

## Action Notes from the 4th meeting of the

### “Alderney Marine Forum”

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017, 13.00, Alderney Harbour Office**

#### Attendees:

Dave McAllister, Chair (DM)  
Mark Harding, Alderney Angling (MH)  
Graham Gillingham, The Alderney Fishermen’s Association  
Nigel Shaw, Alderney Harbour  
Nigel Clarke, Alderney Sailing Club  
Mel Broadhurst, Alderney Wildlife Trust  
Mike Harrison, Alderney Heritage Trust (MiH)  
Helene Turner, Visit Alderney  
Steve Fletcher, World Conservation Monitoring Centre (SF)  
Rachel Scrimgeour, World Conservation Monitoring Centre  
Catherine Veron, States of Alderney (CV),

Apologies: David Gillingham, The Alderney Fishermen’s Association, Declan Gaudion, Alderney Renewable Energy (DG), Chris Morris, Sea Fisheries, Bruno Kay-Mouat, Alderney Shipping, Tony Haywood, Chamber of Commerce, Victor Brownlees, States Of Alderney.

#### 1. Welcome

The Chairman Dave McAllister (DM) welcomed representatives to the meeting and thanked them for their time.

#### 2. Action Notes of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016 – were approved with no changes.

#### 3. Matters Arising

Terms of Reference – the finalised version was now on the website. MH pointed out that the Alderney Fishermans Association was not listed on the website, to which SF apologised and explained was an administration error which would be immediately resolved. RS repeated her request for any members to let her know about changes that they would like to the website whenever they came across them.

#### 4. Proposed Community Engagement Strategy – SF reminded members of the agreed community strategy plan which RS and he would be actioning over the remainder of the week whilst in Alderney. This included 1:1 interviews with key members of the community and the forum members, household survey and street surveys. Forum members discussed the household survey, which had gone out a week earlier than planned and agreed that an additional media release would be suitable reminding the public that it was their last chance to have their say. It was agreed that this should have slightly revised design and visuals to reflect the importance of the work and should mention the involvement of WCMC. **Action – SF/RS/CV**

MH asked for a description of WCMC which SF provided referencing some of the projects that the organisation was involved with including identifying marine management areas for the government of Indonesia.

## **5. Public Information**

### **Website**

RS explained to members that the AMF email account was now live and if any members wanted to see the correspondence, she would be happy to provide them with a copy. She advised that moving forward into the longer term, someone in Alderney would need to manage the website once the WCMC involvement ceased. This might be something that Visit Alderney could consider – **Action HT**.

SF re-emphasised the importance of the website particularly where the AMF must provide transparency and an opportunity for the public to get in touch. It would also be the site that hosted the management plan once completed and minutes of AMF meetings. There was an opportunity to provide links to other organisation websites.

### **Media Coverage**

Interviews with Quay FM and BBC TV had been provided and the press release had been featured in Island FM and subsequently the Alderney Press.

MB agreed to repeat latest media messages from AMF on social media. **Action - MB**

SF reported that Graham McKinley had asked for an update to be provided to States of Alderney politicians. CV explained that they had been provided with an advanced copy of the latest press release. **Action - CV**

## **6. Extension of 12 mile limit**

### **Meeting with French Fisherman – Schole Bank**

CV provided an update on the latest discussions with the French Fishermens Association (Comite Regional des Peches Maritimes et des Elevages Marins de Basse Normandie - CRPMEM) regarding access to the Schole and Haricot bank following a meeting the previous week in Dilette with Guernsey and Sark representatives. She explained that the agreement which allowed access for 30 French fishing vessels had expired a while back (1992) and the CRPMEM was pushing hard with the French Government to reopen talks regarding access to these locations. However this was the first time that all three islands of the Bailiwick (Guernsey, Alderney and Sark) had been involved in the discussions with CRPMEM since the 1990s, and it was pointed out that each island would have a different share, different set of interests and aspirations for the area. The meeting confirmed that the Bailiwick was still interested in extending the Bailiwick territorial seas to 12 nm and the priority for this work had increased due to Brexit and the dispute with the UK in relation to the Fisheries Management Agreement.

