



STEERING GROUP MEETING 2 - MINUTES

Date: Thursday 3rd October - **Location:** Cameron House, Oban - **Time:** 1200

Present:

Alastair McNeill – West Coast Inshore Fisheries Group (WCIFG) (AMN)

Esther Brooker – Environment LINK (EB)

Finlay Bennet – Marine Scotland Policy (FB)

Graham Russell – Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Scotland (GR)

Helen Feenan – Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation (SSPO)(HF)

Jane Dodd – Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) (JD)

Janet Khan – Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) (JK)

Joanne Holbrook – Marine Scotland Compliance (JH)

Kenny MacNab – Communities Inshore Fisheries Alliance (CIFA) (KMN)

Marina Curran-Colthart – Argyll and Bute Council (MCC)

Philip Price – Coastal Communities Network (CCN) (PP)

Philip Robertson – Historic Environment Scotland (HES) (PR)

In Attendance:

Amie Williams – Project Officer (AW)

Andrew Campbell – Chair (AC)

Claire McSorley – MarPAMM MPA Data Management and Mapping Advisor (CMS)

Apologies:

Adam Lewis – Northern Lighthouse Board (AL)

Alan Kettle-White – Argyll District Salmon Fisheries Board (DSFB) (AKW)

David Adams-McGilp – Visit Scotland (DAM)

Harriett Rushton – Military of Defence (MOD) (HR)

Councillor Roddy McCuish – Argyll and Bute Council (RM)

1. Welcome and apologies

AC welcomed the steering group and apologies were given. AC then invited individuals to introduce themselves, highlighting their role. The following attended in place of the lead liaison for their respective organisation, corporate body or sector:

- Helen Feenan in the absence of Anne Anderson (AA) from SSPO
- Graham Russell in the absence of Sarah Brown (SB) from RYA Scotland
- Marina Curran-Colthart in the absence of Fergus Murray (FM) from Argyll and Bute Council
- Kenny MacNab in the absence of Elaine Whyte (EW) from CIFA
- Philip Price in the absence of Annabel Lawrence (ALA) from CCN

2. Confirmation of minutes from meeting 1

AC went through each page of the minutes from Steering Group (SG) meeting 1 and they were approved by the SG in turn. The minutes will now be taken out of draft and posted on the MarPAMM website.

AW went on to inform the group that there was now a revised timeline set in place for the minutes and that the timeline would be worked into version two of the document "Remit and Administration of Steering Group". The minutes will still be distributed within two weeks of the meeting, however the group will now be given two weeks from the date of distribution to either confirm the minutes or pass on comments. The minutes will then go onto the website in draft and will be confirmed at the following SG meeting.

ACTION POINT: AW to request that SAMS (who manage the PR for MarPAMM) publish the minutes from meeting 1 and the draft minutes from meeting 2 onto the MarPAMM website.

3. Updates from previous meeting (including action points (AP))

- An update was given on the progress of the APs from the previous meeting (see **Appendix 1**).
- Stewart Clark will no longer sit on the SG as the liaison for Harbour Authorities. We are currently working on the best way forward to engage with the Harbour Authorities with respect to MarPAMM-Argyll.
- AC mentioned that he will be retiring in May and so the group will need a new Chair. Sarah Cunningham (SC), SNH MPA and PMF Manager and Marine Natura Advisor, was proposed as the new Chair and the SG had no objections. SC will be introduced to the group at the next SG meeting.

ACTION POINT: AW to distribute version two of the “Remit and Administration of Steering Group” to the SG for approval.

ACTION POINT: All to continue to provide AW with digital information on where activities occur.

ACTION POINT: All to continue to think about projects that could be developed as a result of MarPAMM-Argyll and work with AW to develop the project ideas in written format.

ACTION POINT: AW to continue to work on making the information provided in the presentations available.

4. Presentation 1 – MPA selection and monitoring

JD gave an overview of the MPA selection process and monitoring work for three NC MPAs in the Argyll Marine Region, Loch Sween MPA, Loch Creran MPA and the Loch Sunart to the Sound of Jura MPA. JD also highlighted recent monitoring and management measures that were currently in place.

