Minutes of the CMPP Members Meeting

3rd June 2025

Online Meeting

Chair: Anthony Gallagher (AGa)

Present: Voting Members
Paul Bancks, Crown Estate Scotland
Kevin Braidwood, South Ayrshire Council
Jan Brooke (JBr), Peel Ports
Esther Brooker (EB), Scottish Environment LINK
Allan Finlayson (AF), North Ayrshire Council
Kieron Green (KG), Argyll and Bute Council
Alastair Hamilton (AH), SWRIFG
Lucy Kay (LK), COAST
Willie Kennedy (WK), SSACN
Catherine Lambert (CL), GCR Place
Mark Lodge (ML), Argyll and Bute Council
Thom Ledingham (TL), North Ayrshire Council
Ruth Rice (RR), CMAL
Graham Russell (GR), Royal Yachting Association Scotland
Kerry Wallace (KW), NatureScot
Elaine Whyte (EW), Individual

Present: Non Voting Members

Jill Bunyan (JBu), CMPP Staff
Chris Cutts (CC), CMPP Staff
Alex Watson-Crook (AWC), Board

Apologies:

Ruaridh Anderson (RA), Marine Directorate
Zoe Clelland (ZC), RSPB
Calum Duncan (CD), Scottish Environment LINK
Claire Jones (CJ), Marine Directorate

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed all attendees and read out the apologies as listed above. The Chair welcomed Alastair Hamilton, the new chair of the SW Regional Inshore Fisheries Group, who also chairs the NW RIFG.

2. Chair's Report

Noted that the letter from the Cabinet Secretary, Gillian Martin, was received on 24th April following an inquiry made by the CMPP team for written clarification on the relationship between fisheries and regional marine planning, with a request for our response by the 30th May.

To summarise, The Cabinet Secretary stated that: *'It is our current policy position that RMPs are not the vehicle for delivery of fisheries managements measures and do not have the scope to legislate for Scotland's fishing industry'.*

The letter and MD's response was circulated to members on 28th April. Members were asked to confirm their understanding and acceptance of Scottish Government's position so that CMPP could proceed with their continued work on the draft RMP.

Noted that the letter drew a clear line with only one possible response from CMPP. The chair responded to the letter, accepting the position, although fisheries text in the plan had been approved at the pre-consultation stage and remained for several iterations of the plan thereafter, and that delays in plan development were not due solely to the fisheries issue. The position was accepted with the hope that NMP2 will be able to give clarity on co-ordination/integration between fisheries and regional marine planning.

Noted that the Regional Marine Planning Forum (RMPF) met online on March 28th, hosted by CMPP. Working groups have been set up e.g. Lessons Learnt/Guidance; Research and Engagement; Knowledge Sharing and NMP2. CMPP staff and chair will attend each group between themselves. The next RMPF meeting will be in the autumn, physically hosted by the East Grampian Coastal Partnership.

The members agreed the minutes from the last members' meeting were accurate.

3. Review of action points from the last meeting

Reference	Summary	Status
01/04/03/2025	CMPP Staff to amend the Plan based on the discussions and circulate an updated version of the Plan to members with some accompanying questions.	Done, see item 4
02/04/03/2025	Members to explore with their organisations if there is potential to host CMPP and get in touch with the staff to discuss. Initial discussions to have taken place by the next Members Meeting on 3rd June.	Ongoing, see item 7

4. Update on Regional Marine Plan

Noted that following the last Members Meeting, CC and JBu made amendments to the draft plan. The revised draft plan and a list of specific questions were circulated to members for comment. CC and JBu have collated all of the comments received and are revising the plan accordingly, and members were thanked for submitting comments.

CC and JBu met with MD on 21st May. MD said that between late June and late July they can focus on our draft Plan since the Orkney Marine Plan will be going through internal Orkney Council processes, freeing up MD time to scrutinize the Clyde Plan. This will involve meetings between CC, JBu and MD to discuss any feedback on the policies and work through it together. MD indicated that the sooner CMPP can submit the Plan to them the sooner they can start looking at it, although their time will be dominated by the Orkney Plan before the 27th June. CC and JBu aim to submit the draft Plan to MD by the end of next week, providing that all members' comments have been received.

Noted that the key goal is to get the plan out to consultation. It was also recommended that the recently published responses to the NMP2 Planning Position Statement be studied especially with regards to fisheries. It is the hope that NMP2 will be able to provide clarity and impetus.

It was requested that the fisheries issues can be held as a side discussion with MD, especially since MD's response with the Cab. Sec. letter welcomed further discussion. However, the draft plan currently has fisheries text posed as recommendations rather than policies, in line with MD's viewpoint.

Noted that channels for fishery management could be signposted in the plan to improve lines of communication; also noted that we should find the right way to link with fisheries in the plan to include it as part of the ecosystem approach.

AP1: CMPP staff to submit revised plan to MD once all comments are submitted.

AP2: CMPP staff to set up specific meeting with MD to discuss fisheries with a subset of CMPP members.

5. Transformative Actions for Resilient Coastal Communities (TRACC)

Noted that the original grant application for TRACC was supported by CMPP, and that the Clyde is one of four case study areas within the project. AG represents the CMPP on the project team and the Universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde are also represented.

