



The one hundred and thirteenth meeting of the  
Joint Nature Conservation Committee to be held  
At 08.45 on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017  
Natural Resources Wales, Cambria House,  
29 Newport Road, Cardiff, CF24 0TP

This paper was provided to the Joint Committee for decision/discussion  
or information. Please refer to the minutes of the meeting for  
Committee's position on the paper.

To view other Joint Committee papers and minutes visit <http://jncc.gov.uk/page-2671>

To find out more about JNCC visit <http://jncc.gov.uk/page-1729>

## **Joint Nature Conservation Committee**

### **Matters arising**

There are no matters arising for this meeting.

A report on outstanding action points from previous meetings is attached at Annex 1. All other action points have been discharged.

In September an action (AP06) arising from the marine biodiversity monitoring options paper was for Dr Webb to produce a document summarising the marine monitoring governance structure suitable for circulation to the Joint Committee. This has now been completed and can be found at Annex 2.

An action arising from the June dinner discussion was for Mr Rose and Dr Gibson (working with Chief Scientists Group) to draw up a list of questions to be answered through academic partnerships. This has now been completed and the questions can be found at Annex 3.

## Annex 1

### Action points from Joint Committee meetings

#### Action Points Table Joint Committee 2017

##### December 2016 Meeting

<p><b>15.7 Report from the MPA sub-group (Oral) AP06</b> Professor Galbraith to ask ARAC to consider the range of options for commissioning an independent science review of JNCC and report back to a future Joint Committee meeting.</p>	Professor Galbraith	To be progressed
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##### March 2017 Meeting

Action	Person responsible	Progress update
<p><b>9.2 Performance report for Quarter 3 (JNCC 17 05)</b>  AP04 Committee members to provide input to a paper on external communications for the September Joint Committee meeting.</p>	Committee Members	There has been insufficient progress in developing a communications strategy for a Committee paper at present. Website refresh is the priority for the coming months and resourcing issues are currently being addressed to improve progress.

##### June 2017 Meeting

<p><b>13.3 Strategic partnerships with the academic community (official) (JNCC 17 22)</b> AP06 Mr Rose and Dr Gibson (working with Chief Scientists Group) to draw up a list of questions to be answered through academic partnerships.</p>	Mr Rose/Dr Gibson	See Annex 3.
<p><b>18 Joint Committee forward programme (official) (JNCC 17 27)</b></p>	Mrs Quince	To be actioned June 2018

AP08 Mrs Quince to include a paragraph in the next annual report from ARAC due in June 2018 summarising activity in the health and safety area.		
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## September 2017

Action	Person responsible	Progress update
<p><b>4.4 Matters arising (official) (JNCC 17 31)</b></p> <p>AP01 Miss Elliott to circulate a note to members explaining how to access the SharePoint archive for Committee papers dating back to 2014.</p>	Miss Elliott	Completed
<p><b>8.2 Simplification of approval process for advice on offshore Marine Protected Areas (Official) (JNCC 17 34)</b></p> <p>AP02 Dr Goold to produce a simple 'handling document' for CNCB Chairs' reference.</p>	Dr Goold	Ongoing
<p><b>10.3 Report from ARAC on 13th September (Official)</b></p> <p>AP03 Professor Galbraith, Mr Yeo and Dr Walker to discuss the ratings of the first three risks on the significant risks register.</p>	Professor Galbraith/Mr Yeo/Dr Walker	Completed
<p><b>12.2 Performance report quarter 1 2017/18 (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 17 36)</b></p> <p>AP04 Mrs Bennett to amend quarterly financial reports to address comments made by Committee.</p>	Mrs Bennett	Completed
<p><b>14.2 Natural capital work in JNCC (Official) (JNCC 17 37)</b></p> <p>AP05 Mr Rose to adapt the paper to enable it to be shared with partner organisations.</p>	Mr Rose	Paper has been adapted and web publication is in progress. Further communications material for each of the major audiences is planned.

<b>15.3 Marine biodiversity monitoring options (official-sensitive) (JNCC 17 39)</b>  AP06 Dr Webb to produce a governance structure document suitable for circulation to the Joint Committee.	Dr Webb	See Annex 2.
<b>20.1 Any other business</b>  AP07 Miss Elliott to send hard copies of the strategy document to CNCC secretariat.	Miss Elliott	Completed

## Annex 2

JNCC and the country nature conservation bodies were asked by UK Governments to work through the UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy (UKMMAS) and in partnership with the UK's Healthy and Biologically Diverse Seas Evidence Group (HBDSEG) to develop an integrated UK marine biodiversity monitoring programme ('the Programme').

The governance structure of the Programme can be found in Figure 1 and Table 1.

