

Draft
Coastal & Marine Biodiversity Delivery Group Meeting
Thursday 4th December 2008
Crawfordsburn Country Park

Attendees

Bob Davidson (NIEA – Chair)
Paddy Boylan (Loughs Agency)
Ciaran McGonigle (Loughs Agency)
Gary Burrows (NIEA)
Joe Breen (NIEA)
Gareth Greer (DARD Rivers Agency)
Chris Burns (NIEA WMU)
Ken Bradley (PEPG)
Catherine Bertrand (Mourne Heritage Trust)
Emma McLaughlin (LBAP Forum)
Dan McEvoy (DARD – Fisheries)
Melanie Gomes (NI Marine Task Force)
Helen Nutt (NIEA WMU)
Julia Nunn (Ulster Museum)
Dai Roberts (QUB)
David Irwin (CNCC)
Bob Brown (NIBG)
Maxime Sizaret (CCGHT)
Phil Davidson (National Trust)
Helen Paul (NIEA – Minute Taker)

1. Welcome

Bob welcomed Dan McEvoy, Chris Burns and Helen Nutt as new members to the group. He also welcomed Ciaran McGonigle who had accompanied Paddy Boylan from the Loughs Agency.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Valerie Crozier, Michael Meharg, Liz Sides and David Knott.

Bob also informed the group that Renny McKeown had been transferred and was no longer involved with this group and that Gary Burrows would be transferring to work with Joe Breen.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Action Points from meeting held 28/02/07	Progress
Richard to present a list of species affected by HAPs to the next meeting	Richard will give a talk at the next meeting.

Action Points from meeting held 5/03/08	Progress
Bob Brown to chair group to discuss survey priorities for marine species & habitats.	Joe to set up meeting
Bob D to raise the issue of decreasing Sea Bird breeding success with Howard Platt.	Bob spoke to Ian Enlander and will forward the email he received from Ian to the group

Action Point 1: Joe to set up meeting to discuss survey priorities for marine species & habitats.

Bob informed the group that he had spoken to Ian Enlander in relation to the decreasing sea bird breeding success and had received an email from him detailing the various studies in progress. He will forward the email to the group and advised anyone with any further questions to contact Ian Enlander directly.

Action Point 2: Bob to forward the email from Ian Enlander to the group.

Matt had circulated a paper 'Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership (MCCIP) summary December 2008' prior to the meeting and he gave a brief talk on it. Matt also suggested that everyone should have a look at the UK Marine Monitoring & Assessment Strategy (UKMMAS) within the DEFRA website. He pointed out that there was a lot of research work and working groups currently set up in the marine environment but felt it all needed to be pulled together. He mentioned a climate change group that Brendan Forde sat on and Ken agreed to speak to Brendan to find out the objectives of the group.

Action Point 3: Matt to give a presentation at the next meeting on the work that AFBI is doing.

Action Point 4: Ken to speak to Brendan Forde.

Matt also raised the issue of a DOE/DARD/AFBI marine science group that had ceased to exist. He felt this group needed to be re-created.

Action Point 5: Bob/Joe to raise the issue of re-creating the marine science group with Roy Ramsey.

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

4. Coastal & Marine Awareness Work

Gary gave a presentation on coastal & marine awareness work. The presentation included the NIEA Marine Day held on 17th August, the Coastal Zone Talks programme and the NIEA Coast magazine. He encouraged everyone within the group to use the magazine as a communication tool as there is a wide

distribution and it is also available on the web. He also stressed that the Coastal Zone was not solely for NIEA staff use and encouraged everyone to use it. He informed the group of future awareness days such as the NIEA Marine Day on 7th-9th August 2009, boat trips throughout the summer and a marquee at the Tall Ships event on 14th-16th August 2009..

Catherine gave a presentation on Coastal Outreach in NI. She covered the following events that took place in 2008: World Ocean Day, NIEA Marine Day, Larne & Moyle – Cool Seas Roadshow, Whale Watch Ireland, Shore Footed, Beach Watch, Beach Clean, MARLIN and Turn of the Tide.

