



Berwickshire & Northumberland  
Marine Nature Partnership

**Steering Group Meeting**  
**10.30am 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018**  
**Berwick Harbour Office, Tweed Dock, Berwick upon Tweed**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

**Attendees:**

David Feige (Chair)	DF	Northumberland County Council
Liz Hall	LH	Scottish Borders Council
Nick Brodin	NB	Berwickshire and Northumberland MNP
Neil Robinson	NR	Marine Management Organisation
Catherine Scott	CS	Natural England
Natalie Wallace	NW	Northumberland IFCA
Zara Ravenscroft	ZR	Environment Agency
Gwen Potter	GP	National Trust

**Apologies:**

Andy Tharme	ATh	Scottish Borders Council
Anna Griffin	AG	SEPA

DF 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 April 2018 were reviewed. These are summarised in the table below:

Action	Who	Status
Let NB know of any items that they feel should be included in future e-bulletins.	All	Ongoing
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	Complete
SC to forward details of the St Abbs monitoring transect to NB	SC	Ongoing

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	Complete
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	Complete
Let NB have details of any upcoming events or initiatives that they would like the Marine Nature Partnership to promote via social media	All	Ongoing
Let NB know of any hashtags that you would like to see used in social media posts	All	Ongoing
Forward report from Lindisfarne glyphosate study to GP	DF	Complete
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
NB to create Doodle poll to identify date for the Autumn Steering Group meeting	NB	Complete

ZR reminded everyone about the importance of reporting any pollution or sewage issues identified when out at the coast. NB will recirculate ZR's email on how to report pollution incidents with the minutes of this meeting.

### 3. Officer Update

A written update was included with the papers for the meeting. NB talked the Steering Group through the highlights of this.

#### *Beach litter surveys:*

Over the last 12-months, beach litter surveys have been undertaken by Coast Care, the St Abbs and Eyemouth VMR and the Berwickshire and Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership. Together these provide an insight into the current state of beach litter across the whole of the partnership area. Coast Care held a meeting for its volunteers on 23rd October to discuss their results and to discuss potential actions. NB gave a short presentation summarising the data collected for Berwickshire and for the area south of Coast Care. Looking across all of the beach litter surveys carried out in Berwick and Northumberland, the majority of litter items found were plastic or polystyrene items. Plastic pieces, rope/cord, and fishing line were all strong contributors to this category. Sanitary items also appear to be making up a larger proportion of litter items found than they did in 2007.

[Coast Care have subsequently published a report on the results of their surveys which can be viewed at [http://www.northumberlandcoastaonb.org/files/Downloads/Litter\\_report%20Final.pdf](http://www.northumberlandcoastaonb.org/files/Downloads/Litter_report%20Final.pdf)]

NB will be writing up a summary of the findings and any local issues identified.

NB has been assisted in the surveys by a regular volunteer who has contributed survey results from Tynemouth.

*RYA/British Marine Green Blue project:*

The Northumberland Coast has been identified as a focus area for the Green Blue Project. Kate Fortnam from RYA has been meeting with marinas and sailing clubs to promote the project and raise awareness of the potential environmental impacts of recreational boat use. A bespoke leaflet about the Northumberland coast aimed at water users will be produced by summer of next year. NB has continued to liaise with the project and will be inputting into the production of the leaflet.

*Coquet to St Mary's Stakeholder Engagement:*

Funding has been received from Natural England to carry out stakeholder engagement work in south east Northumberland/North Tyneside. The aim of the work is to identify any additional stakeholders whose activities may impact on marine protected areas in this part of the partnership areas and to engage with them further about the interest features and pressures on the site(s). The bulk of the work will take place in early 2019.

#### 4. Online toolkit progress and training proposals

NB reported that the company Urban River has successfully quoted for the contract to design the new online toolkit for the Marine Nature Partnership. Work has commenced on the design of the site with NB providing the majority of the technical content. The toolkit should be completed in time for the MNP's annual management group meeting in December.

The Resilient Heritage grant also contains a budget for training for MNP members. A questionnaire was circulated to gather information about training needs. NB will be delivering a training session at Tyneside House on the morning of 26th November and is able to hold additional sessions on request. **Action All** The training will include information about the new online toolkit and covers the basics of marine protected areas, their purpose and what the features for which they are designated.

#### 5. Proposal for updating of the current EMS Management Scheme

NB tabled a paper looking at options for updating the current EMS Management Scheme. The main recommendations were that:

- An initial 'light-touch' revision of the current Scheme be undertaken to update the current actions, all of which expire by the end of this financial year
- In the longer term expand the Management Scheme to cover all of the sites covered by the partnership (currently it only deals with Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC and the Lindisfarne SPA)
- Produce an annual work programme

CS suggested that the Coquet to St Mary's MCZ might be brought in at the 'light-touch' phase as this would provide a hook to the stakeholder engagement project which the MNP will be undertaking in South East Northumberland.

The Steering Group agreed the recommendations of the paper. NB will implement and report on progress at future Steering Group meetings.

