

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Cross Party Group on Recreational Boating
and Marine Tourism, Committee Room 3, Scottish Parliament
4th December 2019 at 6pm**

1. Welcome and Apologies

GDPR: SMCM read out the GDPR Guidance note for Cross Party Group on Recreational Boating and Marine Tourism Members.

2. Minutes and Action Points from last meeting

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

Proposed: Graham Russell Seconded: Gordon Daly

3. Update on EU/Brexit

No further information at this stage.

4. Oban Bay Update

DV provided a note as tabled: A constructive meeting has been held between OCHDA (the community harbour development association) and Council officials. Another meeting with Councillors is expected. Plans are in hand to appoint legal advisors and start drafting an HEO or similar instrument. Progress is slow but finite.

5. Sail Scotland, Alan Rankin, CEO - AR stated that he was delighted to be taking on the CEO role at Sail Scotland and commended Daniel Steel his predecessor on doing a great job in the role and contributing to the next stage. There is a lot of activity planned in 2020 for Year of Coasts and Waters and through the Growth Fund they will be carrying out digital campaigns to market sailing in Scotland. There is also an advocacy role to represent the members and will be reviewing the membership proposition. AR further explained that there will be two core areas of focus:

- Delivering the current business plan
- Looking at the sustainability of Sail Scotland beyond March 2021.

AR provided further detail of the activities that Sail Scotland are involved in:

Marketing programme – there is a traditional print brochure that will be distributed round Scotland and also the German Boat Show in Jan 20 and the VisitScotland network. The German Boat Show has 250,000 visitors round Europe and Sail Scotland have developed a relationship with the Danish Cruising Association and there will be up to 60 boats coming to Scotland.

- There is Direct to Consumer email activity with 47,000 interested parties and are continuing to push seasonal campaigns and target regional/local offers and looking to commercialise with trade partners.
- There is the “Must see Scotland” campaign with 360 Virtual Reality videos that will be launched in January with a 6 month campaign through social media.
- There is 600,000 reach through National Trust Scotland and Diageo and it will be a partnership programme.

- They have Facebook campaigns with photography competition and 19,000 followers and also use other social media platforms such as Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest.
- Advocacy work – YOCW 2020, are working jointly on the Marine Tourism Strategy. AR sits on the Scottish Tourism Alliance Council, developing National Tourism Strategy and this sits with the Marine Tourism Strategy.
- Are looking at the Tourism tax, the transient tourism levy that will have effect on charter industry.
- AR encouraged members to look at videos and drone footage. There then followed an opportunity for questions:

SMCM asked what other Boat Shows Sail Scotland would attend. AR stated that they have only limited budget and only cover the German boat show and perhaps UK boat shows. They secured funding through SDI and shortfall from Sail Scotland reserves. They would hope to attend Southampton Boat Show but it will be dependent on budget.

SMCM asked if return on boats is significant based on the investment made. AR stated that 60 yachts are significant with high spenders and they will be working on itineraries to bring them into other areas such as East and North and will boost the funds of rural and isolated businesses.

SMCM re-emphasised the requirement to put forward a sustainable business case with information passed to Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scottish Enterprise etc. AR confirmed that we need to create a valid case going forward, doing some further work with businesses to get sources of funding and also obtain data from British Marine Scotland. A MacDonald MSP congratulated AR on attracting 60 boats and asked whether consideration had been given to Norway and Sweden. AR explained the rationale of attendance at the German boat show is to attract northern Europe market which would in turn attract a wider market.

GD recommended using canals for Cairngorm circumnavigation. AR stated that he welcomed these ideas. B Schafe congratulated Sail Scotland for attracting boats and reiterated that we need to maximise the measurement of that and encourage them to stay for 2-3 seasons. **Action: It was agreed that Barry Schafe and Alan Rankin to have future discussion on this matter.**

SK gave an example of the Torchlit parade and ceilidh that is being planned for a cruise ship visit that could provide further activities for this group to take part in. GR asked if the brochure was available online that we can circulate through RYA channels. GR gave example of his yacht journey and stated that Orkney Islands Council have a good database of where boats come from.

Action: Videos to be circulated to CPG members once they become available (AR/PM).

6. The Green Blue Update

JSA provided the following outline of The Green Blue.

The Green Blue is a joint initiative between British Marine Scotland/British Marine and the RYA. It was founded 12 years ago. Over the last 3 years, it has been funded by British Marine and the RYA.

The aim of The Green Blue in Scotland is working to same standards and using resources. In Marine tourism there needs to be a consistent message. 64% are Generation Z and millennials are recognising their environmental responsibility. What makes Scotland unique is it is a very diverse marine environment and they work hand in hand with environmental agencies to deliver a good result.

