Clyde Marine Planning Partnership
Progress Update – November 2017

In March 2017, Scottish Ministers gave a Direction to the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership (CMPP) and its public authorities to develop a Regional Marine Plan for the Clyde Marine Region (CMR).

This document provides an update on activities carried out by the CMPP during the first 7 months.

Assessment of the condition of the CMR

- A final draft of the Assessment was considered at the Marine Alliance for Science and Technology Scotland (MASTS) review meeting on 31st March (see report). The Assessment covers the condition of the region (Physical, Clean and Safe, Healthy and Biologically Diverse) and the human activities in the region (sea fisheries; aquaculture; sport, recreation and tourism; defence; historic environment; energy; and shipping). It considers the pressures and impacts of activities on the condition of the region, and assesses the functioning of Ecosystem Services. Following changes proposed at the MASTS meeting, and by CMPP Members, the Assessment is in the design stage and will be published by the end of 2017.
- Topic Sheets have been produced and will be published with the Assessment. These are short 2-page summaries which increase accessibility of information of some of the issues discussed in the Assessment, to aid understanding during the engagement phase of plan development. There are 13 in total covering marine fish and shellfish, marine invasive species, seabed rock and sediments, mobile species, protected areas, productive summary, ecosystem approach and ecosystem services, overview of the region, marine planning in the Clyde, marine litter, climate change, clean and safe, and birds.

Statement of Public Participation

- A draft of the Statement of Public Participation (SPP) was agreed by CMPP Members and this was considered by Marine Scotland. A revised draft SPP was approved by Members and submitted for approval by Scottish Ministers.

Marine Plan process development

- CMPP Members considered the main issues from the Assessment, which led to identification of the key work streams for the early stages of plan development. These are as follows:

Work stream
Working groups • Fisheries (working with West Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (WCRIFG), Clyde 2020 and wider stakeholders e.g. processors) • Aquaculture • Sports, recreation and tourism • Shipping, ports, harbours and ferries • Regional socio-economic opportunities – regeneration, coastal communities, Clyde the brand
Workshops • Mobile species (mammals, sharks, skates, rays, seabirds and waterbirds) and Noise • Marine Litter (especially plastic) • Invasive Non-Native Species • Submarine cables (tbc dependent on work above with WCRIFG)

Subgroup • Clyde2020 – identify the issues and propose solutions to factors which are limiting improvements to the Clyde ecosystem, covering in particular 'shallow and shelf subtidal sediments', 'biogenic reefs', and 'marine fish and shellfish'.
Other • Sea-level rise and coastal change covered through Climate Ready Clyde and/or SEPA Flood Risk Management meetings. • Meetings with SEPA, Ministry of Defence and Historic Environment Scotland required.

- CMPP staff attended the Historic Environment Scotland stakeholder engagement event on 25th May to begin discussions on engagement with the Plan development process.
- CMPP staff and Chair met with various representatives of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) involved in River Basin Management, Flood Risk Management and aquaculture regulation on 26th July to ensure that SEPA is kept informed on progress with plan development, and to discuss potential membership of the CMPP.
- CMPP staff met with the environmental charity FIDRA on 21st August to consider how the plan may be able to contribute to the reduction of input of plastic pellets, powders and flakes to the marine environment.
- The first navigation and associated infrastructure working group meeting, involving stakeholders from shipping, ferries, ports and harbours, was held on 18th September to discuss plan development.
- The first aquaculture working group meeting was held on 7th November to discuss plan development.

Clyde 2020

- CMPP staff worked with the Research Advisory Group members (1 face-to-face meeting and several e-consultations) to analyse scientific outputs in order to shed light on concerns on both scallop stock assessments and the impacts of fishing which were raised at a previous steering group meeting.
- A contract was let for 'Improving public and stakeholder understanding of the Clyde Marine Region's scientific body of evidence relating to benthic habitat, fisheries and relevant ecosystem services', also known as The Layman's Guide. The objective is to present the relevant science in an easily accessible format and is due to be published by March 2018.
- A scallop stock assessment methodology and logic meeting was held on 25th May 2017 including experts from York and Bangor Universities and Marine Scotland Science.
- At the steering group meeting on 1st November 2017, members agreed to pursue three potential projects – scallop stock assessment, enhancing Scotmap data, and wild stock and usage of wrasse in aquaculture. Members also considered the regional marine plan process, outlined management already in place to deal with pressures, and considered the future aspirations for members concerning benthic habitat, fisheries and relevant ecosystem services.

Alignment of terrestrial and marine planning

- Meetings have been held by CMPP staff and Chair with Inverclyde Council, West Dunbartonshire Council, Argyll & Bute Council, and North Ayrshire Council in the early stages

of their Local Development Plan process to work towards alignment of terrestrial and marine plans.

- CMPP staff presented on a Regional Marine Plan for the Clyde at the West of Scotland Development Management Benchmarking Group training session on 27th September 2017.
- A Royal Town Planning Institute meeting for land planners was held in Balloch on 4th October and used the SIMCelt Marine Spatial Planning Challenge to raise awareness of marine planning.

Communications

- The CMPP website is generating approximately 200 user sessions and 875 page views per month. Approximately 60% of the users are 'new' rather than existing.
- Since February 2016, 16 newsletters have been sent out – approximately one every 6 weeks. The e-newsletter has 867 subscribers up from 668 in the last 12 months and has an average of approximately 30% open rate, against the industry average of 21.5%.

Public Engagement

- A MSc student incorporated the SimCELT Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Challenge game into research on recreation in the CMR during summer 2017. Three marine tourism events, focussing on non-power sports, were run with approximately 30 people in total engaged in Glasgow, Lamlash and Greenock.
- Three public sessions of MSP Challenge were held in Lochgilphead, Arrochar and Greenock in May 2017. Approximately 20 people engaged with the game and feedback was very positive.
- Public Dialogue work involving 15 members of the public was undertaken in Tarbert (September 2017) and again with a further 15 members of the public in Greenock (October 2017). This enabled in-depth dialogue around the issues in the CMR and considered potential future scenarios for marine planning policy. A report will be produced by December 2017.
- 'Streamline' and MSP Challenge sessions were held with 3 schools – Tarbert Academy, Lochgilphead Joint Campus and Marr College in Troon in November and December 2017. Streamline is an engagement process which uses visual canvases to elicit information from participants about their future aspirations for the marine region.

Governance

- Three Members' Meetings and 1 Annual Members' Meeting have been held since March 2017.
- SEPA were accepted as a new Member of the Partnership at the Members' meeting in October 2017.