Q: MCC asked if there was any sign of regeneration of the serpulid reef in Loch Sween?

A: JD explained that there was nothing there but skeleton and there was nothing present for the reefs to grow on.

Q: KMN asked if the serpulid worms need something to grow on, not just the surrounding mud?

A: JD explained that the reefs are usually surrounded by mud but they do need something hard to grow on (shell or rock).

Q: JH asked how big the serpulid reefs are?

A: JD explained they grow to about ¾ meter by a meter but when they reach such a height they begin to get too heavy and so collapse onto themselves and form donut shapes on the seafloor. Other things then start to grow on the dead material. JD then went on to give a definition of a biogenic reef (live reef material growing on dead reef material) and highlighted that there are records of serpulid aggregations elsewhere but they have not yet formed reefs. Loch Creran is the only SAC for this habitat in Europe and is the biggest extent of serpulid reef in the world.

5. Current survey work in Argyll

AW gave a brief overview of Site Condition Monitoring and how a new approach to monitoring would be taken and steered by the [Scottish MPA Monitoring Strategy](#). AW then went on to explain the various monitoring work that had been done by SNH under the European Maritime

and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) project in 2017-2019, highlighting the Jura and Islay drop-down video (DDV) survey that took place in June 2019. To finish AW talked about the recent DDV survey work she undertook around the Isle of Gigha and West Loch Tarbert under another MarPAMM work package (Benthic Habitat Mapping and Modelling).

Q: KMN asked if it is just benthic monitoring SNH undertake as there are issues surrounding basking shark entanglement in creels, particularly around the South Arran MPA and would like to see this addressed.

A: AW replied no but for the purpose of the presentation the benthic monitoring had been concentrated on as AW is part of the MarPAMM Benthic Habitat Mapping and Modelling work package but if the group wanted specialists in other areas (e.g. birds) could attend the next SG meeting. AW also said that there is an entanglement project already taking place and would get back to the SG with an update.

Q: KMN stated JD had mentioned that 22% of Scottish seas have been designated and a few more MPAs have been proposed, if designated what percentage will that take it to?

A: FB replied by saying the pMPAs along with the new Deep-Sea Nature Reserve would probably take it to over 30%. JH highlighted here that even though there are bigger MPAs, resources are still limited, for example there is only one compliance officer in Oban. AC replied to this by saying that we can encourage good practice across all MPA users.

Q: KMN asked JD if catching skate or angling for skate is not troubling as there are pictures of landed skate showing poor handling practices. KMN also asked if this should be managed as the mobile sector supported the MPAs and sacrificed to protect the skate and yet there is damage being done that is not a result of the mobile sector and that goes against the ethos of MPAs.

A: JD highlighted that a best handling guide has been produced for anglers and that based on multiple recaptures of the same skate in the MPA there is evidence to suggest that responsible angling does not cause detrimental damage to the skate, though improvements to handling can always be made.

ACTION POINT: AW to follow up with KMN about the issue raised on creel entanglement.

ACTION POINT: AW to provide the SG with an update on entanglement project.

6. What MPAs should be included in the MarPAMM-Argyll project scope?

At meeting 1 the Argyll Coast and Islands Hope Spot had been suggest for inclusion into the project scope. PP gave the SG a brief overview of the Hope Spot, highlighting to the group that it is a celebration of what we have in Argyll and that hope can engage and empower people to connect with our seas. There was a general consensus that only the statutory sites

should be formally included in the project scope. The group noted that the spatial extent of the Hope Spot was already covered by statutory sites and any issues could be raised through these.

The SG agreed the suggested list of the 24 statutory designated sites would be included in the project scope (seven SACs, three SPAs, two pSPAs, three NC MPAs, one pMPA, three HMPAs and five SSSIs). For a full list of the MPAs included in the MarPAMM-Argyll project scope please see **Appendix 2**.

