

**Minutes – Meeting of the Cross Party Group on Recreational Boating and
Marine Tourism, 29th June 2016**

ATTENDEES

Name	Organisation
Stuart McMillan MSP	
Pauline McGrow	RYA Scotland
Mike McGregor	Port Edgar Berth Holders Association
Fergus Duncanson	RYA Scotland
Richard Alexander	Scottish Government
Liam Kerr MSP	
Gordon Daly	RYAS/Seagull Trust Cruises/Private Boater
Chris O'Brien	Lochaber Chamber of Commerce
Richard Millar	Scottish Canals
Colin Henderson	Edinburgh Boat Charters
Andy Carnduff	Forth Yacht Clubs Association
Stuart Smith	Scottish Canoe Association
Claire Peters	sportscotland
Maggie MacGuire	Caledonian MacBrayne
James McLachlan	Vice Chairman, Forth and Clyde Canal Society
John C Hamilton	Yacht Designers and Surveyors Association
Simon Limb	British Marine Scotland
Aileen Monk	British Marine Scotland
Andrew Rendle	Scottish Coastal Rowing Association
John Spencely	Royal Forth Yacht Club
Kenneth Mackay	Royal Forth Yacht Club

APOLOGIES

Name	Organisation
Richard Ballantyne	British Ports
Robert Kitchin	Portavadie Marina
Graham Russell	RYA Scotland
Kathy Gostick	Forth Yacht Clubs Association
Martin Latimer	British Marine Scotland
Douglas MacDiarmid	Corpach Marina
Euan Black	University and Highlands and Islands
Marc Crothall	Scottish Tourism Alliance
David Vass	RYA Scotland/West Highlands and Islands Mooring Association
Will Nisbet	Inverclyde Council
Robert Welsh	Forth and Clyde Canal Society
Maureen McMillan	Moray Firth Partnership
Alan Rankin	Scottish Tourism Alliance
Paul Bancks	The Crown Estate
Alan Laidlaw	Crown Estate
Lawrence Durden	Skills Development Scotland
The Moray Firth Partnership	Check, take out
James Allan	RYA Scotland
Robbie Wightman	Scottish Coastal Rowing
Adrian Shield	Commodore, Royal Forth Yacht Club
Jamie Greene MSP	
Colin Henderson	Edinburgh Boat Charters

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

Stuart McMillan MSP, Convenor of Cross Party Group for Marine Tourism and Recreational Boating welcomed everyone to the meeting and to the Scottish Parliament and introductions were made round the table.

SMCM explained that this group is re-convening for the new session of the Scottish Parliament. The focus requires to be on how we deliver for Scotland and for Marine Tourism. We also require to look at how we take forward the data collection tool and Action Plan within the Marine Tourism Strategy.

SMCM stated that he has been delighted with the action, delivery points and successes of the Cross Party Group in the last Parliamentary session.

2. **Minutes and Action Points from last Meeting**

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

3. **Election of Office Bearers**

Convenor

Stuart McMillan MSP

Stuart McMillan MSP was approved as Convener.

Vice Convenor

Liam Kerr MSP

Liam Kerr MSP was approved as Vice Convener.

Secretariat (Secretary/Treasurer)

James Allan and Pauline McGrow were approved as the Secretariat.

1. **Modern Apprenticeships**

There is a skills gap within the marine tourism sector and we also require to look at forward planning and succession planning.

2. **Loch Lomond National Park Byelaws - Write to FE/invite Loch Lomond National Park Authority. - SMCM suggested this run a bit longer and add this to the agenda for the next meeting.**

This was covered on the agenda under item AOCB.

3. **Marine Tourism Strategy Update** – Alan Rankin has circulated report.
4. **Sail Scotland Conference** – SMCM reported that this was a very useful conference.
5. **Update on Fife Harbours Study**

PM to contact Councillor Lesley Laird to ask for an update on the Fife Harbours Study.

4. **Ministerial Update**

Action: SMCM suggested that he write to invite Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs to the CPG meeting scheduled to take place on 29th November.

FD asked what Minister is now responsible for land reform? SMCM stated that it is Fergus Ewing and outlined his remit.

Action: GD requested that lists of responsibilities of Cabinet Secretaries be circulated with the minutes.

5. **Update on Manifesto and upcoming items that the CPG require to be aware of going forward**

SMCM provided an overview of the changes to the rules of the Cross Party Group. SMCM further explained that 5 MSP members are required in order for CPG to run however special exceptions can be made if the Convener outlines the reasons to the Chair of the Standards Committee. As SMCM was unable to get the number of MSPS required SMCM stated that he will apply for an exception. L McArthur MSP, John Finnie MSP and Jamie Greene MSP are fully supportive of the CPG but are not in a position to attend.

