

Report on the Marine Communities Workshop



FRIDAY 6th - SUNDAY 8th MAY 2016

Gartmore House, Stirling, Scotland

Workshop facilitated by
Fauna & Flora International
in partnership with
The Community of Arran Seabed Trust



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List of Abbreviations

CAOLAS	Community Association of Lochs and Sounds
COAST	Community of Arran Seabed Trust
FFI	Fauna & Flora International
FIMETI	Fair Isle Marine Environment and Tourism Initiative
MCSO	Marine Community Support Officer
MCS	Marine Conservation Society
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SCA	Scottish Community Alliance
SCIO	Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SPA	Special Protected Area
SSSI	South Skye Seas Initiative
SSSI	Special Scientific Site of Interest
VMR	Voluntary Marine Reserve

Thank you

FFI and COAST would like to thank all of the delegates who participated in the Marine Communities Workshop for their time and valuable contributions. Thanks for your unflagging enthusiasm, and energy throughout a memorable weekend. We invite ongoing feedback from both those who participated and others who may read this report.

If you have any questions or comments please contact Kerri Whiteside

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1. Aim of the workshop

The workshop is part of FFI's [broader marine community support project](#) and aimed to enable coastal community groups interested in sustainable marine management to network and share knowledge and experiences. A relatively small delegate count ensured there was enough time for discussion and for people to get to know each other with the intention that the workshop would also help to establish new contacts to be maintained in the future.

It was hoped that the workshop would enable participants to increase their knowledge, feel more connected with one another be better positioned to maintain communication in the future - both with one another and with government - and to be inspired to take the next steps to meet the aspirations of their own group.

2. Session Summaries

2.1. Community Empowerment and Involvement in the Marine Environment

Howard Wood and Don Macneish, co-founders of COAST, shared the journey they have travelled on over the past several decades establishing and developing COAST; building a solid case for environmental justice for the seas around Arran and watching their initial team of community activists grow into an effective organisation which is now at the forefront of marine protection in Scotland.

The two shared their accumulated wisdom and advice to the audience - advice around establishing a core group of like-minded people, researching the problem at hand, remaining politically neutral, agreeing clear and clearly defined objectives, building a solid community base and, from there, reaching out to other organisations with the same or similar objectives.

They also spoke of shifting political sands; current political opportunities and the noted impact already made on the MPA process by communities showing unified support for their local MPAs. To quote Don Macneish *"what I would say is 'carpe diem' or 'seize the day'. Loose no time. There has never been such an appetite for community empowerment for further protection of our fragile marine ecosystem"*.

Finally, they touched upon their hopes and fears for the future. Fears such as the further entrenchment of the status-quo and fears of communities, such as those in the room, being

excluded from management bodies; hopes for a united front of community organisations working collectively for more protection of the marine environment and for new opportunities for key stakeholders to be involved in joint incentives in management and science with local communities (arguing that this is economically sensible).

“Our hopes for the future are tied up mainly in this room. It’s your organisations that can now take advantage of the new climate of acceptance of community organisations.”

Don Macneish & Howard Wood (COAST)



2.2. Sharing Marine Community Initiatives

The purpose of this session was to profile a range of grassroots projects active around Scotland’s coast. These ranged from community groups who are comparatively new in their establishment to ‘veterans in the field’. In total six different community groups shared the background and information on their initiatives. All groups, although different in many aspects, had the very common aspiration of securing adequate protection of their local marine environment.

The Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST)

Having heard from COAST’s co-founders, Howard and Don, at the opening of the workshop, Manuela de los Rios - Communications Officer for COAST - kicked off the Saturday morning session by speaking about COAST from an organisational and internal viewpoint. Key points:

- The internal aspects of how COAST work and what they do today – their strategy, structure and capacity. “Persistence, passion and practice”.

