Clyde 2020 - Joint Steering Group and Research Advisory Group meeting

Facilitated by the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership
25th October 2018, City Halls, Glasgow
13:00-16:00

Chair	Alastair McNeill
Steering Group Attendees	Marc Browne (Scottish Salmon Company), Paul Chandler (COAST), David Donnan (SNH), Calum Duncan (Scottish Environment LINK), Willie Kennedy (SSACN), Alastair McNeill (WCRIFG), Glen Smith (CFA), Bill Turrell (MSS), Alex Watson-Crook (SIFT), Elaine Whyte (CFA)
Research Advisory Group attendees	Bryce Beukers-Stewart, Sally Campbell, Kenny Coull, Mike Heath, Tanja Miethe
Also Attending	Fiona Mills (CMPP)
Apologies	Alex Adrian (Crown Estate Scotland), David Bailey (RAG), Jan Brooke (Peel Ports Clydeport), Sandy Downie (SEPA), Isabel Glasgow (Chair), Alex MacFie (FSC), Beth Mouat (RAG), Jennifer Nicoll (HIE)

Agenda

1.	Welcome, Apologies & Introductions
2.	Clyde Marine Planning Partnership staff team – update
3.	Actions from last meeting: • Scallop Stock Assessment • Wrasse • Enhancing Scotmap data
4.	Layman's Guide
5.	Review of Research Advisory Group
6.	Clyde Regional Marine Plan – Update on development
7.	AOB
8.	Date of Next Meeting

1. Welcome and introductions

AM welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies as indicated above. Thanks go to AM for chairing the meeting. Participants introduced themselves. The steering group and RAG send their best wishes to Isabel Glasgow and hope that she recovers quickly. The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as approved and action points are captured below.

2. CMPP staff team – update on recent changes within the team

Sarah Brown left the CMPP last December. Recruitment was not possible until funding had been confirmed by Marine Scotland at the end of March 2018 and until SNH approval had been given. The team has been restructured with a half-time Manager (Fiona Mills), a full-time Officer (Sinead Sheridan), and we are now in the final stages of recruitment for a full-time Co-ordinator. The full team will be in place by mid to end November 2018.

3. Actions from last meeting:

Scallop Stock Assessment
This was discussed at the WCRIFG Clyde subgroup meeting in November 2017 and there was general support. A meeting was also held last winter with scallop fishermen in the Clyde to discuss the project and they were supportive. The application for EMFF funding has been submitted by Elaine Whyte based on a project plan and estimated costing (£300k) from Mike Heath. Elaine has been notified by EMFF that she needs to submit a business plan by this evening and will aim to do that.

Wrasse
SIFT is keen for better understanding of science around the wrasse fishery and were previously looking to convene a working group. At that point Marine Scotland was comfortable with the level of engagement and was developing voluntary management measures. Now that these are in place, SIFT is looking to pull together a national working group.

Bryce Beukers-Stewart is working with the University of Glasgow to review video material from surveys around Arran done during work published by Sophie Elliott. It is part of a PhD that David Bailey (also RAG) is supervising. It is looking at wrasse size, distribution and habitat. Early findings suggest a strong relationship between wrasse numbers and kelp. They would hope to repeat the survey next year and are looking into funding options. Related to this work, SNH is intending to let a contract by the end of the financial year to gather key information from the PhD project and provide input on potential monitoring methodologies.

CFA would be keen to be involved in any research in the local area. It is important to get early engagement with fishermen on research as well as potential management measures. No CFA member is involved around Arran. The WCRIFG should also be closely involved.

SCFF would like more information on how many fishermen target wrasse in the Clyde and how many wild caught wrasse are used at the various fish farms based in the Clyde. It is assumed that this information will be available following introduction of the voluntary control measures.

Action: Alastair McNeill to update WCRIFG on the research.

Enhancing Scotmap data
This project proposal was put together by Sarah Brown last year and was discussed at the WCRIFG meeting in November 2017. The concern was over duplication of effort from fishermen undertaking a one-off project now when vessel monitoring systems will be introduced for inshore commercial fishing vessels. CFA stated that the Cabinet Secretary confirmed at the recent Inshore Fisheries Conference that VMS would be introduced. The mapping of ecosystem services is also important for fisheries and should be considered for future work.

