

NE SCOTLAND FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP: 11 NOVEMBER 2022

BULLETIN: MARINE PLANNING UPDATE

1 Reason for report

1.1 To inform NESFDP members

2 Recommendation

2.1 **It is recommended that members note this bulletin**

3 Discussion

3.1 On 12 October 2022, East Grampian Coastal Partnership (EGCP) hosted a Regional Marine Planning (RMP) workshop in Aberdeen. The aim of the event was to advise delegates on progress in delivering RMP in Scotland and to assess demand and preparedness for RMP in the local area. The event also provided an update on the EMFF- funded SEACOR 'state of the coast' report – such a project is an essential precursor to RMP. EGCP is part-funded by Marine Scotland and is an official partner of Aberdeenshire Council. The presentations are available at <https://www.egcp.scot/marine-spatial-planning>

3.2 The workshop's first speaker was Marine Scotland's Marine Planning and Strategy Manager. She advised that Regional Marine Plans are a statutory component within the 2015 National Marine Plan (NMP) and that a phased approach has been adopted, under which detailed plans for Shetland, Orkney and the Clyde – three of the eleven marine regions in Scotland – have now been established. No statutory RMPs are in place yet, though the Shetland RMP is scheduled for adoption by Scottish Ministers in 2022/23. The NMP 'provides the overarching policy framework' on the use of marine space and resources. It was reviewed in 2018 and 2021 and was found still to be effective, despite significant change (eg Brexit, offshore wind) since 2015. The remaining marine regions are Argyll, Forth & Tay, Moray Firth, North Coast, North East (East Grampian), Outer Hebrides, Solway and West Highlands. Five Local Coastal Partnerships are being supported by Scottish Government to make the transition to become Marine Planning Partnerships.

3.3 At national level, and in response to increasing concerns posed by climate change and biodiversity crises, the Marine Planning and Strategy Manager advised that the Programme for Government 2022-23 had announced the development of a new NMP for Scotland. NMP2 will:

- Deliver a new policy framework for licensing and consenting decisions
- Account for increasing competition for marine space and aim to balance existing and emerging uses, and
- Provide a key mechanism for delivering the outcomes of Scotland's Blue Economy Vision 2022

Other related developments scheduled for 2022/23 include consultations on fisheries management measures, formative steps on the introduction of Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs), the development of a Vision for Sustainable Aquaculture and a Sectoral Marine Plan for offshore Wind.

- 3.4 Subsequent presentations at the workshop described current workstreams for EGCP (Key Issues report, RMP preparations and lessons from the Balearics), the SEACOR project (including feedback on work undertaken to date along the East and North East coast of Scotland) and a detailed analysis of how RMP is being developed in the Clyde. A working lunch featured the MSP Challenge ‘game’ (developed as an EU Interreg project) which, through role-playing, brings the complex interactions and decisions arising from development of the marine environment sharply into focus.
- 3.5 On 27 October, Scottish Government officially announced the commencement of the development of the new NMP, in conjunction with the publication of the associated engagement strategy. NMP2 will have a profound bearing on the development of Scotland’s marine assets in years to come and all NESFDP members are encouraged to participate - in the engagement survey in the first instance. At just seven questions, the survey is short. Details at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-national-marine-plan-2/>

4 Scheme of Governance

NE Scotland Fisheries Development Partnership is able to consider this item in terms of its remit to provide a NE Scotland focus to enable issues and concerns across the fisheries and related sectors to be addressed. This includes strengthening economic development links between fisheries science, catching and processing sectors and the wider seafood industry, contributing to regional and local priorities for the fisheries sector, improving links between marine environment and biodiversity and contributing to policy development and consultations.

5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial		X	
Staffing		X	
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland		X	
Children and Young People’s Rights and Wellbeing		X	
Climate Change and Sustainability		X	
Health and Wellbeing		X	
Town Centre First		X	

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