- Internal and external challenges such as securing effective marine management and government involving local communities - COAST is interested in a collaborative approach to MPA management.
- COAST's focus on: campaigning—across a broad range of channels including MSPs letters & meetings, Twitter, demonstrations and research—working with MSc and PhD students to produce research, and also on education, outreach and community engagement.
- Manuela described COAST as a sustainable and vibrant organisation with a clear purpose - “healthy and well managed seas for the benefit of all” and also spoke on the importance of sharing and learning with other coastal communities.
- COAST was described as constantly looking toward the future, and in this context the plans for a new Marine Discovery Centre which they are also presently focused on were described.

St Abb's & Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve (VMR)

Sarah Russell, currently employed as part-time project officer for the [St Abb's & Eyemouth VMR](#), spoke about the history and current position of the VMR. Key points:

- Establishment of the VMR in 1984 and how it was a pioneer in marine conservation at that time.
- The successes of the model - such as getting people to agree a voluntary code of practice, getting community led marine conservation established, employing a ranger – face to face contact, education, and acting as a mediator between user groups.
- The establishment of the Berwickshire and Northumberland marine SAC and its relevance to the success of the VMR – the SAC prohibits mobile fisheries in the reserve and so although voluntary there is a statutory framework underneath the organisation which is working.
- The fact that more and more people are accessing their marine environment and that in the St Abb's & Eyemouth local area the demographics are changing *and* community structures are also changing.
- Sarah is currently engaging with the local communities within the VMR area that are dwindling and establishing a new core of people to be actively involved in the VMR. Now currently positioning this all as an opportunity to rebrand and restructure, e.g. becoming a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO).

The Fair Isle Marine Environment and Tourism Initiative (FIMETI)

Stewart Thomson, a local fisherman from Fair Isle and a key member of [FIMETI](#), spoke on the driving force behind FIMETI and on what they have focused on most recently. Key points:

- Healthy seas around Fair Isle are vital to the community as a source of fish maintain the seabird populations, which attract tourists to the isle, which brings income – so proper protection is not just for the birds and fish, it's for the people too. Unfortunately however there have been huge declines in seabird populations and the breeding successes of certain species (e.g. kittiwakes) have been profoundly affected.
- Traditionally, Fair Isle has always kept an eye on its marine resources, with people on the island writing diaries, pre and post WWII, and you can see huge reduction in stocks – *“now you're lucky if you see whitefish at all”*.
- It has been difficult for Fair Isle to fit into the MPA network system - Marine Scotland was looking for MPAs that targeted specific marine species of importance, but Fair Isle had a more holistic approach and didn't fit those categories for a Nature Conservation MPA.
- A [Demonstration & Research MPA proposal](#) was developed and submitted in late 2011. It has been a long struggle but the proposal is finally out to public consultation and the whole community is behind the proposal and potential MPA.
- In the last year, the Shetland Fishermen's Association and Scottish Fishermen's Federation have agreed to come onto the proposed steering group for the D&R MPA – FIMETI are hopeful that this will be positive.



Stewart Thomson and Inge Thomson representing FIMETI

Sea Change (Wester Ross)

Sara Nason and Diyanne Ross, group members of Sea Change, spoke on the focus and structure of the group and the opportunities their local MPA can deliver. Key points:

- A major concern for the group from the onset was the presence of scallop dredgers in [Wester Ross MPA](#). From there they built up a campaign – used local and online petitions, set up a [Facebook Page](#), letters to politicians, the use of the media, group meetings (non-hierarchical, anyone that turns up has a vote and then go with the majority vote).
- Dredging was clearly a key issue in the area but no one believed anything in the system could change. Voluntary Exclusion Zones were set up but incursions into these were happening.
- Therefore a meeting between Sea Change and Marine Scotland was held to look at how the community could get involved in collecting evidence. Ultimately, scallop dredging was banned within the MPA via (initially) an Emergency Marine Conservation Order.
- A very useful development was the production of a socio-economic assessment which highlighted the benefit of the MPA to the community.
- It hasn't always been plain sailing for the group which has faced intimidation and threats at times.
- Shellfish opportunities were given attention in the second part of the talk with Sea Change now keen to make the most of their MPA and the opportunities for change that it provides. Diyanne spoke on the importance of creating a home market and more realistic pricing structure for Nephrops. The importance of having a common label for product caught within the MPA was also highlighted; how there would be real benefits of a market strategy for West Coast prawns and that there is a need for this to be globally recognised.