4. Layman's Guide

The final draft of animation 2 was discussed with the following agreed changes:

- Insert a sentence on the decline of the economic value of the sea angling sector. Also include in the Layman's Guide document.
- Change 'biogenic reefs' to 'living reefs' or 'shellfish reefs' as a term that is easier to understand.
- Include a sentence towards the end that there needs to be action to support the sustainability of fisheries around natural capital but without the jargon – DD to advise on wording.

There is continuing dispute concerning discards over time and how these may be impacting fish in the Clyde. For information on discards, Mike Heath has recently received the latest figures from Marine Scotland and early analysis suggests that there are 1,000 – 1,500 tonnes of white fish discards per year. The majority of these are small fish below 20cm and down to 10cm. Previous papers give figures for the 1990s as fluctuating between 1,000 and 2,500 tonnes per year.

Action: FM to get changes made by consultants Inmara with aim to publish by December 2018

5. Review of Research Advisory Group

Thanks go to all members of the RAG whose contribution has been much appreciated over the last 3 years. The Steering Group agreed to extend the RAG for a further 3 years with Mike Heath as Chair. There have been 2 expressions of interest to join the RAG. Brian Quinn has withdrawn from the RAG.

Action: FM to send out information on applying to join the RAG to interested applicants. The Steering Group can take a decision on these applications at the next meeting.

There was discussion around the various opportunities to progress research in the Clyde. It was agreed that a list of the highest priority topics for PhDs is the most likely way to get funding for further work. MASTS have recently received 80% funding for around 60 PhDs over 5 years from NERC, Marine Scotland and SNH can also fund PhDs.

Bill Turrell suggested that it would be a good idea for us to organise an event in 2020 to tie in with Scotland's Year of Coasts and Water to showcase some of the work done so far. It could be similar to the MASTS event from 2 years ago.

CFA stated that they are keen for fishermen to engage with scientific research where possible and appropriate and for the WCRIFG to be involved.

SCFF suggested that PhD students could look at the complexity of habitats in the environment and the long-term cumulative impacts of salmon aquaculture, e.g. in Loch Fyne.

6. Clyde Regional Marine Plan – update

This year has mainly focused on sectoral working groups and issue-based workshops to pull together a first draft of the Plan. The first draft was reviewed by the CMPP in September. Many comments were received with suggested improvements. There is also a requirement to complete an interim Sustainability Appraisal including Strategic Environmental Assessment, and for early work on the Business Regulatory Impact Assessment and Equality Impact Assessment to be done. Further mapping work is also required. The pre-consultation will now be delayed until early 2019 and the Statement of Public Participation will be updated.

There was discussion around how Town & Country Planning interacts with marine planning in particular around aquaculture. FM confirmed that there will be a protocol developed for decision-making in relation to the CRMP.

SCFF suggested that there is a need for Local Authorities, especially Argyll and Bute in relation to the Clyde, to have more training in Risk Assessment for aquaculture in view of plans for increased biomass and new farms in the Clyde.

COAST suggested that following a meeting with Marine Scotland, there could be better guidance around risk assessment and probability of impacts with regard to how marine planning decisions are being made.

The Scottish Salmon Company stated that the Local Authorities had been involved in decision-making on aquaculture for many years and had expertise. Decisions are informed by SEPA, SNH and interactions with other marine sectors.

7. Any Other Business

Project UK Fisheries Improvements is now beginning in Scotland with Fisheries Improvement Projects on scallops and nephrops. The project brings together different interested parties to identify and fill research and knowledge gaps. It uses the MSC process as a tool to assess the sustainability of fisheries, although accreditation is not guaranteed at the end of the projects. It is at the pre-assessment phase at the moment in Scotland. Meetings are being held on 13th and 14th November. This is being driven by SEAFISH and MSC. The ecosystem effects of fisheries are an important consideration.

Fisheries Bill – CFA suggested that it is important to keep informed of developments as we will be operating in a changing framework over the next couple of years.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Action: FM to send a doodle poll round for a date in March.