Clyde 2020 - Joint Steering Group and Research Advisory Group meeting

Facilitated by the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership
23rd April 2019, Premier Inn, 377 Argyle Street, Glasgow
10:30-13:00

Chair	Alastair McNeill
Steering Group Attendees	Paul Chandler (COAST), David Donnan (SNH), Alex McFie (FSC Millport), Alastair McNeill (WCRIFG Chair), Elaine Whyte (CFA),
Research Advisory Group attendees	Sally Campbell, Kenny Coull, Mike Heath, David Bailey
Also Attending	Fiona Mills (CMPP), Sinead Sheridan (CMPP)
Apologies	Alex Adrian (Crown Estate Scotland), Marc Browne (Scottish Salmon Company), Bryce Beukers-Stewart (RAG), Sandy Downie (SEPA), Calum Duncan (Scottish Environment LINK), Isabel Glasgow (Chair), Mark Lodge (Argyll and Bute Council), Scot Mathieson (RAG), Tanja Miethe (RAG), Willie Kennedy (SSACN), Bill Turrell (MSS), Alex Watson-Crook (AWC) (SIFT), Harry Wick (NIFPO)

Agenda

1.	Welcome and Apologies
2.	Actions from last meeting: • Alastair McNeill to update WCRIFG on various research initiatives discussed. • Fiona Mills to get changes made by consultants to Layman's Guide with aim to publish By December 2018. • FM to send out information on applying to join the RAG to interested applicants.
3.	Updates: • Layman's guide • Scallop stock assessment – update and future options • Wrasse
4.	Research Advisory Group update Steering Group ratification of new RAG member – Dr Mhairi Alexander
5.	CMPP update • Clyde Regional Marine Plan • New Chair
6.	Clyde 2020 event(s) for Year of Coasts & Waters 2020
7.	What's next for Clyde 2020?
8.	AOB
9.	DONM
10.	Close and lunch available

1. Welcome and introductions

AM welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies as indicated above. He noted that at short notice Isabel Glasgow was unable to chair the meeting as planned, due to illness. Fiona Mills thanked AM for stepping in to chair the meeting. Participants introduced themselves. The steering group and RAG send their best wishes to Isabel Glasgow. The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as approved and action points are captured below.

2. Actions from last meeting:

- Alastair McNeill to update WCRIFG on various research initiatives discussed - completed.
- Fiona Mills to get changes made by consultants to Layman's Guide with aim to publish by December 2018 - completed.
- FM to send out information on applying to join the RAG to interested applicants - completed.

3. Updates:

Layman's guide
The guide and accompanying animations have now been published on the CMPP website. FM thanked everyone for their input into the work, which was made stronger by the involvement of all. FM also noted that the animations had been used in the ongoing consultation of the draft Clyde Regional Marine Plan and had been received well. The steering group and RAG should please feel free to use them and the team welcomed ideas to circulate it more widely – please let staff know. It has also been displayed in the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) Octopus centre. It was suggested that any other animations developed in future should contain subtitles.

Scallop stock assessment – update and future options
EW recalled that a bid had been made to the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund for the scallop stock assessment. This had not been successful as the funds had been allocated to other projects. EW is following up on other funding avenues; there is potential that this work could be linked to a PhD studentship. It was noted that there may be some aspects that cannot be taken forward through a studentship, for example making sure the stock assessment data informs the management of the fishery, however any outcomes could inform this. The lack of a robust stock assessment is also an issue for the wider West Coast. Management measures need to be determined on a wider scale – this can make the likelihood of securing funding stronger, but it also enables the consideration of impacts such as displacement.

FM and SS noted that other research avenues/funding opportunities had also been explored in relation to this works, such as the SIFIDS project and Seafish.

Wrasse
An update on this was submitted via email for communication to the group, as AWC was unable to attend at short notice due to unforeseen circumstances. SIFT has now brought together a range of interested parties in an informal working group which has met on two occasions. The focus of the group is primarily to bring together best available science and identify best practice examples for wrasse management in temperate waters. Subsequently SIFT will develop a range of management measures for the Scottish wrasse fishery on which they will publically campaign. The working group has two main objectives, to change the dates in the voluntary code of conduct which is already in place for the fishery (so that harvesting does not coincide with breeding for some wrasse species) and to make the voluntary code statutory.

