

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Cross Party Group on Recreational Boating and Marine Tourism,
Committee Room 5, Scottish Parliament**

27th February 2018

Name	Organisation
Stuart McMillan MSP	Convener
Emma Harper MSP	
Fiona Hyslop MSP	Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
Liam Kerr MSP	
Angus MacDonald MSP	
Emilie Devenport	Scottish Environment Link
James Allan	RYA Scotland (Secretariat)
Pauline McGrow	RYA Scotland (Secretariat)
Gordon Daly	RYA Scotland/Seagull Trust Cruises
Graham Russell	RYA Scotland
Martin Latimer	British Marine Scotland Scottish Canals
Andy Carnduff	Forth Yacht Clubs Association
James McLachlan	Forth Clyde and Canal Society
Sarah Kennedy	Fort William Marina & Shoreline Company Limited
Ian Dewar	Fort William Marina & Shoreline Company Limited
Chris Cutts	Forth Estuary Forum
Daniel Steel	Sail Scotland
Simon Limb	British Marine Scotland
Fergus Duncanson	RYA Scotland
Fiona Cook	Scottish Government
Mike McGregor	
Richard Millar	Scottish Canals

APOLOGIES

Name	Organisation
Aileen Monk	British Marine Scotland
David Adams McGilp	VisitScotland
Stuart Smith	Scottish Canoe Association
Alison Harris MSP	
Andrew Rendle	Secretary, Scottish Coastal Rowing Association
Graeme Harvey	Lowland Canals Association
John C Hamilton	Coutts Caledonian Marine Services Yacht and Small Craft Surveyors
Fiona Forsyth	The Majestic Line
Alan Rankin	Scottish Tourism Alliance/Marine Tourism Development Group
Rhona Fairgrieve	Scottish Coastal Forum
Andy McKenna	Chair, Thomas Telford Corpach Marina
Aris Wilson (on behalf of Alison Harris MSP)	
Ruth Briggs	Forth Estuary Forum

Colin Henderson	Edinburgh Boat Charters
Marc Crothall	Scottish Tourism Alliance
Robbie Wightman	Scottish Rowing Association
Charles Morton	Commodore, Royal Forth Yacht Club
Alvin Barber	
Tom Brock	Scottish Seabird Centre
David Vass	RYA Scotland/West Highland and Moorings Association
Brian Swinbanks	Tobermory Harbour Association
Karl Stevens	Hebridean Whale & Dolphin Trust

1. Welcome and Apologies

Stuart McMillan MSP, Convener of the 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.

Proposed: Gordon Daly

Seconded: James Allan

Action Points from Last Meeting

1. Dundee Marina Project

Contact details for Gordon Reid, Dundee City Council to be passed to Graham Russell. SMCM will write to Cabinet Secretary and Fergus Ewing re the project.

Circulate letter that was sent to Cabinet Secretary and Fergus Ewing re Dundee marina project.

2. Hebridean and Whale Dolphin Trust

The Hebridean and Whale Dolphin Trust will present at meeting on 26th June 2018.

3. Scottish Sea Angling Network to be invited to present at the next meeting on 28th November or alternatively to one of the meetings in 2018 -

Invitation has been sent out.

4. Green Blue

A discussion took place on the promotion of the Green Blue.

Action: It was agreed to re-issue out Green Blue information to CPG members and ask them to speak to their local boaters.

5. Marine Fund - SCM to write to Cabinet Secretary (Finance) Derek Mackay to ask him to consider establishment of Marine Fund to help towards 2020 and to have match funding. SMCM will report back on outcome when he gets response.

SMCM reported that the letter has been sent and explained that we should not expect a response until after the budget announcement has been made on the 14th December.

Reply has been received from Fergus Ewing, Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity and was circulated to CPG members on 8th January 2018.

Year of Coast and Water 2020 – SMCM will write to Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs and Derek Mackay, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution to discuss events to mark the Year of Coast and Water 2020.

Action: “Attracting sailing events to Scotland” and “2020” to be added a combined agenda item for next meeting. JA stated that there are ongoing discussions within the Marine Tourism Events Group. It was agreed to invite representative from Event Scotland to ask them to outline planned activities.

