

Shetland Area Advisory Group
Draft minute of meeting held Tuesday 24 September, 1030-1300

Location: Voluntary Action Shetland's office, 14 Market Street, Lerwick, ZE1 0JP

Present:	
Chris Matthews	SEPA (Unit Manager, Shetland)
Eilidh Johnston	SEPA (River Basin Planning Co-ordinator)
Juan Brown	Scottish Natural Heritage
Martin Holmes	Shetland Islands Council
Jonathan Duncan	Shetland Islands Council
Colin Smith	Shetland Islands Council
David Denoon	SEPA
Suzanne Shearer	Shetland Islands Council
Dave Marwick	Scottish Water
Kelda Hudson	Shetland Islands Council
Ruth Henderson	Shetland Shellfish Growers Association
David Sandison	Shetland Aquaculture
Duncan Goudie	SEPA
Alec Miller	Shetland Anglers Association
Apologies:	
David Manson	BP at Sullom Voe
Rachel Shucksmith	North Atlantic Fisheries College
Pete Ellis	RSPB
Jim Anderson	Scottish Water
Jonathan Swale	Scottish Natural Heritage

1.	<p>Welcome, introductions and apologies</p> <p>CM welcomed everyone to the meeting, and gave apologies. He introduced David Denoon from SEPA's Environmental Quality team, who was attending for the first time.</p> <p>The previous meeting minutes (Paper 1) were approved for putting on the AAG website.</p> <p>Actions from the previous meeting were discussed, as follows:</p> <p>Shetland AAG – update on action points from meeting 1 November 2012</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Action</th> <th>By</th> <th>When</th> <th>Update</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td>Consider next steps regarding the list of fish barriers in Shetland.</td> <td>PG, EJ, AM</td> <td>By Feb 2013</td> <td>Complete: Info circulated within SEPA. No changes in classification yet. New action: EJ and AM to discuss any high priority barriers and add to local measures workplan. DD to ensure barrier information included in classification where appropriate.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td>Provide RBMP briefing sheet for use with elected members, hold training / event if</td> <td>EJ, SS</td> <td>By Dec 2012</td> <td>Complete. Briefing sheet distributed in hard copy, electronic copy now available. No training requests, but possibility of a joint event on flooding remains a good option. New action:</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Action	By	When	Update	1	Consider next steps regarding the list of fish barriers in Shetland.	PG, EJ, AM	By Feb 2013	Complete: Info circulated within SEPA. No changes in classification yet. New action: EJ and AM to discuss any high priority barriers and add to local measures workplan. DD to ensure barrier information included in classification where appropriate.	2	Provide RBMP briefing sheet for use with elected members, hold training / event if	EJ, SS	By Dec 2012	Complete. Briefing sheet distributed in hard copy, electronic copy now available. No training requests, but possibility of a joint event on flooding remains a good option. New action:
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	requested			EJ to circulate briefing sheet to all AAG members.
3	Contact Colin Reeves, Chief Harbourmaster, re replacement for Barry Edwards, continue to liaise with NFU.	EJ	By Dec 2012	Carry forward. Both contacts made, but no replacement attendees in place.
4	Brief Spiggie task group members on sampling work, offer further discussion as requested	EJ, DG	By Dec 2012	Complete. Email updates sent during 2012, and a summary of results sent August 2013 when study completed. Further meeting scheduled for 25 September.
5	Meet to discuss small water bodies prioritisation	JS, KH, AM, PE, EJ, CS	Jan 2013	Complete. Meeting held March 2013.
6	Provide information on timetable for Spotfire going online, and respond to interim data requests as required.	PG	By Jan 2013	Complete. Spotfire tool is now live on SEPA website at http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/our_environment/water/water_body_classification.aspx
7	Consider involvement of Marine Scotland in classification and measures work	PG, EJ	Report by June 2013	Complete. Engagement for second plan is on the agenda, and it is hoped to engage Marine Scotland nationally through this. New action: EJ to discuss licensing, compliance and coastal engineering works with Marine Scotland locally.
8	Update on progress with Scottish Water investment plans for Shetland	DM, CS	At June 2013 mtg	Complete. Dave Marwick gave a brief verbal update on development of new 2015-2021 investment plan. Priorities are set nationally, and Shetland issues will focus on capital investment works. Highlighted ongoing works at Tronafirth and Foula to increase treatment capacity.
9	Share reports on Spiggie monitoring when finalised	NH (PE)	When available	Carry forward: RSPB completed reports on aquatic plants and macrophytes, part of SNH Site Condition Monitoring. SNH to confirm if OK to circulate –JB confirmed this.

