

**Coastal & Marine Biodiversity Group  
Crawfordsburn Country Park 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007**

**Attendees**

Bob Davidson (EHS - Chair)  
Renny McKeown (EHS)  
David Erwin (CNCC)  
Ken Bradley (DOE Environmental Policy Group)  
Kenny Parker (DARD Fisheries Division)  
Judith Tener (DARD Fisheries Division)  
Andrew Upton (MTF)  
Claire Vincent (WMU)  
Roslyn Stewart (WMU)  
Paddy Boylan (Loughs Agency)  
Emma McLaughlin (LBAP Officer)  
Caroline Nolan (Strangford Lough Office)  
Dai Roberts (CMAR)  
Julia Nunn (CEDaR)  
Maxime Sizaret (CCGHT)  
Gareth Greer (Rivers Agency)  
Phil Davidson (National Trust)  
Colin Somerville (EHS – Minute Taker)

**1. Welcome**

Bob welcomed the attendees and introduced new members to the group.

**2. Apologies**

Joe Breen, Richard Weyl, Bob Brown, Orla Maguire

**3. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Agreed

**Matters Arising**

Renny confirmed that the organisations suggested for membership at the last meeting had been invited to join the group, either as full or corresponding members.

Richard Weyl's presentation to the group had been circulated. If any new members require this, they should contact [colin.somerville@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:colin.somerville@doeni.gov.uk)

It was agreed that everyone should e-mail links to ongoing and completed research to [renny.mckeown@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:renny.mckeown@doeni.gov.uk)

Bob advised that the Coastal & Marine section of the EHS website is being updated and that Gary Burrows will be invited to a future meeting to discuss this.

**Action: Bob to arrange with Gary**

Ken reported that bids for funding for Seabed mapping had been submitted to the Innovation Fund and Inter Reg4.

#### **4. Draft Terms of Reference**

It was agreed that the group should be renamed “Coastal & Marine Biodiversity Group.” Bob agreed to produce a flow chart setting out the relationship between the various Coastal/Marine groups.

**Action: Bob**

#### Section 3.1

It was agreed to amend “Provide a definition of favourable condition” to “Agree a definition of favourable condition”.

**Action: Renny**

#### **Representation**

Paddy asked for Londonderry and Warrenpoint Port Commissioners to be invited as corresponding members, and possibly to attend occasional meetings as appropriate.

**Action: Bob**

Caroline asked for her organisation to be called “Strangford Lough Office”

**Action: Renny**

#### **5. Update on UK Marine BAP Review**

Renny reported that JNCC were leading a project to review Marine Priority Habitats and Species. Renny confirmed that she would circulate a paper summarising the review process to date, and she would welcome suggestions for input back to JNCC.

**Action: Renny**

#### **6. Research**

##### **Inventory of Marine Priority Habitats**

Renny reported that a project “Inventory of Marine Priority Habitats in Northern Ireland” was nearing completion (March 07). This project has collated all available information on the location, extent and condition of marine priority habitats within a GIS-linked MS Office Database. Gaps and difficulties with the information were also identified. Renny agreed to arrange a demonstration at the next meeting

**Action: Renny to arrange a demonstration of the GIS at the next meeting.**

##### **Seabed Mapping**

Bob gave a brief overview of seabed mapping activity to date. Ken pointed out that ROI had spent approximately £5 million on a seabed mapping project. Ken also advised that the commitment to the Marine Bill would be useful in any bid for funding.

**It was agreed that NIBG should add some weight to the need for funding, and that other stakeholders should be engaged in this process.**

Bob stated that he would ask Joe to arrange a meeting to discuss Seabed Mapping issues and funding.

**Action: Joe to arrange a meeting with appropriate stakeholders to discuss seabed mapping issues.**

Phil advised the group that National Trust had carried out a project on Predicted Sea Level Rise & Coastal Changes.

Phil offered to make management reports on all NT coastal sites available to Renny and any other interested parties.

**Action: Phil to send management reports to Renny**

### **7. Coastal & Marine Biodiversity Workshop**

Bob reported on the Coastal & Marine Biodiversity workshop held on 15th December 2006 at Crawfordsburn and said that a follow up workshop/conference would be held in the Autumn.

Caroline outlined two projects that she was organising – “Out and About” and “Turn the Tide”. Caroline volunteered to give a presentation at the workshop/conference.

