

Minutes –Meeting of the Cross Party Group for Marine Tourism and Recreational Boating. 3rd March 2015

Attendees

Stuart McMillan MSP, Sarah Brown, Alan Laidlaw, Margaret Mitchell MSP, Richard Millar, Alan Laidlaw, Pauline McGrow, David Adams McGilp, D MacDiarmid, Samantha King, Jamie McGrigor MSP, Mike McGregor, Wendi Cuffe, Aileen Monk, Daniel Steel, Chris Taylor, Lawrence Durden, Marion Maclean, Brian Swinbanks, John C Hamilton, Andy Carnduff, Paul Bancks, Graham Russell, Stuart Smith, Fergus Duncanson, David Vass, Claire Peters, Frances Edwards, James Allan, Steve Bastiman.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies

Jennifer Fox, Kathryn Logan, Martin Latimer, Sarah Cooke, Gordon Daly, Victor Sandison, Donald McLaren, Jackie Baillie MSP, Robert Kitchin, Bob Baker, David Carpenter, Graeme MacIver, Ruth Briggs, Simon Limb, Isabel Glasgow

Stuart McMillan MSP, Convenor of Cross Party Group for Marine Tourism and Recreational Boating who welcomed everyone to the meeting and to the Scottish Parliament.

2. Minutes and Action Points from last meeting

These were approved as an accurate record.

Action Points from Last Meeting

1. Marine Tourism Conference – March 2015

Discussions are ongoing however this has been somewhat superseded by the imminent launch of the Marine Tourism Strategy. It is intended that the conference will be held in the autumn of 2015 and the CPG need to make a decision on what the theme of the conference will be.

SMCM outlined what was covered at the first symposium and that we would like to build on this. SMCM suggested that a working party be set up again to take this forward and asked for volunteers. The following people volunteered to be part of the working party –

- David Adams McGilp
- Richard Millar
- Aileen Monk will ask for a representative from BMF Scotland
- Daniel Steele
- Alan Laidlaw

SMCM stated that he will not chair the working party but will attend the first initial meeting. SB stated that it would also be beneficial to have someone from the broader sector and if anyone had any suggestions please pass these to SB.

Action: The first meeting the Marine Tourism Conference working party to be arranged by AM.

2. **Video Conferencing – SMCM will continue to speak to MSPs**

SMCM stated that this has proved difficult within the Parliamentary set up and there has not been much demand but he will keep this in mind for the future.

3. **Crown Estate to be become 2nd Secretariat**

It was agreed that the Crown Estate be asked to be on the secretariat – This has been achieved and SMCM welcomed Alan Laidlaw to the Secretariat role.

4. **Marine Tourism Strategy Launch**

Aileen Monk will report under Item 4.

5. **BMF Economics Report – SL will email the report to SB**

This has been achieved.

6. **DAM stated that there are videos and will circulate this to CPG**

David Adams McGilp has circulated this information.

7. **SB reported that she will circulate the link to the European Commission round CPG.**

This has been achieved.

8. **2015 meeting dates to be agreed and circulated to the Cross Party Group**

This has been achieved.

3. **Smith Commission impacts on Marine Recreation and Tourism**

SMCM explained that he is a member of Devolution of Powers Committee.

DV outlined the following on behalf of WHAM and RYAS in particular–

- The views and concerns of WHAM and RYAS have been shared with ministers and interested parties.
- Discussion and close stakeholder dialogue will be essential as the devolution of the Crown Estates revenues and management responsibilities happens.

- We, WHAM and the members of the CPG, are interested in the wellness of marine environment, foreshore and sea bed and economic and equitable treatment of users.
- The Crown Estate have the skills and knowledge and have been a fair and reasonable landlord to date.
- We need to avoid duplication and have a consistent national approach across the marine asset.
- We must avoid losing the skills and knowledge of the Crown Estate staff in the transition period.
- The Crown Estate duty to protect the public right of navigation must be maintained.
- Use this effectively and ensure moorings and anchoring and licensing of the sea bed and coastal navigation are undertaken equitably and with fair and transparent management and fees.