The Community Association of Lochs and Sounds (CAOLAS)

Alasdair Firth and Andy Jackson (CAOLAS Chair and Treasurer) and Hugh Raven (CAOLAS member) explained the concept and ethos of their local group. Key points:

- CAOLAS was established officially in July 2015, largely born out of a united response to the MPA consultation process and designation of the local [Loch Sunart to Sound of Jura MPA](#).
- CAOLAS recognised that *“to have an impact as a community we need to organise ourselves”*.
- The area is a hotspot for scallop dredging – the group feel that the benefits of the MPA should be promoted rather than focussing explicitly on banning dredgers. The impacts of dredging are considered high by CAOLAS however - both ecologically and due to the fact that destruction of archaeological evidence was occurring as a result of dredging.

- As a group they want to work together to find more sustainable ways of doing things – and to change the attitude of “them and us” – ensuring that there is help for those adversely affected by MPAs, as they feel it’s important not to start alienating some people as their local communities are very small and widely separated.

South Skye Seas Initiative

James Merryweather and Eileen Armstrong, two of the founding members of SSSI, closed this session by speaking on their experience to date working together as a group. Key points:

- SSSI born out of the [Scottish Salmon Think-Tank](#) (SST-T), also ran by core group members of Eileen, James and Roger - who have successfully campaigned against four fish farms in the South Skye sea lochs.
- In their experience as SST-T they have built up strong community support and enough knowledge to combat the planning process. They built their campaign around educating and informing the local community on the facts – their stance was not against fish farming as such, but rather, against fish farming in the wrong locations.
- The group found that planning documents were quite complex and so they produced summary documents and briefing presentations for community meetings.
- They successfully galvanised community support and encouraged the local community to put in responses to the fish farm applications – ultimately the planning applications were withdrawn; the main reason was, no doubt, the input of the community.



James Merryweather, Eileen Armstrong, Roger & Pat Cottis representing the South Skye Seas Initiative

- The area is rich in maerl and seagrass beds - SNH surveys were conducted in the lochs in 2014 and now the group want to explore the potential of protected status and to focus on activities that protect the environment and create economic activities.

2.3. Updates and Perspectives from Marine Scotland and SNH

Scotland's MPA Network; Marine Scotland

Sebastian Howell, Policy Advisor within Marine Scotland MPA team, covered the work that Marine Scotland has undertaken to date on MPAs. Key points:

- The MPA network as it stands, the framework of the [Marine Nature Conservation Strategy](#) (clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse marine and coastal environment that meets the long term needs of people and nature), the driving force of the [Marine \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) and the EU [Habitats](#) and [Birds](#) Directives.
- The network will also be a contributing factor of achieving Good Environmental Status by 2020 as required by the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, meeting international obligations made at OSPAR and the Convention on Biological Diversity
- Current protected sites in Scotland - 382 sites, 30 MPAs ([Nature Conservation](#)), 47 Special Areas of Conservation ([SACs](#)), 45 Sites of Special Scientific Interest ([SSSIs](#)), 194 [Seal Haul Out Sites](#) designated, five [Seal Conservation Areas](#) have been established and more to come e.g. new Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds, additional MPA management, Demonstration and Research MPAs.
- Designations do not automatically create a No Take Zone or a fishery closed area within an MPA - aim of MPA management is to ensure activities that take place on or near to a protected feature don't hinder achievement of the conservation objectives for that feature.
- Next steps include consultation analysis of the sites which have recently went out to public consultation; the launch of consultations on Marine SPAs for seabirds; Nature Conservation MPAs for mobile species and Phase 2 management for existing MPAs and SACs (as part of the management measures process the 17 inshore MPAs and 22 SACs were split into two groups to allow for phased implementation of management).

