

Minutes –Meeting of the Cross Party Group on Recreational Boating and Marine Tourism, 29th November 2016

Name	Organisation
Stuart McMillan MSP	
Pauline McGrow	RYA Scotland
James Allan	RYA Scotland
John C Hamilton	Yacht Designers and Surveyors Association
Jamie Greene MSP	
Alan Rankin	Scottish Tourism Alliance
Chris Cutts	Forth Estuary Forum
Kirsten Henderson	Tarbert Harbour Authority
Gordon Daly	RYA Scotland
Liam Kerr MSP	
Fiona Hyslop MSP	Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
Stuart Smith	Scottish Canoe Association
David Vass	RYA Scotland/West Highlands and Islands Mooring Association
Mike McGregor	Port Edgar Berth Holders Association
Fiona Forsyth	The Majestic Line
Ken Grant	The Majestic Line
Graham Russell	RYA Scotland
John Beattie	Waterski and Wakeboard Scotland
Rhona Fairgrieve	Scottish Coastal Forum
Alison Downs	Market Development Manager for Cruise Scotland

Richard Walsh	Tourism and Major Events Division Directorate for Culture, Tourism and Major Events
Alison Harris MSP	
Robbie Wightman	Scottish Coastal Rowing Association
Andrew Rendle	Scottish Coastal Rowing Association
Marc Crothall	Scottish Tourism Alliance
Lesley Benfield	Lochaber Chamber of Commerce
Emelie Devenport	Scottish Environment Link
Esther Brooker	Scottish Environment Link
James McLachlan	Forth and Clyde Canal Society
David Adams McGilp	VisitScotland
Alvin Barber	Cramond Boat Club
Adrian Shield	Royal Forth Yacht Club
Alison Lomax	Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust
Aileen Monk	British Marine Scotland
Matthew Leitch	Assistant to Stuart McMillan MSP
Tom Brock	Scottish Seabird Centre
Maggie Maguire	Calmac Ferries Ltd
Richard Millar	Scottish Canals
Paul Bancks	The Crown Estate
Simon Limb	British Marine Scotland
David Pougher	British Marine

APOLOGIES

Name	Organisation
Andy Carnduff	Forth Yacht Clubs Association
Robert Kitchin	Portavadie Marina
Chris O'Brien	Lochaber Chamber of Commerce
Martin Latimer	British Marine Scotland
Wendi Cuffe	Dumfries and Galloway Council
Maureen McMillan	Moray Firth Partnership
Fergus Duncanson	RYA Scotland
Ruth Briggs	Forth Estuary Forum
Donald McLaren	Clyde Yacht Clubs Association
Richard Alexander	Cruise Scotland
Euan Black	University of Highlands and Islands
Daniel Steel	Sail Scotland
Jackie Baillie MSP	
Lewis McDonald MSP	
Andy McKenna	Chair, Thomas Telford Corpach Marina

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.

1. Minutes and Action Points from last Meeting

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

- Item 5. John Finnie instead of Swinney and L McArthur instead of E McArthur.
- 6. Serco instead of Cerco.

Proposed: Simon Limb Seconded: Liam Kerr MSP

2. David Pougher, President of British Marine

DP gave his thanks to SMCM for inviting him to speak on the work of the British Marine. DP provided details on his background and stated that he has over 40 years' experience in the marine tourism industry. The British Marine team are delivering from a UK base with a world leading boat show that covers all legal/training and regional aspects. He further stated that British Marine are seeking continued support and they intend to visit their associations and members over the next 8 months.

DP reported that British Marine are working in the following areas –

- Engagement with government
- Have met with their counterparts in House of Commons, MPs and House of Commons to clarify the value of the marine industry. The industry is worth £2.96 billion pounds with equipment is worth £264 million. Exports are worth £900 million.
- British Marine work with 31,000 people and 4500 businesses.
- On Wed 30th November there will be a meeting with the Department of Trade and Industry and British Marine Scotland will share information on this. There are 2 income streams, the boat shows at London and Southampton. The Southampton Boat Show has seen a rise in visitor numbers. £235,000 has been re-invested into British Marine membership. The London Boat Show is looking positive and has a myriad of activities. British Marine are looking for support to help generate interest and encourage people to promote and support the shows and have a one company approach. British Marine have clear commercial scrutiny and there is a clear strategy to take this forward and we need to look at participation as there is a skills gap. British Marine are working with companies to attract apprentices to our industry. DP stated

that there is lots to do and he gave his thanks to their fellow stakeholders for their support.

