

Coastal & Marine Biodiversity Delivery Group Crawfordsburn Country Park 15th November 2006

Attendees

Bob Davidson (EHS - Chair)
Richard Weyl (EHS)
Renny McKeown (EHS)
Joe Breen (EHS)
Colin Somerville (EHS – Minute Taker)
Matt Service (AFBI)
David Erwin (CNCC)
Ken Bradley (DOE Environmental Policy Group)
Kenny Parker (DARD Fisheries Division)
Bob Brown (NIBG)
Kate Reeves (UWT)
Andrew Upton (MTF)
Joanne Gaffney (CBAIT)
Phil Elliott (WMU)
Paddy Boylan (Loughs Agency)
Orla Maguire (NILGA)
Caroline Nolan (SLMAC)
Dai Roberts (CMAR)

1. Apologies

Phil Davidson, Averil Gaw.

2. Introduction and Welcome

Bob explained that Michael Meharg was ill at the moment, and that he would chair the meeting in Michael's absence.

Bob thanked everyone for attending and outlined how he hoped that this group would help in the delivery of Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) and Species Action Plans (SAPs).

3. Background

Bob explained how similar Biodiversity Delivery Groups had been successfully set up for NI Native Woodlands, Wetlands, Peatland & Uplands, and that DARD had set up a Farmland group.

Bob advised that the collective work of the 5 groups would contribute to all 37 HAPs, and related SAPs. There are 16 HAPs in the coastal & marine environment and EHS felt that a partnership approach including government, business & the voluntary sector in the form of this group would be the best way to deliver these.

EHS will act as the secretariat for the group, and a rolling work programme will be collectively agreed to form the basis of the work of the group.

4. Terms of Reference (TOR)

Renny introduced the TOR and the following amendments were approved:

Purpose

The wording from the Purpose section of the Farmland Biodiversity Delivery Group TOR should be incorporated in this section and Local Government and other relevant stakeholders should be added.

Scope

A link to the HAPS on the EHS website should be included in this section. Final sentence to read, “The group will also consider all other relevant species and habitats.

Objectives

Associated SAPs to be incorporated in the Objectives as appropriate, and the bullet points should be qualified.

3.1 “and to define favourable condition”

3.2 “Provide advice on the co-ordination of...”

3.3 “Provide advice on research needs”

3.4 “Establish, provide advice on and review...”

3.5 “Provide advice on Coastal and Marine biodiversity”

Representation

It was agreed that this group should not replicate the work of the Coastal & Marine Forum which would deal with a much broader range of environmental, social and economic issues. Moreover, it should not replicate the work of NIBG which is involved in biodiversity work at a more strategic level.

It was noted that all representatives on this group should have the technical expertise to contribute to coastal and marine biodiversity issues.

It was agreed that rather than making the group too large, certain individuals could be co-opted for particular meetings as appropriate.

It was agreed that the following organisations should be written to and asked if they wanted to have representation on the group or be corresponding members, and advise them that there would be a workshop/conference for a wider group on an annual basis:

CEDaR
LBAP Forum
Planning Service
Water Service
DETI
DCAL
DARD – EPG
Rivers Agency
MCA
Ports & Harbours
NIE
Action: Renny

People from ROI organisations should be invited when appropriate e.g. Francis Byrne (Marine Institute).

Organisation

Make reference to the annual conference/workshop, and change field trip to event.

Review

Agreed

5. Update on Habitat Action Plans

Richard gave a presentation on the Habitat Action Plans and agreed to e-mail this to the group.

Action: Richard

6. Draft work programme

Renny introduced the draft work programme and it was agreed that EHS would redraft it to incorporate any suggested changes from the discussions, and would accept written comments before circulating to the group again.

1.1.2 It was agreed that the introduction should be reworded to reflect that the group would provide advice on the work programme.

Caroline suggested that baseline surveys should be carried out before ASSIs are designated.

Kenny's request to be informed at the beginning of the designation process was noted by EHS.

1.21. Orla pointed out that SLNCIs should not be in the designation section, as they are not covered by legislation.

2.2.1 It was agreed that all statutory authorities should be partners and that this should be 2 separate tasks.

3. It was agreed that the table should be replicated and populated with qualified data and replace “no data” with “data to be updated”.
Joe recommended that this group should try to get resources to help provide the missing data.
David stated that CNCC and NIBG could take this forward.
It was agreed to put this on the agenda for a future meeting.
Action: Bob

6.1 “Engage people in education management”

6.2 Develop best practice for industry

It was agreed to try to get senior members of councils to engage in coastal & marine issues.
SPAs were identified as being missing from the work programme.

It was agreed that the group should have a role in co-ordinating mapping information that is held by EHS, AFBI and Loughs Agency.

7. Priorities for next meeting

It was agreed that everyone should e-mail Renny with a list of ongoing research projects, data that they hold, and any funding given e.g Inter Reg 3.

Action: All

Bob advised that EHS will develop a website for the group in the future.

Action: Bob

EHS will invite suggestions for research before the next meeting

Action: Bob

EHS agreed to examine the UK BAP Review Process and report back at the next meeting

Action: Richard

8. Any other business

None

9. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 28th February 2007 at 10am