Marine Protected Areas are on navigational software and it shows the environmental wildlife there too and gives an understanding of what we have. There has been an application for £1.4 million to regenerate wild oysters in the UK and in sites in Scotland. We can work towards Scotland as the standard to encourage people to visit.

There then followed an opportunity for questions and following further comments were made:

- It is now mainstream and very welcome. Discussions have taken place with SNH and the key is to reach people and get the message out in an effective way, there should be one level of seamanship principles for all.
- Basking sharks, we need to be careful about looking for them. JSA stated that there is some lack of awareness that can cause an issue too, we require to look at numbers and sightings to analyse if they are doing it right. GR stated that it covered 20% of the MPA network and will increase up to 40% soon.

Action: SMCM stated that there is an opportunity to put forward a motion for a Member's debate.

- Emma Harper MSP asked about the fishing detritus on the beaches and asked if there was work taking place with fisheries. JSA stated that there have been difficulties working with commercial fishing, we require to look at the resources and how we engage with the fishing community. They have worked with local beach clean groups to keep fishing nets off beaches and out of the water. GR stated that the fisheries are aware of this and there is a Fisheries Litter Association. There are a lot of fish farm companies that are working hard on environmental issues. The Inshore fisheries groups are the key groups for working through this. We require to promote the good environmental work that the fisheries groups are doing and put information on the website.

Action: BSA to provide information on Lyme Bay Project to SMCM.

Action: B Shafe asked is there an opportunity to take a more active role to deliver that consistent message? AR stated that they could add this into the services for Sail Scotland to make it more sustainable. BS and AR agreed to have further discussion.

Action: Email details for JSA to be circulated to CPG members.

7. **Crown Estate Communities Fund – Douglas McDiarmid, Thomas Telford Corpach Marina**

DM outlined his concerns about the Crown Estate Communities Fund.

(please see below email correspondence sent to Convenor to raise the issue.

This relates to the recently announced distribution of Crown Estate Scotland surpluses (£7.5m) to local authorities for the benefit of their coastal communities. It does not appear that the Scottish Government has given any guidance on how these monies should be spent, leaving the matter to the discretion of individual local authorities.

This measure replaces the old Coastal Communities Fund (still operating in England, Wales and Northern Ireland), which has delivered valuable support to numerous marine projects over the years. Since Crown Estate surpluses are likely to provide a recurring source of similar funding, this provides an important opportunity for the foreseeable future to underpin the “Awakening the Giant” Strategy, whether that be for Infrastructure, marketing or skills. This was sharply brought into focus for me at Friday’s marine tourism expo in Holyrood, with our marine agenda seen as an important player in Scotland’s ambition to be “the World’s Leading Tourism Destination by 2030”. Support from the CPG could be important in influencing government and local authority priorities in this matter.

Discussion then followed and following points raised -

ML explained that there has been funds put aside to assist with the aims of the Marine Tourism Strategy and pitches could be made for some of these funds. The funds available from the local authorities with coastal communities fit with the marine tourism agenda and with YOCW 2020.

This is a brand new fund and it supersedes the Coastal Communities Fund and includes long term investment into marine tourism sector. JA voiced concern over the new fund, we welcome investment to coastal communities but need to be keeping a watching brief and hold local authorities to account. He noted that there is no clear methodology that ensures that local authorities will spend these monies on elements that directly benefits coastal communities.

- **Action: Letter to go to COSLA to ask for an outline of how the funds are going to be spent to Coastal Communities.**
- BS asked is the £7.5 million being given to the local authorities. DM confirmed that this was the case.
- BS stated that Marine Scotland and Crown Estate have agreement on how the monies are spent. BS stated that we need to re-emphasise that the funds be spent on the coast.

The following actions were agreed:

- **Obtain parameters from Crown Estate to Marine Scotland.**
- **ML suggested approaching Crown Estate to provide information on where the grant goes and what the effect has been. Information to be circulated to members.**
- **BSA suggested looking at how your measure the environmental initiatives and demonstrate what you set out to achieve and give KPI’S to funders.**

8. Red/White Diesel

A discussion took place and the following points raised:

JA provided an outline of the current position:

JA reported that there was a consultation by HMRC where the use of red diesel for propulsion was discussed. This consultation has now closed.

- There has been discussion on how do you get white diesel to the boats that need it? RYA have been in discussions with HMRC re impact on recreational boaters, tanks and marinas.
- **Action: circulate copies of RYA/RYS consultation responses to CPG members.**
- GR stated that we also need to be aware the plan is to phase out diesel cars so there will be lack of diesel.
- Longer term we need to develop engine and engine systems for bio diesel.
- SMCM asked is there boats that are being manufactured that are fully compliant non diesel? JSA stated that Hydrogen and cell technology has been approved, looking at electric boats for inland waterways. We need as an industry to look long term.
- SMCM asked is there any companies doing this already? BSA stated that Cheetham Marine are already doing this in the Isle of Wight). Other areas of the marine industry are looking at this.
- GD stated that there are boats that are up to 50 years old and it will prove difficult if this is a sound engine that requires to be disposed of.
- GR stated that fishers and farmers use red diesel and we should liaise with them to help all industry.
- Angus MacDonald MSP stated that it is a conversation to have widely so that we are all moving in the right direction.
- J Mosse stated that in Inland Waterways there are fuel cell powered vessels and there is a lot of activity gathering momentum.