Two team retreats have been held so far, with a third retreat scheduled for 9th to 10th September in Helensburgh. Each case study area is to form resilience collectives with 25 members in each. The Clyde area is to shortlist *approx*. three case study areas around the Clyde, demonstrating different aspects of climate change/mitigation; a research assistant employed by the University of Glasgow is to facilitate these groups.

Noted that Verture (formerly SNIFFER) / Adaptation Scotland could sit on the resilience collective, and that there may be relevant examples for case studies in Cardross / Helensburgh / Lochgoilhead / North Ayrshire infrastructure projects.

CMPP staff are currently compiling a list of potential case studies for discussion by TRACC.

AP3: CMPP staff to obtain contact details of the infrastructure projects noted.

7. Legal Structure and Hosting Options

JBu presented a business case to look at the different legal structure options: an unincorporated association, a company limited by guarantee and a community interest company, and provided information on the process, the costs, the governance, the risks and the future of each of them. Information on CMPP's financials and predicted expenditure was also noted; CMPP will be financially viable for 2025-26 by drawing on our reserves but will need a grant uplift from MD for 2026-27 to remain solvent.

Noted that once the plan is adopted, the NatureScot hosting agreement will end. CMPP needs to make progress finding an alternative host in 2025 to be able to inform NatureScot. In turn, hosting can determine our legal structure. There has been progress on discussions with Glasgow City Region (GCR), North Ayrshire and Argyll & Bute.

CL was thanked for setting up a meeting with GCR's Head of Place, Ross Nimmo, to discuss hosting by GCR. However, GCR will be unable to host CMPP due to: already being overstretched; a lack of overlapping geography; moving away from regulatory functions; and previous experiences with Scottish Government whereby Local Authorities have agreed to a project and then had to pick up funding slack.

AF stated that there was a logistical issue for North Ayrshire: space, resources as a service was limited, and budget. However, this situation is to be monitored.

ML stated for Argyll & Bute that they have considered it very carefully but have similar issues: administration will stretch resources, and there would be funding issues since CMPP staff would become LA employees.

Noted that a University may still be an option, but would need enough funding. Moreover, there should be more certainty of funding since we will have statutory duties.

Noted that there is no indication from MD beyond year-to-year funding, although RA is making the case for more funding; this should be raised with MD if we are being undermined by lack of funding certainty. Also noted that we should send a message to MD to sort out the funding issue to make it viable for a LA to host CMPP, since a LA is the preferred option but the existing resource is not sufficient and any potential host would need more confidence.

Noted that there is also potential for a conflict of interest, but this can be dealt with.

Noted that there would also be costs in reviewing the plan with a new host: these should be calculated in terms of e.g. office functions, HR and physical location. This, as with plan development will involve a lot of work which is heavily subsidized by voluntary contributions.

It was suggested to approach Clyde-based MSPs to raise awareness; MD should commit to statutory functions, but to take forward management objectives would need more funding. It was suggested that two separate organisations could take forward the statutory and non-statutory roles; our own action plan should be kept in sight going forward. Noted that action plan actions would require different people, not necessarily management group members.

Noted that Scottish Government has recently found funding to support terrestrial planning, and that they should show a greater commitment to marine planning.

It was queried whether there would be a supplementary payment for the consultation, and noted that the Clyde Region was always going to be a difficult area to develop a marine plan for and has never received enough funds.

It was suggested to look at Richard Lochhead's original speech at the launch of C2020 to remind MD of original commitments if relevant.

AP4: CMPP staff to take away members' comments and discuss the funding situation with MD and report back to members on next steps.

8. Members Updates

RYA

GR is working on a paper on derelict and abandoned boats, including legal issues and pre-emptive measures.

GCR Place (formerly Clydeplan)

The GCR Place evidence report is through a gate check and there will be a draft development plan within the year. The Clyde Mission has drafted a masterplan with the aim of decarbonising heat in the Glasgow City Region.

North Ayrshire Council

The LDP team is updating the current LDP, with a consultation for a call for ideas open until the end of June.

Crown Estate Scotland

CES are currently consulting on their Corporate Plan for the next five year period (2026-2031). Funding allocations from the Scottish Crown Estate to councils to support local projects can be found here.

9. AOB

Noted that a Masters project has started focusing on the database of marine licence applications compiled by CMPP. Titled 'Marine Licencing in the Clyde - Trends and Policy Drivers', the student is supervised by Queens University Belfast and NatureScot, with assistance from CMPP staff. The project is to be completed by 5th September 2025.

10. DONM

Tuesday 2nd September.

11. Close

The meeting ended at 12:25 pm.

Actions Summary

Reference	Summary	Status
01/03/06/2025	CMPP staff to submit revised plan to MD once all comments are submitted.	
02/03/06/2025	CMPP staff to set up specific meeting with MD to discuss fisheries with a subset of CMPP members.	
03/03/06/2025	CMPP staff to obtain contact details of the infrastructure projects noted.	
04/03/06/2025	CMPP staff to take away members comments and discuss the funding situation with MD and report back to members on next steps.	