AB	Scottish Natural Heritage
James Maclean	JM	Northumbrian Water
Stuart Pudney	SP	Northumbrian Water
Anna Griffin	AG	SEPA
Martin Willis	MW	Port of Blyth
Helen Quayle	HQ	RSPB
Christine Bell	CB	Eyemouth Harbour
Eamon Murphy	EM	Marine Scotland
Doreen Bell	SW	Scottish Water
Andy Tharme	AT	Scottish Borders Council
Sarah Russell	SR	St Abbs and Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve (VMR)
Les Weller	LW	Northumberland Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority
Mike Hardy	MH	Northumberland Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority
Fay Hieatt	FH	River Tweed Commission
Gwen Potter	GP	National Trust

1. Welcome and Introductions

Members introduced themselves and NB announced apologies.

TC introduced NB as the new Project Officer for the partnership.

2. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

Previous minutes from November 2015 were accepted. Matters arising were not considered due to the length of time that has passed since the last meeting.

3. Officer Update and Future Work Priorities

NB gave a presentation to update the group on progress since the last meeting in 2015 and on future work priorities. A copy of this is attached to the minutes.

At the previous meeting, the European Marine Site partnership agreed to expand its remit to cover a greater number of sites and partners. This is the first time the Management Group has met since we became the Berwickshire and Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership. The Management Scheme for the Berwickshire and North Northumberland European Marine Site still exists and NB will continue to meet with partners to discuss its implementation. It is not possible to address the needs of the additional sites which the Marine Nature Partnership now covers with a similar level of detailed action planning. Instead the partnership's Steering Group have agreed to create a management toolkit to provide partners with the resources to enable them to comply with site protection legislation.

The proposed toolkit will be based on the twelve outputs identified in the MoU for the partnership and will bring together all the information which partners require together in one place. NB produced a small bid to HLF's Resilient Heritage programme to pay for the creation of the website and associated training for partners. NIFCA agreed to act as lead applicant for this and to submit the bid on behalf of the partnership. NB thanked NIFCA for agreeing to do this. HLF confirmed late last week that the bid had been successful.

NB updated the group on progress with identifying conservation objectives for sites since the last meeting. Natural England has published finalised Conservation Objectives for the Tweed Estuary SAC and is currently consulting on draft objectives for the Northumberland Marine SPA. The consultation closes on the 6th December. NB has submitted a response. Consultations on draft advice for the Northumbria Coast SPA, the Aln Estuary MCZ and the Coquet to St Mary's MCZ will take place in 2018. There is no date yet for updating the objectives for the Berwickshire and North Northumberland SAC.

NB briefly reviewed some of the monitoring of protected areas. In Scotland there are assessments of some SPA and SAC features on SNH's [SiteLink website](#) but in the English section of the partnership area there are currently no formal condition statements available for SACs, SPAs and MCZs. Natural England is trialling methods of monitoring SAC features on a number of sites including the Tweed Estuary, which will be surveyed in 2018. A variety of other monitoring is going on which will help us build up a picture of the condition of marine sites. This includes fish surveys by NIFCA and EA's nutrient monitoring at Budle Bay. NB hopes to undertake a piece of work to review the partnership's data needs and how these can be addressed.

Traditionally the partnership has run a small summer events programme for the public. Due to the late date of NB coming into post it was not possible to arrange a proper programme for this year. A single event has been held – a search for marine invasive species at Cresswell in September held jointly with Capturing Our Coast. More events will be held in 2018, mostly linked to existing citizen science activity and to a proposed series of beach litter surveys.

Coast Care (<http://www.coast-care.co.uk/>) and the Northumberland Coast AONB have obtained funding from the Northumberland Community Foundation for a series of beach litter surveys in 2018. The surveys will follow Marine Conservation Society methodology and be undertaken in the area from Berwick down to Amble. A beach litter survey of the whole of the EMS was undertaken in 2007 and it would be useful to see how the types and amounts of litter found on the Berwickshire and North Northumberland SAC have changed in that time. NB has been liaising with Sarah Russell from the St Abbs and Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve (VMR) about carrying out complimentary surveys in the Scottish section of the EMS. NB would also hopes to carry out

surveys in the section of Northumberland/North Tyneside south of Amble, which was not looked at in 2007 surveys so that, in combination with the Coast Care work, we can build up a picture of the whole of the partnership area. NB reported that the staff at Coast Care have been very helpful in advising on the surveys and in identifying potential volunteers to help out with the work. NB also thanked Natural England, who have provided some funding to help with this project. The group briefly discussed the need to engage people in order to change behaviours around marine litter.