Action: Emma Harper MSP will raise this with the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee.

GR provided an example of Orkney who are doing good things in this regards. BS stated that there is a legacy fleet of boats and many aspects to consider such as motor yachts, weight and cost of running and there will be issues around ensuring that you have an engine to get you home when you don't have sails. It will take a bit of time to get that certainty. It will mean that there will be a safe environment issue especially for cruisers. ML stated that costs of diesel will go up and will be cost/effect that will require to be looked at in further detail. **Action: SMCM asked that Red/White Diesel be kept on agenda for future meetings.**

9. Marine Tourism Symposium/Strategy Refresh Update

ML provided the following update:

- Giant Strides is an evolution of Awakening the Giant and growth deals have built around this.

- British Marine Scotland and partners have developed the Strategy. (Royal Yachting Association Scotland, Sail Scotland, Scottish Canals).
- Links to the Draft Strategy and summary document has been circulated to CPG members. It will be a 5 year strategy. Draft strategy will be launched and then it will take 8 months to feed into the action plan and link with the National Tourism Strategy.
- Marine Symposium took place on 15th November with 98 people in attendance. There were a number of speakers and short speeches with relevant information and we had a cross section of industry. The strategy consultation launched on 1st Dec and will run until 17th January.

Action: ML encouraged CPG members to circulate to other interested agencies including coastal communities.

JA provided an outline of the volunteering value to RYA in Scotland that equates to 268,000 hours of volunteering. These volunteers produce events and deliver club activities. JA explained that they looked at aspects of volunteering, but did not include clubs and training centres but did include club volunteering and this equates to £2.4 million in value. ML stated that there is community involvement and we can use this to reach out to island communities and use it to raise funds. 15 step a shore facilities have been introduced since the introduction of the strategy.

- “Our Waters, clean and blue” and “Natural Capital”, Scotland wants to be the leader and build on experiences and for businesses create good profit to reinvest to have sustainable businesses.
- There will be a Media Launch of the strategy on 5th March 2020 in Glasgow, (venue tbc) to raise awareness of the strategy.

There then followed an opportunity for questions:

- GD reported that he recently attended the Lowland Canals Association AGM, and encouraged people to attend the Marine Tourism Symposium and to take part in the strategy consultation. GD encouraged the CPG members to promote the numbers of volunteering.
- ML stated that the stats are important for generating funding and we need to build more on this to feed into the strategy.

BS asked does marine tourism include the cruise industries. ML stated that we look at cruise experience. BS stated that we should also look at Scottish Government Economic statistics. ML stated that we should get the message out about the wider effect throughout the marine tourism industry and not just focus on boats.

10. AOCB/Future Business

Creel Marking

GR reported that one of the hazards is poorly marked creels. Marine Scotland have issued guidelines on static gear and there will be legislation come into 2019 and it is supported by creel fishermen. GR asked if SMCM could approach Fergus Ewing, re this matter. SMCM explained that he was involved in the Delegated Powers Committee and there has been a

reduction in orders over the last 12 months due to Brexit regulations.

After discussion the following actions were agreed:

Action: Emma Harper MSP to check detail on official report and if is not covered, SMCM will write to Fergus Ewing MSP.

11. Marine Protected Area Management and Monitoring (MarPAMM) project

GR reported that RYA Scotland sits on the steering group of the Argyll group. They are looking for interaction with the stakeholders to provide detail of impact and are looking for projects that they would like to be involved in and contact details are available in the leaflet and on the website. **Action: PM to send link to MPA website to CPG members.**

Regional Planning Environment Enquiry – A Macdonald MSP reported that they have been taking evidence from a large list of stakeholders and will discuss with Marine Scotland in January, the Cabinet Secretary in February and report will be presented in March. AM further reported that the Scottish Parliament has a “Dialogue” webpage that enables discussion online about marine planning issues.

Action: PM to send link to “Dialogue” webpage to CPG members.

Date of Next Meeting, Tuesday 3rd March 2020, Cruise Terminal, Forth Ports. 6pm. Thanks were given in advance to Forth Ports for hosting the meeting. Vote of thanks was given to Convenor and meeting closed.

