

# **Cross-Party Group on Recreational Boating and Marine Tourism**

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 at 6pm

Minute

Present

MSPs

Stuart McMillan, MSP

Emma Harper MSP

Jenni Minto MSP

Invited guests

Dr Alistair Rennie, Dynamic Coast Project

Non-MSP Group Members

Martin Latimer, British Marine Scotland

Eilid Ormiston, UHI West Highland

Sarah Kennedy, Fort William Marina & Shoreline Community Interest Company

Fanny Royanez, Scottish Environment Link

Duncan Tannahill,

RYA Scotland and The West Highland Anchorages and Moorings Association

Stuart Smith, Scottish Canoe Association

Gordon Daly, RYA Scotland

Barry Schafe, Forth Estuary Forum

James Stuart, RYA Scotland/British Marine Scotland

Annabel Lawrence, UHI West Highland

Scott Johnson, Waverley Excursions Ltd

Clair McFarlan, Solway Firth Partnership

John Ormiston, Sailing Oban

Laurie Piper, Scottish Canals

Momchil Terziev

Jonathan Mosse, RYA Scotland

David Adams McGilp, VisitScotland

Simon Limb, British Marine Scotland

Andrew Rendle, Scottish Coastal Rowing Association

## Apologies

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Paul Bancks	Crown Estate Scotland
Anna Moscrop	Whale and Dolphin Conservation
Ranald Leask	Crown Estate Scotland
Douglas McDiarmid	Thomas Telford Corpach Marina
Graham Russell	RYA Scotland
Glenn Porter	Ocean Sailing Scotland

## Agenda item 1 - Welcome and Apologies

Stuart McMillan MSP welcomed everyone to the meeting.

SMCM reported that Elena Whitham MSP has left the CPG due to recently being appointed as Minister for Community Safety and recorded his thanks for the contribution she has made and wished her all the best in her new role.

## **Agenda item 2 - AGM**

The following positions were appointed:

### **Convenor**

Stuart McMillan MSP, Convenor

### **Deputy Convenors**

Emma Harper/Jenni Minto Joint Deputy Convenors

**Action: PM to contact Jenni Minto MSP.**

## **Agenda item 3 - Minutes and action points from last meeting**

### **Minute from Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

The minutes were approved as an acceptable record with one change on page 6, “Elise” to be changed to “Elsie”.

**Proposed: Simon Limb**

**Seconded: Sarah Kennedy**

### **Actions form Last Meeting**

Please refer to actions update on page 7.

## **Agenda item 4**

### **CPG Work Plan and Future Agenda Topics**

The following future agenda topics were suggested:

- JS suggested inviting Crown Estate Scotland CEO to bring us up to speed and give insight too on the various funding projects.
- Invite to be sent to Cruising Scotland.
- EH suggested inviting Stranraer Watersports Association to give update on progress.
- ML suggested inviting Kintyre Sea Sports to give update on progress.
- JS suggested that PM and JS have discussion on research projects and prioritise the agenda topics.
  - It was agreed that the timings for the meetings be as follows:  
February 2023

- Late May/early June 2023
- September 2023
- November/December 2023

**Dates now set as 9<sup>th</sup> May/26<sup>th</sup> September/28<sup>th</sup> November.**

## **Agenda Item 5 - Coastal change from the Dynamic Coast project – Dr Alistair Rennie**

Dr Alistair Rennie provided an outline of the Dynamic Coast Project Project and there then followed an opportunity for questions.