## 6. MMO proposal for a new coastal partnership for Borders to Tyne area

DF introduced the background to this item. The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) called a meeting to discuss the setting up of a new coastal partnership operating in the area between the River Tyne and the Scottish border on the 18th October. Prior to the meeting there were exchanges of email from DF/NB to the MMO expressing discomfort with the proposed agenda and apparent direction of travel. Some modifications were made to the agenda as a result, including the inclusion of a short presentation from NB on the work of the Berwickshire and Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership.

The discussions at the meeting on the 18th October did not appear to demonstrate an appetite for the creation of a new Tyne to the Scottish Border Partnership (whose role would overlap substantially with that of the Marine Nature Partnership), however it was agreed that there was potential benefit to greater liaison between partners across the whole of the North East coast (including Durham and Tees) around marine and coastal issues. The MMO will be holding a second meeting in January 2019 to discuss next steps.

ZR reflected that the Environment Agency have recently been involved in setting up new Estuary Partnerships for both the Tyne and the Tees. An important part of the role of these partnerships is on helping to ensure environmental enhancements from development. ZR will send NB the details of these partnerships. **Action ZR**

## 7. Fishing with mobile gear in the Scottish section of the EMS

There is a prohibition against fishing with mobile gear in part of the Scottish section of the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC (a 'fixed gear reserve'). The wording of the current EMS Management Scheme suggests that this covers all of the SAC however this appears not to be the case and dredging took place (legally) on part of the SAC earlier this year. The sensitivity of EMS features was reviewed by Marine Scotland in 2014 as part of requirements from Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. The formal advice from Scottish Natural Heritage to Marine Scotland during this review was that no further management of fishing activity was required within the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC

<https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2017-07/A1454874%20-%20Fishing%20in%20EMS%20-%20advice%20to%20Marine%20Scotland%20on%20most%20sensitive%20sites%20-%20February%202014%20-%20PDF.pdf>

NB will circulate a copy of a map showing the extent of the fixed gear reserve with the minutes of the meetings. **Action NB**

## 8. Annual Management Group meeting

The annual meeting of the full Management Group will take place on Tuesday 11th December in Berwick upon Tweed. NB is currently putting the agenda together and arranging speakers.

## 9. Updates from Partners

EA: Work is progressing on nutrient monitoring data for Holy Island/Budle Bay. An engagement event was held in October to present the results to local stakeholders.

Monitoring programme for next year is currently being put together this will likely include monitoring of the Coquet estuary and monitoring of saltmarsh within the Aln Estuary MCZ.

ZR also mention that Defra have declared 2019 to be the Year of Green Action.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/young-people-join-together-for-year-of-green-action>

NIFCA: Work is continuing on MSFD project with Natural England and Newcastle University to develop and test indicators for mud and reef features.

An application has been submitted to FLAG for a brown crab assessment project.

Aln Estuary fish surveys are scheduled for May and September.

Natural England: Conservation Advice Packages for The Farne Islands SPA, Aln Estuary MCZ and Coquet to St Mary's MCZ are currently out for consultation. The draft Conservation Advice package for the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC is due to be published by March 2019.

Condition Assessments on the Tweed Estuary SAC are currently being undertaken.

CS is currently bidding for money for projects for the 2019/20 financial year.

MMO: NMc reported on changes to the Landing Obligation ("Discards Ban"). On 1st January 2019, all quota species of fish will be covered by the requirements. All species landed will count towards an individual quota. A workshop about the new rules is being held next week at North Shields.

MMO are currently recruiting additional enforcement officers as part of readiness for after the 27 March.

Scottish Borders Council: The Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for the Scottish borders has been updated and is out to consultation as Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance.

LH will be leaving Scottish Borders Council in December. The Steering Group wished her well and thanked her for her contribution towards the Marine Nature Partnership.

National Trust: Kate Martin has been appointed as the National Trust's new Marine Office for the North of England. Kate will be based in the Lake District.

A planning exercise is being carried out for the North East coast which will look at issues of landscape and seascape.

The National Trust have surrendered their lease on the southern part of the Aln Estuary back to Northumberland Estates.

Seal monitoring on the Farnes is continuing. A drone is being used alongside traditional monitoring methods.

Northumberland County Council: Work is continuing on developing a Coastal Mitigation Service. This will use a contribution from new housing development within 10km of the coast to address issues which increased visitor pressure will cause to international designations, such as recreational disturbance and the spread of piri-piri burr.

## 10. AOB

The Eyemouth and St Abbs Voluntary Marine Reserve (VMR) are not currently a member of the Marine Nature Partnership although there is significant overlap in our respective aims. NB reported

Sarah Russell from the VMR had enquired about membership. The Steering Group were happy to extend an invitation to the VMR to join. NB will let the VMR know. **Action NB**

### Table of actions from meeting

Action	Who	Status
Contact NB if you would like to arrange a training session about MPAs and the Marine Nature Partnership's new online toolkit	All	
ZR to forward NB details of the Tyne Estuary Partnership	ZR	
NB to circulate a copy of a map showing the extent of the fixed gear reserve around St Abbs	NR	Complete
NB to contact the St Abbs VMR and invite them to join the Marine Nature Partnership	NB	
SC to forward details of the St Abbs monitoring transect to NB	SC	
Let NB have details of any upcoming events or initiatives that they would like the Marine Nature Partnership to promote via social media	All	Ongoing
Let NB know of any hashtags that you would like to see used in social media posts	All	Ongoing