APPENDIX 1

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS/DECISIONS

	Actions	Resp.	Date Raised	Completed
1.	<u>Red/White Diesel</u> To be added as a regular agenda item, to be added to agenda for June meeting.	PM	18/9/19	Added as an agenda item
2.	<u>Venue for Meeting on 3rd March 2020</u> Barry Shafe suggested Cruise Terminal, Leith as an alternative venue for the CPG as Edinburgh is hosting Cruise Europe Conference. BS will provide date of event in March 2020 and SMCM will consider and will report back.	SMCM/BS	18/9/19	No longer able to meet the request, consideration being given to meeting in June being on cruise ship
3.	<u>Timing of Meetings</u> Consideration to be given to future Lunchtime meetings	SMCM	18/9/19	Ongoing
4.	<u>Sail Scotland/Scotboats</u> Discussion to take place between Alan Rankin and Barry Schafe.	AR/BS	4/12/19	Ongoing
5.	<u>Sail Scotland Videos</u> To be circulated once available.	AR	4/12/19	Ongoing
6.	<u>The Green Blue</u> SMCM to put forward a motion for Members Debate.	SMCM	4/12/19	Ongoing
7.	<u>The Green Blue - Information from James Scott Anderson</u> BSA to provide information on Lyme Bay Project to SMCM.	JSA	4/12/19	Ongoing

	Email details for JSA to be circulated to CPG members.	PM	4/12/19	Ongoing
8.	<p><u>Crown Estate Communities Fund</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter to go to COSLA to ask for an outline of how the funds are going to be spent to Coastal Communities. • Obtain parameters from Crown Estate to Marine Scotland. • ML suggested approaching Crown Estate to provide information on where the grant goes and what the effect has been. Information to be circulated to members. • BSA suggested looking at how you measure the environmental initiatives and demonstrate what you set out to achieve and give KPI'S to funders, 	SMCM	4/12/19	Ongoing
9.	<p><u>Red/White Diesel</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RYA/RYS Consultation response to be circulated to CPG members. • Emma Harper MSP will raise this with the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee. • To be added as a regular agenda item. 	JA/EH/PM	4/12/19	Ongoing
10.	<p><u>Marine Tourism Strategy</u></p> <p>ML encouraged CPG members and also spread onto other interested agencies including coastal communities.</p>	ALL	4/12/19	Ongoing
11.	<p><u>Marine Protected Area Management and Monitoring</u></p> <p>Send link to MPA website to CPG members.</p>	PM	4/12/19	Ongoing

12.	<p><u>Regional Planning Environment Enquiry</u></p> <p>Send link to “Dialogue” webpage to CPG members.</p>	PM	4/12/19	Ongoing
13.	<p><u>Future Business Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Scottish Tourism Strategy</u> Invite Scottish Tourism Alliance to a future meeting. <p><u>East Coast</u> Invite a representative from the East coast marine industry to the meeting/ invite SMCM to some activities that are going on in the east.</p> <p><u>Joint Meeting with Cross Party Group on Sport</u> To be arranged.</p>			Ongoing
14.	<p><u>Marine Litter</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Audit Scotland provide information on the various recycling schemes. • RF to discuss with Marine Scotland who are involved with the marine litter aspects. • RF to invite the Project Officer from the “Scrapbook project”. • Invite FEDRA to discuss nurdles. 			Ongoing

APPENDIX 2

	Name	Organisation
1.	Stuart McMillan MSP	Convenor
2.	James Allan	RYA Scotland
3.	Pauline McGrow	RYA Scotland
4.	Graham Russell	RYA Scotland
5.	Stuart Smith	Scottish Canoe Association
6.	Jonathan Mosse	Inland Waterways Association and RYA Scotland
7.	Gordon Daly	RYA Scotland/ Scottish Waterways for All/Private Boater
8.	Marc Turner	RYA Scotland
9.	James Scott-Anderson	British Marine
10.	Andrew Rendle	Scottish Coastal Rowing Association
11.	Douglas MacDiarmid	Thomas Telford Corpach Marina
12.	James Kennedy	Fort William Marina & Shoreline Community Interest Company
13.	Sarah Kennedy	Fort William Marina & Shoreline Community Interest Company
14.	Martin Latimer	British Marine Scotland
15.	Meghan Rhys	Themed Years/Tourism and Major Events Team, Scottish Government
16.	Aileen Monk	British Marine Scotland
17.	Emma Harper MSP	
18.	Angus MacDonald MSP	
19.	Barry Schafe	Scotboats/Forth Estuary Forum

APOLOGIES

	Name	Organisation
1.	Donald McLaren	Clyde Yacht Clubs Association
2.	Alison Harris MSP	
3.	Fergus Duncanson	RYA Scotland
4.	Michael Avril	Water Safety Scotland
5.	Mike McGregor	
6.	David Vass	RYA Scotland
7.	Andy Carnduff	Forth Yacht Clubs Association
8.	Simon Limb	British Marine Scotland
9.	Liam Kerr MSP	Vice Convenor