



STEERING GROUP MEETING 5 (VC) - MINUTES

Date: Monday 22nd June 2020 - **Location:** Video Conference (VC) - **Time:** 11:00

This meeting took place by Video Conference (VC).

Present through external video link:

Adam Lewis – Northern Lighthouse Board (AL)
Amie Williams – Project Officer (AW)
Annabel Lawrence – Coastal Communities Network (CCN) (ALA)
David Adams-McGill – Visit Scotland (DAM)
Elaine Whyte – Community Inshore Fisheries Alliance (CIFA) (EW)
Esther Brooker – Environment LINK (EB)
Harriett Rushton – Ministry of Defence (MOD) (HR)
Janet Khan – Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) (JK)
Joanne Holbrook – Marine Scotland Compliance (JH)
Marina Curran-Colthart – Argyll and Bute Council (MCC)
Sam Black – Scottish Natural Heritage (SBL)
Sarah Brown – Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Scotland (SB)
Sarah Cunningham – Chair (SC)
Simon Macdonald – West Coast Inshore Fisheries Group (WCIFG) (SMD)

Apologies:

Alan Kettle-White – Argyll District Salmon Fisheries Board (DSFB) (AKW)
Anne Anderson – Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation (SSPO) (AA)
Claire McSorley – MarPAMM MPA Data Management and Mapping Advisor (CMS)
Finlay Bennet – Marine Scotland Policy (FB)
Jane Dodd – Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) (JD)
Philip Robertson – Historic Environment Scotland (HES) (PR)
Councillor Roddy McCuish – Argyll and Bute Council (RM)

1. Welcome and apologies

SC welcomed the Steering Group (SG) and apologies were given. SC 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:

- Marina Curran-Colthart in the absence of Fergus Murray (FM) from Argyll and Bute Council

2. Confirmation of minutes from meeting 4

SC asked the SG if anyone had any comments about the draft minutes from meeting 4. The minutes were approved and will now be posted on the MarPAMM website as the final version rather than draft.

ACTION POINT: AW to request that SAMS publish the confirmed minutes from meeting 4 and the draft minutes from meeting 5 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**).

4. Feedback session 1: MarPAMM-Argyll MPA leaflet

AW talked through the comments that were provided on the draft MPA information leaflet. In addition to minor text, grammar changes and fact checking, the SG agreed the following:

Front Cover

- Change the title to make it clear the leaflet includes information about MPAs. This could be achieved through a tagline (e.g. Marine Protected Areas – Treasures of Argyll, Treasured Marine Areas of Argyll). Keywords: treasure, value, protected.
- Keep the font consistent and choose a more modern font. SM emphasised the importance of using the same font as two different fonts suggest two different headings.
- Graphics can be removed from the front cover to let the minke whale image stand out.
- Consider adding descriptions alongside images to help with habitat and species identification and to set the scene.

Back Page

- Edit the map that highlights the Argyll Marine Region to include the entire region.

Argyll and Marine Protected Area pages

- Redesign both the Argyll and MPA pages so the layout is more eye-catching. AW suggested a layout to the SG and it was approved (see **Appendix 2**, suggested layout 1).
- Add in some information/statistics about residents of Argyll living close to the coast and fact check the distance of the Argyll Marine Region coastline.
- Add more examples of the benefits of MPAs that people can relate to.

Codes of Practice and Submit your data pages

- Add another resource to the Codes of Practice section (e.g. The Green Blue, information on invasive non-native species (INNS) or information on the Scottish Wildlife Trust's Snorkel Trails). This will depend on space being available.
- Currently the leaflet has a small bit of information on the reporting of suspicious activity. Firstly, a decision needs to be made on whether or not the information should be included. If it is decided that the information will be included in the leaflet, then it needs to be clear what the reporting mechanisms are depending on the activity (e.g. fisheries incursions, wildlife crime etc.).

Map

- There was a mixed response by the SG on deciding the colour of the land and sea (white sea with grey land or blue sea with white land). AW suggested that the designer could try and meet somewhere in the middle by making the sea a lighter shade of blue.
- The SG were also shown two options on how to present the MPAs on the map (light shading so overlapping MPAs appear more subtle or darker shading so overlapping MPAs stand out more). The SG preferred the bolder option as it is clearer that there are multiple MPAs.

Q: DAM asked why SSSIs and Nature Reserves were included if they were not part of the MPA network?

A: AW replied that all the MPA included on the map were scoped into the MarPAMM-Argyll project and all had marine features. SC said that SSSIs are included in Scotland's MPA network.

