

Shetland Islands Regional Marine Plan Advisory Group Meeting

9th July 2020

Minutes

In attendance

Simon Pallant (Chair) (SIC)
Rachel Shucksmith (Vice Chair) (NAFC)
Kathryn Allan (NAFC)
Carole Laignel (SSMO)
Ruth Henderson (SSPO)
Austin Taylor (SIC)
Sheila Keith (SFA)
Janet Davies (SEPA)
Christine Skene (RSPB)
Jonathan Swale (SNH)
Ian Black (Marine Scotland)
Aisling Duncan (Marine Scotland)

Apologies

Toby Flint (Marine Scotland)
Kevin Serginson (SIC)
Rebecca Kinnear (SOTEAG)
Val Turner (SAT)

1. Discussion of policy changes

Simon Pallant gave a brief overview of the consultation process which had happened at the end of 2019 with 18 responses.

SP noted there were a few minor changes to supporting text and updated hyperlinks needed. Once policy changes agreed, the plan will go to the Development committee at SIC, then need to be ratified by SIC before being sent to Scottish Ministers for approval.

Policy	Discussion	Agreed Y/N	Action
Policy MP WAT2: Improving Water Quality and Ecology		Y	None
Policy MP PORT1: Harbour Plans	Removal of the word adjacent- gives policy more clarity	Y	None
Policy MP SHIP1: Safeguarding Navigation Channels and Port Areas	Discussed with port and harbours, happy with wording	Y	None
Policy MP ACBP1: Avoidance of Cables and Pipelines	Developer suggested change to wording	Y	None
Policy MP CLIM1: Climate Change Mitigation	Additional wording- gives policy more clarity	Y	None
Policy MP MPA1: Plans or projects that may affect SACs, SPAs (collectively known as Natura 2000 sites) and Ramsar Sites	Advised to change Natura 2000 sites to European sites CS suggested explaining somewhere what European sites are.	Y	Check to make sure Natura 2000 have been changed to European site

Policy MP COAST1: Developments in or near SSSIs and SPAs	Remove SPA	Y	None
Policy MP COAST2: Development on or near to a Local Nature Conservation Site (LNCS)	Removal of RSPB as it is non statutory.	Y	None
Policy MP SPCON2: Protection of Wild Birds and Their Habitats Outside Designated Sites	Additional text. CS suggested amendment to text	N	Text needs amended, CS to offer suggestion
Policy MP SPCON3: Development and Designated Seal Haul-Outs	Discussion on how the policy would be enforced. RH stated an example of information developers may be required to provide would be useful.	Y	Amend supporting text
Policy MP SPCON4: Priority Marine Features	SP stated an example for developers similar to Policy MP SPCON3 would be useful	Y	Amend supporting text
Policy MP BIOD1: Furthering the Conservation of Biodiversity	Minor changes AT stated "enhance the health" should be changed to biodiversity	Y	Amend text
Policy MP VIS1: Safeguarding National Scenic Areas (NSAs) and Local Landscape Areas (LLAs)	Minor word changes JS - only one NSA in Shetland	Y	Amend policy title
Policy MP VIS2: Safeguarding Seascape Character and Visual Amenity	SP- Policy changed to make it more proportionate	Y	None
Policy MP HIS2: Safeguarding Nationally Important Heritage Assets	RS – Removal of wording suggested by Historic Environment Scotland to be more in line with their policy	Y	None
Policy MP COM1: Community Considerations	Minor word change Discussion around how social impacts are defined	N	Rewording of the policy
Policy MP REC1: Safeguarding Marine Recreation	Minor changes	Y	None
Policy MP DEV1: Marine Developments	Addition of text RH – Happy to see the addition	Y	None
Policy MP AQ1: Aquaculture - Key Conditions	Change from Natura 2000 to European site	Y	None
Policy MP AQ3: Aquaculture Development Management Plans	Change from Natura 2000 to European site	Y	None
Policy MP SWD1: Seaweed Cultivation	Additional text	Y	Create further guidance