7. Brainstorming project ideas for MarPAMM-Argyll project scope

The following projects were suggested at meeting 1 and an update was given on their progress:

– Can we do something to help with blue carbon storage? SB

CMS talked about the work that is currently been done in Scotland around blue carbon. Firstly CMS directed the group to a [2017 report](#) that used a variety of data sources to create a model for blue carbon in Scottish Waters. CMS also talked about the Blue Carbon Forum that has been set up to measure the ability of Scotland's marine environment to store carbon dioxide and mitigate against the effects of climate change. The initial aim of the Forum is to begin to identify and map blue carbon resource in Scottish waters over 2018-2019.

The group agreed they would like to know more about the sources and sinks in Argyll.

ACTION POINT: CMS and AW will work on a paper presenting the work being done on blue carbon and the potential to map the sources and sinks in Argyll.

– Can the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) be applied to the project? JK

JK gave a brief overview of the 17 UN SDGs and explained how, for example, companies like Heineken are applying them in their sustainability strategy. JK mentioned that even though they are usually implemented at the top level they can be applied to projects. JK proposed the group get familiar with the goals and see if they can be used as a framework to assist the project.

SG members supported assessing the project's outputs against the associated SDGs targets while recognising that some were not relevant and others (e.g. Goal 12 Sustainable Consumption and Production), while important, might be difficult to tackle. MCC also suggested the natural capital protocol could be used.

ACTION POINT: EB, JK and AW will work together to look at the targets for each goal and determine what we are already achieving.

Other

The group would like to see more work done on creel entanglement. It has been proposed that JH consult with colleagues to determine whether or not we can obtain creel data submitted on the FISH 1 forms so that areas of risk/conflict in MPAs can be identified and so a time series can be produced to see how the number of creels in MPAs has changed over time.

ACTION POINT: JH will consult with colleagues to determine whether or not we can obtain creel data submitted on the FISH 1 forms.

8. SNH project proposals

JD and AW addressed each of the following SNH proposed project ideas in turn and they were either approved or not approved by the SG.

- Summary of designations and statement of prioritisation (update on progress)

AW gave an overview of SG Document 1 (a summary paper on the MPAs in Argyll, see "[Steering Group MPA Summary Paper](#)") and how it could be used as a skeleton to provide information to the public on each of the MPAs in Argyll. There was some confusion over what the statement of prioritisation was and it was suggested that prioritisation was not the correct word as it had negative connotations. JD explained that the idea behind the statement of prioritisation was to produce a document that explains to planners how SNH makes decisions, for example if an SAC and NC MPA overlap. SNH could try and explain the thought process behind our decision making in a flow diagram if the Argyll and Bute Council planners would find this useful however this might be difficult as cases are assessed on an individual basis and it might be difficult to find commonality in the approach. PR suggested that planners are approached and asked what would be useful for them.

ACTION POINT: MCC will consult with colleagues at Argyll and Bute Council about what would be useful for planners to know about MPAs and feedback to AW for action.

- Lynn of Lorn flame shell bed recovery project – voluntary fisheries closures

JD gave a presentation on the decline of the flame shell bed in the Lynn of Lorn, close to Port Appin. JD explained the historic extent of the flame shell bed and what remains of the bed today. JD went onto explain that the contributory factor leading to the decline is believed to be static gear fishing and this project would involve working with the commercial inshore fishing

industry to agree a voluntary mobile and static gear fisheries closure in the area in order to allow the recovery of the flame shell bed and monitor its recovery. Some of the SG were unsure if commercial inshore fishing was occurring in the area and there was concern over the recovery project being successful if there was another factor at play. JD said the report includes reports of furrows on the seabed which suggested creels had been dragged across the bed and would distribute the paper that refers to this.

The project was approved by the group and JD will work with the commercial inshore fishing liaisons (AMN, KMN, EW) and the Marine Scotland Compliance liaison (JH) outwith MarPAMM since the flame shell bed is not inside any MPA to try and deliver the project. Feedback will be provided to the SG.

ACTION POINT: JD to distribute paper referring to commercial inshore fishing being the contributory factor to the decline of the Port Appin flame shell bed.