Helen Nutt informed the group that information days were being set up following the launch of the River Basin Management Plans. She was keen to encourage as many groups as possible to attend these information days.

Action Point 6: Bob D to discuss with Helen the best way to communicate with the stakeholder groups.

Melanie felt it would be important to look at the marine report and to look at the economic cost of the loss of Biodiversity and to also ensure that it is used as a tool to educate people and raise awareness.

Action Point 7: Melanie to put a project proposal to NIEA.

5. UK Biodiversity Action Plan reporting

Bob tabled a paper on 'Reporting on Coastal Priority Habitats'. He explained that the UK priority habitat & species reporting is being undertaken through the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS). He also explained that the primary datasets used for these reports are: ASSI condition monitoring, Northern Ireland Countryside Survey 2007, DARD agri-environment scheme (ESA & CMS) and also data from LBAPs and other sources input into the BARS directly or in the form of data sheets sent to NIEA.

Bob B requested clarification on the wording 'Target not applicable to NI' within target 3, table 5.

Action Point 8: Bob D to clarify wording 'Target not applicable to NI'.

6. Cetacean Monitoring

Gary informed the group about the infraction proceedings against the Irish and UK Governments for failing to adequately monitor cetaceans. He explained that NI had started a formal monitoring programme in November 2008 and that NIEA had run a workshop for 21 staff who would be contributing to the monitoring programme.

Sharks, Skates & Rays

Gary explained that AFBI had won a contract to look at the sharks, skates and rays present in NI and that a draft report had been produced. Bob B enquired if it would be possible for the NIBG to have a copy of the final version. It was also suggested that a workshop be set up to look at the recommendations collectively.

Action Point 9: Gary to email the final version of the report to NIBG.

Action Point 10: Bob/Joe to set up workshop to look at recommendations.

Seal Monitoring

Joe informed the group that the NI Seal Monitoring programme includes SAC, ASSI & non protected sites and that the programme was ongoing. He advised the group that Stephanie Bennett was the contact person in relation to seal monitoring.

Joe also updated the group on the data issue. He informed the group that NIEA were in the process of recruiting a data manager and it is hoped the post will be filled in the next couple of months. He pointed out that the post was not a marine post. He informed the group that there will be a NI focus marine data workshop held at the end of February. An email will be issued within the next few weeks.

7. Update on Marine Nature Conservation Policy

Ken informed the group that the Coastal Access & Marine Bill would be available on Monday 8th December 2008 on the DEFRA website. He advised that it would be introduced late summer 2009. He agreed to send members of the group a timeframe for the NI Marine Bill which will include marine conservation.

8. N2K Designation Programme

Joe reported that the current list of potential SACs to be designated by 2010 are Red Bay, feature: sandbank-Maerl, Skerries, features: reef & sandbank, Shamrock Pinnacle reef complex, feature: reef – Maidens, feature: reef. All sites except Shamrock have been surveyed & designation papers are being processed. Shamrock will be surveyed by June 2009 to enable completion of the NI contribution to the N2k network of marine SACs.

9. Work Programme

Bob informed the group that the Work Programme needed to be revised. He advised that NIEA will ensure that the information from BARS will be fed into the new work programme. He asked for everyone to send updates.

Action Point 11: All to email updates for the Work Programme to Bob D.

10. Any other Business

There was no other business.

11. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is to be arranged.

Action Points

Action Point 1	Joe to set up meeting to discuss survey priorities for marine species & habitats.
Action Point 2	Bob to forward email from Ian Enlander to the group
Action Point 3	Matt to give a presentation at the next meeting on the work that AFBI is doing.
Action Point 4	Ken to speak to Brendan Forde
Action Point 5	Bob/Joe to raise the issue of re-creating the marine science group with Roy Ramsey
Action Point 6	Bob D to discuss with Helen N the best way to communicate with the stakeholder groups
Action Point 7	Melanie to put a project proposal to NIEA
Action Point 8	Bob D to clarify wording 'Target not applicable to NI'
Action Point 9	Gary to email the final version of the elasmobranch report to NIBG
Action Point 10	Bob/Joe to set up workshop to look at recommendations
Action Point 11	All to email updates for the Work Programme to Bob D