DV gave examples of successful projects in which the Crown Estate have been engaged -

- Tobermory – hub of boating on the west coast – rationalisation of moorings and development of the asset undertaken in partnership with TCE.
- TCE have provided support for The Green Blue throughout its lifetime.
- Loch Sheildaig and Gairloch – the Crown Estate arranged the removal of ground chains.
- Removed fish farm debris from Loch Moidart.
- Arranged for removal of illegal unlicensed moorings across the whole coastline.
- New facilities at Craignish Boat Club.

SMCM explained that we do not generally get involved in politics of issues however the CPG is a suitable forum to raise issues. Jamie McGrigor MSP stated that it does not however prevent us from writing to MSPs and Ministers on these matters.

Further discussion took place and the following points were raised -

AC stated that he supported DV's comments and pointed out the difference in the assets of the east and west coasts and their abilities to generate the necessary revenues to ensure helpful management. J McGrigor MSP stated that he agreed wholeheartedly, he also was keen not to lose the knowledge and experience that is already there.

SMCM reported that he has received emails from across Scotland on the issue of the Crown Estate. The recommendation was that members of the CPG should contact their local MPs/MSPs. SMCM suggested that contact be made with the political parties headquarters as well so that they are aware of the issues.

DV commented that boating is considered to be an elitist past time but boats can be cheaper than many camper vans. The sector does not wish to become elitist due to high moorings charges.

SB shared her experience of working within the Firth of Clyde where a mix of boundaries, local authorities, development plans and conflicting demands can make for a challenging planning environment. Working with a body such as TCE has the benefit of a unified approach which crosses boundaries and this has been very welcome. The uncertainty provided by the devolution of the TCE management

responsibilities will impact on a wide variety of sectors and this should be taken into account.

AL stated that the Crown Estate have taken the position of ensuring continued 'business as usual' delivery until matters become clearer.

A discussion took place on whether the CPG should write to the Ministers.

BS asked what ministers are involved? SMCM explained that at a UK level, Secretary of State, Alistair Carmichael is strategically involved and Cabinet Secretary John Swinney MSP, at the Scottish level. SMCM stated that he was not sure what portfolio this would fall into when the Crown Estate became devolved. This discussion will take place when the bill comes into force after the election. SB stated that RYAS have corresponded with the Secretary of State; a letter went to Cabinet Secretary Richard Lohead and Derek McKay MSP.

FD stated that we received a letter from Richard Lohead's office and had a meeting with David Mallon in order to put our concerns to Marine Scotland as outlined by DV.

GR stated that a position paper is being pulled together by RYAS.

JMCG reported that he has expressed concerns to John Swinney MSP.

Action: JMCG will send the note that he sent to John Swinney to SMCM for circulation to the CPG.

Action: It was agreed that a letter should be drafted and sent to SMCM and JMCG. The letter will be sent to John Swinney and Alistair Carmichael raising the points from the CPG. GR stated that we should make it clear that we are not criticising local authorities.

4. Marine Tourism Strategy Consultation – Feedback and Launch

AM provided an outline of the process so far –

- On 10th October 2014 the consultation period for the Marine Tourism Strategy was launched. People were offered an opportunity to provide a detailed response or a quick response either online or in writing.
- 4 workshops were held in Oban, Edinburgh, Inverness and Glasgow – 70 people attended across these workshops and there was a generally positive response to the Strategy.
- The Strategy will be produced with a paper summary of responses.
- The Marine Tourism Strategy will be launched on 5th March at the Crowne Plaza. Scottish Canals are preparing a press release on the launch.

The Marine Tourism Strategy will be available from Thursday 5th March onwards online.

SMCM gave his thanks to everyone involved in the work in pulling the Marine Tourism Strategy together.

Action: The Marine Tourism Strategy is to be circulated to CPG. SMCM will also send to MSPs and request that this is circulated to their networks.