- SK introduced herself and said that she would look at the website as she had not been aware of it and it would be good to look at the interactive maps. AR stated that they have taken a risk-based approach and there is soft coast in some areas but there is risk on rocky shores. EW reported that there are engineered shores and they are worth looking into it as another phase of work.
- SMCM asked if this process if local community groups had been made aware as we are very keen to do our part but do not want to step on the toes of the local authorities.
- AL asked about the 6 case studies asked if it is engineering nature-based solutions. AR stated that local authorities were asked to submit applications and there was half a million pounds allocated.
- Adaptation plans have been drawn up and there are 6 or so case studies across the piece and they can use what would work best in their area. Funding will start in the next financial year 2023-24. We are trying to understand what is going on to put in short term measures, through to long term plan. CMCF asked does it take into account the risk assessment and demands on population? AR stated that they are developing the evidence to support all inhabited islands and erodible shore should be consistent across Scotland so whoever wants to take this on can access this.. Interactive maps are available on the Dynamic Coast website.

**Action: PM to circulate presentation slides to members.**

**Action: AR to prepare text for an email for SMCM to send to MSPs.**

SMCM thanked Dr Rennie very much for an excellent presentation.

## **Agenda item 6 - British Marine Scotland Future Work Plan - Martin Latimer – Crown Estates Presentation invitation**

Martin Latimer provided an update and outlined the following:

The Sailing tourism in Scotland report is close to completion and it will then be detailed at an event on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at the Scottish Parliament. The report is showing 12% growth in employment and 15% in output. This is the fourth cycle that we have showed continual growth. Then CPG will get sight of the report in advance. The funding partners will get draft in December 22.

It is our intention to launch the skills survey. There are some worrying factors: 60% of our workforce are over 50 and we need to make allowance for retirement. Growth projects are planned to get new skilled workforce. The meeting in February will provide a further briefing. Conversations are also taking place with Skills Development Scotland.

JS stated that the reception will be used for sharing the detail and then will look at how interpret to move towards actions and test the thinking through the CPG. The reports have been very powerful for driving forward investment and indicating great direction of travel and this should put us in good shape for the coming few years.

ML stated that this will trigger a whole rath of work on skills education and training and this will be taken forward to schools and colleges. **Action: ML to have a discussion with SMCM offline re arrangements for the event.** SMCM explained all MSPs will be invited as standard practice for events.

## **Agenda item 7 – AOCB/Future Business**

### **Hybrid Meetings**

A discussion took place on the possibility of having a meeting face to face in the Scottish Parliament with option for people to join in remotely. SMCM stated that there is one room in the Parliament that would allow for hybrid meeting to take place and arrangements will be put in place.

### **Business Rates Evaluation**

SL reported that there has been an announcement of business rates evaluation taking place. There will also be energy costs support after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. SMCM reported that the SME's Westminster budget will be published on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

SMCM reported that the Scottish Government has Barclay review has commenced and all recommendations have been taken onboard apart from business rates. DAM stated that it has allowed for negotiation.

SL stated that the level of detail has increased in a short timeframe and are awaiting further detail in approx 10 days' time.

**Action: CPG to write to Chancellor regarding the sites that face issues with their costs again in April 2024. SMCM will draft a letter and will send to SL for sign off.**

### **Commercial Boat Operators Association**

J Mosse explained that the CBOA stands for Commercial Boat Operators Association. This is often mistakenly written as Commercial Boat **Owners** Association and is relatively new to Scotland (JM has been rep for about a year) but there is a long-established association south of the Border, representing most of the large (and small) inland waterways freight operators. **Action: JM requested that Scott Johnson and Gordon Daly be included in any corresponded with Peel Ports. GD stated that he would raise this and SJ offered his assistance.**

SJ stated Waverley Excursions have not had support because they do not fall into the category that is eligible and have a £500K shortfall. £150K has been raised by surcharging to customers.

GD asked SJ about the draught for the Waverley and how much depth had been lost on back. Due to the loss of Helensburgh Pier, they are now unable to come alongside due to closure of pier (3ft 8 draught, 1 metre).

## **Agenda Item 8 - Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 7th February 2023 at 6pm at the Scottish Parliament. (Hybrid meeting)

## ACTIONS

### Action Point 1 - Lack of supply by Calor Gas

It was agreed that we continue with our endeavours to assist in improving the situation.