There then followed an opportunity for questions.

SL stated that there are major international events and Scottish companies that exhibit their services to an international audience and we market as a whole.

RF asked whether the environmental service was still going and are British Marine involved with the Green Blue and is there a combined strategy? DP stated that they are happy with what they have achieved and there is a cohesive partnership with RYA/Green Blue.

DP stated that in July 2016 there was a Chairman's briefing and a Council meeting is due to be held in February 2017 to inform them of developments and reiterated that we are focussed on doing things for membership.

SL stated that the Green Blue, British Marine and RYA run their own initiative and it is funded by British Marine/RYA and the Crown Estate and also supports recreational boaters. SL suggested doing a presentation at a future meeting.

Liam Kerr MSP stated that he has attended boat shows in the past and asked if there was a Scottish Boat Show. SL stated that there is Scotland's Boat Show that is held at Kip in October of each year, he stated that it has proved challenging to attract more shows in Scotland.

SMCM explained that he sits on the European Committee. SMCM asked if British Marine are feeding into official committees and encouraged them to feed into the Scottish Parliament Committees too.

SMCM thanked David Ponger for his attendance and his presentation to the meeting and stated that there is an open invitation to him to attend future Cross Party Group meetings.

3. Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

Fiona Hyslop introduced herself to the CPG members as Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs. She further explained that she is the first cabinet secretary for tourism and emphasised that this is a key economic sector and we require to mobilise resources across the government. She is very interested in the apprenticeships and skills area. In the case of coastal rowing activity this sector has grown. There are a range of members in CPG and this reflects the potential of the sector. There is blue traffic of all sizes and each visitor contributes and we require to develop authentic experiences. The Cabinet Secretary reported that she has attended a debate in the Parliament today on the implications of the EU Referendum and are looking at the reaction from the various sectors. There are 20,000 culture sites.

The Cabinet Secretary reiterated that boat shows are important and we should look at attracting good events to Scotland. All are distinct day trips and have potential for coastal activities. Visit Scotland visitor surveys indicate what drives people to various areas. The Marine Tourism Strategy recognises our near visitors help support and build these connections. FH reported that 29th November is European Tourism Day that demonstrates entrance tourism and culture, jobs and growth.

Cruise Summit

SMCM reported that he attended Cruise Summit on 16th November and reported that there has been 455,000 cruise passengers since 2010 and there is sustained growth. We require to promote communities that can benefit from cruise visits and it is important that we work in partnership. There has been lobbying on restrictions of freedom of movement and we continue to address this with UK government.

An example was given on pontoons in Fort William and that there has been advance bookings from Fred Olsen Yacht bookings. This demonstrates that building of infrastructure can help develop and deliver stepping stones for continued growth.

In Orkney in 2016 there was 126 cruise visits. Destinations can be locally lead e.g. "Spirit of Scotland" and Year of Innovation 2016.

Other events taking place in future years are -

- 2018 – Year of Young People – grow the demographic.
- 2020 – Scotland is a "tourism destination of choice", this will help us to achieve our aim of Marine Tourism Strategy.

There then followed an opportunity for questions –

Liam Kerr MSP stated that he endorsed what the Cabinet Secretary said. He further stated that there has been a report in the Press and Journal with regards to Moray Council increasing their charges on pontoons and harbour moorings. It could have a significant impact and we require to look at how we deal with this. FH stated that we require to identify economic raising but also identify the economic cost too. FH gave an example of heritage site change for museums rather than free cost and have reduced their café revenue.

FH gave an example of the regeneration taking place in Dundee and we require to look at how we use capital investment and have vision and look at how we best promote and share the success stories and learning.

SMCM gave an example of other European cities that incorporate their waterways. FH asked how do we re-discover our maritime heritage. SMCM gave an example of someone who was introduced to taster sessions in his constituency who has gone onto carry on in the sport.

The Cabinet Secretary provided an example of a boating building project from Children Scotland at Castlebrae as a good example of cross communication and also provided an opportunity for children to be introduced to the sea.

