



**Berwickshire & Northumberland**  
Marine Nature Partnership

**Steering Group Meeting**  
**10.30am 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018**  
**Berwick Harbour Office, Tweed Dock, Berwick upon Tweed**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

**Attendees:**

Andy Tharme	ATh	Scottish Borders Council
Nick Brodin	NB	Berwickshire and Northumberland MNP
Neil Robinson	NR	Marine Management Organisation
Aurelie Bohan	AB	Northumberland Wildlife Trust
Catherine Scott (Chair)	CS	Natural England
Jon Green	JG	Northumberland IFCA
Alex Aitken	AA	Northumberland IFCA
Zara Ravenscroft	ZR	Environment Agency

**Apologies:**

David Feige	DF	Northumberland County Council
Liz Hall	LH	Scottish Borders Council
Hannah Westoby	HW	Environment Agency
Heather Harrison	HH	Environment Agency
Anne Brown	AB	Scottish Natural Heritage
Anna Griffin	AG	SEPA

CS agreed to chair the meeting in DF's absence. CS welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Berwick Harbour Commission for the use of the room and lunch.

**2. Minutes of last meeting**

The actions from the last Steering Group in October 2017 were reviewed. These are summarised in the table overleaf:

Action	Who	Status
Let NB know of any items that they feel should be included in future e-bulletins.	All	Ongoing
Let NB have indication of costs for production of flags for use at outdoor events	AB	Complete
Think about suitable candidates to approach about nomination as Partnership Chair and let NB know of any names	All	Complete
Provide any feedback to NB with any views about what they think would work well at the annual Management Group meeting.	All	Complete
Provide CS with Gant Charts showing propose delivery of the online toolkit and beach litter survey project.	NB	Complete
Environment Agency to liaise with DF over the Budle Bay nutrient study.	HW	ZR reported that the data for this is not yet analysed and is not yet ready to present. Liaison with DF has taken place over specific applications relevant to Budle Bay.
Forward report from Lindisfarne glyphosate study to GP	DF	Not actioned yet
Continue to chase up signing of the partnership MoU	NB	Ongoing
Let NB have any thoughts about changes or improvements they would like to see made to future Steering Group meetings	All	Ongoing
Canvass for dates for a Steering Group meeting in February 2018	NB	Complete

### 3. Officer Update

A written update was included with the papers for the meeting and NB discussed the highlights of this.

Re beach litter surveys; CS asked for dates of any events or surveys in case organisations were interested in taking part as part of staff development days. NB to circulate a schedule of when beach litter surveys will be taking place. **ACTION NB**

*[Note added after meeting: windows upcoming for beach litter surveys are June/July, September/October and December/January. The St Abbs and Eyemouth VMR will be holding some organised events to coincide with some of these. NB will circulate the dates once these are known. The Coast Care Project also has a programme of beach clean events ongoing which can be viewed at <http://www.coast-care.co.uk/activities/upcoming-activities/> ]*

ZR requested that any issues with sewage litter discovered during surveys be logged as an issue with the EA so that action can be taken. ZR will circulate the details of how to do this. **ACTION ZR**

NB also updated the group on developments by the St Abbs and Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve (VMR). The VMR has recently been successful in a bid to Scottish Borders LEADER for a seabed interpretation project. The project will include mapping of seabed habitats and work to make interpret the data to a wider audience through use of website materials and new technology. Match funding for the project is coming from the Blue Marine Foundation (<http://www.blumarinefoundation.com/>) who will also be working with the VMR on a project working with local fisherman. A full-time project coordinator will be employed to oversee the work.

The MNP Steering Group congratulated the VMR on this well deserved success.

CS mentioned that there is an existing monitoring transect at St Abbs for which some existing data exists. SC will send details to NB **ACTION SC**

#### 4. HLF Resilient Heritage Grant

NB provided an update on progress with the new online toolkit. The specification for the work has now been finalised and quotations will be sort from contractors imminently. The majority of the content will come from NB (with links to other sources of information such as the MMO's Marine Information System and NE's Designated Sites website). The role of the designer will be to produce a website in which this information can be easily navigated by users. The specifications includes a requirement for early user testing with partnership members to ensure that the website is fit for purpose as a working tool. The final toolkit should be completed by November.

The HLF grant also includes funding for training or upskilling of partnership members and their organisations. NB said that be envisaged that some of this training would be on the use of the new toolkit but that other training could be arranged on request. Potential additional training that could be provided might include, for example, activities to increase understanding of the interest features and management pressure on our marine protected areas, or to better understand legislative and policy drivers. This may be particularly relevant to member organisations who have marine management as a small part of a much broader remit. Training could be delivered in whatever format is most appropriate to the needs of partners, ranging from formal classroom sessions for a number of attendees to short informal one-one sessions to answer specific work-related queries.

As part of the HLF application process, NB produced a draft specification for a contractor to help with the delivery of training events. This has not been progressed yet as NB would like to better understand what training requirements partnership members might have around marine protected areas and their management. The Steering Group were invited to give their thoughts on potential topics that they would welcome training support on for themselves or for their colleagues. There were several requests to see NB's draft training brief before answering this question. NB will circulate draft brief for training. **ACTION NB**

Steering Group members are asked to provide feedback asap on:

- Potential topics or issues that they would welcome training or upskilling support on for themselves or their colleagues
- Any thoughts on preferred delivery mechanisms for any support (e.g. formal/informal, short sessions/longer sessions etc.)

**ACTION ALL**

## 5. Use of Social Media by the Marine Nature Partnership

NB tabled a short paper which set out proposals to make more efficient use of the Marine Nature Partnership's social media accounts. This includes identifying a short pipeline of topics which can be used as the basis of a series of pre-planned posts on the Partnership's social media accounts over the next 12-months. This pipeline would be shared with partnership members in advance so that any potential synergies or conflicts can be identified.