Coastal communities and conservation of our seas – looking back and looking forward; Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)

Katie Gilham and David Donnan, Coastal & Marine Ecosystems & Use Unit, SNH, covered the purpose and role of SNH and their experience and views on community involvement. Key points:

- There are around 30 people in the Coastal & Marine Ecosystems & Use Unit; their division of labour is between monitoring and science, designations and MPAs.
- Case studies from the past which SNH has been involved in:
 - [St Abb's & Eyemouth voluntary approach](#) - primarily about awareness and information about the marine environment, there wasn't a large campaigning aspect.
 - [Loch Torridon project](#) (*Nephrops* creel fishery management)- focused on cultural history of the area, biodiversity.
 - [Sea Search](#) – (programme of volunteer scuba divers mapping habitats and species found during sports dives) now a well-oiled machine, underpins proposals and sites we work on.
- Through the MPA project 27 third party MPA proposals were received, five national workshops were held and 30+ drop in sessions were delivered; SNH also produced a huge range of education and interpretation projects.
- The Community Empowerment Act now drives the need for SNH to be better engaging with communities in listening, learning and being involved in decisions. Want to talk to people in order to inform how SNH develops its approaches in the future.
- SNH are looking to monitoring and research as one way forward for community engagement. SNH have already conducted community-led surveys such as the [survey within the Wester Ross MPA](#).



Sebastian Howell (Marine Scotland) and Katie Gillam (SNH)

2.4. Policy and Planning

The Community Empowerment Agenda; the Scottish Community Alliance

Angus Hardie, Director of the [Scottish Community Alliance](#) (SCA), described the SCA, the current drivers of change and the SCA vision for a stronger community sector. Key points:

- SCA have produced the document 'Local People Leading' which includes four core principles: subsidiarity, self-determination, "local by default" (procurement of services, making this more localised), equality and fairness.
- Anything that communities have achieved so far has been in the face of opposition rather than support – but now a lot has changed over a short period of time.
- There have been three main drivers that have caused the change in opinions: crisis in our public service, austerity, and absence of local democracy; on the absence of local democracy there has been a decline in turn out to elections, a lack of trust in local politicians, and increasingly centralised processes.
- All these factors now impact a range of public policy and services that has resulted in a greater community focus.
- A number of policies now take into account communities: e.g. [Regeneration Strategy](#), [the Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#), [The Land Reform \(Scotland\) Act](#), [Planning Review](#), [Participatory Budgeting](#), [the Scottish Rural Parliament](#). Of these the Community Empowerment Act currently presents various options for consultation and engagement, and may create significant opportunities relevant to the groups in the room.

National and Regional Marine Planning; Marine Scotland

Morag Campbell, Marine Scotland's Marine Planning Branch, spoke on [National and Regional Marine Planning within Scotland](#). Key points:

- National Marine Planning reflects international and domestic legislation and influences regional and local marine planning. A range of factors are taken into account such as emerging industries, awareness of climate change and sustainability.
- The aim is to reconcile conflicts, assign priorities, support growth, and protect and enhance the environment (and identify areas we need more data on). It takes an integrated, balanced approach, considering economic growth, environmental and social issues, covering all waters/activities and considers the best locations for specific purposes.

- [The National Marine Plan 2015](#) – sets out how all Scottish waters will be used – it covers all activities, all planning decisions, and policies specific to industry that manages its environmental impact. This National Plan will then be used to inform local level planning.
- Objectives are set at two levels: high level from EU framework and then sector level objectives: socio-economic, climate change and adaptation, and environmental.
- The next stage is completing regional planning - the first step of that has been completed which was to define boundaries and set regions.
- Marine Planning Partnerships (MPPs) will be made up of marine stakeholders that reflect marine interests in the region. [Shetland Islands](#) and [the Clyde](#) have been the trial areas. Until regional plans are formed the National Marine Plan will be used.
- The process of regional planning is similar to that used for the national plan in that an ecosystem approach is used. The content of a regional plan is up to the people that participate on the MPP – it is ultimately about local stakeholders putting together local plans.