M Crothall reminded the CPG of the meeting that they had held with Fergus Ewing MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity to look at future years beyond 2018 - "it's all about the water" and we need to look at this theme. The Cabinet Secretary stated that she was very interested in this theme. FH stated that support from CPG would be helpful.

Alvin Barber stated that he has been involved with Edinburgh's water front and enjoyed leisure sailing and commented that it has failed to capitalise with the interface with the sea and will require further assistance from the government.

Port Edgar Berth Holders Association – Mike McGregor from Port Edgar Berth Holders Association provided an overview on the developments at Port Edgar Marina and stated that Port Edgar was privatised and there is a redeveloped programme for future development. There has been a complete renovation programme. Edinburgh already has its moorings in place. The Cabinet Secretary stated that she is keen to visit Port Edgar and there will be a great focus on the Forth with the opening of the new Forth crossing.

SMCM gave his thanks to Cabinet Secretary for her attendance and contributions to the meeting.

SMCM stated that there is a willingness to look at opportunities that tie in with the Marine Tourism Strategy.

Marine Tourism Strategy – Alan Rankin

AR reported that the marine tourism industry is worth £360 million to the Scottish economy, this is 1.5 times the value of the Scottish Golf market and sailing is the single largest sector. The Marine Tourism Strategy was launched in March 2015 and is now in the delivery stage. AR further stated that we offer authentic experiences for the customer journey. There are 44 action points and 10 key projects being checked by members of the Marine Tourism Strategy Development Group. Event Scotland are leading this strand of the Marine Tourism Event Strategy.

SMCM asked if there is anything within the Marine Tourism Strategy that would be a quick win? AR stated that there will be a coding and ranking system to help identify priority opportunities and highlighted the Tay Cities Project. SMCM stated that at the Marine Tourism Symposium we were challenged with taking this forward by Fergus Ewing MSP. AR thanked the members of the Marine Tourism Development Group who gave up huge amounts of time and did a huge amount of work on the strategy. AR advised that there was news just around the corner regarding Visit Scotland and SailScotland marketing that would provide an anchor for marketing.

There then followed an opportunity for questions –

RF stated that Marine Scotland will be reviewing the National Marine Plan in 2017 and asked AK whether he was aware of the consultation so that you can feed into

data? AK stated that there is an engagement group. Findings have been fed into considerations and we anticipate that there will be significant engagement.

GR reported that Stirling Council are going to put pontoons on the riverside of the River Forth. This will provide a great opportunity for movement of boats up and down the River Forth.

SMCM stated that Fergus Ewing MSP has stated that he is very open to progress and further development within the sector.

AR further outlined the following areas within the Marine Tourism Strategy -

- Marine Tourism skills
- Development skills
- Leadership skills
- Careers
- Welcome ashore day courses.
- Business Barometer – scoping stage, looking at design of capital key industry trend and supply key intelligence to business.
- The Group has agreed 14 different sectors. The Scottish Tourism Alliance have Marine Tourism proposition. Other initiatives include Marine Tourism 2020 and will speaking at the AGM of Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority.
- Tay Cities opportunity – meeting is arranged with the Tourism Manager.

In 2017 Infrastructure will be considered and an action plan with engagement together with a rational plan with infrastructure for promoting Scotland will be put in place.

4. Marine Wildlife Watching, Link Marine Group, Alison Lomax

A Lomax outlined the work of the Hebridean Trust that are based in Mull and cover Hebrides and have been working as an operator for over 30 years.
(Presentation to follow)

There then followed an opportunity for questions –

Mike McGregor, Port Edgar Berth Holders Association asked is there anything going on in the East Coast. AL stated that Environment Link are looking to widen although it is predominantly the west coast. AL further explained that in the second phase they are going to test in west coast and then will look at whether it will be possible to roll out to another organisations so that it could possibly be widened to east coast. AL stated that WISE does run courses across the whole of Scotland.

SL stated that businesses are doing very well in this area. SL asked about data connectivity and whether the app would work on the west coast? AL stated that the app does work as it works off a satellite and should any connectivity be lost then the app will update automatically once the connection is restored. It was acknowledged that this is a business model that can be replicated.

SMCM asked about the number of visitors and whether there was any concern that there was too many visitors.