ACTION POINT: JD will work with the commercial inshore fishing liaisons (AMN, KMN, EW) and the Marine Scotland Compliance liaison (JH) to further develop the Lynn of Lorn flame shell bed recovery project and feedback progress to the SG.

- **Development of an information package and training on MPAs for local tourism**

JD explained in order to raise awareness of our MPAs in Argyll we could provide information to the local tourism industry through free training workshops for stakeholders (B&B owners, Tour Guides etc.) and by producing a leaflet or other media on what is special in the marine environment of Argyll. JD mentioned that funding could be possible through the "Year of Coasts and Waters 2020". This could also target the recreation sector and be tailored for specific activities.

The project proposal was received well by the group and GR highlighted that the RYA do some of this already and that the messages should be encouraging and positive, however MPAs do not necessarily have to be mentioned. It was suggested that the project could go one step further and incorporate capacity building which could be activity specific. Examples included sightings submissions and the use of iSpot. MCC also highlighted that existing groups such as the Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-Operative could be approached.

ACTION POINT: AW will develop a plan on how the information package and training on MPAs for local tourism and recreation might be delivered.

9. Sitelink walkthrough

AW highlighted that one of the main challenges identified during SG meeting 1 was that there is no central location to get information on MPAs. The information is either spread across multiple platforms, too technical or not kept up-to-date. One way of overcoming this issue could be to develop SNH's interactive map Sitelink, however many are unaware of Sitelink and its capabilities. AW gave a brief overview of the site, highlighting its capabilities and where key documents are stored (e.g. Fishing Orders and Conservation Objectives). AW asked that the SG go back to their respective interest groups and get familiar with the site and gather feedback on how to make it more user-friendly. Initial feedback included using a simple URL and considering how amateur users may interact with the site. There is also scope for the Argyll SG and the working group of the Outer Hebrides component of MarPAMM (SEASOH) to test out new versions of Sitelink as case studies.

ACTION POINT: SG members to get familiar with Sitelink and to have a think about how it could be improved/developed to make it more user-friendly.

10. MarPAMM timeline (now-Dec 2019)

AW explained to the group what the project deliverables are between now (October) and the next Steering Group meeting in December (meeting 3) and the deliverables between the December and March meetings (meeting 4) in order to show what we are required to deliver over the next 6 months.

“Working with stakeholders – agreement on scope of management plans” – Dec 2019

“Working with stakeholders - agreement on benefits to be realised” – Mar 2020

11. Discuss and agree tasks and next steps

AW stated what her tasks would be between now and the next SG meeting (see below) in addition to the APs set out at this meeting (see **Section 12**). AW then went on to reiterate the timeline for the distribution and confirmation of the SG meeting minutes (see **Section 2**).

- Form a recreation subgroup
- Work with the WCIFG and Fishermen's Associations (FAs) to ensure the commercial inshore fishing industry are well enough informed about the project
- Write a letter to all Community Councils in Argyll informing them about the project
- Manage the contract for MarPAMM T2 2019 DDV survey analysis

The importance of engaging with subgroups of the WCIFG and FAs was highlighted by a few members and AW will take this into consideration when working with the WCIFG and FAs.

At the close of the meeting AC proposed moving the date of the next SG meeting (meeting 3) from **Tuesday 10th December** into January. The group confirmed that a January date for the next meeting would be OK and AW will distribute a Doodle Poll to scope a new proposed date.

ACTION POINT: AW to approach stakeholders associated with recreation and begin to form a recreation subgroup.

ACTION POINT: AW to write a letter to the community councils informing them about the project in order to help promote engagement with the island communities and the project.

ACTION POINT: AW to engage with the WCIFG and Argyll FAs in order to promote engagement with the project.

ACTION POINT: AW Distribution of a Doodle Poll to scope possible dates for SG meeting 3 to be moved into January and confirm date of SG meeting 3.