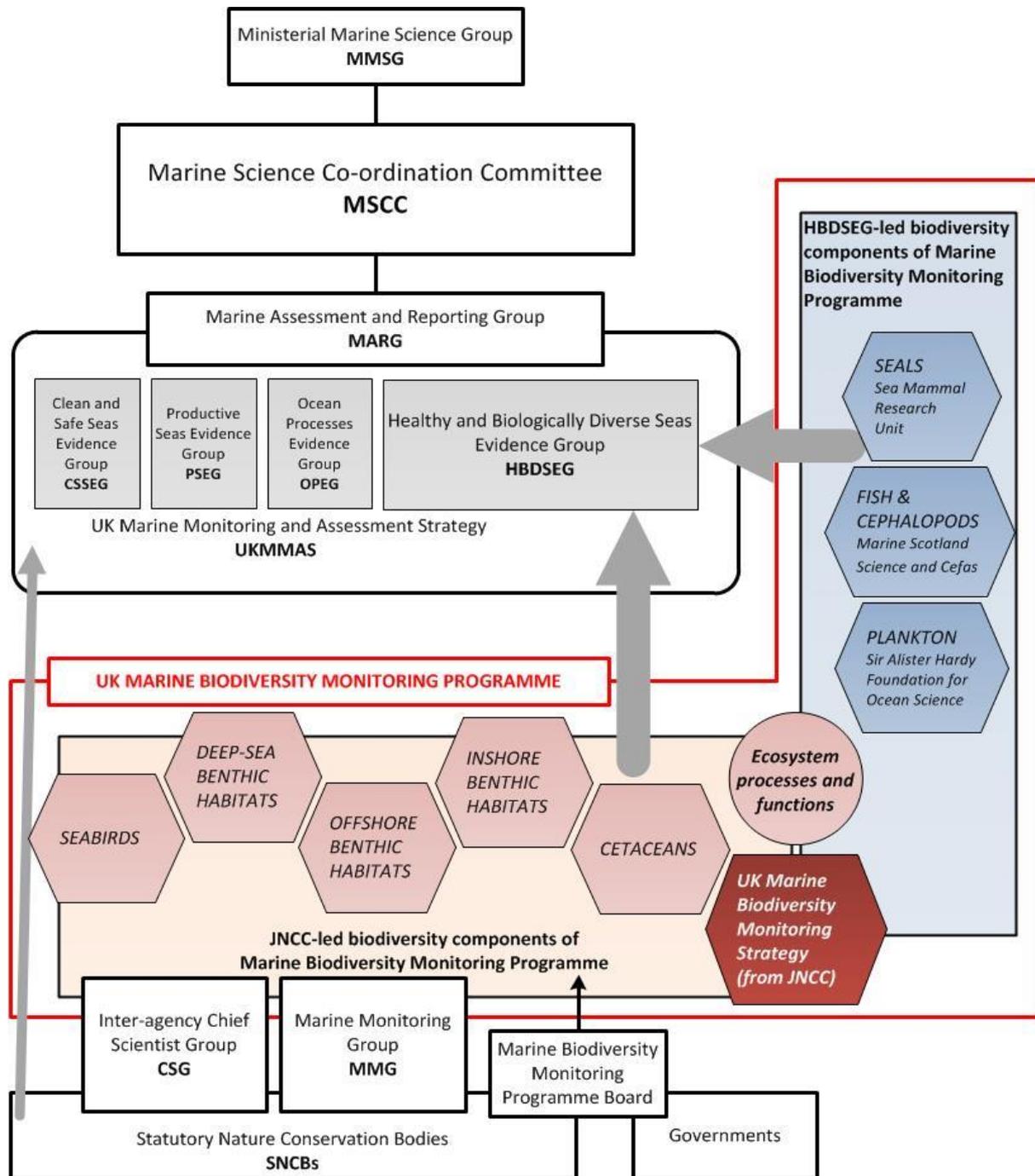
The governance structure has been agreed by Programme partners and has formed the framework within which the marine monitoring options have developed.

The Programme sits within the UKMMAS structure, and, through HBDSEG, reports to the Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting Group (MARG). If the marine monitoring options delivered through the programme are agreed by MARG, a recommendation on integrated marine biodiversity monitoring could be formulated into a paper by MARG to the Marine Science Co-ordination Committee. This could then be used by officials in each UK administration to achieve Ministerial sign-off of the recommended monitoring options.

The JNCC-led strategy and monitoring options for some biodiversity components (seabirds, deep sea benthic habitats, offshore benthic habitats, inshore benthic habitats, cetaceans) have been overseen by a Programme Board, with technical review carried out by the Chief Scientists Group and HBDSEG throughout the process. The Joint Committee have oversight of the work in the same way it has of any work undertaken by the executive.

Those biodiversity components not led by JNCC (seals, plankton, fish and cephalopods, and ecosystem processes and functions) are being led through HBDSEG and governed by UKMMAS. This work is also supported by JNCC as HBDSEG does not have resources of its own to allocate for delivery of the options.