The following comments were made on the Marine Tourism Strategy -

- SMCM stated that a tremendous amount of effort has gone into this and expressed his thanks to CPG.
- AL stated that the sector has developed and praised SMCM's efforts and the substantial progress made through CPG.
- SB said that the sector was developing quickly. With the Scottish Boating Alliance initiated by people like Mike Balmforth, Hugh Henderson and David Vass, along with the work of the CPG which includes outputs such as the Marine Tourism Strategy, the data project, work on filling skills gaps and feeding into the National Marine Plan, the sector should be congratulated for their progress and efforts.
- AM stated that the next stage in the process will be drafting of an Action Plan.

5. Presentation on Scottish Apprenticeship Week by Lawrence Durden

Lawrence Durden provided his presentation and outlined the following –
(Please find attached presentation)

SMCM gave his thanks for the presentation.

There then followed an opportunity for questions –

SMCM asked about the 3500 modern apprenticeships in the tourism sector and that it has been raised in the past about the lack of provision for the marine side of the sector. SMCM asked what discussion has SDS had with colleges to offer courses to address this? He further reported that he has received word from the Cross Party Group on visual impairment that there is no audio available for these courses. LD reported that he will feed this back.

LD stated that they have regular discussion with "People First" and they, with the Sector Skills Council decide on the number of modern apprenticeships, any gaps will be fed back to the National Programme Council.

A question was raised about whether there were any examples of modern apprenticeships in the marine tourism sector? LD stated that a leaflet has been produced for the tourism sector and they are keen work with the sector to show the breadth of the sector and what could be offered.

"Festival of the Sea" This will be held on Friday 22nd May to Sunday 31st May to promote marine tourism in Oban and they are looking for employees/businesses to be involved and will also talk to people in schools.

DAM asked about the 3 campuses on West of Scotland College. It would be useful for the FE sector to identify specific skills, bridge gaps and promote modern

apprenticeships. LD stated that he would be happy to discuss this further with DAM in taking this forward.

Action: It was agreed to follow up and obtain case studies. Anyone with opportunities to contact LD and SDS directly.

6. Presentation by Scottish Sea Angling Conservation Network – Samantha King

Samantha King introduced herself and outlined the work of the Sea Angling Conservation Network (please find attached presentation).

There then followed an opportunity for questions.

Jamie McGrigor asked about the impact of pollution and septic tanks in particular. SK said that a lot of work had been done and referred to the “Ecological meltdown of the Clyde” which suggests there has been an eco-system shift in the Clyde.

SB stated that the Clyde 2020 Project has been discussing the need to do some work on the “nutrient balance” of the Clyde.

Brian Swinbanks stated that sinking wrecks would provide much needed artificial habitat and the government should encourage this.

Steve Bastiman from SSACN stated that there are a lot of amateur fishing boats and day trip fishing boats working the coast. In the Solway there was a survey done around 5 years ago and 30% of caravan owners also owned a boat. There is a large opportunity for wider boating work to provide facilities to encourage tourism and employment opportunities.

AL thanked for SSACN for their presentation and commends the work that they do for young people. SMCM also thanked SK for a very interesting presentation.

7. Presentation by Tobermory Harbour Association by Brian Swinbanks and Marion Maclean

BS introduced himself as Chairman of Tobermory Harbour Association and also introduced Marion MacLean as Project Officer. (Please find attached presentation).

There then followed an opportunity for questions

SMCM gave his thanks to Brian Swinbanks and Marion Maclean for their presentation.

DV asked about the costs involved in Phase 6. BS said they are seeking quotes for a multi-million project and this may need to be phased depending on funding availability.

SMCM asked what funding is being sought. MM stated that they will be seeking European Funding. SMCM asked how supportive the local authority has been. BS stated that they have been supported by them greatly and they are also going through the process of becoming a Harbour Authority and Trust Port with the support of the Crown Estate.

A question was posed about how many pontoons and moorings would be available? BS stated that there will be 30 swing moorings for hire. They will also ensure there is still anchoring space for bigger boats.

AL asked about the amount of visiting boats. BS stated that 20% of the 6000 who visit Tobermory in the season go north. If you divide the number of new pontoon berths to the north of Tobermory by the number of boat-nights we now need 40-50% to sail north and west from Tobermory to deliver benefits and sustainable income to more remote ports. There are some boats coming the other way round along the North coast. To establish the true extent of boat movements we have tried to count boat numbers using satellite photos.

