

## Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Group

Crawfordsburn Country Park, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2007

### Attendees

Bob Davidson (EHS – Chair)  
Renny McKeown (EHS)  
Roslyn Stewart (WMU)  
Phil Elliot (WMU)  
Gareth Greer (Rivers Agency)  
Julia Nunn (CEDaR)  
Jane Preston (Quercus)  
Orla Maguire (NILGA)  
Joe Breen (EHS)  
Bob Brown (Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group)  
Maurice Turley (National Trust)  
Maxime Sizaret (CCGHT)  
Gary Burrows (EHS)  
Matt Service (AFBI)  
Joanne Gaffney (CBAIT)  
Peter White (Londonderry Port & Harbour Commissioners)  
Ken Bradley (PEPG, DOE)  
Melanie Gomes (UWT)  
Julian Carolan (Royal Haskoning)  
Conor Wilson (EHS – Minute Taker)

### 1. Welcome

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

### 2. Apologies

Mike Meharg, Richard Weyl, Phil Davidson, David Erwin, Kenny Parker, Emma McLaughlin, Dai Roberts, Paddy Boylan.  
Orla Maguire and Bob Brown asked for their apologies for the previous meeting to be recorded in the minutes.

### 3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting on 28/2/07 were agreed.

Action Point	Progress
Gary to give presentation on Coastal Section of EHS website	Action completed
Bob D to produce flow chart detailing relationship between various coastal/marine groups	Action carried forward
Bob D to issue invitation to attend meetings of the group to Londonderry and Warrenpoint Port and Harbour Commissioners	Action completed

Renny to circulate update on UK Marine BAP Review	Action completed
Renny to arrange demonstration of Marine Priority Habitats GIS at next meeting	Action completed
Joe to arrange meeting with appropriate stakeholders to discuss seabed mapping issues	
Phil Davidson to send management reports for National Trust coastal sites to Renny	Action carried forward
Bob D to set up working group to consider issues for discussion at future workshop	Action carried forward
Ken and Bob D to arrange meeting to discuss Marine Bill White Paper	Action completed NB Meeting arranged but cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances
Paddy to send Lough's Agency comments on Work Programme to Renny	Action carried forward
Bob to confirm targets contained within NI coastal & marine HAPs	Action completed
Richard to present a list of species affected by HAPs to the next meeting	Action carried forward
Ken to ask Brendan Forde (EPG) to produce paper detailing key climate change issues for coastal/marine habitats	Action carried forward
Paddy to forward information on Vital Signs project to Renny	Action carried forward

### **Matters arising**

Joe informed members that a project to carry out a high resolution multi-beam seabed survey from Malin Head to Rathlin Island had received Interreg funding of £7 million. It will be carried out between October 07 and March 08. The contract is managed by EHS and involves a partnership between the Marine Institute and MCA.

Matt informed the group that he had attended a meeting of the Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership and agreed to circulate minutes.

**Action Point 1: Matt** to circulate minutes from meeting of Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership.

### **4. Presentation on Coast Section of EHS Website and 'Coast' magazine – Gary Burrows (Presentation attached)**

Gary gave a presentation on the coast section of the EHS Website and the "Coast" magazine. Bob Davidson invited comments on the magazine and website.

Bob Brown welcomed publication of the Coast magazine and queried if there was a firm commitment to continue publication in the future. Bob Davidson responded that EHS had committed to publishing this magazine and that this would continue.

Matt queried if articles in the magazine were peer reviewed before publication. Joe responded that articles were subject to internal EHS review only.

Roslyn asked whether there was a feature on the coastal section of the website that allowed users to view maps of the coastline and their biodiversity.

**Action Point 2: Gary** to investigate a method of incorporating maps on the coast website.

Phil suggested that it would be useful if there were more web links on Coast website to other organisations.

**Action Point 3: Gary** to consider web links to appropriate organisations on coast website.

Joanne reported that the consultation documents on the DOE website are difficult to find. Roslyn responded that all DOE consultation documents are created and uploaded by PEPG.

