



STEERING GROUP MEETING 8 (VC) - MINUTES

Date: Wednesday 23rd June 2021 - **Location:** Video Conference (VC) - **Time:** 11:00

This meeting took place by Video Conference (VC).

Present through external video link:

Amie Williams – Project Officer (AW)
Annabel Lawrence – Coastal Communities Network (CCN) (ALA)
Claire Lumley Holmes- MOWI Scotland (CLH)
Elaine Whyte – Community Inshore Fisheries Alliance (CIFA) (EW)
Fanny Royanez – Scottish Environment LINK (FR)
Graham Russell – Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Scotland (GR)
Harriett Rushton – Military of Defence (MOD) (HR)
Iain MacEachen – Marine Scotland Compliance (IM)
Janet Khan – Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) (JK)
Marina Curran-Colthart – Argyll and Bute Council (MCC)
Sarah Cunningham – Chair (SC)
Simon Macdonald – West Coast Inshore Fisheries Group (WCIFG) (SMD)

Apologies:

Adam Lewis – Northern Lighthouse Board (AL)
Alan Kettle-White – Argyll District Salmon Fisheries Board (DSFB) (AKW)
David Adams-McGill – Visit Scotland (DAM)
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. The following attended in place of the lead liaison for their respective organisation, corporate body or sector:

- Marina Curran-Colthart (MCC) in the absence of Fergus Murray (FM) from Argyll and Bute Council.
- Iain MacEachen (IM) in the absence of Jo Holbrook (JH) from Marine Scotland Compliance.
- Anne Anderson (AA) has stepped away as a SG member due to a change of roles. It has been decided that liaisons from three of the aquaculture operators within Argyll will rotate as lead liaison on the SG. Claire Lumley Holmes (CLH) from MOWI Scotland attended this meeting.

2. Confirmation of minutes from meeting 7

SC asked the SG if anyone had any comments about the draft minutes from meeting 7. The minutes were approved and will now be posted on the MarPAMM website.

ACTION POINT: AW to request that SAMS publish the confirmed minutes from meeting 7 and the draft minutes from meeting 8 onto the MarPAMM website.

3. Exploring objectives/principles for the MPAs in Argyll

AW took each of the strategic objective topics set out in Activity 1 of SG meeting 7 in turn and discussed the suggestions put forward by the SG. AW also put forward other suggestions that had come from discussions over the past two years. The objectives are still being explored and it is envisioned that a draft set of objectives will be ready for September 2021. AW will continue to consult with the SG and other stakeholders between now and September in order to prepare a draft set of objectives ahead of the next meeting in September 2021. Feedback from initial discussions is captured below.

Objective topics:

1. Biodiversity
2. Climate change
3. Socioeconomics
4. Knowledge, awareness and collaboration
5. Management and governance

- Biodiversity and climate change objective topics could be merged into one topic.
- It needs to be made clear what we have now (in terms of biodiversity), what we can control and what we cannot.
- We need to know where we are in achieving the conservation objectives of MPAs and how far along we are to achieving international agreements and commitments, then determine if the mix of management is right.
- Adaptive management needs to be considered.
- It is important to consider where Argyll contributes to Scotland's biodiversity.
- An objective on nature-based solutions should be included under the climate change topic (recovery and possible expansion of features).
- A list of features that will be affected by climate change would be useful to have.
- Need to be careful of repetition. For example any reference to communicating any benefits could go under **Objective topic 4: Knowledge, awareness and collaboration**.
- The objectives don't need to be cumbersome and can be more strategic.
- Wording of the objectives need to be carefully considered and emotive language should be avoided.
- Need to be clear what the roles are of various authorities and better dissemination of information.
- It is important that the consultation on the objectives is inclusive and that stakeholders feel supported and involved.
- Lines of communication need to be kept open.
- Need to consider that the island communities may not consider themselves as "Argyll" and therefore "Argyll and the Islands" may be more important when referring to the region.

- The guidance being produced for the council that sign posts information on MPAs would likely be applicable to other sectors, especially for new starts.
- A neutral officer that works on the MPAs may help overcome many of the difficulties, particularly with increasing knowledge and awareness and keeping a line of communication open. However if this person is not neutral it could be an issue.
- Expectations need to be managed.
- A table that outlines the objectives, with a summary with what work is currently being done and any recommendations that could be made to help achieve the objectives would be useful.

Q: CLH asked if there is a requirement to undertake site condition monitoring.

A: SC said that there is a formal requirement to report every 6 years for SACs and there is a Scottish MPA monitoring strategy framework in place that provides principles on how monitoring of sites and priorities for this will be undertaken.

