

Coastal & Marine Biodiversity Delivery Group Meeting  
AFBI Offices, Newforge Lane  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2010

**Attendees**

Julia Nunn	(Ulster Museum)
Orla Maguire	(NILGA)
Bob Brown	(Independent)
Bob Davidson	(NIEANH - Chair)
Joe Breen	(NIEANH)
Rachael Bain	(CCGHT)
Phil Davidson	(NT/Marine Task Force)
Chris Burns	(NIEA/WMU)
Matt Service	(AFBI)
Joanne Gaffney	(CBAIT)
Richard Weyl	(NIEANH)
Judith Annett	(NIBG)
John Anderson	(CNCC)
Helen Paul	(NIEANH – Minute Taker)

**1. Welcome**

Bob welcomed Judith Annett, the new NIBG Chair, to the meeting and invited her to say a few words.

Judith informed everyone that she was delighted to have the opportunity to attend the meeting and thanked Bob for the invitation. She advised that she hoped the NIBG would have a good working relationship with each of the delivery groups and pointed out that if there were issues that this group felt they couldn't get progressed any further the NIBG would be happy to try and help. Judith pointed out that there was a good overlap of NIBG members on the group already therefore she wouldn't attend every meeting.

**Apologies**

Gary Burrows (NIEA), Paul Moore (DARD), Elizabeth Sides (NPWS), Martin Carey (MHT), Fraser McConnell (Crown Estates Commissioners), Ken Bradley (PEPG), Eric Bann (NIEA), Dai Roberts (C-MAR) & Caroline Nolan (Strangford Lough Management Committee)

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

**3. Unregulated Fishing**

Joe reported that NIEA had drafted a protocol which was passed to the Departmental Solicitors Office about 5 months ago but due to staffing problems it hasn't been looked at by the solicitors. He advised that in the meantime NIEA staff who witness anyone conducting any unregulated fishing

on an ASSI are giving a verbal warning. A discussion took place on how big the problem is and how essential it is to ensure that something is done about it. It was agreed that a group would be set up to address the issue and produce an options paper to eventually pass to NIBG for higher level consideration.

**Action Point 1 :** Bob/Joe to set up a group to prepare an options paper to take the issue forward.

**Action Point 2 :** Joe to send Judith the unregulated Fishing Report.

#### **4. Marine Priority Species**

Richard tabled a spreadsheet on Priority Species v Priority Habitats. A discussion took place on this paper and it was agreed that more explanatory document should be produced that would easily communicate the statements on habitats.

**Action Point 3 :** Richard to draft an explanatory document

#### **5. Sharks, Skates & Rays Progress Report**

Joe reported that a meeting was held in December between DARD and NIEA to consider a local action plan but due to resources DARD is unable to proceed at present. NIEA intend to try and take the lead and take this forward. Joe advised that DCAL and the Loughs Agency are still on board and it was hoped that DARD would eventually join in.

#### **6. Wildlife Order (The Changes)**

Ken Bradley was unable to attend the meeting but he gave a brief update via speakerphone.

#### **7. Update on Marine Bill & Marine Strategy Framework Directive**

Ken Bradley gave an update via the speakerphone. As it was very difficult for Ken to hear members of the group it was agreed that the group would have a discussion, agree a couple of questions and phone Ken back. Ken was asked 'When will NI have a fully represented suite of Marine Protected Areas (MPA's)' He advised that this was still under discussion and they are working towards the 2012 target.

He was also asked 'Who within government will carry out the MMO equivalent?' He advised that at present they aren't proposing a separate organisation and that it would be dealt with by DOE-NIEA although all departments would have an input.

#### **8. Habitat Target Setting**

Richard presented a paper on 'Target Setting for Priority Habitats and Species in NI'.

Bob informed the group that he sits on the Coastal & Wetland UK habitat groups and they have agreed to set out targets. He advised that they have to

report by July on the mechanisms used to inform these targets, however, although new marine priority habitats had been identified, targets for these had not yet been set. He will keep the delivery group informed. A discussion took place on the paper and it was agreed that communication is vital and it was suggested that a workshop be organised to generate something that clearly communicates what we already know. Judith stressed the importance of widely communicating information on priority habitats and species. For example regulators should be able to see clearly the factors that contribute to biodiversity loss. Matt offered to host a small group to do this. He will liaise directly with Joe.

**Action Point 4:** Matt/Joe to take forward

**Action Point 5:** Richard/Bob to identify priority habitats & species.

### **9. Update on Seabed Mapping Plans**

Matt informed the group that they are still waiting on whether they will be successful in the bid for Interreg funding. He advised that James Strong had been working on pulling all the mapping information together into one place which will be a great source of information.

### **10. Update on SAC designations**

Joe advised that Red Bay had gone through and the 2 remaining were Maidens & Skerries/Causeway Coast. He reported that it was hoped that they would be ready to go out to consultation in October and finalised by March 2011. He informed the group that these would be the last SACs and that future designations will be MCZs. He advised that through the NI Marine Act MCZs may have enforcement powers.

### **11. Review Terms of Reference**

Bob advised the group that the habitat list needed to be updated and that there were some changes to the membership list required. The following changes were agreed:-

Bridgeen Magorrian in place of Helen Nutt

Bob Brown as an independent

Rachael Bain now represents Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust

John Anderson represents CNCC

Phil Davidson provisionally representing Marine Task Force

DRD to be included

MCA

**Action Point 6:** Bob to update TOR and circulate to the group

### **12. Work Programme**

Bob advised that he would draft a revised work programme highlighting actions that this group could do and circulate it to the group prior to the next meeting.

**Action Point 7:** Bob to circulate revised work programme to the group.

### **13. AOB**

Matt Service tabled a booklet on the AFBI Research Vessel called 'Corystes'. He emphasized the importance of this vessel to everyone and advised that they needed as much support as possible to keep it going.

### **14. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held in October. The time and date is to be arranged.

**Action Point 8:** Helen to arrange next meeting.