AC asked if the Trust Port will it be limited to the bay? BS stated that this was the case.

SMCM gave his thanks to Brian/Marion Maclean for their presentation. SMCM asked whether they would be keen to talk to other agencies? BS/MM stated that they would be keen to do this. MM also stated that they are keen to get more stats that can help and west coast statistics in particular.

8. **Round Table Updates/Events/AOCB**

Fife Harbour Study

SB reported that we have received a request from Sandra McCrae at Fife Council regarding a Fife Harbour Study that is being carried out. The study is currently underway and is looking at Fife's Harbours and the potential for further leisure opportunities. Fife Council would be obliged if this could be brought to the attention of the CPG. They would like to present on their study findings at the meeting on 16th June.

Action: Information on the Fife Harbour Study will be circulated with the minutes.

Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT)

SIFT have released information (available on the SIFT website) about the proposed regulating order in the Clyde.

Social Media

AL raised about social media and asked that the group ensure that we are recording the good work of the group on social media. He encouraged all members to make use of Twitter and Facebook etc to boost the profile of the work of the sector.

Kilchoan

GR reported the running aground of the Lysblink Seaways at Kilchoan. Fortunately the vessel was recovered without significant pollution being caused. He further explained that there was a Kilchoan blog on the West Ardnamurchan News website that described the incident. This is not the first time that a DFDS vessel has run aground in the Sound of Mull and the MAIB report is awaited with interest.

Collation of data on sharks

S Bastiman reported that SSACN are currently collating data on sharks and if you would like any further information please visit website www.ssacn.org There are posters which give details of events and all would be welcome to come along.

9. **Future Business/Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the following items be raised at the next meeting on 16th June -

- Presentation from Fife Council – update on Fife Harbour Study.
- Marine Renewables
- Smith Commission (update on situation)
- Robbie Wightman from Scottish Coastal Rowing requested to present at the meeting in September.
- John Hamilton also suggested a presentation regarding Marine Surveyors at a future meeting.
- Please bring forward any topics that you would wish to be discussed at CPG.

SMCM also gave his welcome to James Allan, new Chief Executive Officer of RYA Scotland.

Next Meeting

Tuesday 16th June 2015 at 6pm at the Scottish Parliament.

The meeting closed and SMCM thanked to all for their attendance and contribution.

Vote of thanks was given to the Chair.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

	Actions	Resp.	Date Raised
1.	<u>Marine Tourism Conference</u> - The first meeting the Marine Tourism Conference working party to be arranged.	AM	3/3/15
2.	<u>Smith Commission impacts on Marine Recreation and Tourism</u> JMCG will send the note that he sent to John Swinney to SMCM for circulation to the CPG. It was agreed that a letter should be drafted and sent to SMCM and JMCG. The letter will be sent to John Swinney and Alistair Carmichael raising the points from the CPG. GR stated that we should make it clear that we are not criticising local authorities.	JMCG JA	3/3/15 3/3/15
3.	<u>The Marine Tourism Strategy</u> is to be circulated to CPG. SMCM will also send to MSPs and request that this is circulated to their networks.	AM/PM/SMCM	3/3/15
4.	<u>Modern Apprenticeships</u> It was agreed to follow up and obtain case studies. Anyone with opportunities to contact LD and SDS directly.	LD/DAM	3/3/15

5.	<p><u>Fife Harbour Study</u></p> <p>Information on the Fife Harbour Study will be circulated with the minutes.</p>	SB/PM	3/3/15
6.	<p><u>Agenda Items for meeting on 16th June – The following items to be added -</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation from Fife Council – update on Fife Harbour Study. - Marine Renewables - Smith Commission (update on situation) - John Hamilton also suggested a presentation regarding Marine Surveyors at a future meeting - Please bring forward any topics that you would wish to be discussed at CPG. <p><u>Agenda item for meeting on 29th September</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation by Robbie Wightman (Scottish Coastal Rowing) at the meeting in September. 		