

Scottish Forum on Marine Natural Capital – Meeting minutes

Monday 19th June 2023, 10:00 – 12:30

Agenda:

	Item	Lead	Time
1.	Updates from Forum members	All	10:00-10:45
2.	Presentation – CivTech challenge 8.4 (+ questions)	Ross Stewart	10:45-11:15
3.	Discussion on Priority Actions previously identified	JJ	11:15-12:00

Attendees:

Adele Shaw (Chair) (AS, CES), Amy McQueen (AM Marine Directorate of SG), Cathy Tilbrook (CT, NatureScot), Emma Hedley (EH Marine Directorate of SG), Hannah Rudman (HR, SRUC), Janet Khan (JK, SEPA), Jennifer McNulty (JM JNCC), Jessica Jones (JJ, SWT), Julia Clough (JC, SWT), Lucian Fernandez Slade (LFS NatureScot), Marion Harrald (MH SEPA), Vicky Morgan (VM JNCC)

Apologies: Calum Duncan, Sarah Brown, Chris Perkins, Chris Leakey, Ed noble (who said he'd moved post), Nicole Melville, Sinead Sheridan.

Summary of actions from the meeting:

Action	Lead
Organising blue carbon webinar and identifying speakers	JJ
Potential presentation on mNCEA for next meeting	JM
Reach out to Marine Nature Enhancement Team at MS for a presentation.	CT
Contact designer and agree funding of logo design.	JJ/SS/JC
Send poll for next meeting date.	LFS

1. Updates from forum members

Adele Shaw:

- Two main business plan actions to work on over the next financial year, one more focused on marine natural capital, the other on blue carbon. Within this there is a piece of work around community aspirations for the marine environment which will be published soon. Strong focus on marine enhancement moving forward and how CES can support and enable work in this area. Increasing interest from private investors, looking into internal processes, particularly leasing agreements, and how these could be adapted to facilitate enhancement projects.

Amy McQueen (MD):

- Economist Ed Noble has moved on to a different government department, Will Ellison will take over this position. The project Ed was leading aiming to value Scotland's marine environment is finished and report will be published shortly. Expected that the values from

this work can be put into action quickly, such as in impacts assessments and other policies related to the marine environment.

Cathy Tillbrook (NS):

- Recently submitted a FIRNS bid looking for future option for SMEEF. Bid looks to potential to link funds or even merge SMEEF with a proposed fund from Fisheries Management Scotland looking at rivers and catchments. The fund could help facilitate and finance more source-to-sea type enhancement projects, as well as funding projects aiming to develop green finance mechanisms. This proposed fund can help scale up restoration and enhancement options for the marine environment.

Emma Hedley (MD):

- Early stages of considering how to incorporate natural capital approaches within national marine plans. Aiming to prepare assessment methodologies for the autumn.

Hannah Rudman (SRUC):

- SRUC currently pulling together an EOI application to the ESLC economic and social research council for their resilient coastal communities call. Proposal lead by SRUC, but includes a number of communities across Scotland as well as the UHI. SRUC currently working with SG on approaches for measuring biodiversity, although mainly terrestrial focused, further discussions on how work can cover the marine environment are expected. Also has been working on how to govern ecosystem service markets to ensure high integrity and community benefit. Relevant paper, currently going through peer review: <https://eartharxiv.org/repository/view/5247/>

Marion Harrald (SEPA):

- Contract offered for a project looking into effects of marine habitats regarding flood risk. Attended the national marine plan stakeholder group and reported positive feedback of cabinet secretary for net zero mentioning natural capital.

Jennifer McNulty (JNCC):

- Year 2 of the mNCEA programme has kicked off. Very successful survey work in collaboration with cefas on the Dogger bank as part of JNCC's offshore benthic habitats project.
- Ongoing work in the marine bird project. Expanding the English version of the seabirds at sea project which is happening in Scotland, looking at current sampling strategy and monitoring review for the great northern diver and six other BOCC red listed bird and will be doing a five week survey for Balearic shearwaters.
- Continuing work on the universal asset service matrix, which is now hosted on the marlin website, and advancing the broader project of understanding implications of achieving good environmental status on the economy, society and nature.

Jessica Jones (SWT):

- Potential FIRNS bids in the works related to community inclusion certifications and developing a marine natural capital code.
- Wider wildlife trust work carrying out a blue carbon mapping project, full UK synthesis of the project to be available end of August.

- Submitted an invest in Arup application to produce a report on behalf of the MNCFS looking at reviewing what lessons can be learnt from the terrestrial side of natural capital and how they can be applied to the marine environment.

Julia Clough:

- Supporting a FIRNS bid lead by Deciding Matters, previously the Democratic Society, which is looking into a community benefits certification and how this can feed into the BSI investment market standard. Kaly group has been put forward as a pilot project.
- Looking to possibly start a new working group for the natural capital forum titled 'digital enablers'. It is a cross cutting theme of digital mapping and digital culture change working across marine and land management, as well as finance.

Janet Khan (SEPA):

- Mentioned discussions at the Sea Scotland conference around source-to-sea and the usefulness of policy mapping. NatureScot's (Celeste Kellox) report on this is expected to be published shortly. Suggested using policy maps as a useful approach for identifying policy drivers which can guide the development of natural capital approaches.
- JK also updated on Involvement in recent discussions around private funding and restoration. In particular, advising on a potential project linking natural flood management and coastal defence with restoration of coastal habitats.

Lucian Fernandez Slade (NatureScot):

- Initial discussions on developing an analytical framework for HPMA designation in collaboration with the MD. Is currently writing up a policy brief aiming to clarify confusions around natural capital and sustainable finance. This should be published in the coming months.

Sam Collins (Howell Marine Consulting):

- Completed the development of a five capitals approach to marine planning for the MMO which should be published soon. The work highlighted that a five capitals approach can be applied to marine planning decisions, however it is a highly complex process and there are many remaining questions around methodologies of combining social and financial capital values. The report includes a network maps of assets as well as a conceptual framework for building five capitals into decision making.

Vicky Morgan (JNCC):

- Report published for the November workshop. JNCC have a new strategy which has a strong focus on sustainable blue, green economies and embedding the value of nature within decision making. This new strategy has now been completed and published.

2. Presentation – CivTech challenge 8.4 (+ questions):

- Recording of the presentation and the following discussion will be uploaded for any members of the forum that were unable to attend.

3. Discussion on Priority Actions previously identified:

- CT discussed the usefulness of the potential lessons learnt from land project. As a Forum, the project has been highlighted as a useful next step in progressing marine natural capital in Scotland. The role of the Forum on the project will be guiding the development of the report. CT highlighted one of the key gaps currently is figuring out how nature markets will work in the marine environment. Although the approaches for marine will be very different to terrestrial, it would be useful to be able to take overarching frameworks for investment in nature from land and use a similar framework for developing investment in marine natural capital. Once Arup have confirmed if they are happy to take on the project. JJ will consult the forum for any input as to specific outcome that we may want to get out of the project.
- CT updated on contacting Michael Mcleod from the Marine Directorate to give an update on the new Marine Enhancement Unit at the next MNCFS meeting. JJ other presentations in the pipeline: UK Blue Carbon Project. When discussing content for next quarterly meetings, it was clear that given the amount of relevant content, it would be worth having a focus session dedicated to blue carbon. JJ agreed and will look to organise a session focused on this topic.
- Update on final name and logo will be given at next meeting after JJ has worked with a designer.
- LFS invited forum members to be more active on basecamp and to post any interesting article, update or news that may be relevant to the forum.