Policy MP OAG1: Oil and Gas Proposals	Change from Natura 2000 to European site	Y	Create further guidance
Policy MP NRG1: Exploratory, Appraisal or Prototype Renewable Energy Proposals	Minor text changes RH suggested acknowledging existing operators	Y	Change supporting text to acknowledge existing operators
Policy MP NRG2: Renewable Energy Development Proposals	Change from Natura 2000 to European site Suggested the text is changed to be written the same as Policy MP NRG1, JS highlighted a number of policies.	Y	Reword policy
Policy MP NRG3: Wind, Wave and Tidal Development Proposals	Minor word change CS highlighted that proposed European sites have same rights.	Y	Add proposed sites to policy
Policy MP EX1: Extraction of Sand, Gravel and Shingle	Minor addition	Y	None
Policy MP TR1: Tourism and Leisure Developments	Change from Natura 2000 to European site	Y	None
Policy MP SA1: Shore Access and Moorings	Minor addition to make policy clearer	Y	None
Policy MP CBP1: Placement of Utility Cables and Pipelines	Change from Natura 2000 to European site	Y	None
Policy MP CBP2: Placement of New Domestic and Trade Wastewater Pipelines	Change from Natura 2000 to European site	Y	None
Policy MP MO1: Commercial Moorings	Change from Natura 2000 to European site	Y	None
Policy MP CD1: Coastal Defence Construction	Minor text changes AT – should be coastal protection work not works	Y	Check policy text
Policy MP CD2: Coastal Defence Demolition	Change from Natura 2000 to European site	Y	None
Policy MP TRANS1: Port and Harbour-related Development	Change from Natura 2000 to European site	Y	None
Policy MP TRANS2: Future Fixed Links/Ferry Terminals	Change from Natura 2000 to European site AT questioned why the European sites are listed in the policy. RS responded that it is where we can ID which Natura site will be impacted.	Y	None
Policy MP DD1: Dredging and Disposal of Dredged Material	Change from Natura 2000 to European site	Y	None

RS said that the necessary changes will be made to the policies and circulated around the AG group along with the minutes from the meeting.

AT raised a point about East Mainland SPA JS confirmed Eider Ducks had been removed from the scheduled list.

IB gave an overview of what will happen with the plan once it reaches Scottish Government with several options.

RS introduced AD to the group. AD gave a brief introduction to her expertise and role within Marine Scotland.

Action- CS to send final policy changes to AG

2. HLF project update

RS introduced the new HLF funded project the Shetland Community Wildlife Group being run by Katherine Allan at NAFC Marine Centre.

KA gave a summary of the activities undertaken so far which included bumble bee and butterfly surveys, skate egg case and skate spotter projects, and PMFs and non-native species. As lock down eases it is hoped to do a porpoise survey as they are under recorded. Activities for the school holidays are now being publicised on the website and social media platforms.

RS highlighted that the project had to adapt to the COVID- 19 pandemic with surveys and activities moved around but the project was gathering important information to fill data gaps. RS also mentioned how Karen Hall (SNH) and Paul Harvey (SAT) had helped to write the application and continue to offer expertise and support to the project.

3. AOB

SP raised that KIMO had applied to be a member of the SIRMP Advisory Group. SP gave a bit of background to what KIMO do. AT supported the application. SP said a letter would be sent around the advisory group along with the minute. RS suggested if anyone objected to KIMO being invited on the Advisory Group to contact either herself or SP.

Action: Invite KIMO to next meeting and send relevant information

CL asked what the current status of the Sullom Voe Master Plan was. SP responded that the SVMP was on hold until the SIRMP is through to the Scottish Government and the Crown Estate Scotland pilot project was reliant on the SVMP, will hopefully all start moving forward soon.

SP said the next meeting date will be set once the SIRMP has been to the SIC Development Committee.