ACTION POINT: AW to amend leaflet text on the basis of comments from the meeting and the online comments (fact check, addition and deletion of some text).

ACTION POINT: AW and SC to discuss what to include in the leaflet with respect to suspicious activity.

ACTION POINT: AW to provide the designer with feedback on the leaflet from SG.

5. Feedback session 1: Benefits realisation exercise

Benefits realisation is a useful tool that allows you to identify the benefits that you would like to see from a project and sets out the changes that are necessary for these benefit to be achieved.

Prior to the meeting, AW produced an exercise for the SG to complete that would identify the benefits stakeholders would like to see realised from MPAs. The exercise also identified the changes that would be required for the benefit to be achieved and the enablers of such changes. For this exercise, objectives were selected from the common themes identified during SG meeting 1, activity 1 ([Opportunities and Challenges of MPAs](#)). These formed the basis for the SG identifying associated benefits.

At the meeting, AW presented the results of the benefits realisation exercise, talking through the benefits that were identified for each objective. As not all SG members were able to see

the presentation, AW could not present the information on the changes that were noted or the enablers of change. Instead, AW said she would circulate the results of the benefits realisation exercise to the SG for comment and asked for comments to be submitted by **Friday 26th June 2020**. A draft version of the objectives and benefits identified can be found in Appendix 3.

ACTION POINT: AW to circulate the results of the benefits realisation exercise to the SG.

ACTION POINT: SG to provide further comments and feedback to AW about the benefits realisation exercise by Friday 26th June 2020.

6. Update on project proposals

MPA information package. AW said that most of the progress made towards the MPA information package has been for the MPA information leaflet. AW has begun planning the content for information days but how this will be delivered is still to be determined.

Argyll and Bute Council Guidance. MCC had provided AW with information on what would be useful to the Council and Planners. AW is currently discussing the information with colleagues and AW will arrange a follow up with MCC in the upcoming weeks.

NLB infrastructure. This was distributed to the group after SG meeting 4. No comments were given on the document by the SG. AW is currently working on making the symbols slightly clearer on the map at the back.

Management measures workshop. AW has been in discussions with both SNH and Marine Scotland Compliance about developing a training day of the current management measures in place in MPAs. AW will write a project plan for the event and feedback to the SG once it is completed. AW, SC and JH have also been discussing the possibility of developing a regional KIPPER-style guide.

EW raised that developing a KIPPER-style guide may not be the best use of resources as the point of the project was to promote the benefits of MPAs rather than enforce management as this is the generally the role of Marine Scotland. EW also mentioned that there is a lot of concentration around reporting/management of fisheries in proportion to other industries and that this approach could encourage a less positive perception of fishing and false reporting of illegal activity when there is already mechanisms being rolled out that would lead to more accountable data (e.g. vessel monitoring). SB said that all reporting (with and without proven basis) can be helpful to encourage Marine Scotland to invest more resources into monitoring the reporting and can help raise the awareness of compliance (discussion continues under section 8. AOB).

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). No progress.

7. Presentation 1: Sitelink survey

SBL gave the SG a brief introduction to SNH's web tool SiteLink that provides information on MPAs across Scotland. SBL told the group about the tool's internal and external uses (e.g.

assisting Habitats Regulation Appraisals, used by developers, general interest) and said that there was a desire to develop the tool and move towards a more customer based/user-friendly approach that had “one-stop-shop” functionality. In order to gather views on the tool to determine how this can be achieved, SBL has designed both an internal and external survey and familiarised the SG with some of the questions that will be asked. AW will send an email out to the SG with all the information needed in order to complete the external survey at the start of July.

Q: SB said Question 1 asks "Which category of SiteLink user would you identify yourself as". The survey form only allows to you to select one option but what if you represent multiple interests? Should you pick the principle use or can it be amended so multiple options can be selected?

A: SBL said that the question will be amended so that multiple options can be selected.

ACTION POINT: AW to circulate the SiteLink survey information to the SG.

8. AOB

Q: EW asked if there are any feedback mechanisms in place for when an individual reports a fisheries incursion (referring back to discussion in section **6. Update of project proposals - Management measures workshops**)? It would be useful to publish statistics on how many incursions are reported vs. how many incursions were found to have happened.

A: JH was unable to respond due to technical difficulties on the VC. AW will follow up with JH after the meeting.

ACTION POINT: AW to follow up with JH and discuss the feedback mechanisms for reported fisheries incursions.