ACTION POINT: AW to continue to consult with the SG and other stakeholders between now and September in order to prepare a draft set of objectives ahead of the next meeting.

4. Presentation 3: Project Updates

AW said that each of the projects that are scoped into the MarPAMM-Argyll project are still on-going but there was no further up-dates to provide. A list of the projects can be found below.

- Argyll and Bute Council Guidance.
- NLB infrastructure.
- Familiarisation Day.
- Management measures workshop
- Understanding fisheries management paper
- SiteLink development
- MPA Aware
- Experience Builder
- MPA Video

5. Project Officer's tasks between now and the next meeting

- Continue to consult with the SG and other stakeholders between now and September in order to prepare a draft set of objectives ahead of the next meeting.
- Continue to work on the experience builder and make additional changes suggested by the SG.
- Finish benefits realisation infographic and disseminate to SG.

AW explained the revised timeline of work between now and the end of the project, the most notable change being that it is now about six months before the draft set of outcomes and recommendations need to be ready for consultation instead of three.

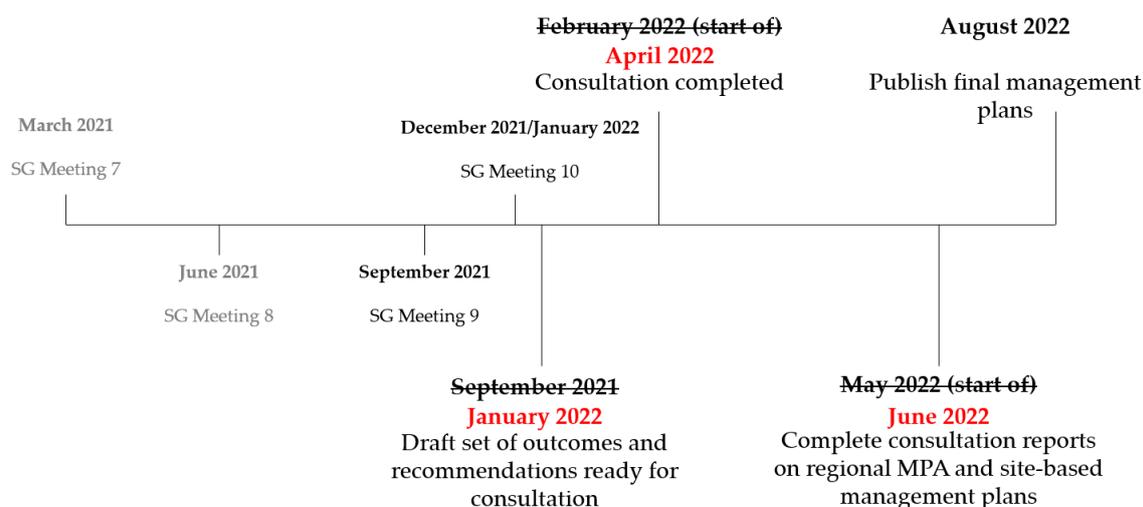


Figure 1. Revised project timeline between March 2021 and August 2022.

6. AOB

- AW said that Claudia Watson (an MSc student from University College London) had been in touch to ask if any SG members would be willing to have a short interview about the governance of the Loch Sunart to the Sound of Jura MPA as part of their MSc thesis. AW asked if any members willing to take part could let her know.
- JK informed the SG that the VIBES awards are now open and asked that the SG pass along the message to partners and businesses that might be interested.

7. Summary of Action Points

Action Points	Person
Request that SAMS publish the confirmed minutes from meeting 7 and the draft minutes from meeting 8 onto the MarPAMM website.	AW
Continue to consult with the SG and other stakeholders between now and September in order to prepare a draft set of objectives ahead of the next meeting.	AW/ALL
Continue to work on the experience builder and make additional changes suggested by the SG.	AW
Finish benefits realisation infographic and disseminate to SG.	AW

Appendix 1 – Summary of action points from meeting 7

Action Points	Person	
Request that SAMS publish the confirmed minutes from meeting 6 and the draft minutes from meeting 7 onto the MarPAMM website.	AW	Completed
Follow up with local tourism organisations to discuss how best they can engage with the project and determine who will join the SG.	AW & SC	Completed
Continue to work on the experience builder and make additional changes suggested by the SG.	AW	On-going
Send links and screen grabs to HR so they are able to see what the experience builder looks like.	AW	On-going
Distribute the link to the Conceptboard so the SG have the opportunity to make additional comments by Friday 12 th March.	AW/ALL	Completed
Distribute the link to the benefits realisation infographic to the SG for comment. Comments to be made by Friday 12 th March.	AW/ALL	Completed