3. Minutes and Action Points from last Meeting

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

Proposed: Martin Latimer

Seconded: James Allan

Update on EU/Brexit, Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

The Cabinet Secretary provided an outline of the 2020 Year of Scotland Coast and Water and stated that this will provide a great opportunity and sought CPG member’s views and opinions about what we can do and advised that preparation will be required in 2019 to enable us to have everything in place for 2020.

Brexit – The Cabinet Secretary reported that a paper has been produced on Scottish population and migration. The Cabinet Secretary reiterated that there is a need for a Scotland wide approach and encouraged the CPG members to look at the paper.

Liam Kerr MSP asked about the article in the recent RYA Magazine that featured information on Brexit. JA stated that he was not aware of the article but stated that RYA UK are representing the interests of boaters and looking at border control and they have also campaigned on Red Diesel.

Action: It was agreed to circulate the RYA Magazine electronic version to the CPG members.

Cruise Summit - The Cabinet Secretary reported that she attended a Cruise summit where discussion took place on infrastructure. Infrastructure funding has been secured for some rural areas such as Skye and was evidence based. There has been core investment on the cruising side and are working with VisitScotland for 2020 and also looking at adventure tourism.

The Green Blue

Work is ongoing by the Green Blue together with the RYA and British Marine looking at disposing of litter and plastics and looking at protecting the marine environment and drive forward standards.

- The Cabinet Secretary also reported that she will be attending the Sail Scotland Conference.
- Work is also taking place with the Arctic Forum re sustainability.

ML stated that the Marine Tourism Strategy has infrastructure and are looking to create an employment base and expansion of facilities. ML further reported that he is in discussions with Highlands and Islands Enterprise to see if a role can be funded to take this forward. The Cabinet Secretary stated that there is development funding that may come in from different agencies or possibly in partnership with organisations.

The Cabinet Secretary gave an example of Adventure Biking and suggested that this may be a model that we can look to use to make a business case. SL stated that they are looking at long lead in times and looking at social/economic/regeneration factors.

The following points were then raised -

- SMCM asked about the Malin Waters Programme and whether it will be difficult to be part of this after Brexit. The Cabinet Secretary stated that they will look at Horizon 2020 (inter reg programmes) and see what would be able to be continued.
 - The Cabinet Secretary stated that in the EU context there is covering of law for environment transport. The Scottish Government have introduced a continuity bill and require to give consent to any changes. Daniel Steel stated that there is an inter reg application with partners from Ireland.
 - DS stated that we should not underestimate how far we have come on in the Marine Tourism Strategy. DS has met with destination groups and they have seen the real opportunity to galvanise more tourism opportunities. There is a lot of enthusiasm and we have a real scale of ambition in 2020. We require to ensure by this time next year that we are ready and then finalise the proposals to ensure that plans are in place for Spring 2019. We require to maximise the economic impact of marine tourism.
 - SMCM stated that the Commonwealth Flotilla was a fantastic event with hundreds of boats going up from Greenock to Glasgow in 2014 and this was supported by the Cross Party Group. SMCM suggested having a signature event with possible other smaller events round the country in 2020. The Cabinet Secretary has suggested having a discussion with Event Scotland. JA stated that we are engaging with Event Scotland to look at having small and large scale events however we would require to look at significant investment to fund these types of events.
 - The Cabinet Secretary stated that she would encourage us to be ambitious and try to get a few big signature events and suggested that a good draw is TV events and that we should share ideas to ensure that the Marine Tourism strategy is strengthened.
 - AC suggested about an event with boats from the Baltic/Nordic countries and possibly Ireland going through the Moray Firth and Caledonian Canal that would encircle the waters of Scotland and would also link in with the Shetland bus as we are the gateway to Europe.
 - DS stated that we have promoted Scotland in Northern European markets. There is people coming from Sweden to tie in with the Marine Tourism Conference and to obtain learning and vice versa.
 - FD suggested having historical centenary events.
- SMCM thanked everyone for their contributions to the discussion.
4. **Canal Bridge Closure** – SMCM reported that he has received an email from Alison Harris MSP raising concerns about the Canal Bridge closures at Bonnybridge and Tweechar. JA

explained that this is currently under discussion and has been brought to our attention by RYA members. There is a real desire from the users to bring this to the attention of the CPG about the challenges faced by Scottish Canals and have a constructive discussion between the users and Scottish Canals.

