



Berwickshire & Northumberland
Marine Nature Partnership

Steering Group Meeting 10.30am 7th February 2023 Virtual meeting

1. Welcome and Introductions

Attendees:

Nick Brodin	NB	Berwickshire and Northumberland MNP
Anne Brown	AB	NatureScot
Anthony Crook	AC	Environment Agency
Raffaella Diesel	RD	Scottish Borders Council
David Feige (Chair)	DF	Northumberland County Council
Anna Griffin	AG	SEPA
Beth Harvey	BH	Northumberland IFCA
Stephanie Ingram	SI	Marine Management Organisation
Fiona Munro	FM	Marine Scotland
Catherine Scott	CS	Natural England

Apologies:

Alex Aitken	AA	Northumberland IFCA
James Porteus	JP	National Trust
Gwen Potter	GP	National Trust

Gwen Potter has now moved on to a new job with the National Trust in Yorkshire. The Steering Group minuted their thanks to Gwen for all her contribution to the MNP during her time in Northumberland.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The actions from the last Steering Group in November 2022 were reviewed. Progress with action points is summarised in the attached table.

Action	Who	Status
LS to ask Catherine Scott for an update on Pacific oyster monitoring	LS	Complete
DF to set up call with AG on Nutrient Neutrality	DF	Ongoing
DF to pass on details of the Wansbeck Boat Club to the Wansbeck Estuary Project	DF	Complete
NB to contact Liz Humphries to invite her to a future Steering Group meeting to give an update on WADER	NB	Complete
AG to invite Karen Morley to present on the Borderland Marine Natural Capital Project at the MNP Annual meeting in December	AG	Complete
NB to work up details of proposed student bursary scheme for the Steering Group to review	NB	Ongoing

CS reported that the WADER LIFE project contained a workstrand on Marine invasive non-native species and that this will include Pacific Oyster.

DF asked to roll over the action point on Nutrient Neutrality. He also mentioned that Wansbeck Boat Club have been present at Wansbeck estuary meetings.

3. Partnership Officer Update

A full written update was provided with the papers for the meeting. A brief summary of some of the main points is given below:

The final draft text of the Guide is currently with a designer and the final PDF document is due for delivery by the end of March.

The Marine Nature Partnership has received funding from Natural England to coordinate additional Eider Duck surveys by volunteers over the next few months. These will provide an element of ground truthing to aerial flyover surveys planned for the Berwick to St Mary's Marine Conservation Zone. The partnership will also be helping to coordinate volunteer surveys of rocky shore habitat as part of a larger conditional monitoring project by Natural England.

Eider Duck Day will be held again on the 20th March.

Championing Coastal Coordination (3Cs) was discussed under agenda item 5.

4. WADER LIFE Project

CS provided an update on the WADER LIFE Project. This is a 5-year project funded by EU LIFE and operates in North Northumberland. There are several elements to the Project. These include:

- Source to sea management of nutrient issues
- Research elements (including management of macro-algae and modelling of nutrient sources)
- Education
- Invasive Non-Native Species (including Marine INNS)
- Reducing recreational impacts on coast bird species

CS will circulate the slides from her presentation **ACTION CS**

5. 3Cs update

The Environment Agency have confirmed that they will provide 3Cs funding to the Coastal Partnerships Network for their National Framework for Coastal Coordination (NFCC) project. Included within this larger bid is a regional demonstration project led on jointly by the Marine Nature Partnership and by the Durham Heritage Coast. The regional project will bring stakeholders together to produce a prioritised regional strategy for coastal habitat restoration. This will be a 3-year project subject to confirmation of funding at the start of each financial year. Two workshops will be held in March to review national opportunity mapping and to begin the process of mapping out existing regional activity.

The Marine Nature Partnership is also involved in the workstrand of the national project that is looking at transboundary working between England, Scotland and Wales and is organising a workshop later in February jointly with the Solway Firth Partnership and the Severn Estuary Partnership.

6. Partner Updates

NatureScot: AB that NatureScot are setting up a marine strand internally.

NIFCA: BH reported that Fisheries Management Plans are being drafted with local IFCA's involved in engagement.

NIFCA have been holding their first round of Fisher Forums. These seem to be going well. The lobster and crab plan will be consulted on soon. A new project is being started to place water temperature loggers on fishing pots and a potential project is being considered looking at potting densities north and south of the Scottish border. Work is also being done on intertidal fisheries with lugworm surveys periwinkle surveys taking place and an MCZ assessment underway for the Coquet to St Mary's area.

SEPA: AG reported that SEPA will be examining results of monitoring soon.

Scottish Border Council: No updates

Marine Scotland: FM gave an update on Regional Marine Plans in Scotland. The first plan (for Shetland) will be adopted soon and consultations for Clyde and Orkney will take place this year.

Environment Agency: AC updated on Environment Agency surveys planned for this year – these include seagrass and macroalgae at Holy Island/Budle Bay, and saltmarsh surveys of the Wansbeck and the Blyth.

Marine Management Organisation: SI reported that the Regional Fishery Group is now in place.

Northumberland County Council: DF reported that Defra’s Guidance on Local Nature Recovery Strategies has now been published and work on the Northumberland LNRS is likely to start in April.

7. Potential Logo Refresh

The designer working on the Wild Recreation Guide has offered to do a refresh of the Marine Nature Partnership logo as part of the work and has sent over some initial ideas. The Steering Group were asked if they wished to commission an updated logo but after some discussion recommended that we keep our existing logo.

8. AOB

None

9. Table of actions from meeting

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DF to set up call with AG on Nutrient Neutrality	DF	
DF to pass on details of the Wansbeck Boat Club to the Wansbeck Estuary Project	DF	