9. Summary of Action Points

Action Points	Person
Request that SAMS publish the confirmed minutes from meeting 4 and the draft minutes from meeting 5 onto the MarPAMM website.	AW
Amend leaflet text on the basis of comments from the meeting and the online comments (fact check, addition and deletion of some text).	AW
Discuss what to include in the leaflet with respect to suspicious activity.	AW & SC
Provide the designer with feedback on the leaflet from SG.	AW
Circulate the results of the benefits realisation exercise to the SG.	AW
Provide further comments and feedback to AW about the benefits realisation exercise by Friday 26 th June 2020.	ALL
Circulate the SiteLink survey information to the SG.	AW
Discuss the feedback mechanisms for reported fisheries incursions.	AW & JH

Appendix 1 – Summary of action points from meeting 4

Action Points	Person	
Request that SAMS publish the confirmed minutes from meeting 3 and the draft minutes from meeting 4 onto the MarPAMM website.	AW	Completed This was completed on 16 th April 2020.
Feedback comments on the CMA documents from the SG to colleagues at SNH.	SC	Completed This was completed on 2 th April 2020.
Provide the designer with feedback on the MPA information leaflet.	AW	Completed This was completed on 19 th March 2020.
Distribute the draft MPA information leaflet to the SG for comment once the design has been developed further.	AW	Completed This was completed on 15 th June 2020.
Write a brief about the framework Argyll and Bute Council is interested in developing and, along with AW and SC, arrange a follow up meeting to discuss the project further.	MCC, AW & SC	On going
Distribute the NLB infrastructure statement to the SG and provide AL with feedback.	AW	Completed This was completed on 2 nd April 2020.
Look at how the SDGs can guide the development of the MPA information package.	AW, JK & EB	On going
Redistribute Doodle Poll to scope possible dates for SG meeting 5.	AW	Completed This was completed on 2 nd April 2020.



Appendix 2 – Suggested format for MPA information leaflet MPA page (Flame Shell © Graham Saunders/Marine Scotland)

 **Marine Protected Areas**

A "Marine Protected Area" or "MPA" is an area of the shore or sea designated by law to protect a feature, an animal, a habitat (a natural home often created by an animal) or historic landmark. MPAs are recognised throughout the world as one way to conserve our marine environment for the future, to ensure that it can continue to provide resources like seafood, and services like storm protection and climate regulation.

In Scotland we have various forms of MPA designated under national and international legislation. Currently, there are 231 MPAs in the Scottish MPA network. A network of MPAs can provide greater levels of protection and achieve a wider range of benefits.

Our marine environment has many users and activities are still allowed inside MPAs but they are managed to ensure the protection of features using a combination of legislative measures and codes of good practice.



Current layout



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Suggested layout 1



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Suggested layout 2

Appendix 3 – Draft results of the benefits of MPAs identified from the benefits realisation exercise

Objective	Benefit
Improve management of MPAs	Species/habitat protection
	Decreased seabed interactions and resulting damage
	Improved biodiversity
	Increased compliance of management measures
	New management learning
	More successful prosecutions of incursions
	All designations joined up with management of activities locally
	Assistance with delivering the objective
	Local consumption, reduced CO2
	Sustainable and dispersed livelihoods
	Evidence-based decision making
	Equitable use of common resource
	Celebration of wildlife
Support local communities	Local maritime asset enhancement
	Increased tourism
	Increased knowledge = additional support
	Increased opportunities (sustainable tourism/eco-tourism/practises)
	Informed and able to work within management plans
	Policing of MPAs is easier
	Communities feel more engaged
	Support educational opportunities locally
Increase Awareness of MPAs	Universal understanding of why sites have been designated and what is/is not permitted
	Increases informed opportunity for sustainable fishing/ tourism
	Empower stakeholders and communities with knowledge

	Improved conduct and compliance with management measures
	Policing of MPAs is easier
	Communities feel more engaged
	Bring attention to other issues (blue carbon, climate change, tourism)
	Increase in research/scientific data
Increase Knowledge of MPAs	Increase scientific evidence base and track change
	Increased knowledge leads to informed decisions
	Empower stakeholders and communities with knowledge
	Policing of MPAs is easier
	Communities feel more engaged
	Bring attention to other issues (blue carbon, climate change, tourism)
Increase local guardianship MPAs/region	Assistance with monitoring and reporting
	Improved knowledge and understanding
	Improved sense of local connection/ownership/pride/ legacy
	Encourages local asset management and growth agenda
	Policing of MPAs is easier
	Communities feel more engaged