

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Cross Party Group on
Recreational Boating
and Marine Tourism,
Committee Room 6, Scottish Parliament
28th February 2017**

Stuart McMillan MSP	Convenor
Pauline McGrow	RYA Scotland
James Allan	RYA Scotland
Rhona Fairgrieve	Scottish Coastal Forum
Liam Kerr MSP	
Maureen McMillan	Moray Firth Partnership
Colin Henderson	Edinburgh Boat Charters
Graham Russell	RYA Scotland
Stuart Smith	Scottish Canoe Association
David Windmill	Chairman, Scottish Seabird Centre
Mike McGregor	
John Beattie	Waterski and Waterboard Scotland
David Vass	RYA Scotland/West Highlands and Islands Moorings Association
Gordon Daly	RYA Scotland/Seagull Trust Cruises
Richard Alexander	Cruise Scotland
James McLachlan	Forth and Clyde Canal Society
Adrian Shield	Royal Forth Yacht Club
Carol Barbone	Moray Firth Partnership
Ruth Briggs	Forth Estuary Forum
Alison Harris MSP	
Simon Limb	

Martin Latimer	
Andy Carnduff	Forth Yacht Clubs Association
Zach Way	Stuart McMillan's MSP's Office
Matthew Leitch	Stuart McMillan MSP's Office
Ian White	
Mark Simmonds	British Ports Association

APOLOGIES

Name	Organisation
Brian Swinbanks	Tobermory Harbour Authority
Maggie Macguire	CALMAC
Chris O'Brien	Lochaber Chamber of Commerce
Fergus Duncanson	RYA Scotland
Kathy Gostick	Forth Yacht Clubs Association
Robert Kitchin	Portavadie Marina
David Adams McGilp	VisitScotland
Euan Black	University of Highlands and Islands
Alvin Barber	Cramond Boat Club
Richard Millar	Scottish Canals
Kirsten Henderson	Tarbert Harbour Authority
Donald McLaren	Clyde Yacht Clubs Association
Neil Stewart	The Majestic Line
Angus MacDonald MSP	
Andrew Rendle	
Sarah Riddle	Northern Light
Gail Ross MSP	

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

2. Minutes and Action Points from last Meeting

The minutes were approved as an accurate record with the following changes to be made.

Proposed: Simon Limb Seconded: Gordon Daly

AOCB – Page 10

R Fairgrieve asked for paragraph to be changed to the following –

RF reported that Marine Scotland and the Scottish Coastal Forum had been made aware of a contract let to ABPmer by the Marine Management Organisation to gather data on marine recreational activities. Marine Scotland had suggested that the same methodology as had been used for the SMarTS work in 2015 be flagged up, so there could be a level of consistency on both sides of the border."

Action: PM to revise 29th November minutes with the changes noted above.

Social Media

JA reported that he will be posting tweets on #cpgmarinetourism during the meeting.

Marine Activity Event

This was covered under item 4 on agenda.

Events Plan

DAM to circulate Events Plan in advance of the next meeting.

Action: PM to contact DAM to obtain Events Plan.

Update on Crown Estate

PM reported that she has circulated the Consultation link to CPG members.

“Update on Crown Estate” was covered under item 6 on agenda.

Marine Recreation Areas

RF provided an update under Item “Any Other Business”.

Dredging

SMCM reported that letter has been sent to Marine Scotland.

3. Marine Tourism Strategy

ML provided an update on progress and stated that the Marine Tourism Development Group are working through action plans. Sail Scotland have been working with Event Scotland and VisitScotland. The Events Plan is currently being worked on.

ML reported that there are two key pieces of work -

1. Infrastructure – They are looking to develop linked activities to allow people to cruise. Hubs are required on East, West and Moray Firth. We need to work out what the infrastructure is and then look at associated costs. JA stated that there is a sub group for Infrastructure and they have met once formally but there are also informal discussions taking place.

SL reported that British Marine have taken on the role of skills and training. SL reported that meetings have been held with colleges to identify what is currently available. A skills analysis has been carried out and they are also looking at the labour market and identify what the gaps are. They are looking at infrastructure/training and careers and then will run through the other areas of the action plan.

British Marine are running 4 workshops and are carrying out infrastructure training in Glasgow and Edinburgh. They will look at what requires to be developed and will obtain feedback from those in attendance at the workshops.

JA stated that one of the key themes from the Marine Tourism Strategy is attracting events to Scotland. JA reported that a bid was submitted for the World Para Sailing event and there was a great effort made by **sportscotland** National Watersports Centre Cumbrae, Inverclyde, Scottish Sailing Institute with support from North Ayrshire Council to pull together a bid. Unfortunately the bid was unsuccessful and we were pipped to the post by another venue in Germany. JA stated that we will continue to actively pursue bringing world class sailing events to Scotland.

