



Agenda

Firth of Clyde Forum Core Group Meeting
Tuesday 8th May 2012, 10.00-12.30 with buffet lunch
Glasgow City Council Committee Room

		Time	Lead
	Tea and coffee	9:45	
1	Welcome and Apologies	10:00	Isabel Glasgow
2	Minutes and Action Points from last meeting	10:10	IG/All
3	Update from Core Group members	10:20	All
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dominic Counsell, Head of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems, SNH, Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas and what they mean for the Clyde 	10:45	DC
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Project Updates – Fiona Mills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Marine Litter ENV11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update attached ○ Landscape Seascape ENV10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update attached 	11:30	FM
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Project Updates – Sarah Brown <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Biosecurity Plan Implementation ENV5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project brief and update attached ○ Recreational Access R&T2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project brief and update attached ○ Community/stakeholder Mapping COM2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project brief attached 	11:50	SB
7	Any Other Business	12:10	All
8	Future Meeting Dates	12:20	All
	Close and buffet lunch	12:30	

NB Fiona and Sarah will not be presenting the updates or project briefs in detail but are happy to take any questions arising. Some updates have action points for the Core Group to agree.



**Firth of Clyde Forum Core Group Meeting
8th May 2012
Glasgow City Council Committee Room**

PRESENT

Isabel Glasgow (IG) FoCF Chair
 Fiona Mills (FM) FoCF Project Manager

 Sarah Brown (SB) FoCF Project Manager

 Phillip Cowie (PC), UMBSM
 Charlie Simmie (CS), RYA Scotland
 Mike Balmforth, BMF
 Michelle Carroll (MC), GCVSDPA
 John Esslemont (JE), Ayrshire Joint
 Structure Plan
 Ethel May Abel (EMA), Glasgow City
 Council
 Deirdre Craddock (DC), Glasgow City
 Council
 Rebecca Dean (RD), Scottish Salmon
 Company
 Ron Bailey (RB), Clydeport
 Roger Horne (RH), Clydeport
 Clive Hayward (CH), HMNB
 Zoe Clelland, RSPB
 Dominic Counsell (DC), SNH part of time

APOLOGIES

Mark Steward (MS) Argyll & Bute Council
 Rhona Fairgrieve (RF) Scottish Coastal
 Forum
 Archie McFarlane (AM), Clyde
 Fishermen's Association
 Paul Bancks (PB), The Crown Estate
 Ian Bray (IB), SNH
 Charley Rattan (CR), SSE

ITEM 1 – Welcome and apologies

IG welcomed everyone to the venue and thanked Glasgow City Council for hosting once again. Apologies are noted above.

ITEM 2 – Minutes and action points from last meeting

No copy of the minutes had been circulated with the meeting papers and there were no hard copies at the meeting so it was agreed that after the meeting the draft minutes would be emailed out again for any comments and then approved. The action points were reviewed via overhead projector as follows:

AP 07/02 1	draft letter to COAST	FM/IG	Done
AP 07/02 2	consult Marine Scotland on timeline and thoughts on engagement of communities in marine planning	RF	Carry forward
AP 07/02 3	forward Statement of Requirements to RD and MC	FM	Done
AP 07/02 4	contact Scottish Renewables Forum	FM	Done
AP 07/02 5	contact Mike Bland and Marine Scotland renewables team to see if they wish to be involved in the project team	RF	Done – MS team busy at this stage

AP 07/02 6	contact The Green Blue regarding timing of circulation of the project plan to the Core Group	FM	Done
AP 07/02 7	raise the Marine Scotland fishing impacts desk research project with Marine Scotland at MSF meeting	IG	Done
AP 07/02 8	send information to FM on the study done by UMBSM in the late 80s on fishing intensity	PC	Carry forward
AP 07/02 9	include Scotmap as agenda item on next LCP officers meeting (Pam Taylor could also come to talk about project to Core Group)	RF	Carry forward
AP 07/02 10	consider the feasibility of new projects and include as relevant in work plan	FM/SB	Done
AP 07/02 11	contact FM with regards to support from the FoCF on strandline signage	PC	Carry forward – awaiting SSSI decisions from SNH
AP 07/02 12	provide wider membership list to Core Group	SB	Done
AP 07/02 13	add MS and Deirdre Craddock to attendance list for PMF workshop	FM	Done

ITEM 3 - Update from Core Group members

PC

- UMBSM has seen an increase in the number of students over the past year, probably due in part to other courses closing.
- Focus continues on fisheries, marine pollution – litter, plastics and water column.
- NERC funding application for work on fisheries impact on trophic relationships within Firth of Clyde turned down, however, it is hoped that funding may be received by reapplying for some elements of the project individually.

MB

- Working with Visit Scotland to improve communications with the industry and to help develop marine recreation as a major Scottish export.
- Cross Party Group on Recreational Boating and Marine Tourism propose to hold an autumn conference.
- British Waterways name has changed in Scotland to Scottish Canals and they will be using this new branding within 1 months time.