The Steering Group welcomed the proposals and NB will start work on identifying potential topics. Steering Group members were asked to let NB have details of any upcoming events or initiatives that they would like the Marine Nature Partnership to promote via social media **ACTION ALL** Please also let NB know of any hashtags that they would like to see used in posts **ACTION ALL**

## 6. Future updating of the EMS Management Scheme

NB asked for guidance from the Steering Group about future updating of the Management Scheme for the Berwickshire and North Northumberland European Marine Site. The actions within the current Management Scheme only run until the end of 2018/19. Did the Steering Group wish to see the Scheme reviewed and updated or, given the increased number of Marine Protected Areas that now fall within the partnership's remit, would the Scheme become a historic document and be replaced by the new online toolkit?

CS suggested that there was still merit in retaining the EMS Management Scheme but that it could be expanded to also cover the Coquet to St Mary's MCZ. Together these two sites would potentially encompass all of the management issues and actions that the Management Scheme needs to address. CS also suggested that the actions in the current iteration of the Management Scheme may only need minor updating and that potentially they would only require a small amount of tweaking to be made relevant to the whole of the Berwickshire and Northumberland coast.

The Steering group requested that NB produce a short paper for the next meeting which looks at potential options and issues around updating of the EMS Management Scheme. **ACTION NB**

## 7. Administrative Matters

NB reported that there had been no additional signings of the partnership MoU since the last meeting despite some chasing. However, no organisations have come back with any specific concerns or queries on the content. At present 14 out of 27 partnership members have signed the MoU. NB will get pursuing organisation on this matter **ACTION NB**

Letters requesting partnership funding for 2018/19 have now gone out to those organisations who provided a financial contribution in previous years. NB thanked those organisations who have already replied to requests or made payment. Some of the funding organisations will have to generate purchase order numbers before NB is able to invoice them for their contribution.

## 8. Updates from Partners

**MMO:** NR reported that management measures introduced for prawn fisheries in the Farnes Deep MCZ have been relatively successful. The MMO is working nationally with IFCA's over the new regulations on berried lobsters and investigating the methods available to detect if landed lobsters have been scrubbed. The Landing Obligation ('Discards Ban') will apply to all fish species from next year, which may cause issues. Strong restrictions on landing of bass are now in place. This may potentially have a big impact on recreational fishers.

NWT: Current have a couple of bids for marine work in with HLF which they are waiting to hear the result of. AB is picking up some national campaign work for the Wildlife Trusts.

EA: There has been significant work around the Water Environment Improvement Grant, which has recently opened with a six week application window. The Northumberland Rivers Trust is proposing an application for a 3-year project which look at addressing pollution inputs into Budle Bay.

The EA now have 18-months of nutrient monitoring data for Budle Bay. Modelling will commence soon to look at sources of nutrients and whether these are coming from onshore or offshore.

Scottish Borders Council: The Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for the Scottish borders has been updated. The LBAP is linked to themes in the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and contains marine actions. The document will act of Supplementary Planning Guidance, which will necessitate a public consultation. The LBAP is likely to go to a Council meeting at the end of June for approval and public consultation would follow this.

NIFCA: JG introduced AA to the group. AA has been recently appointed to replace Vicky Rae who has moved on to a new job in the Mediterranean.

Surveys have recently taken place of the mussel beds at Fenham Flats and at two additional new sites at Lindisfarne. Some recruitment of new mussels at Fenham Flats was seen. The survey of the mussel bed in the Blyth estuary is scheduled for the 18th April. The latest fish survey of the Aln Estuary MCZ will take place at the end of May.

The ban on landing of berried hens has impacted on fisheries locally.

Recent bad weather has caused a lot of dead guillemots to be washed up. There have also been a few reports of seals found tangled in fishing gear - probably as a result of the recent storms.

A consultation is currently underway on a proposal to amend NIFCA Bylaws to allow the opening up three areas of the Berwickshire and North Northumberland SAC for trawling.

Natural England: A bid to the European Marine Fisheries Fund (EMFF) for subtidal monitoring has been developed with NIFCA and will be submitted soon.

A bid will also be going in soon for a plastic pollution project looking for presence of nurdles in the Dove Time Series.

Condition Assessments of features of the Tweed Estuary SAC are ongoing.

NE are currently consulting on Conservation Advice Packages for the Lindisfarne SPA, Coquet Island SPA and the Northumbria Coast SPA.

## 9. AOB

NB will circulate a Doodle poll to canvass for dates for the Autumn Steering Group meeting.

### Table of actions from meeting

Action	Who	Status
Let NB know of any items that they feel should be included in future e-bulletins.	All	
NB to circulate a schedule of when beach litter surveys will be taking place.	NB	Complete
ZR to circulate details of how to report any beach pollution incidents which are seen	ZR	
SC to forward details of the St Abbs monitoring transect to NB	SC	
NB will circulate draft brief for contractor to help deliver training	NB	Complete
Steering Group members are asked to provide feedback asap on training requirements which could be delivered through the HLF grant	All	
NB to produce a short paper for the next meeting which looks at potential options and issues around updating of the EMS Management Scheme	NB	
Let NB have details of any upcoming events or initiatives that they would like the Marine Nature Partnership to promote via social media	All	
Let NB know of any hashtags that you would like to see used in social media posts	All	
Forward report from Lindisfarne glyphosate study to GP	DF	
Continue to chase up signing of the partnership MoU	NB	Ongoing
Let NB have any thoughts about changes or improvements they would like to see made to future Steering Group meetings	All	
NB to create Doodle poll to identify date for the Autumn Steering Group meeting	NB	Complete