It was pointed out by CRPMEM that the survey work being carried out by Guernsey Electricity would potentially cause disruption in French waters and hence gaining access to the Schole Bank and Haricot was important to French fisherman.

## Living Seas

MB explained that there was an opportunity to link up with the UK Wildlife Trusts on the work they are undertaking to review the impact of Brexit on the marine environment and the legal aspects of extending the territorial seas. She had recently exchanged information with Joan Edwards, Head of Living Seas and Director for all the UK Wildlife Trusts on Brexit, who was very impressed with the work of the Alderney Marine Forum and had suggested that it might be valuable for Tom Appleby and herself to visit the island at some point this year and meet the forum members to share ideas. MH said that if the visit improved the forums knowledge ahead of extending the 12 miles then he was supportive. However, NC queried what value there was at this stage. The members agreed to keep channels open and to review the opportunity in six months time.

## 7. Harbour Operational issues

GG explained that he had sought the views of all the fishermen who used the harbour in Alderney and based on their concerns had provided a list of suggested improvements, subject to budget availability and other users of the facility:

- ***Installation of electronic hydraulic winch*** – either in commercial quay (preference) or harbour which would mean that fishermen's catches brought in at low water would not have to wait till then was sufficient water to bring ashore.
- ***Regular schedule for cleaning of the slipway*** – a number of users had slipped on this recently
- ***Use of forum for platform to lobby the States of Guernsey to maintain the breakwater.***
- ***Provision of lighting on the ladders on the commercial quay*** – good visibility at the top but can be very dark as you go down the ladder. There was some discussion regarding the practicalities of this and suggestion made of using timers.
- ***Reinstatement of number two berth*** – east side of quay with tyre fenders as the current ones were difficult to traverse. It was noted during discussions that other users (commercial vessels) would also have to be taken into consideration.
- ***Provide infill at northern end of quay (by Mainbrace) to ease congestion***
- ***Drying pad in inner harbour*** – further discussion on this suggested that there may be a number of volunteers willing to help in order to keep the costs to a minimum. And it was noted that Geomarine had offered assistance with this in the past.

## 8. Marsh Risk Report

CV reminded members that the strategic environmental review carried out by Marsh on behalf of the States of Guernsey in order to assess the potential liabilities that they might face if the territorial waters were extended to 12 miles found that "Scientific studies of the potential contamination at the site (The Hurd Deep) suggest that there is limited cause for concern; this opinion is mirrored by the UK's House of Commons and the National Radiological Protection Board" (Strategic Environmental Review, States of Guernsey, Marsh, 18/3/08). A copy of the summary page of the report was circulated to members and only MiH took away a full copy of the report and signed the disclaimer that he would not divulge the contents of the report into the public domain.

## 9. Alderney Marine Horizon Scan Proposal

SF explained to members that at the end of 2016 he had been approached by VB and Robert McDowal to provide a quote to the States of Alderney to undertake a review of the wider

impacts on the marine environment following Brexit, FAB link, changes to fishing quotas and the extension of the 12 mile limit. This work would be undertaken in tandem to the AMF initiative but would very likely support and strengthen the AMF project. However, VB had asked that AMF support this initiative before it is taken to States of Alderney for agreement. Members discussed this at length with MiH pointing out that he was reticent to waste resources at this early stage for all these possible scenarios. NC added that in his view only the 12 mile territorial waters extension would benefit from this analysis. MH countered that he thought the group should be aware of these issues but it was felt by the majority that they should ensure that the AMF plan was flexible enough to cope with any of these changes. It was however agreed that this would be reviewed again in six months time.

In response to questions from forum members, SF reiterated that the marine management plan may be the spatial areas that the community wishes for X, Y, Z activity to occur in but suggested that the forum await the results of the community feedback before discussing the plan in detail. It would however be limited to 3 nm, with a section given to how the community would like to manage the 3 - 12 mile nm once extended.

#### **Way Forward**

SF explained that once the feedback is collated (deadline 20<sup>th</sup> March), then WCMC would produce a film from the interviews and screen at the May meeting or send to forum members by email.

#### **10. AOB**

There was no AOB

#### **11. Date of Next Meeting: 11<sup>th</sup> May 13.00 – 15.00 at the Harbour Office. MH would confirm his attendance in due course**