Angus MacDonald MSP asked what the cost of the repairs is. RM stated that they have nursed the bridges to keep them going and for Twechar/Bonnybridge and significant investment is required to bring them up to standard (£1.2 million). The bridges were closed as they posed a safety risk. Twechar is the preferred first priority to fix first and without significant investment they will not be able to operate 7 days a week.

Discussion followed and ML and RM reiterated that discussions are ongoing with government and that they wish to maintain dialogue with canal users. They further explained that they are unable to bring immediate solution but will engage with the group users. R Millar stated that the first priorities are to get temporary movement and get the canal moving again. Angus MacDonald MSP asked is there a timeline. RM stated that boats are out of location. There is exploratory surgery taking place and we are unable to provide a timescale. There is a considerable lead in time to upgrade and repair these bridges. The bridges need work and support. Angus MacDonald MSP stated that Falkirk Council had a programme of repairing bridges. RM stated that they are a legacy that are now with Scottish Canals and form part of the Millennium Link Project. RM stated that we potentially need to have a conversation with Falkirk Council.

SMCM stated that Alison Harris MSP has not received a response as yet from CEO at Scottish Canals. **Action: ML stated that Scottish Canals are very keen to communicate and will work with Scottish Government and stakeholders.**

5. Update on the Marine Tourism Strategy and Events

Report from Alan Rankin (addendum to minutes) (Apologies from AR).

The MTDG is going through a phase of review and had hope to meet in early February to discuss the future role of the group and the standing of the Awakening the Giant Strategy. The meeting could not take place due to call offs and one is planned for late March. In the meantime I have submitted a review document to Marc and Steven Dott at HIE that takes in the overall progress of the Strategy and the projects the members of the MTDG had agreed as priority actions. Here is in summary of what I would have reported to the MTDG tonight.

Marine Tourism Strategic Position

The aims, ambitions and increased awareness set out within the industry led Strategy are now embedded within government, enterprise, local authority, public and international development agency strategies and agendas.

- Since the 2015 launch there is a greatly increased understanding and awareness of the potential of Marine Tourism across private sector operators, destination groups and the wider tourism industry.
- The standing of Marine Tourism as a sector has contributed to and influenced the announcement of 2020 Themed Year being that of Coast and Water. The Themed Year will

bring national attention to Scotland's marine tourism assets, economies and opportunities the 14 sectors identified with the Awakening the Giant Strategy bring to the Scottish economy.

- The Strategy is on government agendas, central to area Growth Deal developments such as; Ayrshire Coast, Stirling and Tay Cities and sits central to regeneration projects in locations such as Ardrossan, Dundee and Stranraer.
- Marine Tourism is now an integral element of local area tourism development plans exemplifying: Forth Bridges, Dumfries and Galloway, Argyll and the Isles, Fort William (OCUK), Outer Hebrides and North Ayrshire - Making Waves plan. This is further evidenced by the West Coast Destination Partnership Project that will see 18 destination groups seek to identify growth opportunities from Marine Tourism.
- Behind the strategic success the reach into wider 14 sectors identified within the Strategy remains fragmented. There remains a difficulty in reaching smaller non-association/trade led sectors.

Action Plan Projects

In terms of the Priority Projects there will be MTDG discussions as to the key objectives that have been circulated around the members since December. Due to the lack of resource that has reduced industry capabilities to oversee the delivery of the Projects, the thinking at this time is to absorb the projects into national agencies such as SDS, VS and Event Scotland. Behind this Marc has had very positive conversations with senior personnel in each organisation and there is a very good fit:

- Marketing: continue with SailScotland and VS
- Skills – to be developed by SDS
- Infrastructure – profiled in VS Development Framework with local authorities
- Events – to be developed by EventScotland
- Monitoring – to be absorbed into the VS pilot destination and sector business barometer.
- Environment – cross group planning between industry, VS, WiSE, Green Blue and SNH

The above will be discussed by the MTDG in March.

