Clyde 2020 - Joint Steering Group and Research Advisory Group meeting

Facilitated by the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership
6th June 2022, online meeting
14:00 – 16:00

Chair	Anthony Gallagher
Steering Group Attendees	Alex Watson Crook (AWC) (SIFT), Lisa Reilly (LR) (PeelPorts), Elke Scheibler (ES) (FSC), Simon MacDonald (SM) (WCRIFG), Harry Wick (HW) (NIFPO), Robert Younger (RY) (SCFF), Elaine Whyte (EW) (CFA), Lucy Kay (LK) (COAST), David Donnan (DD) (NatureScot), Calum Duncan (CD) (Scottish Environment LINK), Howard Wood (HW) (COAST), Willie Kennedy (WK) (SSACN)
Research Advisory Group attendees	Mike Heath (MH), David Bailey (DB), Mhairi Alexander (MA), Tanja Miethe (TM), Bryce Stewart (BS),
Also Attending	Chris Cutts (CC) (CMPP), Sam McFarlane (SMcF) (CMPP), Fiona Munro (FM) (Marine Scotland), Sophie Humphries (SH) (Marine Scotland)
Apologies	Anneli Hill (Crown Estate Scotland)

Welcome and Apologies:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and read out the apologies as above. It was noted that since the last Clyde 2020 meeting Dr Sally Campbell had stepped down as a member of the RAG. The Chair thanked her for her years of contributions to the Clyde 2020 since its inception.

Chair's Brief:

The Chair explained that the objective of today's meeting was to discuss the proposed future governance structure for the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership and agree where the Clyde 2020 group will embed within this structure.

CMPP Governance Structure Presentation:

CC gave a presentation on the "CMPP Governance Structure Report and Recommendations". A copy of the presentation will be provided with the minutes.

Before taking questions on the presentation it was decided that Marine Scotland should give their input on what the future remit is for Clyde 2020 group. A statement from Marine Scotland was circulated to members before the meeting but FM further clarified that the CMPP would still require a level of expert advice from the C2020 as we move from plan development to plan implementation but only if this is what the members of Clyde 2020 would like to do. FM explained that the group could continue to deliver their initial Clyde 2020 Action Plan whilst supporting the Regional Marine Planning process as part of the CMPP. It was emphasised that a name change would be required for the group however they decide to move forward.

The Chair opened the floor to general questions around the development of the proposal and any issues/concerns that members might have.

Key discussion points:

- Concerns were raised by some members around the makeup of the Executive Board. At present the Board is made up solely of statutory bodies. It was felt that sectors should also be represented as this will help inform better decisions.
- The Chair explained that the Executive Board will act as an oversight body and will have regular meetings regarding budget and also ensuring the statutory consultee role is being carried out. If we open the Board up to different sectoral interests then ALL interests would have to be represented which would make the group unmanageable. The Executive Board needs to be more streamlined. It was explained that the Steering Group would be more inclusive and have all sectors represented within the group.

Action Point – CMPP to set up a future scenario testing workshop for the proposed governance structure.

- Members raised the issue around the original task that was set out for the group by Richard Lochhead. To date, not a lot of the original Action Plan has been delivered and it should be a priority for the C2020 group to focus on that before it makes decisions on the constitutional format of the CMPP. Outcomes could include an Ecological Enhancement Plan and Spatial Plan for the Firth of Clyde to show which measures are necessary to bring ecological enhancement to the Clyde.
- The point was raised that the focus should not solely be on managing fisheries but we must look at the wider picture of marine planning and the process has to be balanced.
- Comments were also made regarding the future budget if both C2020 and CMPP are merged. How are we separating the two? What will be the core budget be for marine planning (which we are tasked to deliver) and what will be set aside for C2020 work?
- Comments from the RAG included the fact that fish and fisheries issues were the inspiration for setting up the Clyde 2020 in the first place. A large proportion of the research facilitated through the RAG has been fisheries based and yet fisheries

management is still not included within the CMPP and regional planning. The recent Clyde Cod Box closure was given as an example as the CMPP had not been previously informed of the closure.

The Chair informed the group that he plans to have a meeting with the Minister when the final Draft Plan is submitted to discuss the way forward and this issue will be brought up. He acknowledged that fisheries are of course an issue in the Clyde but they are not the only one and marine planning deals with many other aspects too.

- Further points were raised by the RAG that there seems to be no political will to further develop the work of C2020 and develop projects such as an Ecological Enhancement Plan for the region.
- The C2020 was set up as an exciting new vision to enhance the Clyde Marine Ecosystem and yet no funding was made available to support the project.
- Funding would need to be made available for C2020 work as the RAG (and all C2020 members) do not have the spare time to invest in the project for free on top of everything else they are doing.

The Chair asked what would be a better way forward to address this issue. The proposal to integrate the two groups is not to get rid of the ambition of one of the groups but to integrate them to provide a stronger means of delivering things.

- Members expressed that they would need the relevant Cabinet Secretary to re-state that they want to see the original vision for the Clyde implemented. Members need to believe that if they do the work then it matters.
- Members expressed that whilst a lot of the C2020 Action Plan is set to be delivered in the proposed CMPP Action Plan, this could still take a long time to come to fruition therefore the work of the C2020 Action Plan needs to be carried out urgently (as it was identified nearly 10 years ago).
- It was felt that the C2020 should continue as is until the implementation of the Regional Marine Plan (which could be a year from now).

The Chair clarified to the group that implementation of the new CMPP structure would not take place until implementation of the Regional Marine Plan, as the roles and responsibilities of the CMPP staff will change from facilitation to a statutory consultee role. This could potentially be a year away which means that the C2020 could continue in its current guise and deliver against some of its Action Plan.

Action Point – CMPP Chair to draft a letter to the Minister for the Environment, Biodiversity and Land Reform to re-address the issues of the Clyde 2020 and express a political will for the work to continue.

- It was suggested that we continue talks around the C2020 and take the next (potentially) 12 months to re-evaluate how we embed the C2020 into the CMPP.
- It was generally agreed amongst the group that we need to keep the two processes separate for the moment until we are entirely clear how we want to take them forward.
- A point was raised that we need to re-evaluate the original Action Plan from 2015 as a lot of the actions from that are currently being delivered by different bodies on a national basis. A stocktake of the original Action Plan would be required.

The Chair clarified that if the CMPP members agree the new structure at the next meeting then that will be the one we are taking forward. However, due to the timings we could be a year away from that so there is still plenty of time to work through the process.

The question was asked to the group that if we don't get the political support or a renewed statement of support will they want to continue. It was explained that the CMPP will carry on regardless as we are working to statute and must continue with what we are doing.

- It was agreed by the group that fundamentally they need to know that the original commitments from the government still exist and that they still support the C2020 initiative.