



Berwickshire & Northumberland
Marine Nature Partnership

Steering Group Meeting 10.00am 27th April 2022 Virtual meeting

1. Welcome and Introductions

Attendees:

Andrew Boon	AB	Northumberland IFCA
Nick Brodin	NB	Berwickshire and Northumberland MNP
Raffaela Diesel	RD	Scottish Borders Council
David Feige (Chair)	DF	Northumberland County Council
Crispin Hill	CH	NatureScot
Anna Griffin	AG	SEPA
Fiona Munro	FM	Marine Scotland
Gwen Potter	GP	National Trust

Apologies:

Alex Aitken	AA	Northumberland IFCA
Anne Brown	AB	NatureScot
Malcolm Fraser	MF	NatureScot
Catherine Scott	CS	Natural England
Hannah Westoby	HW	Environment Agency

Malcolm Fraser and Hannah Westoby have moved on to new jobs within their respective organisations. The Steering Group expressed their thanks to both for all their work on behalf of the Marine Nature Partnership. We welcomed three new attendees: Raffaela Diesel, Crispin Hill, and Fiona Munro.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The actions from the last Steering Group in December 2021 were reviewed. Progress with action points is summarised in the attached table.

Action	Who	Status
AB to pass any relevant information on new Site Condition Assessments to NB	AB	Ongoing
LS to ask Catherine Scott for an update on Pacific oyster monitoring	LS	Action rolled over
Let NB have any thoughts about the need for an Operation Seabird scheme in Berwickshire and Northumberland	All	Ongoing
Keep Janet Kahn from SEPA be in the loop over the development of the Marine INNS Strategy	NB	Ongoing
DF to look into what could be outputs from the LNRS pilot can be shared with the Steering Group	DF	Action rolled over

No additional thoughts about the setting up of an Operation Seabird initiative have been received but NB was asked to recirculate the Operation Seabird Framework **ACTION NB**

Following the Steering Group meeting NB was contacted by a representative of Northumbria Police to say they were setting up an Operation Seabird initiative for Northumberland and Tyne & Wear, with a public event being organised for June. NB is seeking a meeting to discuss to get more details.

3. Partnership Officer Update

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

The joint Championing Coastal Coordination (3Cs) project with Durham Heritage Coast has dominated NB's work in the final quarter of 2021/22. Four regional workshops were held with professional facilitation from staff from The Blooming Platypus. The workshops involved organisations from across the area covered by the two partnerships and aimed to collaboratively identify actions to address climate change impacts on our coast. A final report and action plan have been produced which NB will circulate once finalised **ACTION NB** This contains a number of foci for action including the setting up of a coastal network to coordinate regional action across the areas covered by the two partnerships, production of a coastal plan identifying local priorities for habitat restoration and creation, and the establishment of a capacity hub to provide shared access to knowledge, equipment and (potentially) funding for future habitat restoration and creation work.

NB has also inputted into the National Working Group for the 3Cs work carried out by the Coastal Partnerships Network (CPN). The result of this work has been the development of proposals for a national framework for coastal coordination with the UK. The CPN are currently looking at how to disseminate the final recommendations.

As an offshoot of the 3Cs work, the MNP and Durham Heritage Coast organised a habitats workshop for the Stronger Shores Project (Defra Innovation Fund Project by South Tyneside Council looking at the potential role of marine habitats in flood and coastal defence).

Eider Duck Day 2022 was held on the 20th March using both online material and in person events hosted by a range of organisation. NB joined colleagues from Space For Shorebirds at a drop-in event at Amble Harbour, where we engaged with over 50 members of the public. As part of the day, several short films produced for us by local wildlife filmmaker Cain Scrimgeour were launched online. The films can be found at

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLTjv9_PVdxYUsEg6XsPZ1sdCtE6qIZl3m

NB has arranged for an MSc Student from Newcastle University to carry out research into recreational disturbance of Eider creches on the Coquet estuary.

Our Eider Aware Leaflet has now been printed. If anyone would like copies then please contact NB **ACTION ALL**

The CoastSnap project is progressing. Site visits to proposed locations were made with Dr Seb Pitman from Newcastle University who has past experience of setting up a CoastSnap project. All of the proposed locations, with the exception of Snap Point/Lynemouth Bay, were thought to be suitable. A potential alternative for recording coastal change at this location, using laser mapping, are being looked at with the University. A few of the proposed locations will need further discussion and agreement with landowners.

The activity sections Wild Recreation Guide document have been redrafted in response to comments and recirculated. NB has also held a meeting with Natural England to discuss the draft text. Generic linking text for the remainder of the document is currently being produced and a complete draft document will be available soon. The Guide will be similar in format to that produced by the Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership <https://wnnmp.co.uk/home/the-wild-recreation-guide/> and each activity will have information listed under the headings of Enjoy Respect Protect. Nature England had suggested reordering these sections so that protect or respect were first. The Steering Group had no objections to this.

Work has continued to draft the Marine INNS Strategy. The main focus of the strategy will be identifying what marine INNS are currently present in the area, identifying additional marine INNS that pose a high risk to the area, identify potential pathways for INNS introduction, identify any additional biosecurity measures required, review existing

monitoring for marine INNS and any additional measures that are required, and set out the actions needed when marine INNS are identified. The draft document should be ready for dissemination by late May/June and NB will follow up with individual discussions with key organisations.

4. Partner Updates

NatureScot: CH reported on Scotwind, the programme to lease areas of seabed around Scotland for windfarm development.

NatureScot also has a new Corporate Plan. A part of this budget saving will have to be found which may impact on future partnership funding arrangements.

Nothing new to report on a potential squid fishery on the Berwickshire coast.

NIFCA: A byelaw regulating scallop dredging in all of the NIFCA district has been consulted on and is currently with the MMO. A full review is underway of NIFCA's fixed engine byelaw. Engagement with anglers has been taking place as part of NIFCA's Angling Strategy. Crustacean sampling will recommence soon.

National Trust: GP reported that visitor numbers to the Farne Islands were down last year, due to COVID and late opening. There has been increased sightings on drones on the Islands. This is being monitored.

Marine Scotland: FM introduced herself and updated on progress with Marine Planning in Scotland.

SEPA: AG reported that there have been discussions in SEPA concerning some of the data issues around the Tweed catchment. SEPA are also involved in the Borderlands project.

Scottish Border Council: RD introduced herself. She has been in post for 6-weeks and has no coastal issues to report on as yet.

Northumberland County Council: A requirement for Nutrient Neutrality has been introduced for planning applications in north Northumberland which might impact on the integrity of the Lindisfarne SPA. DF reported that he is currently looking at what measures will deal with this requirement.

AG asked for more information as the issue is likely to impact on work on cross-border catchments. DF will forward relevant documents, including the advice package for the Eden catchment **ACTION DF**

5. AOB

NB will be sending out letters to funding partners soon asking for financial contributions for 2022/23

6. Table of actions from meeting

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