- ML stated that as Alan Rankin has now left, consideration is being given to how a Development Manager role can be funded to deliver on the top 5 preferred locations.
- The rest of the Marine Tourism Strategy is successful and the Awakening the Giant is a well-used publication. We require to follow up with training and careers. DS stated that it was a good time to take stock and there is a meeting planned for all the partners of the Marine Tourism Development Group.
- Emma Harper MSP stated that they are looking to develop the south west and Loch Ryan so that we can engage in marine tourism. ML further stated that we are looking at joint working in delivery of projects and looking at small harbour groups linking to feeder groups and using events for this purpose. SL suggested looking at the Ayrshire Growth Deal as this may assist with thinking.

Action: GD to have discussion with Emma Harper MSP about the slipway at Solway Yacht Club.

- A question was posted about broadband connectivity. ML stated that there is more digital connectivity but that we also need to look at what is deliverable.

6. Careers and Industry Training – Simon Limb/Martin Latimer, British Marine Scotland

SL provided an overview of the Careers Industry training and showed a video.

A discussion then followed and the following points raised -

- The video is going to be launched at 2 careers fairs.
- It is also going to feature on British Marine web pages and Skills Development Scotland, My world of work, web pages and also put in job descriptions. RYAS have also agreed to share it through RYAS platforms and industry. It will also be signposted to companies. They have had support from Loch Lomond Cruises, Largs Yacht Haven and Scottish Canals.
- We require to look at Scotland recognised qualifications and create new modules and qualifications and gives a significant lead in time.
- Boat building Qualification has been created and we have worked with a number of companies and created a stakeholders group.
- They have received an invitation to join the board of Glasgow City College.
- Labour Market Study has helped form part of future discussions.
- There was a rolling series of meetings over 2016-2017 and mapped out modules.
- We secured fit for purpose for training providers.
- SQA acceptance, December 2016. SVQ formal acceptance in Spring 2018.
- Until we can move to a modern apprenticeship we will be unable to source funding so we are hoping to secure by summer 2018.
- We are targeting Autumn 2019/2020, 18-24 months length of course. Qualification for employees by 2021. This will be 5 year lead in time 2016-2021.
- Looking to run a Boatyard Operative course in 2023. All of the qualifications will take 5-6 years to bed in before they make significant progress.

SMCM gave his thanks to SL for the presentation.

There then followed an opportunity for questions –

- SMCM asked in terms of the sector how many vacancies there were. SL stated that unfortunately they were unable to provide this information. SL stated that we can circulate this information from the market labour survey. ML stated that it is a rolling scenario. SL stated that there are 45% over 30 and 88% over 50 so we need to feed more people in.
- SMCM stated that the video is very succinct. SL stated that we can pull a central database. ML stated that there is a transience of people who go into these lifestyles and move on. DS stated that if there is a gap the Business Survey they can put in sector specific questions.
- GR suggested showing the video at Clyde Marine Planning Partnership and stated that fishermen have similar issues.

ML stated that British Marine Scotland have looked at ship building and marine engineering and we have agreed that we will work with them.

Action: Video link to be circulated to CPG members and asked that we spread the word via social media channels.

7. GDPR – Processing of CPG Information

JA reported that there is new legislation coming in relating to GDPR and consents. JA asked whether we would require to have a formal contract between Scottish Parliament and RYA Scotland. **Action: SMCM and JA agreed to have discussion to look at how this be taken forward.**

8. Introduction of the Scottish Crown Estate Bill

JA reported that the deadline for the consultation is 23rd March. Angus MacDonald MSP stated that he sits on the Environmental and Land Change Committee and explained that evidence will be presented on 13 and 20 March. The Stage 1 Report will be published at end of May. AM and SMCM encouraged members to make responses.

9. Sail Scotland Update

Marine Tourism Conference

DS stated that he will provide a fuller briefing at a later date and reported that the Scottish Tourism conference is taking place on 13th March, this is a third Marine Tourism Conference to take place and will be held in the Moorings Hotel in Fort William. There is a packed programme and Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs will be joining us together with Shirley Robertson OBE as keynote speaker.

Highlands and Islands University have a Marine Coastal degree course where students are happy to assist at the conference and also provide an opportunity to network with industry. The conference has almost reached his maximum capacity of 100 delegates and this demonstrates how much marine tourism has grown through the various sectors.

