



Berwickshire & Northumberland
Marine Nature Partnership

Management Group Meeting 10.00am 4th December 2019, Berwick WorkSpace

Present:

Alex Aitken	AA	Northumberland Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority
Andy Tharme	AT	Scottish Borders Council
Malcolm Fraser	MF	Scottish Natural Heritage
Anne Brown	AB	Scottish Natural Heritage
Anthony Crook	ACr	Environment Agency
Catherine Scott	CS	Natural England
Andrew Craggs	AC	Natural England
Clare McCarty	CM	Marine Management Organisation
Daniel Piec	DP	RSPB (Roseate Tern LIFE Project)
Fay Hieatt	FH	River Tweed Commission
Jane Delany	JD	Newcastle University, Chair of B&N MNP
Katherine Dunsford	KD	St Abbs and Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve
Nick Brodin	NB	MNP Project Officer

Apologies:

Anna Griffin	AG	SEPA
David Feige	DF	Northumberland County Council (AONB)
Doreen Bell	SW	Scottish Water
Duncan Hutt	DH	Northumberland Wildlife Trust
James Maclean	JM	Northumbrian Water
Liz Charman	LC	RSPB
Liz Hall	LH	Scottish Borders Council
Liza Cole	LC	National Trust for Scotland
Stuart Pudney	SP	Northumbrian Water
Zara Ravenscroft	ZR	Environment Agency

1. Welcome and Introductions

JD welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendees introduced themselves and NB announced apologies.

2. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

Previous minutes from December 2018 were accepted. Any matters arising were dealt with as part of the main agenda.

Action	Who	Status
Contact NB if you would like a training session on marine protected areas	All	Complete
Collate an initial list of research questions for the Berwickshire and Northumberland coast and organise a workshop in the spring to discuss these in more detail	NB	Complete

3. Officer Update and proposed future work

NB gave a presentation to update the group on progress since the last meeting.

The new online toolkit for the Partnership went live in January funded through a grant from HLF through their Resilient Heritage programme. The grant included money both for the creation of the toolkit and for the provision of training to MNP partners. The toolkit is intended as a working resource so please let NB have any feedback about improvements that can be made **ACTION ALL**. NB held a training webinar in June and commissioned a series of infographics about each of the eleven marine protected areas covered by the partnership. NB is happy to arrange additional training events if required. If any would like a general introduction to marine protected areas or training on a particular topic then please let NB know **ACTION ALL**. NB thanked NIFCA for fronting the bid on behalf of the wider partnership.

This year's work has seen a focus on data, monitoring and research needs. Two workshops have been held to discuss research needs and data gaps and these identified a number of joint activities, particularly around baselines. A Data, Monitoring and Research sub-group will be formed and as a precursor to this a research networking meeting will be held after today's Management Group meeting. Anyone who would like to join the new Data, Monitoring and Research group please let NB know **ACTION ALL**

Defra designated a new marine protected area on the Northumberland coast in May: the Berwick to St Mary's Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ). The site is designated for eider duck. As a result of discussions with partners about the new MCZ a new project called Eider Aware North East has been created. This aims to celebrate Northumberland's eiders while passing on conservation messages. Funding for the project has been secured from Northumbrian Water and the Northumberland Coast AONB. Outputs will include an eider recording app created for us by ERIC North East, a short film, and a series of public events from our partners.

A number of consultation responses have been submitted on behalf of the partnership during the last 12-months. These include comments of draft Conservation Advice Packages and on the latest round of engagement on the draft North East Marine Plan.

NB looked forward to some upcoming work for the remainder of the year, this included delivery of the Eider Aware project and a review of the current EMS Management Scheme. The revised Management Scheme will now cover all of the inshore marine protected areas within the partnership's remit. The results of stakeholder engagement work in the Coquet to St Mary's MCZ, undertaken earlier in the year with funding from Natural England, will help to inform this.

NB has been examining progress against the indicators of a well-managed network of marine protected areas produced by Clare Hedley. Good progress is being made on most of these and further improvements will be seen as the result of the Management Scheme review. The one area where no progress has been made is documentation of the condition of marine protected areas and designated features of marine protected areas.