Action: Emails will be sent from the above mentioned MSPs to support and official request will be submitted to the Standards Committee.

6. Future Direction of CPG

SMCM asked for comments from the group on what their thoughts are for the CPG going forward for the new Parliamentary session and the following points were made;

- S Limb stated that we are at the point that we have matured enough that we can have a bearing on Scottish economy and implement the Marine Tourism Strategy.
- R Millar stated that we have had great progress and we now have a good baseline. We require to look at delivery infrastructure and look at what the missing areas are.
- F Duncanson stated that we need to build on high quality recreational boating that currently exists. FD further stated that the west coast is one of the best cruising areas and there is a growing possibility to grow further e.g. paddle boarding is increasingly becoming a more popular sport. We require to build and promote awareness and get more people involved. The quality of environment can also be a factor.
- Liam Kerr MSP stated that in the north east of Scotland there is a lot of potential for growth if we get the infrastructure right. The harbours are good and we require to encourage people to visit this side of the country. Liam Kerr MSP provided an example of the Lochaber pontoon where volunteers entirely delivered this community funded project and we require to promote this type of success.
- Stuart Smith stated that marine tourism development relies on access and this is one of the key areas that requires to be addressed.
- R Millar stated that community empowerment is growing and gave example of the work going on in Scottish canals and fields that back onto the canals. RM stated that Scottish Canals are working with Stirling Council to encourage activity on Forth and if we get the marketing right then this will encourage visitors.
- GD commented that the press do not always cover these stories.
- A Carnduff stated that we require to talk to onshore tourist industry and attract them to the tourist sites. We require to improve the ability to get into harbours and ensure that they are safe and come up with a commercial solution to assist in this process. Drying pontoon with soft landings associated on shore tourism and attractions is a good way forward. A Carnduff stated that we require to integrate volunteer activity with harbours.
- Encourage commercial operators to work with us to support Scotland's second industry which is tourism.

- M McGregor asked is there any way of providing larger scale yachts to bring in more income. SL stated that James Watt Dock has been very successful in this regard.
- Maggie MacGuire stated that we require to connect destination and activities together and gave the example of the initiatives that Calmac are working on e.g. they are providing more information on integrated journeys, Rail and Sailing and promoting water activities.
- L Kerr stated that CALMAC is a fantastic example of this joint approach and asked whether MM was aware of Serco and would they be doing something similar in the north? MM explained that CALMAC work differently and they work with various groups and accommodation providers. MM stated that she was unsure if it exists in Orkney and Shetland.

C O'Brien stated that the Digital Tourism Think Tank has a DMO for Orkney.

Action: C O'Brien to share contact for the Digital Tourism Think Tank.

- C O'Brien reported that there is currently destination filming taking place and they are looking to educate and bring this story to life and there is content share across personal marketing campaign with 3D technology.
- SL raised about participation and asked that this be a recurring theme and look at how we can take this forward and that we can create a pipeline of people continuing to enjoy the coastline. F Duncanson stated that there is small craft that is low cost activity e.g. sea canoeing is a buoyant market and it does not need to be necessarily an expensive activity to get people afloat. Small slipways are a key aspect to this and there is growth potential.
- SMCM raised about social media with regards to G Daly 's point about written media and that he would be keen to hear about the think tank. Social Media is definitely a tool that is required to be used to take out our message.

SMCM provided a summary of the discussions and the following actions were agreed

- Progress marine tourism Action Plan ensuring that we have level of activity on the ground.
- Infrastructure and increasing the awareness to get more people involved and increasing participation and increase social media presence are the key areas.
- Require to have a medium to long term plan and participation is the key to this and we require to spread the message through social media.
- Social Media – It was agreed that CPG should take an active role and promote the work of the CPG and also promote the work of the wider sector.
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- SMCM stated that a singular message is required and we have re-vamped the strategy at end of the parliamentary session.

COB suggested the following–

- Each organisation share findings of the group.
- Central posting point – CPG and target people, there would be cost implications.

RM asked how frequent should this appear on the agenda? SMCM stated that we would like this to be a standing item on the agenda at each meeting. RM asked if agenda items should be aligned to strategy? SMCM stated that there should still be flexibility but that he agreed we do require to have this as our focus over this first year.

Action: SMCM will write to Chair of Marine Tourism Development Group to inform of our intention to have this as a standing item on the agenda.

Stuart Smith emphasised that we should also ensure that we don't lose focus on recreational boating aspect of the remit of the CPG. SMCM agreed and that he wants the full scope of the Cross Party on Recreational Boating and Marine Tourism to continue.

SL commented that if had not been for the work of the Cross Party Group the Marine Tourism Strategy could have not come to fruition.