Other issues to be considered for the workshop are Marine Spatial Planning and AONBs. Bob agreed to set up a smaller working group to arrange the workshop/conference.

**Action: Bob to set up working group to include himself, Caroline and Ken**

Ken advised that a consultation on the Marine Bill White Paper was due to issue 14/03/07.

It was agreed that this group and possibly the corresponding members should meet to discuss the content of the document, and then respond separately.

**Action: Ken and Bob to arrange the meeting to discuss Marine Bill White Paper.**

### **8. Work Programme**

Paddy advised the group that he intended to update the Work Programme with Lough's Agency comments and would send it to Renny.

**Action: Paddy to send Lough's Agency comments on the Work Programme to Renny**

#### **Key Task 1.1.1**

Kenny suggested that DARD should be added to the list of Partners. Reference should also be made to liaison between EHS and other Govt Departments during the site designation process.

#### **Key Action 1.2**

David recommended that protecting biodiversity within AONBs should be in the Work Programme.

#### **Key Action 2.1**

Marine Protected Zones should be omitted from this section for now, but should not be lost sight of.

Caroline suggested that reference to voluntary regulatory activities should be included

### **Key Action 2.2**

Caroline suggested that National Trust provide interim management reports rather than every 6 years. Phil advised that this should also apply to restoration.

### **Objective 3**

The contents of the table may change after the UK Review, therefore this section will be revisited. It was agreed that EHS should check where the figures came from, check if they cover Foyle & Carlingford and where possible, qualify the figures.

**Action: Bob to discuss with Richard Weyl, Joe Breen and Paul Corbett**

It was also agreed that Richard should bring a list of species affected by HAPs to the next meeting

**Action: Richard**

### **Key Action 3.1**

It was suggested that the Work Programme should include reference to the implications of Climate Change for coastal & marine biodiversity.

A Key Task was suggested - "Consider the implications of climate change and pass recommendations to relevant authorities."

Ken advised that NIBG are also considering climate change issues.

It was agreed that Ken would ask Brendan Forde (EPG) to produce a paper detailing the key issues.

**Action: Ken to send information to [renny.mckeown@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:renny.mckeown@doeni.gov.uk)**

### **Key Task 3.1.5**

Ken suggested that with regard to offshore aggregate extraction, DOE should be a lead partner and timeframe for introduction of legislation should be 2008/2009. Michael McSorley/John Davison should be consulted.

### **Key Action 3.2**

It was agreed that a new Key Task should be added – "Extend our knowledge of marine habitats".

#### **Key Task 3.2.1**

It was agreed that the wording should be changed to "Compile an interim inventory of coastal & marine Priority habitats".

### **Key Action 3.3**

Bob advised that there is potential for a project to establish where the potential restoration sites are located.

#### **Key Task 3.3.4**

It was suggested that funding should be a separate task from restoration.

#### **Objective 5**

It was suggested that new Key Tasks should be added to the Work Programme

- (i) “Identify and prioritise research”
- (ii) “Disseminate research information”

#### **Key Action 6.1**

It was suggested that this key action was changed to “Promote **appropriate** access...”

It was agreed that a Key Task should be included to instigate an awareness-raising programme for politicians, senior civil servants in relation to coastal & marine habitats and species.

#### **Key Task 6.1.3**

Paddy outlined the “Vital Signs” project that was being run by Loughs Agency, where schools are collecting data **on freshwater habitats**. The next phase of this project will focus on coastal habitats.

**Action: Paddy to forward information on this project to Renny.**

#### **Key Task 6.2.2**

Kenny suggested that this key task should be highlighted to DARD Policy Branch.

#### **Key Action 7.1**

It was agreed that the Terms of Reference and Work Programme should be reviewed electronically, or as a brief agenda item.

#### **Key Action 7.2**

Paddy informed the group that Loughs Agency has good cross border links, and he will inform his contacts of the work being carried out by the group.

Ken reported that an All Ireland Coastal & Marine Sub Group was being set up, with Bob Brown and himself representing NIBG.

### **9. Any Other Business**

Ken reported that there was an ICZM workshop 28 March 2007 in the Londonderry Arms. For further details, contact [ken.bradley@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:ken.bradley@doeni.gov.uk)

### **10. Date of next meeting**

To be arranged