GD asked do the canals qualify as infrastructure. ML stated that all will be considered but their main focus is coastal areas. ML stated that they have developed a matrix to assess what areas are priority. ML further stated that they will also be seeking support on the ground.

There then followed an opportunity for questions –

SMCM asked what were the main issues around skill gaps and asked whether there would be grants available for people who work in the off shore sector to enable them to do on shore training.

SL stated that it is something that would be good to pursue. SL further explained that 70% of members are small to medium businesses and this has cost and time implications for these businesses.

SMCM asked how acute is the skills gap. SL stated that in order to bring people in we need to provide a means of career progression within companies and have identified this through the labour market surveys that have been conducted.

SMCM asked about the costings/matrix and asked whether SL/ML would be willing to provide a presentation to provide an outline of the matrix and its findings.

ML stated that British Marine Scotland workshops are going to be held where there will be a discussion around the Infrastructure proposals put forward by the Marine Tourism Development Group and further stated that they would be happy to report back on the roadshows in general and infrastructure discussions once completed sometime in the autumn.

4. Marine Activity Event

A discussion took place and SMCM asked for CPG's thoughts on whether the event should be one singular or a Scotland wide activity.

A discussion then followed and the following points raised –

Carol Carbone, Moray Firth Partnership asked what the objective is for the event. SMCM stated that the aim of the event is to help promote the work of the Cross Party Group and marine tourism. He further explained at the last meeting it was suggested that we should get members and their organisations to promote activities within their localities.

ML asked is there any RYA "Get Afloat" initiative that could address this. JA provided an overview of the RYA Push the Boat Out Initiative that is taking place

13th to the 15th May that is open to all clubs to open their doors to new members and activities are free, 36 clubs have signed up so far.

JA suggested another opportunity would be Scotland's Boat Show at Kip Marina that is held in mid October. Last year we offered 600 on the water activities with partners; RYA Scotland, Ocean Youth Trust Scotland, **sportscotland** National Watersports Centre Cumbrae, You and Sea and Clydemuirshiel Country Park.

JA explained further that the Boat Show provides an opportunity for accessing boats and there are also opportunities for marine tourism. Liam Kerr MSP asked why more clubs have not signed up. JA stated that uptake from clubs is growing year on year and is a way of encouraging clubs to increase their membership. MSPs also came along to some of the Push the Boat out events last year.

LK stated that as there has been a low percentage on club uptake asked do we have a role here as the CPG to promote? JA stated that the initiative creates a bedrock from where boating grows. The Push the Boat Out Initiative is focussed on grass roots level, health and wellbeing. It was suggested that when looking at promoting marine tourism we may be best to introduce people to keelboat sailing rather than dinghy sailing.

GD stated that Solway Yacht Club have had an open day every summer and this could link in with the Push the Boat Out Initiative. Maureen MacMillan stated that there are other coastal festivals such as Portsoy Traditional Boat Festival that would be another opportunity to encourage people to think about marine tourism.

AC stated that Aberdour Boat Club have run festivals but there are practicalities involved as it is very difficult to run these activities due to weather conditions and also require to ensure that there is an adequate number of safety boats.

AC stated that he would support the Portsoy Boat Festival concept and suggested running it from a fixed point. AC stated that the redistributed event may be difficult to promote and attract the sufficient numbers.

A Shield stated that Royal Forth Yacht Club were involved in Push the Boat Out event and it does require a lot of volunteer effort. He further explained that RYAS support is provided through providing documentation and promotional banners. AS further reported that the weather was not good but despite this they had 89 people taking part and stated that it is a good way for people to get involved in recreational boating.

AS further reported that Royal Forth Yacht Club are organising their own RYA Push the Boat Out event on 14th May and there is a potential issue with the landowners who have blocked off all the parking on Granton Middle Pier making it difficult for public parking, this includes the access to the Public Slip.

SL suggested having a rolling programme and introduce different types of activities. ML stated that marine tourism is the effect of boating and it is much

wider than getting people afloat. ML agreed that a rolling event/programme would be a good way forward.

ML suggested launching this as part of the “Marine Tourism Week” at the Marine Tourism Conference and thereafter follow on with a framework.

SMCM suggested having 6 events throughout the year. Suggestions were made for events that could be included as part of the programme – e.g. Scottish Series, Portsoy Boat Festival.

It was agreed that we would require to ask organisations to support. Mike McGregor suggested also including Powerboat P1 as one of the events.

Carol Carbone suggested that organisations sign a charter to commit to the event and this would also provide an opportunity to launch and promote and attract interest to the event. SMCM agreed that this was a good approach.

