

**Regional Marine Plan for the Shetland Islands Advisory Group Meeting**  
**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017 10.00am**  
**NAFC Marine Centre**

In attendance:

Martin Holmes (MH) - Shetland Islands Council (Chair)  
David Pratt (DP) - Marine Scotland  
Wendy Geary (WG) - Marine Scotland  
Kevin Serginson (KS) - Shetland Islands Council  
Steve Mathieson (SM) - Visit Scotland  
Greg Maitland (GM) - Ports and Harbour  
Duncan Goudie (DG) - Scottish Environmental Protection Agency  
Sheila Keith (SK) - Shetland Fisherman's Association  
Eilidh Johnston (EJ) - Scottish Environmental Protection Agency  
Jonathan Swale (JS) - Scottish Natural Heritage  
Paul Harvey (PH) - Shetland Amenity Trust  
Martin Schofield (MS) - Royal Society for the Protection of Birds  
David Sandison (DS) - Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation  
Ruth Henderson (RH) - Seafood Shetland  
Abi Cowing (AC) - NAFC Marine Centre  
Charlotte Slater (CS) - NAFC Marine Centre

Apologies:

Val Turner- Shetland Amenity Trust  
Carole Laignel- Shetland Shellfish Management Organisation  
Morag Campbell- Marine Scotland  
Rebecca Kinner- Sullom Voe Oil Terminal Environmental Advisory Group  
Karen Hall- Scottish Natural Heritage  
Austin Taylor- Shetland Islands Council  
Leslie Tait- Shetland Fisherman's Association

**Agenda**

**1. Minutes of Meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

Minutes were approved as a true record

MH raised Depositional Zones Regulation is now out for consultation and it will have some significance for the marine plan which will have to be taken into consideration during the development of the Shetland Islands' Regional Marine Plan.

RH added that shellfish cultivation has not been covered by the regulation and DS stated that SSPO were closely engaged with SEPA and will have to consider changes to planning and policies.

**2. Current Status of the Shetland Islands' Regional Marine Plan (SIRMP)**

*2.1 Terms of Reference*

MH stated the Terms of Reference have now been submitted and accepted by Marine Scotland.

*2.2 Statement of Public Participation*

A draft Statement of Public Participation (SPP) was written earlier this year, the SPP which will be a living document that will get more detailed through the drafting process of the SIRMP. The draft SPP will need to be approved by Scottish Ministers and will then be updated on the NAFC Marine Centre and SIC websites. WG advised to add more detail to the current draft and also include the work of the sub policy groups. MH also informed the group that adjacent local authorities were meant to be

informed of the intentions for the regional marine plan which had slipped his mind but has now been rectified. The notice of intent was sent to Orkney Council.

### *2.3 State of Environment Assessment*

AC highlighted that the State of Environment Assessment (SoE) was now complete and available on the web page and that the Shetland Coastal Character Assessment (SCCA) was near completion and would be uploaded to the web page in due course. An email with direct links to both documents will be sent to all group members at a later date.

The SoE highlighted a number of data gaps and work has recently been done to create an action plan detailing what the gaps are, how they could be addressed and the feasibility of doing the work.

### **Actions**

- Circulate links for the SoE and SCCA within the advisory group
- Amend the draft SPP for approval by Scottish Ministers and continue to update the SPP when needed

## **3. Sub Policy Groups**

### *3.1 Potential policy changes*

There has also been a policy review done of the current Shetland Islands' Marine Spatial Plan (SIMSP) comparing the policies to the National Marine Plan (NMP) paying particular attention to policies that are missing from the SIMSP or don't quite match up with policies in the NMP. The intention will be to use the SIMSP as a skeleton for drafting the SIRMP.

MH mentioned that the previous sub policy groups had been industry, environment and community and that having more concentrated groups had been very helpful when drafting the SIMSP so the intention is to do something similar for the SIRMP.

AC highlighted the policy changes with eight policies needing a small tweak so that they sit better alongside the NMP. Examples given were changing Noise to Noise & Vibration and including the social impact of fishing within the related policy. These suggestions along with others from the policy review will be nailed down by the sub groups.