NB is proposing to drop the quarterly Cross-Border Currents newsletter which members of the public can sign up to via our website. The newsletter is time-consuming to produce and has limited reach as a public engagement tool. The last published edition was in spring of 2016 and the majority of subscribers are staff working for organisations on the partnership rather than members of the general public. NB is proposing to replace the newsletter with regular email updates sent to partnership members and suggested that use of social media was a better route of engaging with the general public. JD suggested that the partnership could supply articles or stories for the Capturing Our Coast volunteers as a potential means of reaching interested members of the public. NB will discuss this further with JD and SD. **ACTION NB**

NB gave an update on progress by the national Marine Protected Area Steering Group. This group operates in England where its role is to provide strategic coordination and oversight of the management of MPAs. NB reported that he had had no dealings or communications from this group during his time in post but that the group are currently reviewing their membership and operation which might explain the silence. The MPA Steering Group is reported to still be delivering activities in their work plan. These include further development of Designated Sites System to include information on management measures and work with to map information on bait digging activity supplied by IFCA against the boundaries of MPAs.

NB also drew the Management Group's attention to three pieces of national work on recreational disturbance, including a review of evidence by ABPmer which can be downloaded at <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5164654430519296?category=4891006631149568> A further two pieces of nationally commissioned work on moorings are due to be published soon. NB will circulate the details of these when they are available. **ACTION NB**

The partnership's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has now been signed by just over 50% of members. NB will be contacting members in the New Year to see if this percentage can be raised. If anyone has any concerns or queries about the content of the MoU then please let NB now. **ACTION All** NB also advised the Group that funding requests letters for the 2018/19 financial year will be sent to partners in the next month.

The update ended with a short summary of other points of interest:

- The St Abbs and Eyemouth VMR are currently seeking funding from LEADER for an ambitious seabed interpretation project.
- A new Special Protection Area (the Northumberland Marine SPA) has been designated to protect the feeding areas of a range of seabird species
- The Royal Yachting Association (RYA) has an environmental project called Green Blue which provides a range of resources to boat owners. The project is refocusing its efforts on four locations nationally and has selected the Northumberland coast as one of these areas. NB and Katie Finkill-Coombs from Natural England have had some early discussions with the RYA. One of the proposed outputs is a guide for recreational boaters giving more details about designations and sensitive areas. This offers a good opportunity to build links with a new user-group.

NB ended his presentations by discussing his priorities for the coming 12-months. In the short-term his two top priorities are work on the new online toolkit and ongoing support/supply of information to partners. In the longer-term, NB hopes to review the data and evidence needs of the partnership and initiate work on biosecurity and marine invasive species.

4. Development of online toolkit and support to partners

NB gave a brief presentation about the proposed structure of the toolkit and the sorts of information it would contain. At this stage the structure is just a suggestion. NB stressed that it is important that the final toolkit is useful as a management tool and provides members of the partnership with the information they need in a useful and easily navigable form. Feedback from potential users is important, both about content and usability. The toolkit will be aimed foremost at the partnership members but its content may also be of relevance to other environmental professionals and to interested members of the public.

The grant from HLF includes a small budget for training of partnership members. This includes training in how to use the toolkit to inform decision making and management decisions but could also, if wanted, include training which helps members better understand the important features of sites and their management requirements. Training can be arranged in a format that best fits the needs of individual members and could, for example, vary from formal sessions for multiple attendees to informal one-to-one support. NB will be developing proposals for training further and invited members to think about any topics or issues which they would find it useful to receive training on and let him have any thoughts. **ACTION AII**

NB invited thoughts about the proposals for the toolkit but also on the wider question whether there were other actions or support which people would like to see from the Marine Nature Partnership.

LC asked about including a section which identifies any existing or ongoing research relevant to individual sites. NB replied that this was not currently included in the structure but could be looked at.

CS suggested that the website could include something volunteering opportunities, which prompted a discussion about ways to encourage sharing of volunteers between organisations and/or locations.

AC stated that it was important that the partnership had an activity or a cause to rally round each year so that members could feel engaged and see progress.

5. AoB

Nothing raised.

6. Presentation: Sue Wells – National Trust: Supporting Work on Marine Conservation

SW gave a presentation on the marine work of the National Trust. A copy of the presentation is attached.

7. Presentation: Wull Drybrugh – Implementing Scotland's Rural Diffuse Pollution Plan

WD gave a presentation on the implementation of Scotland's Rural Diffuse Pollution Plan on the Tweed catchment. A copy of the presentation is attached.

8. Chairman's summary

TC thanked all the speakers and said how much he had enjoyed act as Chair during the last six years.

9. Election of New Chair

Jane Delany was elected as new Chair of the partnership.

Table of actions

Action	Who	Status
Discuss potential of provide MNP-related stories for CoCoast volunteers	NB	
Circulate links to national reports on impacts of moorings and anchoring once they are published	NB	
Let NB know about any queries or concerns about the content of the partnership MoU	All	
Think about any training needs around marine protected areas or their management and feed back to NB	All	