Action: Information regarding the Marine Tourism Conference to be sent to out to CPG members.

10. AOCB

The following actions were agreed -

Action: Send an email to Cabinet Secretary to thank her for attending the meeting this evening.

Action: Send an email to Alan Rankin, Project Manager, Marine Tourism Strategy Development Group for his work and wish every success going forward.

Fort William and Shoreline Company Limited - Sarah Kennedy

SK stated that it had been agreed that a letter of support be submitted for the Fort William and Shoreline Company Limited. SMCM agreed that he would draft this and is to cover the following points -

* Support the initial expansion of the Fort William pontoons

* Support in principle of the long term plans for a permanent cruise ship berth

* Support in principle for a marina along the waterfront in Fort William

* Recognise the significant impact that providing this extension will bring to Fort William in economic benefits to the area

11. Future Business

SMCM stated that we will require to restrict agenda items at future meetings so that we can ensure full discussion.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 26th June 2018 at 6pm.

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

There was a vote of thanks to the Chair.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS/DECISIONS

	Actions	Resp.	Date Raised	Completed
1.	<u>Dundee Marina</u> Circulate letter that was sent to Cabinet Secretary and Fergus Ewing re Dundee marina project.	SMCM/PM		Circulated 11/1/18
2.	<u>Green Blue</u> A discussion took place on the promotion of the Green Blue. Action: It was agreed to re-issue out Green Blue information to CPG members and ask them to speak to their local boaters.	ML	27/2/18	Achieved
3.	Electronic version of RYA Magazine showing Brexit Article to be circulated	JA	27/2/18	Circulated 23/3/18

4.	<u>2020 Year of Coast and Water</u> Look into events for 2020 Year of Coast and Water. To be discussion topic together with discussion about attracting sailing events to Scotland.	ALL	27/2/18	Ongoing
5.	<u>Funding Opportunities – 2020 Year of Coast and Water</u> Write to Fiona Hyslop (Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs), Cabinet Secretary and Derek Mackay (Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution) re funding opportunities for 2020 Year of Coast and Water	SMCM	27/2/18	Pending
6.	<u>Canal Bridge Closures at Tweechar and Bonnybridge</u> SMCM to update Alison Harris MSP on current position and also ML to speak to Scottish Canals re response from CEO, Scottish Canals	SMCM/ML	27/2/18	Achieved and item added to agenda for 26 th June
7.	<u>Marine Tourism Conference</u> Information regarding the Marine Tourism Conference to be sent out to CPG members.	DS/PM	27/2/18	Circulated on 1/3/18
8.	<u>Careers Industry Training</u> - video to be circulated by CPG members and share via social media channels. <u>Careers Video</u> to be shown at Clyde Marine Planning Partnership	SL GR		22/3/18 Pending
9.	<u>Labour Market Survey</u> Information from Labour market survey to be provided to SMCM.	ML/SL	27/2/18	Check with Martin

10.	<u>GDPR</u> Discussion to take place on procedure for processing of information for CPG members.	SMCM/James Allan	27/2/18	CPG members contacted in line with GDPR and new database created based on responses.
11.	<u>Scottish Sea Angling Network</u> Scottish Sea Angling Network to be invited to present at the next meeting on 28 th November or alternatively to one of the meetings in 2018.	Secretariat	26/9/17	Invite sent, await response
12.	<u>2020 Year of Coast and Water</u> to be added as discussion topic to a future agenda and combine with "Attracting sailing events to Scotland"	Secretariat	28/11/17	Added to 25 September agenda
13.	<u>The Green Blue</u> Further discussion required on Green Blue requirements in Scotland and potential literature to be produced with assistance from Graham Russell.	ALL	28/11/17	Circulate and promote current literature and ask CPG members to promote through social media channels.
14.	<u>Thank you Letters</u> Thank you to Fiona Hyslop and Alan Rankin	SMCM	27/2/18	Issued 28/2/18

15.	<u>Fort William and Shoreline Company Limited - Sarah Kennedy</u> SK stated that it had been agreed that a letter of support be submitted.	SMCM	27/2/18	Pending
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