Also mentioned were a couple of new policies to consider such as Decommissioning and Maintenance as this industry is becoming more prominent in Shetland and Coastal Erosion and Flooding which is not covered by the current Coastal Defences policy.

Thought must be given while drafting the SIRMP so that it falls in line with the NMP. Including seaweed cultivation under aquaculture will need to be considered and wild fish. The NMP has a separate policy covering wild fish, it will need to be decided if this is necessary for Shetland or if it is fine being covered within an existing policy.

MH mentioned that an inquiry into wild fish and lice is currently going through Scottish Parliament and although it is not such a big issue in Shetland as it is down the West Coast of Scotland work will need to be done in this area. MH continued by saying that although a lot of work had been done for the previous SIMSP, there was still a lot more to be done and he hoped that the sub policy groups would be formed when asked. He hoped that there would not be the need for as many meetings as the last time and also that some policies would have to be considered by more than one group.

DS raised the licencing of aquaculture review currently under way and the importance of how wild fish interaction is handled. He stated there needed to be engagement with Marine Scotland (MS) as there is no Shetland based representation during the review.

MH was in agreement and detailed that MS have done heat map analysis around the West Coast and parts of Orkney but Shetland had not been covered as it was deemed to be low risk. DS highlighted that this would need to be checked to make sure that was still the case for Shetland and was advised by MH to contact Marine Scotland Science.

### *3.2 The Islands Bill*

MH raised the Islands Bill which if passed will affect how local authorities grant Marine Licences. It is still in the early stages with autumn next year the projected outcome date.

Island proofing will need to be considered during the drafting of the SIRMP as not only does the central government have to make sure they do not disadvantage islands, the islands themselves have to make sure they don't disadvantage more remote areas within their island group as well.

### 3.3 Sub policy groups

These should be formed by the end of the summer break and will hopefully work as well as they did for the SIMSP. There should be a list from the previous groups which can be used as a basis for creating the next lot. Hopefully meetings of the groups should take place end of this year/ early next year.

#### **Actions**

- DS to contact Marine Scotland Science in regards to wild fish data mapping
- Keep an eye on the development of the Islands Bill
- AC to create sub policy groups by the end of the summer break and invite members to join

#### **4. Looking forward on the next 12 months**

AC stated a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) has to be done on the SIRMP so the policies must be decided on sooner rather than later. An assessment has been done on the existing SIMSP which should provide a template for the new SEA. A business and regulation assessment has to be conducted as well which considers the policy adjectives and what cost implications this has for local industries. Maps have to be updated from the previous SIMSP to make sure the SIRMP is complete as possible and data gaps which have been highlighted by the SoE need to be closed where possible. These will be prioritised and some will fall out with the timeframe for the SIRMP.

AC also said that once the policies have been refined by the sub policy groups, a full meeting will be held to make sure everyone is in agreement. DS commented to not waste any time in setting up the policy groups and MH interjected that the groups should aim to be formed by mid to late August. DP stated to make sure the SEA is built in from the start of the drafting process and MH added that the SEA for the SIMSP was well received last time by statutory consultees so should be used as a template.

#### **Actions**

- Conduct a SEA for the SIRMP
- Conduct a BRIA For the SIRMP
- Decision made on the policies to be included in the SIRMP by the sub policy groups

#### **5. Update on the National Marine Plan**

MH stated that the NMP is now 2 years old and has a 5 year life span and that the advisory group will need to keep up to date with the plan as it will affect the SIRMP. AC also added that the review of the NMP will be every 3 years and covers inshore and offshore waters. It will consider the effects and effectiveness of the plan, any barriers, emerging industries linked with terrestrial based industries and the effects of Brexit. Assessments will have to be carried out on how it will effect Shetland.