Action: A Lomax will check the survey questions and feedback to SMCM.

5. Social Media

SMCM asked Claire Adamson MSP about the rules about Facebook.

CA explained that she is the Convenor of the Cross Party Group for Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness and stated that she has looked into this and there are no rules against use of social media however after deliberation they decided that they did not want to hold the responsibility for this and decided to trial a hashtag instead.

Decision: The CPG members agreed that we continue with hash tag rather than using Facebook and Twitter.

6. Marine Activity Event

SMCM provided an outline of the responses received re the proposed Marine Activity event.

Action: PM to circulate responses and then a further discussion will take place at the next meeting. PM to add “Marine Activity Event” as a focus topic to the next agenda.

Maggie Maguire provided an overview of her rationale for the suggestions that she put forward and explained that it can work over a wide geographical area. MM stated that she is happy to take questions on her suggestion.

Action: PM to pass on MM’s contact details to the CPG members.

GR stated that it would be useful to get a diary of events from Event Scotland so that we can tag on to a suitable event that is already scheduled. DAM will pick this up through the Marine Tourism Strategy Development Group.

Action: DAM to circulate Events plan in advance of the next meeting.

Action/Decision: It was also agreed that this should take place after elections have taken place on first Thursday in May.

SMCM reiterated that if CPG members wish to raise issues, please contact politicians and parliamentary committees.

National Marine Centre and Exhibition Centre.

This is moving forward.

7. **Update on Crown Estate – Paul Bancks**

PB reported that the Scotland Act 2016 transfer to the Ministers secondary legislation. In April 2016 the interim body will be a statutory organisation and it is anticipated that the formal consultation will go out by mid-December. Primary legislation will supersede the Executive Board. The Interim Chair is to be announced imminently.

There will be a separate Scottish division and PB encouraged members to participate in the consultation. SMCM echoed PB's comments and would encourage members to liaise with their MSPs, local Council candidates and take up the opportunity to feed into the consultation.

Action: PM to circulate Consultation link to CPG once available.

8. **AOCB**

RF reported that Marine Scotland and the SCF 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: It was agreed that this should be added as an agenda item at a future meeting.

9. **Future Business**

It was agreed that the following items be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

- Data - Rhona Fairgrieve
- Marine Event Proposal - to be added as a focus topic

SMCM requested that the agenda have less items to enable more in depth discussion.

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>Social Media</u></p> <p>Decision: The CPG members agreed that we continue with hash tag rather than using Facebook and Twitter.</p>	ALL	29/11/16
2.	<p><u>Marine Activity Event Proposal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PM to circulate responses and then a further discussion will take place at the next meeting. - PM to add “Marine Activity Event” as a focus topic to the next agenda. - PM to pass on MM’s contact details to the CPG members. - DAM to circulate Events plan in advance of the next meeting. <p>Decision: It was also agreed that this should take place after the elections on the first Thursday in May.</p>	<p>P McGrow</p> <p>P McGrow</p> <p>P McGrow</p>	29/11/16
3.	<p><u>Update on Crown Estate – Paul Bancks</u></p> <p>PM to circulate Consultation link to CPG once available.</p>	P McGrow	29/11/16

4.	<p><u>Marine Recreation Areas</u></p> <p>R Fairgrieve reported on discussion that has taken place with SNH re marine recreation areas and AB Amer. We have not looked at the impact on SNH. RF has received an email response.</p> <p>Action: It was agreed that this should be added as an agenda item at a future meeting.</p>	Rhona Fairgrieve/ Pauline McGrow	29/11/16
5.	<p><u>Agenda Items</u></p> <p>It was agreed that the following items be added to the agenda for the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data - Rhona Fairgrieve • Marine Event Proposal - to be added as a focus topic 	P McGrow	29/11/16
6.	<p><u>Marine Tourism Strategy</u></p> <p>SMCM will write to Chair of Marine Tourism Development Group to inform of our intention to have this as a standing item on the agenda.</p>	SMCM	29/6/16
7.	<p><u>Dredging</u></p> <p>SMCM to write to Marine Scotland to raise the concerns made and response will be circulated to CPG.</p> <p>Invite Marine Scotland to the meeting on 27th September.</p>	Stuart McMillan	