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Claire Adamson MSP gave example of the joint meeting between our CPG and the Health and Safety Group, and as a result of this meeting the Water Safety Strategy of Scotland was created

SMCM asked whether Facebook would be permitted for use for CPGs? C Adamson explained that you can do it but there will rules that you require to adhere to.

Action: Claire Adamson MSP will check the rules and will report back. SMCM stated that Alan Laidlaw had originally set up a twitter account for the CPG and we require to continue to promote what the CPG members are doing.

Powerboat P1 Event in Inverclyde – 18th and 19th June

SMCM reported that it was a very successful event with thousands of visitors to the esplanade in Greenock over the weekend.

Lord Neilson Event

SMCM reported that he attended an event arranged by the Jubilee Sailing Trust and Ocean Youth Trust Scotland. They had 2 ships that were fully accessible. This highlighted that we require to ensure that there is accessibility and that disabled people get access to water based activities. SMCM further explained that Clydemuirshiel have an organisation titled Able to Sail and there are other organisations and avenues to increase level of participation.

Other examples provided were –

- Scottish Rowing Championships and there were a number of disabled athletes taking part and this provided an opportunity to promote activities.
- Andrew Rendle stated that the Rowing Association has an adapted seat and they are trying to develop further in this area.
- GD reported that the Seagull Trust Cruises carried 26000 disabled passengers in 2015 over 3 cruises.

SMCM stated that there are huge opportunities and we require to ensure that we get the key messages out and that getting volunteers involved in the community is key.

Future Direction of the CPG

The following actions were agreed -

1. Raise the profile of Marine Tourism Strategy
2. Participate in infrastructure work.
3. Focus on increasing participation
4. Look into the possibility of a Marine Day or satellite events
5. Social media

MM suggested organising an event over either a day or week e.g. Scotland Marine Day to highlight all the water based activities

- It will enable people to come and try these activities and would generate income/spend. This could be either one single event or satellite events.

L Kerr stated that the Portsoy Boat Festival is a good example of this with 20000 visitors.

A discussion took place on the various options, Push the Boat Out is an RYA Initiative that takes place on an annual basis and contributes to the healthy population. This would help with the health and wellbeing agenda with regards to sailing, age ranges and contribute to the healthy population.

- MM suggested that this could be incorporated into Scottish Tourism Week (March), however this may be a little late. It could also be linked through the Scottish Tourism Alliance. GD suggested building on Push the Boat Out and could use this as a starting point.

Action: GD will raise this at RYA Scotland Council.

- **COB also suggested approaching Visit Scotland and possible holding it within the first 2 weeks of June.**

Action: Email to be sent to CPG members with paragraph outlining our discussion and will collate response to feed back to September meeting and have it as an agenda item for the next meeting. This will also require to be fed back to the Marine Tourism Development Group.

Standard Items for Agenda

It was agreed that the following items be added to the agenda as standard items for CPG –

1. Proposed Marine Event
2. 5 minute slot on EU
3. Social Media Strategy and also get thoughts from Marine Tourism Development Group.

7. AOCB

Report of RYA Scotland meeting with Loch Lomond and National Park Authority - on marine tourism in relation to camping management byelaw

Fergus Duncanson reported on the meeting that was held with Loch Lomond Park Authority on 6th May with George Watson in attendance. FD provided an overview of current position -

- Byelaw decision made for camping byelaws to ban camping.
- Response submitted by RYA Scotland/Scottish Canoe Association/Ramblers and objection was submitted by Scottish Sports Association and **sportscotland**.
- The Minister approved the byelaws and postponed the byelaw and asked Loch Lomond National Park Authority to provide some further detail and clarification.
- FD explained that boat camping is popular with small boats who will park on the shore over 1-2 nights. It is legal to camp if you are floating but not legal if you are on the beach. FD stated that they had a positive meeting and requested that we incorporate the needs of boats and they took this on board. There is a planned informal camp site at Strathard with 72 tent spaces within the informal camp sites.
- A discussion took place on maintenance and navigation marks and open water swimming. A meeting was held on 28th June involving all the stakeholders seeking ideas and we had a very positive outcome and are building relationship. There will be another meeting late in season.

Dredging in Scotland and the Forth

J Spencely tabled the paper to outline the current situation regards dredging in the Forth on behalf of the users at Royal Forth Yacht Club, Granton Users and users of the Harbour. (Please find attached paper).

JS explained the process of the mud silt and silt accumulation and also the annual maintenance dredging that is required. A licence is required from Marine Scotland that is of 3 year duration, 3 samples of mud silt are required to be taken. The cost of the marine licence can range from £250 to £3790. There is £5000 minimum cost plus dredging costs. There is a limited duration of licence and it places a burden on harbour users and diverts money away from infrastructure.