2.	<p>Implementing the first plan – progress report</p> <p>EJ gave a presentation, reminding the group of the RBMP cycle and key targets for Shetland. There has been excellent progress during the first cycle, with all targets achieved, and the group working actively on targets for future RBMP cycles.</p> <p>As outlined in Paper 2, Julie Bhatti is now working on co-ordination of local measures in northern Scotland, and will help to support measures delivery in Shetland. CM highlighted the need for all co-ordinators working in Shetland to visit and meet with the group members as soon as possible.</p>
3.	<p>Task group updates</p> <p><u>Loch of Spiggie:</u> DG gave a brief update on this taskgroup, noting that there is a meeting scheduled for 25 September 2013 to discuss the outputs from the bacterial source tracking project with stakeholders. He reported that a recent SAC event on diffuse pollution involved visits to the loch catchment, and had been positively received. He circulated a graph showing a downward trend in chlorophyll A levels at Loch of Spiggie, which may suggest positive progress in this catchment.</p> <p>Paper 3 outlines the final findings from the bacterial source tracking project at the loch, and indicates that septic tanks, ruminants and other animals are affecting parts of the catchment.</p> <p>The group discussed potential restrictions on septic tanks in the catchment, and DG advised that most recent individual dwellings have put in increased treatment. DM noted that measures to improve the Scottish Water tank in the catchment were not funded under the previous investment round (SR10), but that this asset would be submitted again for potential investment in SR15 (2015–21).</p> <p><u>Small Water Bodies</u> EJ updated that the group last met in March 2013, and carried out a ranking exercise on lochs. Action: EJ to circulate priority lochs list to whole AAG, and set up a meeting to take these forward and consider burns prioritisation.</p> <p><u>Fish barriers, including Laxobigging</u> AM updated that he is investigating whether the gas pipeline development in this area could help to fund a barrier removal project. EJ stressed that this project should be eligible for funding under the SEPA Water Environment Fund.</p> <p>Action: AM to consider submitting a barrier removal funding application to Water Environment Fund.</p>
4.	<p>Current condition and challenges for the future</p> <p>EJ gave a brief presentation on this report, highlighting the findings on condition of the water environment, and key challenges that SEPA has identified for the next RBMP cycle. This has been supplied to AAG members as '<i>CCCF presn</i>'.</p> <p>The group were then asked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether they agree with the key challenges that we have identified? • What they think about the management options being recommended for each issue? • Whether additional / different measures are required in Shetland? <p>The group asked about how recently revised standards might affect Shetland, with a</p>

particular interest in revised P standards relating to fish farms.

Action: DD to provide list of revised standards.

There was also discussion of INNS pressures, with reference to ballast water regulations, and a potential marine biosecurity plan. **Action:** DD / EJ to circulate the Firth of Clyde biosecurity plan for information.

SEPA data on pressures was also considered, and the group confirmed that while the SEPA website is hard to navigate, the data is used. The use of a members area (perhaps similar to the Huddle platform being used to share SEPA flooding information) was raised as a positive way forward.

5 Delivering improvements to the water environment - group member updates

- MH reported on the Shetland Marine Spatial Plan, which will form part of the Local Development Plan Supplementary Guidance. This is likely to go to public consultation in January 2014. He advised that Scottish Government has used this format, and that the next RBMP should make links to this document. **Action:** MH to circulate links to 4th iteration of the Marine Spatial Plan when ready.
- RH noted that Jacqui Tweddle had now left NAFC, but had produced good material on INNS. She also noted that the consultation on Shellfish Growing Waters would close shortly. **Action:** RH to circulate INNS material from Jacqui Tweddle.
- SS updated that the Local Plan was progressing, and that the Council would be asked in November to submit it to the Scottish Government. Once the Local Plan is adopted, supplementary guidance can be adopted.
- DD noted that SEPA's 2012 RBMP classification has been further delayed, but is due to be released in November 2013.
- KH reported that the Local Nature Conservation Sites have now gone through consultation, and a monitoring framework will be established for each site. There are some possible links with SEPA ecological monitoring. **Action:** EJ to put Kelda in touch with Annette Ross to discuss ecological monitoring.
- CS reported that he has moved in the Council from roads to planning, and is now focusing on surface water management plans.