Some members of the steering group present are also involved in the working group and they noted that members of the group include: Scottish Creel Fishermen's Federation, COAST and the Coastal Communities Network. AM noted that a proposal was put to West Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (WCRIFG) members to be involved, but there was little interest in this; there are not many wrasse fishers in the Clyde. AWC had been invited to a meeting of the Inshore Fisheries Group Chairs, but was not able to attend. AM requested an update on what the group has done since autumn last year, which he can circulate to the IFG Chairs. He also noted that this could be circulated to Marine Scotland as they should be involved in the progress of this work. AM also noted that the WCRIFG is forming an aquaculture sub-committee, to promote better working relationships between commercial fisheries and the aquaculture sector. DB updated the group on fieldwork carried out by the University of Glasgow which compares wrasse populations before and after wrasse fishing in the Clyde.

4. Research Advisory Group update

MH provided a summary of recent research outputs relating to the Clyde.

- Josh Lawrence, University of Aberdeen has recently had his thesis examined. This analysed acoustic survey data and showed that sprat outweigh herring in terms of biomass in the Clyde. This work also considered the distribution of pelagic fish and the relationship between distribution of porpoises and pelagic fish.
- Neil Burns, University of Glasgow recently had his thesis examined and a paper published. The paper was incorrectly attributed to being funded by this group, it was actually part-funded by Marine Scotland Science. Neil's work considered demersal fish and seabed habitat relationships for the whole of west coast. Further research will be published concerning otolith chemistry in the next year.
- Matt Pace has recently begun a PhD studentship under joint supervision from MH & DB. He will be looking at seabed sediment chemistry (such as qualities of carbon and nitrogen) in the Clyde, which can be utilised to update seabed sediment maps. The research will also investigate any relationship between carbon and nitrogen content and swept area (area trawled) ratio. Early results show there is some correlation. This work can help to inform an ecosystem model for the Clyde between plankton, benthos and fish. It will also enable experiments to look at different patterns of seabed disturbance and impact on the wider food web. This project is using the same methodology of previous work done on mapping seabed sediment undertaken by MH and others.
- Douglas Speirs and Douglas Neil are jointly supervising Hazel Smith who is looking at Nephrops population modelling in the Clyde, out to sound of Jura and Irish Sea. This work is examining the connectivity of Nephrops populations based on larval dispersal and also considers parasitic infection. Hazel and Matt are also working jointly on some aspects of the seabed sediment mapping work.
- Two undergraduate students are also working on stock assessments in the Clyde, based on landings data – one of these students is looking at Nephrops data. This work involves collating landing data going back to the 1960s. This has resulted in some difficulties, as the data is published in different places. In addition to this, there was a change in official reporting in 2006 as a result of a change in buyer's legislation. KC offered to provide expertise on this. The other undergraduate student has been applying the same model to the whitefish and herring fishery from the 1840s to 1870s, to examine what the level of fishing (line and drift) was at that time and how intensive it was compared to activity today.
- In terms of new projects, three new doctoral training projects looking at the Clyde are being funded by Natural Environment Research Council. These are: modelling Nephrops discards from

trawl fishery, investigating *Sargassum muticum* (wireweed) around the UK, including the Clyde and a project modelling kelp forests, which is of interest considering the context of developments around marine licensing on this.

- MASTS is currently funding a project on data limited stock assessments. A student is now in place looking at this. The initial intention of this was to focus on scallops in the Clyde, however, it does not necessarily have to be focussed on the Clyde.

FM asked if the data on seabed mapping has been shared with Marine Scotland for inclusion on NMPi – MH responded that it has, but it has not been incorporated into NMPi yet.

Action: FM to follow up with having seabed mapping work added to NMPi.

FM updated the group on an application to join the RAG from Mairi Alexander. The group reviewed Mairi's CV and experience and there were no objections to her joining the RAG. FM also noted the resignation of Beth Mouat from the RAG.

MH raised the question of the broader purpose of the RAG. Overall the scientific expertise of the group is underutilised and the link between the RAG and the plan development process and the CMPP could be improved. AM noted this point and suggested that the conversation around this be addressed under *item 7 – What's next for Clyde 2020*.

5. Clyde Regional Marine Plan – update

SS provided an update to the group on the CRMP development. Currently the pre-consultation of the draft Clyde Regional Marine Plan is underway; the pre-consultation will end on the 27th March. SS encouraged all to review the draft plan and submit feedback to proposed policy through the consultation. She also noted that a successful bid through the EMFF has also resulted in the appointment of a public engagement officer to the CMPP. The Partnership plans to increase public engagement on marine planning and wider environmental issues over the coming 20 months.