It was agreed that the Groups Terms of Reference, Work Programme, minutes of meetings and papers would all be posted. Bob Brown reported that the NIBG would like to see details of all the Biodiversity Delivery Groups on the EHS website.

**Action Point 4: Bob Davidson** to discuss with Mike Meharg how to include details of the other Biodiversity Delivery Groups

**Action Point 5: Gary** to include details of the Coastal & Marine Biodiversity Group on the Coast section of the EHS website.

## **5. Demonstration of Inventory of Marine Priority Habitats GIS – Julian Carolan (Royal Haskoning) (Presentation attached)**

Julian gave a powerpoint presentation on the background of the project, collation of data and GIS and Database functionality. The group agreed that the GIS/Database was very useful and a good framework for holding information but queried how it would be updated and managed in the future. It was agreed that one Department/Agency needed to be tasked with managing marine data across government. Julia, Renny and Bob Davidson agreed to meet Julian after the meeting to examine the database in more detail.

**Action Point 6: Bob Davidson** to provide Ken, Bob Brown and Graham Seymour with memo on need for integrated marine data management in NI

**Action Point 7: Bob Brown** via the NIBG to raise issue of marine data management with Heads of Government Departments

**Action Point 8: Ken** to raise issue of marine data management with NI Coastal Forum

**Action Point 9: Joe, Julia and Matt** to critically analyse the GIS/Database and propose opportunities for improvement, detail gaps in information, propose opportunities for updating data etc.

**Action Point 10: Bob Davidson** to convene a Working Group to produce a paper on Marine Biodiversity Data Management in NI.

## **6. Confirmation of work programme**

The Group agreed that the Work Programme should identify more fully which sections of organisations had responsibility for each key task.

**Action Point 11: Renny** to update Work Programme to identify more fully who has responsibility for progressing Key Tasks

## **7. Progress of key task/annual seminar**

Gary gave a brief overview of the proposed format of the next Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Workshop – it would focus on awareness raising tools for stakeholders working at a local level.

**Action Point 12: Gary** to arrange workshop for late 2007/early 2008.

## **8. Priorities for next meeting**

Bob Davidson informed members there was no fixed agenda for the next meeting and that suggestions were welcome.

It was agreed that progress with the Work Programme should be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Taking forward recommendations from the forthcoming workshop should be discussed at the next meeting.

The Sea Bed Mapping Project/MESH/JIBS should be finished by the next meeting and Matt and Joe agreed to give a joint presentation.

**Action Point 13: Matt and Joe** to give presentation to the Group on Seabed Mapping Project/MESH/JIBS

## **9. AOB**

Maxime tabled a Marine Life Guide which had been produced by the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust.

Bob Davidson informed the Group about a workshop being held on 19<sup>th</sup> September in Carnlough to discuss the production of a Management Plan for the Antrim Coast & Glens AONB.

## **10. Date of Next Meeting**

Date of next meeting to be confirmed for late February/early March 2008.

**Coastal & Marine Biodiversity Group – 12<sup>th</sup> September 2007**  
**Action Points**

<b>Action Point 1</b>	<b>Matt to circulate minutes from meeting of Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership</b>
<b>Action Point 2</b>	<b>Gary to investigate a method of incorporating maps on the coast website</b>
<b>Action Point 3</b>	<b>Gary to consider web links to appropriate organisations on coast website</b>
<b>Action Point 4</b>	<b>Action Point 4: Bob Davidson to discuss with Mike Meharg how to include details of the other Biodiversity Delivery Groups</b>
<b>Action Point 5</b>	<b>Gary to include details of the Coastal &amp; Marine Biodiversity Group on the Coast section of the EHS website</b>
<b>Action Point 6</b>	<b>Bob Davidson to provide Ken and Bob Brown with memo on need for integrated marine data management in NI Note: Bob Brown requested that this memo be prepared for submission to NIBG on 19<sup>th</sup> Nov 2007</b>
<b>Action Point 7</b>	<b>Bob Brown via the NIBG to raise issue of marine data management with Heads of Government Departments</b>
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