MC

- The proposed GCVSDPA Strategic Development Plan is with Ministers. Reporters have made comments to ministers.
- Now work focused on post adoption statement for SEA and lessons learnt.
- New planning manager is in place and is open to adding value to 3rd party projects which should mean more involvement with conservation projects and other 3rd party groups.

JE

- S Ayrshire LDP will be issued shortly.
- North Ayrshire LDP is out for comment and will possibly undergo another round of consultation.

EMA

- Most river-based developments for the Commonwealth Games are upstream of the FoCF boundary, however at Customs House Quay there are plans to improve the gardens and to provide a new river access point, perhaps in the form of a pontoon which will be the start of a new river bus service from the city centre to Clydebank.

- Following comments on terrorist threat and security at the last meeting, it is now confirmed that the river will not be closed prior, during nor after the Commonwealth Games

DC

- Glasgow City Council is now in the process of preparing its new LDP and looking at key themes over the next few months.

RD

- The Scottish Salmon Company are continuing developments at the Kilbrannan and North Arran sites and are looking for new locations in the FoC area. There will be both statutory and public consultations for any proposed developments.

RB and RH

- Clydeport are receiving and stocking a lot of coal at Hunterston, perhaps due to US becoming more energy independent and Japan buying more gas.
- Three 200m high test wind turbines are now at Hunterston and will be tested over the next 5 years by 3 different manufacturers.
- The number of cruise ships coming into Greenock has been capped at 43 next year in order to ensure other more profitable container business is not compromised. This still provides a good contribution to the west of Scotland economy with around 65k passengers passing through each year. They are considering the possibility of a pier extension to cope with increased demand but would need to go through planning.
- There are ongoing conflicts between creeler and trawler fishermen. The Kilcreggan ferry recently had a creel caught around a propeller.
- Wind turbines and an aircraft carrier section transported in via the Clyde.
- Clydeport have renewed their sponsorship of the Largs Regatta.
- Ship emissions are coming to the fore with the IMO.
- A requirement for Clydeport to become a Port Secure Authority means a step change in security responsibilities at ports.

CH

- QHM organisation will be civilionised from March/April of 2013, which means the person holding the post will not need to change every 3 years.
- All submarines will be coming to Faslane from 2015. This will lead to an increase in movements in and out of the Clyde but not to any increase in exercises as they are mostly done here anyway.
- Joint Warrior exercises will continue to take place twice a year.

ZC

- The RSPB has concerns that seabirds are under-represented in the MPA search locations proposals and have submitted proposals for extensions to seabird colonies nationally. There has been a lot of public support for the RSPB campaign and people understand that it is important for tourism as well as the protection of birds.
- No objection to the renewables testing at Hunterston and the RSPB have engaged with the developer to suggest monitoring and survey work looking at the impact on birds.
- The RSPB is opposed to the power station development on important intertidal habitat. N Ayrshire council have voted to remove any reference to the new power station in their LDP. Now working on public local enquiry which will be coming up at the end of the year

IG

- Met with Linda Rosburgh and David Palmer to discuss future funding. Whilst nothing is guaranteed, considering the level of grant-in-aid funding for Marine Scotland, there is no reason for funding of FoCF not to continue. No decision has been taken as to which areas will be set up as the first Marine Protected Partnerships. National Marine Plan will be out for consultation later in the year

ITEM 4 – Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas and what they mean for the Clyde – presentation by Dominic Counsell, SNH

Questions on the MPA presentation

Is there the correct balance between maintenance and protection of species and habitats versus their restoration?

There will be a conservation objective for each site which we be based around maintenance or restoration. A maintenance objective could still lead to control of certain activities within a site. Natura sites are determined scientifically with limited ability to take into account socio-economic activity, whereas the MPA process enables important socio-economic areas to be avoided if possible.

If MPAs are in areas of least activity (least damaged more natural) and there are no site-based measures of protection, how does this bring any further protection than wider seas measures?

The selection process was not just based on 'least damaged more natural' - if features did not occur in these areas, then they were looked for elsewhere, for example in the Firth of Clyde. Putting lines on a map of where important species occur takes us forward from where we are – there is a need to get the necessary protection/provisions in place at this stage but not be heavy-handed.

Ensuring a healthy network is not just dependent on the specific area – is there anything in the proposed protection about activities nearby not impacting on the site (per Appropriate Assessment with Natura)? Generally a clearer steer is required from the government on priorities and status of MPAs.

Also Priority Marine Features are part of the 3 pillar approach outside protected sites. A developer would need to demonstrate no impact on PMFs and licensing authority would take a decision. National Marine Plan should provide policy framework of expectations for PMFs and MPAs.

Do we understand the interconnectivity between eg Ailsa Craig Natura site and the Clyde Sill?