AM notified the group of Isabel Glasgow's intention to stand down as the chair of the CMPP and Clyde 2020 sub-group. Her role will come to an end in September 2019. FM stated that the Chair role profile is currently being finalised with CMPP members, before being advertised later on in the year. The new Chair will be the chairperson for both Clyde 2020 and the CMPP.

6. Clyde 2020 event(s) for Year of Coasts & Waters 2020

A discussion was held at the last meeting around the possibility of holding an event next year to tie in with Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters, to showcase some of the work done so far. SS noted that there is funding available from EventScotland Events Programme Open Fun for the Year of Coasts and Waters, to hold such an event and enquiries could be made about this if the Steering group were still interested in pursuing this idea. It would require 50% match funding from the Clyde 2020 budget. She suggested the event could be modelled on the format of a Café Scientifique, or PubhD events, or perhaps the option of doing something in collaboration with the Glasgow Science Festival is possible. The Steering Group gave support to the idea for holding events, but acknowledged that Clyde 2020 may not be eligible for the EventScotland funding.

Action: SS to follow up with Clyde 2020's eligibility for the Year of Coasts and Waters EventScotland fund.

7. What's next for Clyde 2020?

FM began the discussion on the future of Clyde 2020 and what people considered the purpose of the group to be going forward. She provided an overview of Clyde 2020 progress since 2014, acknowledging that advancement in many areas has been taken forward concurrently by national work or other projects. This has included work such as the establishment of Marine Protected Areas, Priority Marine Features, the CMPP, the work of the Inshore Fisheries Group, the aquaculture review being undertaken by SEPA, national progress on implementing vessel tracking on all inshore vessels and the current discussion paper of the future of fisheries management.

Of the 13 actions pulled together within the Clyde 2020 action plan, two of these have been completed (baseline assessment and understanding the economic context). Those in progress are on communications and communicating science, vessel monitoring systems (identified as a national priority), research into what is driving changes in fisheries growth, marine litter (this is incorporated into the regional marine plan, but progress was also made through the some work that was done with Fishing for Litter and the Millport marine litter symposium through Clyde 2020).

As noted above some work has been taken forward by the CMPP, which was developed after the Clyde 2020 project and led to a restructuring, as Clyde 2020 became a sub-group of the CMPP after its creation. One of the strengths of the Clyde 2020 group is that it enables a wider range of fisheries stakeholders to feed into the CMPP, including the scientific expertise of the RAG.

Considering the point earlier made about the RAG, although it has not been tasked frequently with providing specific advice to the group, the RAG has been important in feeding into areas of project work, such as the Layman's guide and animations. The importance of having this scientific expertise is recognised and in future a strong link/communication between the CMPP and the RAG could be developed, specifically in relation to providing scientific expertise to feed into and support policy development.

It was noted that the Clyde 2020 group began with a high level aspiration set out through its vision, and this can still be worked towards, especially as it has been integrated through the vision and aims set out in the current draft Clyde Regional Marine Plan. It was also noted that overall the RAG has very little insight to the work of the CMPP and feels disconnected from its work. There should be more reporting back to the CMPP and vice versa.

Other points were raised on the ability of regional marine planning to effect change and improvements for coastal communities. Broader questions were raised about the efficacy of consultation processes and ensuring contributions are taken into account. There is a lot of uncertainty, but at what point could an ecosystem enhancement plan begin to be considered for implementation? There are still challenges to having honest conversations around this, and there needs to be more collaboration between fishers and scientists. The group recognised the need to include Marine Scotland in discussions on the future of Clyde 2020 as this was an initiative launched by the Cabinet Secretary in 2014.

Action: FM to draft a paper on the future of Clyde 2020 and how it can fit into the marine planning landscape and circulate in advance of next meeting for further discussion.

8. AOB

It was noted that the document on the Clyde 2020 page which lists Clyde-related research work and publications needs to be updated.

Action: SS to coordinate with Bill Turrell on updating this document.

EW noted that the CFA were considering submitting a request to SEPA to measure water quality in relation to the impact of aquaculture in Loch Fyne, but have been advised that the industry has not

been very active in this area over the last year. The CFA has developed an internal system for recording and reporting salmon mortalities when they are observed.

9. DONM

The next meeting will be held in the autumn and the date will be determined via Doodle poll.