6 Developing the second plans

EJ gave a presentation on the development of the second plans and engagement with key sectors. She asked some questions about the engagement approach and the level of input the AAG would like into preparing the documents. Please see the accompanying presentation '1st and 2nd plan' for further detail.

In discussion, there were queries about ecological impacts and classification, and the group stressed the need for good evidence, and to separate out real ecological changes from classification changes relating to changed tools or standards.

The approach of considering costs and benefits was discussed, and it was emphasised that Scotland should consider 'good enough' approaches as well as a 'gold plated' approach to RBMP.

Regarding AAG involvement in preparing the plan, it was recommended that the Small Water Body group should be part of any local review work, and that any national

	<p>editorial groups should have at least one island representative. There was some feedback that AAG members are happy to refine draft documents as they develop.</p> <p>For local authority engagement, members suggested that contaminated land, environmental health and elected members needed to be involved in the objective setting process. It was recommended that the committee structure should be engaged, using a briefing note to members (information for noting). This would need to come from a council officer.</p> <p>There is scope to use the flooding LPD which involves elected members, and copy this information to AAG members. In general, contacting the CEO was not advised, as direct contact with an appropriate officer who can circulate the information appropriately was seen as more effective. MH was recommended as a first contact.</p> <p>For other engagement, it was noted that fisheries engagement will need to liaise with angling associations in areas where there are no fishery trusts. The group highlighted the need to add Marine Scotland to the engagement (for morphology and cost / benefits), as well as salmon and shellfish and marine / onshore renewables sectors.</p>
7	<p>AOB and date of next meeting</p> <p>The date of next meeting will be set once second plan engagement is underway, because we may need to meet individually or with sectors during the early part of next year, and it is possible that only one full AAG will be held in 2014.</p> <p>CM let the group know that he is about to retire from SEPA, and that new chairing arrangements will be announced once recruitment has been completed. He thanked the group for working so effectively during his time as chair.</p>

Log of meeting actions

	Action	By	When	Update
1	Discuss any high priority barriers and add to local measures workplan. DD to ensure barrier information included in classification where appropriate.	EJ (or local measures lead) / AM / DD	By end Dec 2013	
2	Circulate elected member briefing sheet to all AAG members.	EJ	Nov 2013	Complete , sent with minutes
3	Contact Colin Reeves, Chief Harbourmaster, re replacement for Barry Edwards, continue to liaise with NFU.	EJ	Nov 2013	
4	Discuss licensing, compliance and coastal engineering works with Marine Scotland locally.	EJ (or SEPA local measures lead)	By end Dec 2013	

5	RSPB to share reports on Spiggie monitoring when finalised	PE	By end Dec 2013	
6	Circulate priority lochs list to whole AAG, and set up a meeting to take these forward and consider burns prioritisation.	EJ / SEPA local measures lead	By end March 2014	Priority lochs list sent with minutes. Meeting to be set up by local measures lead.
7	Submit a barrier removal funding application to Water Environment Fund for Laxobigging.	AM (with support from SEPA local measures lead)	By end July 2014	
8	Provide list of revised standards.	DD	By November 2013	
9	Circulate the Firth of Clyde biosecurity plan for information.	DD / EJ	By November 2013	Complete. The plan can be accessed at http://clydeforum.com/attachments/biosecplan.pdf
10	Circulate links to 4 th iteration of the Marine Spatial Plan when ready.	MH	When ready	
11	Circulate INNS material from Jacqui Tweddle.	RH	By November 2013	Complete. See links as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaflets for the aquaculture industry (click here to download) • Leaflets for marinas and marine users (click here to download) • "An Identification Guide for the Shetland Islands: Marine Aliens and Climate Change Indicator Species" can be downloaded here.
12	Put Kelda in touch with Annette Ross to discuss ecological monitoring at LNCS.	EJ	By December 2013	