The detail of connectivity is difficult to demonstrate. Birds and large mobile animals have been well studied and a connectivity is easier to demonstrate. Small species which rely on larval dispersal are more difficult. Marine Scotland Science are doing further work on this.

To what extent are species/habitats already protected through SACs/SPAs?

Monitoring will be on a 6 yearly basis to establish whether the objective of an 'ecologically coherent network' is being met and further decisions/refinements will be made.

How will SNH provide advice on development outside an MPA?

Not yet decided. Appropriate Assessment will probably be avoided but some elements of this system may be required.

Has any connectivity between inland waterways and MPAs been considered?

Local Authorities could use mapping of MPAs to consider any linkage to inland waterways.

Stakeholder concern is in the management process. It is quite late to be discussing management, but will the next stakeholder meeting fully tackle this issue?

Stakeholders have been involved throughout the process and should be aware if any of the MPA search locations raise issues with current or planned development or activities. If there is anything that concerns stakeholders, they should make their concerns known now.

It would be useful to explain how bird populations have been considered through the MPA process.

It was considered that Natura adequately covers seabirds and already provides an ecologically coherent network. The only missed species was the Black guillemot which has therefore been included as an MPA search feature. Ecological functions supporting the bird populations will be provided by eg sandeel protection through the MPA network.

Clyde Sea Sill search location and RSPB third party proposal for an MPA at Sanda Island – overlaps with Crown Estate lease agreement for tidal development granted last year. Are these two things incompatible?

The boundary of the search location is as yet uncertain and may ultimately be reduced to Sanda Island for the Black Guillemot. Several other locations have similar features to the Clyde Sill and alternative sites may be considered. Unsure if MPA team are aware of the Sanda Sound tidal proposal.

- FM send DC link to detail of proposed development for info.

To what extent are 3rd party proposals influencing the scientific assessment of SNH on search locations?

There have been 10-15 3rd party proposals considered – they were only taken forward if they could support the network and deliver the same assessment process. All data available for the proposed area were considered including features, state and whether it could substitute another area.

- DC to send information on how the assessment has been made in particular for the Arran search location.

Have mobile species been mapped?

Although not ideal, the best available effort-adjusted data from organisations such as the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust have been used. It is questionable whether the data is robust enough to draw a line on a map and say with confidence that protection of that area would benefit those species, but it is a starting point. More tagging work is ongoing.

ITEMS 5 & 6 – Project Updates

Marine Litter

The next stages of the project were agreed. A meeting is to be arranged with community groups to agree to more regular use of the MCS Beachwatch survey format. A Workshop style meeting is to be arranged with LAs to look at beach cleaning guidance. A Marine Litter page will be introduced on website.

Landscape Seascape Assessment

The methodology was briefly explained. Points were made about perspective from the sea being different from a large boat and a kayak. Thanks were given to those who had supplied additional funding to allow the project to go ahead.

- ZC to send FM the LUC work from the Firth of Forth.
- FM and steering group to consider best way to communicate work on to LAs and other potential users once completed.

Biosecurity

The next stages of the project were agreed.

Recreational Access

It was asked whether paper maps would be available as well as GIS. Paper maps will probably only be used at the public events for ease of reference. GIS will be downloadable by 3rd parties.

How will usage level of a sight be gauged? Public workshops and ground truthing work will help ascertain usage level. This will be indicated as High/Medium/Low.

It was agreed to avoid safety and security ratings due to liability issues.

The Clyde Moorings data from last year is available – SB to access.

Consider also disabled access – Sustrans do good information on this.

- SB to access Clyde Moorings data
- SB contact Sustrans.

Community Mapping

The next stages of the project were agreed.

- SB to work with RB to use Clydeports' leisure users guide.

ITEM 7 – AOB

Given that more information will be held on the website, thought should be given as to how to drive people to the website through eg PR, links from other websites, leafleting etc.

ITEM 8 - Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 5th September from 11am to 3pm.

Action Points Summary

AP 08/05 1	Send DC link to proposed Sanda Sound tidal development.	FM
AP 08/05 2	Provide information on how the assessment of the 3 rd party search location proposal off Arran has been made.	DC
AP 08/05 3	ZC to send FM the LUC work from the Firth of Forth.	ZC
AP 08/05 4	FM and Landscape/Seascape steering group to consider best way to communicate work on to LAs and other potential users once completed.	FM
AP 08/05 5	Access Clyde Moorings data for recreation project.	SB
AP 08/05 6	contact Sustrans.	SB
AP 08/05 7	Work with RB to use Clydeports' leisure users guide.	SB
Carried Forward		
AP 07/02 2	consult Marine Scotland on timeline and thoughts on engagement of communities in marine planning.	RF/SB
AP 07/02 8	send information to FM on the study done by UMBSM in the late 80s on fishing intensity.	PC
AP 07/02 9	include Scotmap as agenda item on next LCP officers meeting (Pam Taylor could also come to talk about project to Core Group).	RF
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