Action/Decision: It was agreed that we have a rolling programme and have a sign up charter to get organisations involved. Contact to be made with Daniel Steel to ask if the launch of the Charter could take place at the Marine Tourism Conference on 23rd March.

Action: PM to send email to CPG Members to thank them for their suggestions for the Marine Activity event and inform them of the decision.

Action: Carol Carbone offered to draft a Charter statement. It was agreed that the first draft of the statement be circulated for comment by Friday 3rd March and statement to be finalised by Tuesday 7th March.

The MSPs in attendance agreed to the Marine Charter statement -

- **Liam Kerr MSP**
- **Stuart McMillan MSP**
- **Alison Harris, MSP**

5. Update on EU

SMCM reported that he sits on the European Committee and recently attended meetings with politicians/MEPs and organisations in Brussels. SMCM further reported that they are awaiting Article 50 to be triggered and the Scottish Government has requested that it is not triggered on 25th March because this is the date of the Treaty of Rome. SMCM further stated that there will be a 2 year window after Article 50 has been triggered. The member states require to ratify what has been agreed (EU27/European Parliament). That activity will take place in the remaining 6 months of the 2 year period. Negotiations will not begin until after the French and German elections although there will be discussions

beforehand. SMCM will provide an update at the next CPG meeting on 27th June.

6. Update on Crown Estate

A report from Paul Bancks was tabled in his absence. ML stated that there is also a very useful presentation that provides an overview.

JA reported that he attended a meeting at Marine Scotland today where they had the opportunity to meet with Amanda Bryon who is the Chair of the Interim body for Crown Estate Scotland. JA stated that he sits on the Stakeholder Advisory Group. Dave Mallon from Marine Scotland also gave a presentation at the meeting.

There is currently a public consultation on the long term management of the Crown Estate in Scotland and the deadline is 29th March and JA encouraged CPG members to give their thoughts and input to the process and letters are also very welcome.

Action: JA suggested that Amanda Bryon, Chair of Interim body for Crown Estate Scotland be invited to attend the next CPG meeting on 27th June and this was agreed.

ML stated that the consultation closes on 29th March, to date they have only received 60 responses. ML encouraged more responses from organisations.

Action: Reminder email to go out to CPG members to encourage more responses to the consultation on the long term management of the Crown Estate in Scotland.

7. Data – Rhona Fairgrieve

RF provided an update and stated that nothing seems to have come of this idea but the issue of the data used for marine planning in different jurisdictions is one with which colleagues are already familiar. Through the EU-funded Supporting Implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning in the Celtic Seas (SIMCelt) project, in which Marine Scotland is a partner, the issues connected with data for transboundary marine planning are emerging.

Action/Decision: RF suggested that The CPG may wish to have a presentation on the work of the SIMCelt initiative at the next but one meeting, this was agreed.

Ruth Briggs from Forth Estuary Forum asked for clarification around the point raised in the minutes regarding SNH. RF stated that she will provide revised text for the minutes.

Action: PM to revise the text for the minutes from 29th November 2016.

8. AOCB

Social Media

JA reported that he has been posting tweets to #cpgmarinetourism.

Conferencing Facilities

SMCM reported that has received training in the use of video conferencing facilities in the Parliament. SMCM stated that we would like to trial this at the next meeting.

Action: PM to arrange booking of TG20 Committee Room for the next meeting to enable use of the conferencing facilities.

Helgoland Race

AS reported that there is a major visit under the Marine Tourism banner of the Biennial Helgoland race across the North Sea finishing at Royal Forth Yacht Club at Granton. This involves some 30 plus boats of varying sizes and this year's event is their 25th Anniversary of the race. This is a qualifying event for the Fastnet Race. Regrettably the largest of the boats taking part are too big for Granton and have in the past used Leith Docks which is now too expensive for them - despite trying to get an agreement with Forth Ports. So the biggest boats, if not put off the event entirely, will finish the race at Granton and then turn back and head off down to Blyth where they can get reasonable deeper water berthing.

Action: A Shield to write to Alan Rankin to raise issue with large boats being unable to take part in Helgoland Race being unable to use Leith Docks.

AC asked AS if he had considered Burntisland and then use a marine taxi to transport across. MMCG also suggested using Port Edgar. AC also suggested that AS contact Miles Briggs to see if he can assist. GD asked if the new Harbour Master had been informed. AS confirmed that discussions had taken place with the Harbour Master.

Millarochy Bay

JA reported that they had received notification that the slipway is to be closed at Milarrochy Bay as of 1st April however there had been no consultation with stakeholders prior to this decision being made. JA further explained they have reduced the number of slipways for access to the loch and there has been a distinct lack of stakeholder engagement and this will cause issues for the busy times on the loch. JA further explained that this will have implications for marine tourism.

Action: SMCM stated that he will write to Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority raising our concerns about the lack of consultation on the closure of the slipway at Milarrochy Bay.