4. Discussion on partnership priorities for the coming year

As an introduction to the discussion about shared priorities for the partnership, JD asked all the participants at the meeting to say a bit more about their current activities and priorities around the marine environment:

Scottish Natural Heritage: 2020 is Scottish Year of Coasts and Water. Activity is planned around this including the likely creation of a Challenge Fund to deliver events. SNH will be rebranding Nature Scot in May. The possible opening up of a squid fishery in Berwickshire has been discussed although no official proposal has yet been submitted to the Regional Inshore Fisheries Group. Any formal application would need to go through Habitats Regulations Appraisal.

River Tweed Commision: A project is underway to monitor the movement of salmon smoults. This was trialled with 60 fish in the spring. Further smoults will be tagged next year. A dietary analysis of piscivorous birds has been undertaken together with a tracking study of goosander.

Environment Agency: Work is taking place with University of Durham to use stable isotopes to study the sources of macroalgae problems. Work will take place on Lindisfarne, the Tweed, Tyne and the Tees. A project is currently running to look for habitat enhancement opportunities on the Blyth estuary.

Marine Management Organisation: Work has continued to draft polices for the North East Marine Plan. A 'You Said, We Did' document has been produced to summarise the last round of engagement on the Plan. Everyone is encouraged to sign up to the Marine Planning Newsletter.

Natural England: The Lindisfarne NNR Management Plan and NNR bylaws are currently being reviewed. NNR staff have been involved, along with the National Trust and the AONB, in the development of a shorebird project which has been submitted to HLF. Work has continued to deal with macroalgae at Budle Bay. CS discussed condition assessments on sites. These are now being done on a risk-based approach.

Northumberland IFCA: Byelaw reviews are taking place particularly focused on dredging and on the use of mobile gear in the Coquet to St Mary's MCZ. Work is taking place on intertidal fisheries, particularly an assessment of the impacts of periwinkle gathering.

St Abbs VMR: A new Code of Conduct is being produced. This will be made more specific to individual user groups.

Scottish Border Council: AT reported that the Tweed Forum have submitted a Stage 2 HLF bid for the Tweed catchment. The project is access focused but he believed there was opportunity for wider environmental work.

5. Review of the Management Scheme (interactive session)

A workshop session was held to give members the opportunity to review the list of activities covered by the current Management Scheme and to identify any gaps or any activities which could be merged.

6. Presentation: Daniel Piec- Roseate Tern LIFE Project

DP gave a presentation about the work of the Roseate Tern LIFE project.

The roseate tern is Britain's rarest breeding seabird. The aim of the LIFE project is to boost the ongoing effort to secure roseate tern populations and provide suitable conditions for their expansion to former breeding sites. It also aims to increase knowledge about threats, ecology, migration, prey species and best practice management for the species.

The project is working at several sites across Britain and Island, including Coquet Island in Northumberland. The Coquet Island colony has continued to grow in size but until recently this was due to immigration of birds from Rockabill in Ireland. However, in recent years there have been signs that the Coquet colony is now self-sustaining.

Climate change is a potential threat to roseate terns. Rising sea temperatures cause a phenological mismatch between the availability of zooplankton and the sandeels which feed on them. As a result, the numbers and quality of sandeels – an important prey item for terns- terns may decrease.

The project will be producing an Action Plan for roseate tern. This identifies several areas to target for long-term management. One of these areas includes the Firth of Forth and the Northumberland coast. Further details can be found on the LIFE project website <http://roseatetern.org/>

7. Chair's summary

JD thanked everyone for their attendance. There is clearly a wide variety of action being undertaken by different organisations and an appetite to explore collaborations for the collection and sharing of data. She is particularly looking forward to the new Management Scheme and to the results of the work on data and monitoring.

8. AoB

JD reported that a new Outreach Officer, Sally Tapp, has started work at the Dove Marine Laboratory and suggested that partners may wish to make contact.

Summary of actions

Action	Who	Status
Let NB have any feedback on the new online toolkit or suggestions for improvements	All	
Anyone interested in further training or with a topic that they would like training on to let NB know	All	
Let NB know if you would like to join the new Data, Monitoring and Research group	All	