### Action Point 2- Marine Protected Areas

Eiadh Ormiston reported that there are still issues in Argyll and the Islands. SB asked for feedback from members. **Action: It was agreed that this is to be taken back to SMCM for discussion.**

### Action Point 3- Seaweed Farms

No further information available at present. **Update: GR will keep the group updated on any developments.**

### Action Point 4 – Waverley Excursions Ltd

- Discussion to be arranged between Waverley Excursions Ltd and British Marine Scotland (PM to provide details to Martin Latimer/Derek Peters/Scott Johnson). **Update: PM provided details on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.**
- **Action: SK suggested that a discussion take place with Cruise Loch Linnhe re Elise**, the boat that is owned by Cruise Loch Linnhe and could be used to transfer passengers from the Waverley to the pontoons and to shore. Their contact details are as follows:  
Address: Cruise Loch Linnhe , Fort William Town Pier, PH33 6DZ  
Call. 07367 436088 (not manned all the time, email preferred)  
[E-mail: info@cruiselochlinnhe.co.uk](mailto:info@cruiselochlinnhe.co.uk)  
website: [www.cruiselochlinnhe.co.uk](http://www.cruiselochlinnhe.co.uk)
- PM to share contacts from Waverley Excursions with CPG members.  
**Update: PM circulated details on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.**

### Action Point 5 - Future Agenda topics

- Giant Strides Marine Tourism Strategy – Our Waters Clean and Blue
  - The return of the 3-mile fishing zone seeking CPG views. (MF)
  - Impact of dredging on fishing inshore. (MF)

Update: invitation sent for meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022. Myles Farnbank has confirmed attendance. (was unable to attend, invite to a future meeting. **Update: Invite MF to a 2023 meeting.**

## **Action Point 6 - Protected area of Arran and Lamlash Bay**

SMCM to have discussion with Elena Whitham MSP. (SMCM/EW)  
**Update: SMCM has had discussion and will provide report.**

## **Action Point 7 - British Marine Scotland Skills Survey**

SL will keep the members informed and will share a copy of the Labour and skills survey results once available.

**Update: Results currently being compiled and will be shared with CPG members once finalised.**

## **Action Point 8 - Invitation to Ivan McKee, Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise**

**Update: Ivan McKee will attend meeting in February 2023.**

## **Action Point 9 - Developing the Workforce**

- Invite the Department of Work and Pensions to a future meeting (PM)  
**Update: Invitation still to be sent by PM.**

## **Action Point 10 - Activities on the Clyde**

- SMCM to write to Glasgow Science Centre or the appropriate owner to ask for an update on when the broken bridge is going to be repaired due to the impact on the activities in the city.
- **Peel Ports** – SMCM will check this and will report back. SJ reported that there are issues with access to the river on the Clyde and there is an issue

with dredging and can't get to home berth in Glasgow. SMCM reported that he would write a letter of support on behalf of the CPG,

**Clyde Cruises** – there has been lack of communication on the Clyde. SMCM has written to Transport Scotland will report back on outcome.

## **Action Point 11 - Flare Amnesty**

SMCM will report back to on his findings on the Firework and Pyrotechnic bill and indicated that the CPG would be happy to help and support.

**Update: SL reported that there were more operator collection points and can pass back to licensed disposers, we now have a workable solution.**

**Ross Wombell reported that Green Blue has an online map showing the locations. Action: RW will share links for circulation to CPG members.**

## **Action Point 12 – Dynamic Coast Project**

- PM to circulate presentation slides to members.
- AR to provide text to SMCM for an email to go to MSPs.

## **Action Point 13 – Parliamentary Reception Boating Study 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

- SMCM and ML to have discussion.

## **Action Point 14 – Business Energy Support Scheme**

- CPG to write to Chancellor regarding the sites that face issues with their costs again in April 2024. SMCM will draft a letter and will send to SL for sign off.