DP identified that the purpose of the review was to determine if a new NMP is needed or not. There will be an OSPAR assessment and a MSFD done next year (2018) which will underpin what is happening in Scotland. More thought will have to be given to decommissioning and the powers which have been granted to Scotland in regards to this. The review is due before parliament by March 2018. A similar document has already been done for the North of England so have some guidance.

MH highlighted the need to integrate marine plan with terrestrial plans such as the SIMSP being made supplementary guidance to the Shetland Islands' Local Development Plan (SILDP). DP acknowledged this and stated that the idea of using scenario mapping looking at how offshore structures impact onshore and getting onshore bases ready for offshore industries and considering the environmental aspects of this has been touched on. Having better integration with terrestrial planning is becoming more prominent and although MS interact with terrestrial planners, it is not in a joined up manner. This will be raised in the review.

#### **Actions**

- Keep an eye on the NMP review process
- Consider ways to integrate marine and terrestrial planning better

#### **6. Fair Isle MPA Update**

MH stated again that island proofing will need to be considered during the development of the plan and that Fair Isle became a Research and Development MPA in November 2016 which will look at how various sectors impact on the environment. MH continued by informing the group that there is a steering group for the MPA and it has a 10 year life span. The group are hoping to appoint a research officer depending on funding and all the islanders are "Cock-a-hoop" as they have been pushing for the designation for at least 30 years and he hoped they made a good job of it. AC interjected that Karen Hall for SNH had stated that the starting point will be to identify data gaps and how they can be addressed which will be a slow process as there is no research officer in place yet, so there will need to be a lot of forward planning.

MH- specified that the next 6-12 months will be important for the MPA and what is being done by the SIRMP advisory group will help the Fair Isle MPA and vice versa. There is also the need to do a review of the SIRMP in 5 years although this may change to a 10 year cycle to have a more meaningful lifespan and to tie in with proposals for LDPs.

#### **Actions**

- Keep Island proofing in mind during drafting process of SIRMP
- Keep in contact with Fair Isle MPA Steering Group in regards to the data gaps

#### **7. AOB**

SM mentioned that looking at the current SIMSP that the tourism section mentions Promote Shetland and the Shetland Tourism Association managing existing and new opportunities and promoting investment, areas that VisitScotland is involved in as its prime function. The Promote Shetland contract is currently out to tender with tourism as a reduced part of its remit, while the Shetland Tourism Association is a voluntary organisation representing the industry, so it would make sense for the plan to recognise VisitScotland's role as the national body representing tourism.

MH specified that this was good to know and suggested that SM would sit within the community sub group once they are formed.

DG identified there is a new position on the DZR which could affect fishing. EJ interjected that it would be good to have a meeting with AC over the summer to compare the projected affects with Orkney and Clyde colleagues.

DS acknowledged the new proposal of a cable by SSE and that there was to be a consultation meeting about the route of the cable and the time of work for the project the following Thursday at NAFC Marine Centre (6/7/2017). There is significant worry for the aquaculture industry with RH adding lobster pots have not been considered which, is a substantial industry in Shetland. MH also mentioned that the council had not been invited to the consultation.

DS also said there has been a recent development in the restriction of the product Slice that is used by fin fish farms to control sea lice which is a big problem for the industry and the socio-economic problems associated with it. The industry needs to find alternative products to use. And in reference

to the DZR, the zones need to be re addressed for Shetland because as the zones stand at the moment it will restrict the productivity of Shetland whereas is in other areas of Scotland there will be a marked increase. Another example of one size does not fit all.

AC took the opportunity to mention MH upcoming retirement. MH stated that this would be his last meeting of the advisory group as chair and that it had been a very interesting time and he had met a lot of interesting people. He continued by saying that marine planning had been a huge benefit to Shetland due to being a leader across Scotland and he hoped to see this continue. He also wanted to say a thank you to all of the members who have worked within the advisory group. His position should hopefully be filled by the end of August, the coastal unit of the council will continue as normal.

The final point of the meeting was whether any date for the proposed SPAs has been finalised and JS said not yet. MH mentioned that he had no problems with the proposed SPAs but they may have an impact on the marine industry although they have not done so far.