

Marine Protected Area (MPA) Management

MPA management national steering group- Terms of Reference

1. Introduction

There is a need to deliver a well-managed network of MPAs by 2016 in a cost effective way. In September 2014 the MPA Network Project Board agreed that a national group of lead authorities with supporting coordinator and lead project management authority should be established to provide national coordination of and reporting on MPAs and the MPA network in waters for which the Secretary of State is responsible.

This group is also expected to provide leadership on MPA management in order to champion and steer improvements. Furthermore, the group will also raise the profile of MPAs within their authorities – increasing buy-in to management responsibilities and also with wider stakeholders.

2. MPA management national steering group

The Group is composed of representatives from key organisations that have a statutory obligation with respect to MPAs. Members should have the authority to influence within their organisations and actively input to the Group at a senior level.

Current member organisations:

- Marine Management Organisation
- Natural England
- Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities
- Defra
- Local Government Association
- Environment Agency
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee
- DECC

To be invited:

- Port and harbour authorities
- Crown Estate
- MOD

3. Terms of Reference

The Group's role is to provide strategic coordination and oversight of the management of MPAs:

- a) Develop a reporting framework for management actions for all MPAs
- b) Monitor the implementation, delivery and review of any actions identifying and resolving any cross-cutting risks and issues with managing activities in MPAs
- c) Provide guidance and disseminate best practice on MPA management

- d) Examine and where appropriate provide support for external funding bids for management implementation
- e) Promote the effective management of MPAs within their organisation
- f) Provide a steer on data requirements related to management priorities, particularly data on activities

4. How the Group will work

The Group will be chaired by the lead project management authority (Marine Management Organisation).

The Group will initially be requested to meet quarterly, with the frequency of meetings to be reviewed on an annual basis.

The Group will be expected to provide advice and deliver any actions between set meetings.

All agreed minutes of meetings are available to the public.

The Group may invite other regulators and external stakeholders to attend meetings on an ad hoc basis.

An annual summary progress report will be provided by the Group to Ministers.