Marine Tourism Conference

SMCM reported that the Marine Tourism Conference will take place on Thursday 23rd March at Beacon Arts Centre in Greenock. SMCM will be speaking at the event. An invitation to the conference has been sent out to CPG members.

RF asked if there would be a possibility to have a board game that is a fictional internal sea area to be included as part of the Conference or possibly during the lunch and networking session. RF explained that the game would provide information to delegates who have little or no knowledge to become more knowledgeable about marine planning. SMCM suggested that this could possibly be included in the lunch/networking slot, RF stated that it would be a good conversation piece. RF further reported that there is an intern from Aberdeen University that will be using this to unpick some areas on Marine Tourism. RF further explained that it is being funded by EU to support the Celtic Sea Project and will be rolled out in the Clyde. SMCM stated that it would be good to have a showcase over the lunchtime period.

Action: RF will contact Caroline Warburton and Marc Crothall to ask if it is possible for the marine planning board game to be included as part of the Marine Tourism Conference on 23rd March.

- SL reported that Scottish Opera have been speaking to marinas to offer performances on board cruise boats and this will take place during June.
- LK asked for advice on places to purchase second hand kit. GD informed LK that there is a Boat Jumble taking place in Irvine and information will be available online.
- GD reported that there will be a flotilla of lit up narrow boats going from Ratho to Edinburgh on 9th December 2017. CB suggested that the boats could use solar torches in order to be sustainable.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 27th June 2017 at 6pm.

The meeting closed and SMCM gave this thanks to everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed with vote of thanks to the Convener.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS/DECISIONS

	Actions	Resp.	Date Raised
1.	<p><u>Amendment to Previous Minutes 29th November 2016</u></p> <p><u>AOCB – Page 10</u></p> <p>R Fairgrieve asked for paragraph to be changed to the following –</p> <p>RF reported that Marine Scotland and the Scottish Coastal Forum had been made aware of a contract let to ABPmer by the Marine Management Organisation to gather data on marine recreational activities. Marine Scotland had suggested that the same methodology as had been used for the SMarTS work in 2015 be flagged up, so there could be a level of consistency on both sides of the border."</p>	PM	28/2/17
2.	<p><u>Marine Activity Event Proposal</u></p> <p>David Adams McGilp to circulate Events plan in advance of the next meeting.</p> <p>PM to contact DAM to obtain.</p>	DAM/PM	29/11/16
3.	<p><u>Marine Activity Event Proposal</u></p> <p>Action/Decision: Rolling programme and have branding sign up charter to get organisations involved. Launch of the Charter to take place at the Marine Tourism Conference on 23rd March.</p>		

	<p>Action: Email Daniel Steel to inform him and also feed into the Marine Tourism Development Group.</p> <p>Action: Thanks email to go out to people who offered to assist and inform them of decision.</p> <p>Action: Carol Carbone to draft a statement sentence to use this for coverage. Carol offered assistance to facilitate.</p> <p>Action: The wording of the statement 1st draft out for comment by Friday 3rd March and final wording of statement to be done by Tuesday 7th March.</p> <p>Action: First draft to be circulated to CPG members and MSPs in attendance and then will issue final statement. The MSPs in attendance are – Liam Kerr MSP Stuart McMillan MSP Alison Harris, MSP</p>		
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4.	<p><u>Crown Estate</u></p> <p>Amanda Bryon, Chair of Interim body for Crown Estate Scotland be invited to attend the next CPG meeting on 27th June 2017.</p> <p>Reminder email to go out to CPG members re the Crown Estate Consultation.</p>	<p>P McGrow</p> <p>P McGrow</p>	<p>28/2/17</p> <p>28/2/17</p>
5.	<p><u>Marine Tourism Conference</u></p> <p>RF will contact Caroline Warburton and Marc Crothall to ask if it is possible for the marine planning board game to be included as part of the Marine Tourism Conference on 23rd March.</p>	<p>R Fairgrieve</p>	<p>28/2/17</p>
6.	<p><u>Conferencing Facilities</u></p> <p>PM to arrange booking of TG20 Committee Room for the next meeting on 27th June to enable use of the conferencing facilities.</p>	<p>P McGrow</p>	<p>28/2/17</p>
7.	<p><u>Helgoland Race</u></p> <p>A Shield to write to Alan Rankin to raise issue with large boats being unable to take part in Helgoland Race being unable to use Leith Docks.</p>	<p>A Shield</p>	<p>28/2/17</p>
8.	<p><u>Milarrochy Bay</u></p> <p>SMCM to write to Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority to raise concerns about lack of consultation on closure of slipway at Milarrochy Bay.</p>	<p>S McMillan</p>	<p>28/2/17</p>