12. Summary of Action Points

Action Points	Person
Request that SAMS (who manage the PR for MarPAMM) publish the minutes from meeting 1 and the draft minutes from meeting 2 onto the MarPAMM website	AW
Distribute version two of the “Remit and Administration of Steering Group” to the SG for approval	AW
Continue to provide AW with digital information on where activities occur	ALL
Continue to work think about projects that could be developed as a result of MarPAMM-Argyll and work with AW to develop the project ideas in written format	ALL
Continue to work on making the information provided in the presentations available.	AW
Follow up with KMN about the issue raised on creel entanglement.	AW
Provide the SG with an update on entanglement project	AW
Work on a paper presenting the work being done on blue carbon and the potential to map the sources and sinks in Argyll	CM & AW
Work together to look at the targets for each goal and determine what we are already achieving	EB, JK & AW
JH will consult with colleagues to determine whether or not we can obtain creel data submitted on the FISH 1 forms	JH
Consult with colleagues at Argyll and Bute Council about what would be useful for planners to know about MPAs and feedback to AW for action	MCC
Distribute paper referring to commercial inshore fishing being the contributory factor to the decline of the Port Appin flame shell bed	JD
JD will work with the commercial inshore fishing liaisons (AMN, KMN, EW) and the Marine Scotland Compliance liaison (JH) to further develop the Lynn of Lorn flame shell bed recovery project and feedback progress to the SG	JD
Develop a plan on how the information package and training on MPAs for local tourism might be delivered.	AW
Explore Sitelink and get familiar with the site’s capabilities and to have a think about how it could be improved/developed to make it more user-friendly	ALL
Approach stakeholders associated with recreation and begin to form a recreation subgroup	AW

Write a letter to the community councils informing them about the project in order to help promote engagement with the island communities and the project	AW
Engage with the WCIFG and Argyll FAs in order to promote engagement with the project	AW
Distribution of a Doodle Poll to scope possible dates for SG meeting 3 to be moved into January and confirm SG meeting 3	AW

Appendix 1 – Summary of progress of actions points from meeting 1.

Action Points	Person	Update
Write a summary of the Argyll Hope Spot and justification for its inclusion in the project scope	ALA	Completed This was distributed to the SG on 26 th July 2019.
Update the “Remit and Administration of Steering Group” document to reflect agreed changes	AW	Completed AW will distribute version two with the minutes from meeting 2.
Confirm with colleagues about the absence of the Crown Estate on the SG	AW	Completed Marine Scotland can help liaise with Crown Estate if needed.
All to provide AW with digital information on where activities occur	ALL	On going
Collate digital information of where activities occur	AW	On going
Develop an example of the MPA process using an existing MPA, showing the data that exists for the site and any monitoring that has been/is in place	JD	Completed JD gave a presentation on this during the meeting (see Section 4).
Write an explanation of how the 17 UN Sustainability Development Goals would fit into the context of MarPAMM-Argyll	JK	On going JK gave an update on this during the meeting (see Section 7).
Think about projects that could be developed as a result of MarPAMM-Argyll and work with AW to develop the project ideas in written format	ALL	On going
Enquire if the presentations can be shared to the website	AW	On going AW and the chair decided it may be more appropriate to have the information within the presentation available instead of the presentation. AW will continue towards this.
Share contact details of the SG members so that discussion can take place between members	AW	Completed This was distributed to the group on 9 th July 2019.

Distribution of Doodle Poll to scope possible dates for the next three SG meetings	AW	Completed
Confirmation of the date, time and location for next three SG meetings	AW	Completed

Appendix 2 – MPAs included in MarPAMM-Argyll project scope.

SACs and SPAs

- Firth of Lorn
- Moine Mhor
- Eileanan agus Sgeiran Lios mor
- South-East Islay Skerries
- Treshnish Isles (SAC and SPA)
- Inner Hebrides and the Minches
- Loch Creran
- North Colonsay and Western Seabird Cliffs
- Glas Eileanan
- Coll and Tiree
- Sound of Gigha

NC MPAs, HMPAs and SSSIs

- Loch Sween
- Loch Sunart to the Sound of Jura
- Loch Creran
- Sea of the Hebrides
- Duart Point
- Dartmouth
- Mingary
- Oronosay and South Colonsay
- Ulva, Dana and the McCormaig Isles
- Rhunahaorine Point
- Staffa
- West Colonsay Seabird Cliffs