**Figure 1.** Governance structure of the UK Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Programme



**Table 1.**

The roles of the groups within the UK Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Programme Governance.

<b>Group</b>	<b>Role</b>
Ministerial Marine Science Group (MMSG)	This group oversees the work of the Marine Science Co-ordination Committee (MSCC) and reports on how the MSCC is carrying out the UK Marine Science Strategy. It is chaired by the Minister for Natural Environment and Fisheries, Defra.
Marine Science Co-ordination Committee (MSCC)	MSCC is a high-level decision-making body on marine science to meet priority policy needs and help deliver the UK's vision of 'clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas'. The Committee aims to provide a strategic overview of marine science and take the decisions required to deliver UK marine science effectively and efficiently. In doing so, it recognises the essential role that evidence, gathered from monitoring and assessment, research, development, economic and statistical analyses, and social research, must play. It also works closely with organisations and individuals across the UK marine science community.
UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy	The overall aim is to shape the UK's capability, within national and international waters, to: "provide, and respond, within a changing climate, to, the evidence required for sustainable development within a clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse marine ecosystem and within one generation to make a real difference."
Marine Assessment and Reporting Group	Provides overall direction to UK marine monitoring programmes. It defines monitoring programmes for the assessment and management of the marine environment, and oversees implementation of the UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy. It is responsible for overseeing and coordinating the activities of the four UKMMAS evidence groups.
Healthy and Biologically Diverse Seas Evidence Group	Responsible for implementing monitoring and observation programmes, covering health and biodiversity processes. These programmes will facilitate the delivery of ecosystem-based assessments and management of the UK's marine environment.
Clean and Safe Seas Evidence Group	Focuses particularly on the direct effect on the marine environment of chemicals and pathogens, and their likely impact on human health.
Productive Seas Evidence Group	Aims to ensure that appropriate monitoring programmes are in place to produce periodic assessments to identify the nature and influences that human activities have on the socio-economic uses of the marine environment.
Ocean Processes Evidence Group	(Terms of reference not available)
Marine Monitoring Group	Inter-agency technical group with representatives from JNCC and the country nature conservation bodies.
Chief Scientists Group	Comprised of Chief Scientists from JNCC and the country nature conservation bodies.
Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Programme Board	Oversees the delivery of the Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Programme; includes Government, JNCC and country nature conservation body representatives.

## Annex 3

Priority research questions that JNCC requires answering have been developed. These cover JNCC's main work areas and take note of early discussions with the Chief Scientists Group and some JNCC staff. The questions will be further discussed with the Chief Scientists Group and will be used to stimulate discussion with the research community at the 'Future of Nature Conservation' conference in Manchester in May 2018. The questions suggested are:

### 1. International

**Question:** Which international natural environmental issues have the greatest potential to bring benefit to the UK based on consideration of targets and ambitions within the UK, the UK's global responsibility for the issue, the impact of any outcome on the UK and UK expertise/interest? And, what opportunities are there to engage in international activity to address these issues?

### 2. Evidence

**Question:** Quantify the relationships between things we can monitor easily and the things we need to know about to manage the environment, including value.

**Question:** For key pressures, develop activity-pressure-sensitivity-vulnerability models and gradients, building on extensive marine experience, to improve risk assessments beyond current threshold approach.

**Question:** How can we measure outcomes in environmental systems that are subject to human-derived pressures and human-induced management?

### 3. Marine casework support

**Question:** What are the gradients and thresholds for key pressures, including cumulative impacts of pressures, that are impacting on the marine environment? This work should build upon the MarLIN pressure/sensitivity work.

### 4. Marine evidence

**Question:** JNCC has developed conceptual ecological models of benthic habitats to inform indicator and parameter selection for monitoring and assessment. These models have many gaps, especially for deep sea habitats; prioritising and filling the important gaps will improve the efficiency of data collection and use. This will need to include improving the understanding of natural variability, recovery and recoverability, and disentangle the effects of climate change from other pressures.

**Question:** Recognising that successfully achieving outcomes is often best achieved locally, and further recognising that the offshore area does not easily lend itself to a 'local delivery model'. Accepting the theory that people are not persuaded but persuade themselves, undertake research to develop proposals for how infographics, visual arts, poetry, theatre including participatory, computer and board games, VR and AR, can assist in bringing assessments of the marine environment to appropriate audiences.

## 5. Marine Protected Areas

**Question:** Quantifying the 'benefits' of MPAs (via their features) in terms of ecosystem services and their 'value' from a natural capital perspective. Understanding and quantifying those elements will enable a better way of explaining their contribution and, in theory, monitor the delivery of those benefits to society.

## 6. Natural capital

**Question:** What businesses or elements of the private sector are gaining most from ecosystem benefits, what are they currently doing to ensure future delivery of these benefits and what could they do more? Main customers – Governments, local governments, advisors, private sector, service providers, land managers, NGOs etc.