

MarPAMM – Argyll Information

1. Funding

Marine Protected Area Management and Monitoring (MarPAMM) is an ambitious three year marine management project receiving funding through the INTERREG VA funding programme. The project comprises various different work packages, one of which is focussed on the management of MPAs. The project is being led by Agri-food and Biosciences Institute in Northern Ireland and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) is leading the work package on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Marine Scotland and the Scottish Association for Marine Science are also formal project partners.

2. Approach to developing MPA management plans

To date management plans for MPAs have tended to focus on individual sites. Whilst there are examples where this has worked well (e.g. Loch Creran), it has led to some plans focussing on site-specific detail, with little reference to or interaction with wider marine planning and management, especially at a more strategic level. Through MarPAMM we intend to trial the production of management plans at a regional scale in Argyll and the Outer Hebrides.

3. Producing an MPA plan for the Argyll Marine Region

Amie Williams, Argyll MPA Planning and Data Officer for SNH, will facilitate the production of an MPA management plan with the help of stakeholders with an interest in the Argyll Marine Region. The outputs of the project are not restricted to a set format or structure, rather they will be guided by the requirements of the stakeholders. We may decide that rather than producing a large, all inclusive management document we produce a series of short guidance documents on particular topics with an up-to-date list of where useful information is available. By collecting the views of stakeholders and working closely with them we hope to better understand their aspirations for the MPAs in Argyll and deliver the following:

- An agreed vision for MPAs across Argyll that recognises the aspirations of maritime stakeholders.
- Identify issues where further information, clarity or guidance is required to support effective implementation of MPAs in Argyll.
- Identify benefits that key stakeholders would like to see realised from MPAs in Argyll and options for how these might be delivered.
- Produce materials to help address the above. This might include e.g. guidance on technical issues, such as assessing cumulative impacts across multiple sites and features. Equally, it might involve making data on habitats and species more accessible to decision-makers and other key stakeholders, and promotion / training to help raise awareness of MPAs.
- Deliver actions identified by stakeholders and develop as a series of proposals (with potential funding options) to be taken forward post MarPAMM.
- Agree and put in place governance arrangements and financing that puts MPA management in Argyll on a more sustainable footing.

4. Options for engagement.

We will shortly be starting to approach key stakeholders in Argyll to invite them to be involved in MarPAMM. Regulatory authorities and stakeholders will be asked to nominate representatives to form a Steering Group of around 20 people. We hope to keep the Steering Group to a manageable size but to ensure that all sectors are adequately

represented. We plan to also set up a Wider Liaison Group of those who want to keep in touch with the project. Members of the Wider Liaison Group will be able to raise issues at Steering Group meetings via the most appropriate member of the Steering Group or by approaching the project officer. Minutes of the Steering Group meetings will be available on the MarPAMM website.

Further Information

For further information on the project please visit the MarPAMM website at www.mpa-management.eu or contact Amie Williams on 0300 224 9360.

