



Berwickshire & Northumberland
Marine Nature Partnership

Steering Group Meeting 10.00am 10th November 2022 Virtual meeting

1. Welcome and Introductions

Attendees:

Alex Aitken	AA	Northumberland IFCA
Nick Brodin	NB	Berwickshire and Northumberland MNP
Anne Brown	AB	NatureScot
Raffaella Diesel	RD	Scottish Borders Council
David Feige (Chair)	DF	Northumberland County Council
Anna Griffin	AG	SEPA

Apologies:

Fiona Munro	FM	Marine Scotland
Gwen Potter	GP	National Trust
Catherine Scott	CS	Natural England

2. Minutes of last meeting

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

Action	Who	Status
Let NB have any thoughts about the need for an Operation Seabird scheme in Berwickshire and Northumberland	All	On longer needed – Operation Seabird launched on 1 st June
LS to ask Catherine Scott for an update on Pacific oyster monitoring	LS	

Keep Janet Kahn from SEPA be in the loop over the development of the Marine INNS Strategy	NB	Complete
DF to look into what could be outputs from the LNRS pilot can be shared with the Steering Group	DF	Ongoing
NB to recirculate copy of Operation Seabird Framework	NB	Complete
NB to forward copy of 3Cs Report and Action Plan	NB	Complete
Anyone who would like copies of our Eider Aware leaflet please contact NB	All	Complete
DF to forward further information on Nutrient Neutrality to AG	DF	Ongoing

NB reported that an Operation Seabird initiative for Northumberland and Tyne & Wear was launched by Northumbria Police in June, although no subsequent activity has taken place.

DF requested that the action point on outputs from the LNRS pilot be turned into an agenda item once the Regulations and Guidance had been published by Defra.

DF will set up a Teams call to discuss nutrient neutrality with AG **ACTION DF**

3. Partnership Officer Update

A written update was provided with the papers for the meeting.

A submission for WEIF funding has been submitted to the Environment Agency for a new project which would look at ecological enhancements of hard infrastructure on the coast. A parallel application to Rewilding Britain's Innovation Fund has also been made.

The Blue Marine Foundation held a workshop in Easington, County Durham, on 5th July to promote their Vision for National Marine Parks. The Marine Nature Partnership gave a presentation to the workshop and a number of organisations on the Steering Group were present. National Marine Parks are a voluntary status which recognises the importance of an area of sea and uses this to promote sustainable use with a range of different stakeholders.

Defra consulted on a suite of proposed Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs) over the summer. Two of these were located off the Northumberland coast: an offshore site North East of Farne Deep and an inshore site at Lindisfarne. The boundary of the Lindisfarne site included Budle Bay and the Outer Farnes but omitted Fenham Flats. The consultation closed on the 28th September and Defra have stated that they will make a decision on whether to designate any of the candidate sites by July 2023.

AA asked if the Wansbeck Boat Club had been included in discussions about the Wansbeck Estuary (they are located downstream of the barrage). DF offered to pass on their details to the Wansbeck Estuary Project **ACTION DF**

AG asked about progress with the LIFE WADER project. NB will contact Liz Humphries at Natural England to invite her to a future steering group meeting to provide an update **ACTION NB** In addition he will see if Liz might be interested in giving a brief update at the annual partnership meeting in December.

4. 3Cs update

NB provided an update on progress with the Championing Coastal Coordination (3Cs) work. Following on from the 3Cs-funded work earlier in 2022, a Coast Network for Berwickshire and North East England has been set up and is looking at how our 3Cs action plan can be implemented.

On the 2nd November, the Environment Agency announced another round of Expression of Interest for further 3Cs funding. NB is working with Durham Heritage Coast on another regional bid, probably to be included as part of a larger national project by the Coastal Partnerships Network. An initial focus of this will be regional habitat restoration planning.

5. Partner Updates

NatureScot: AB reported on NatureScots recent restructure which has seen the creation of a South Scotland team which includes Berwickshire, Lothian, Fife and the Trossachs.

NIFCA: AA reported that a byelaw regulating scallop dredging in all of the NIFCA district was now in place. A full review is underway of NIFCA's fixed engine byelaw. NIFCA have also recently set up Fisher Forums to provide greater input from fishers and fishing communities into the work of the authority.

SEPA: AG reported that SEPA have given presentations about water quality issues in the wider Tweed catchment to Greener Berwickshire as part of Big Green Berwick Week. Bathing water status is stabilising and improving in the inshore waters of Berwickshire.

Scottish Border Council: No specific updates but RD noted the presence of two Borderlands projects in the local authority boundary.

Northumberland County Council: DF reported that Space for Shorebirds (the coastal mitigation service for Northumberland) has recruited an additional wildlife ranger to help with their work. Space for Shorebirds have reported a good summer for ringed plover.

6. Annual Partnership Meeting

The Marine Nature Partnership's annual meeting of all the partners will be held on Wednesday 14th December. The meeting will be held online to allow to reduce travelling but NB is interested in receiving any sounding as to whether future meetings should revert to an in-person format.

The Steering Group discussed potential speakers at the event. AG will contact Karen Morley of Dumfries and Galloway Council to talk about the Borderlands Marine Natura Capital Project running on the Solway. **ACTION AG**

7. Proposal for creation of a Student Bursary

NB tabled a paper proposing the creation of a small bursary for student research projects similar to the one that has been in operation through the Solent Forum for a number of years.

The proposal was accepted and NB will draw up further details to bring back to the Steering Group **ACTION NB**

8. AOB

None

9. Table of actions from meeting

Action	Who	Status
LS to ask Catherine Scott for an update on Pacific oyster monitoring	LS	
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	
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