J Spencely proposed the following suggestions/proposals be made to the Marine Scotland -

1. Licensing regime should be changed so that the licence is issued for an unlimited period.
2. There should be no limit placed on the mud silt that comes from sea and should be based on heavy metal content only if it is deemed that the harbour is causing the issue.

There then followed an opportunity for questions -

GD asked who owns Granton Harbour, JS stated that it is Forth Ports. A Carnduff stated that Marine Scotland would require to take these proposed changes to a legal level. Liam Kerr MSP asked about who is dealing with Newhaven, J Spencely explained that it was dredged for passengers to dredge access in. L Kerr stated that we need to hear from Marine Scotland and look at the environment legislation and obtain an explanation of the rationale from Marine Scotland.

Action: SMCM to write to Marine Scotland to raise the concerns made and response will be circulated to CPG.

Action: It was also agreed to invite Marine Scotland to the meeting on 27th September.

Forth Ports

GD asked about who had taken over as Chief Harbour Master at Forth Ports.

Action: PM to check this and add their contact to the CPG distribution list.

Future Meeting Dates

Action: Remaining meeting dates for 2016 to be set and circulated to CPG. It was agreed that 4 meetings be held per year at 3 month intervals.

8. Future Business

The meeting closed and SMCM gave this thanks to everyone for their attendance. The meeting closed with vote of thanks to the Convener.

Cabinet Secretaries and details on their remits at link below –

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/New-Scottish-Cabinet-unveiled-24d3.aspx>

Cabinet Secretaries	
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills	John Swinney
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Constitution	Derek Mackay
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport –	Shona Robison
Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform	Roseanna Cunningham
Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs	Fiona Hyslop
Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities	Angela Constance
Cabinet Secretary for Justice	Michael Matheson
Cabinet Secretary for the Economy, Jobs and Fair Work	Keith Brown
Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity	Fergus Ewing

Ministers:	
Minister for Childcare and Early Years	Mark McDonald
Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science	Shirley-Anne Somerville
Minister for Parliamentary Business	Joe FitzPatrick
Minister for Transport and the Islands	Humza Yousaf
Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy	Paul Wheelhouse
Minister for Employability and Training	Jamie Hepburn
Minister for Public Health and Sport	Aileen Campbell
Minister for Mental Health	Maureen Watt
Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs	Annabelle Ewing
Minister for Local Government & Housing	Kevin Stewart
Minister for Social Security	Jeane Freeman

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

	Actions	Resp.	Date Raised
1.	<p><u>Update on Fife Harbours Study</u></p> <p>PM to follow this up with Councillor Lesley Laird.</p>	PM	29/6/16
2.	<p><u>Cabinet Secretaries</u></p> <p>GD requested that lists of responsibilities of Cabinet Secretaries be circulated with the minutes to all CPG members.</p>	PM	29/6/16
3.	<p><u>Cross Party Group Rules</u></p> <p>Emails from MSPs to support and official request for an exception to the number of MSPs will be submitted to the Standards Committee.</p>	SMCM	29/6/16
4.	<p><u>Digital Tourism Think Tank</u></p> <p>C O'Brien to share contact for the Digital Tourism Think Tank.</p>	CO'B	29/6/16
5.	<p><u>Marine Tourism Strategy</u></p> <p>SMCM will write to Chair of Marine Tourism Development Group to inform of our intention to have this as a standing item on the agenda.</p>	SMCM	29/6/16

6.	<p><u>Social Media - CPG</u></p> <p>Claire Adamson MSP will check the rules and will report back.</p>		
7.	<p><u>Marine Event</u></p> <p>Investigate the possibility of holding a day or week long event covering a variety of water based activities. G Daly to raise with RYA Scotland Council about possibly tagging onto Push the Boat Out events.</p>		
8.	<p><u>Standard Items for Agenda</u></p> <p>The following items be added to the agenda for CPG –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed Marine Event - 5 minute slot on EU - Social Media Strategy and also get thoughts from Marine Tourism Development Group. 	P McGrow	
9.	<p><u>Dredging</u></p> <p>SMCM to write to Marine Scotland to raise the concerns made and response will be circulated to CPG.</p> <p>Invite Marine Scotland to the meeting on 27th September.</p>		
10.	<p><u>Future Meeting Dates</u></p> <p>Remaining meeting dates for 2016 to be set and circulated to CPG. It was agreed that 4 meetings be held per year at 3 month intervals.</p>	Secretariat	Ongoing

11.	<p><u>Forth Ports</u></p> <p>GD asked about who had taken over as Chief Harbour Master at Forth Ports.</p> <p>PM to check this and add their contact to the CPG distribution list.</p>		
12.	<p>Check with Standards Committee about the use of Facebook and associated rules.</p>	SMCM	