3. Government Break-out Discussions

After the talks SNH and Marine Scotland posed three separate questions to large break-out groups:

Below is a summary of answers given across the three groups:

1. What has worked well with regards to community involvement within the MPA process?

- Overall, the consultation process has been positive.
- More people know now that MPAs exist.
- Marine Scotland Compliance has been willing to work with communities – offering training workshops.
- It has been a very in-depth consultation process with (relatively) unprecedented opportunities for the public to participate.
- Some expectations have even been exceeded re: area protected.
- Communities have been in a better position to become experts on their local patch of coast/sea.

2. What hasn't worked well?

- It would be useful to have more disentanglement of management issues around MPAs.
- Clearer information on why the boundaries of MPAs are set in certain places.
- The complexity in the measures of how management is carried out is a barrier to communities getting involved in the process.

- Local communities were not aware of MPA process.
- Not clear how to respond or what to respond with.
- Sense of nothing happening (slow process).
- Consultation documents were very technical.
- Planning communities were not well enough informed.

3. What ways could we work more collaboratively in the future?

- Increase the spread of information and resources and also make sure these resources are accessible to the target audience.
- Recognise the validity of different stakeholders.
- Source funding for media (films, art, spreading the word).
- Better use limited research budget to work with local communities in collecting data.
- Produce concise documentation that is targeted to specific audiences.
- Clearer communications - make it clear that MPAs are an *ongoing* process.

4. Community-Focused Group Break-out Discussions

The next phase saw a series of break out groups discuss questions posed around future collaboration and co-operation across the various community groups.

4.1. What challenges do local communities face in seeking to influence or become involved in marine management?

There many similarities in the challenges which the different break-out groups reported. These included:

- Practical challenges relating to geography and scale.
- Capacity to engage (including both time constraints and skills bases).
- A lack of general public awareness and apathy.
- Feelings of powerlessness and in some cases a power imbalance with regard to specific marine user groups (such as fisheries representatives).
- Shared challenges about self-organisations – including the practicalities of group development, ensuring representativeness, questions over legitimacy, consensus building and maintaining internal and external relationships.

- Another common key issue raised was the difficulty in finding and/or accessing relevant information or means to gain understanding of (governmental) processes. Different break-out groups noted the lack of case studies or lessons learnt that were currently available and different groups identified challenges in working with government including confusion over ‘who does what’, where and how you can access information.
- Some break-out groups reported feeling that government aren’t listening to local communities and that the lack of a regular and open link of access to government is another ongoing challenge for community groups.

4.2. When and why might collaboration between communities from different areas be useful? When and why might it not be useful?

- There was unanimity across each of the break-out groups for the appetite for, and importance of, collaboration. This was seen to have two benefits a) for the sharing of experiences and cross-group learning and b) to create opportunities for working together to have more impact. Specifically groups identified that by working in co-ordination communities could have strength in numbers and a louder voice and hence more influence for political change on the national issues which affect all communities – some groups, for example, noted the impact that was made in the latter part of the MPA process when local communities actively engaged in improving the management of their local MPAs.
- It was also acknowledged that through collaboration there would also be the possibility to access a wider constituency of support behind otherwise “local” issues, and to get a broader cross-community understanding of community rights and how to access these.
- While the value of collaboration was recognised, there was also recognition of the need for different communities to keep their own distinct voices and aspirations.
- Specifically, collaboration was also identified as a way to: help to foster moral support between communities with common problems, provide a source for specific advice and expertise, share information on organisational development and governance structures, provide a source of best practice and lessons learnt (including what not to do) and a means to boost confidence across community groups.
- Different break-out groups explored different models for collaboration, ranging from the informal to the formal. Break-out groups explored the potential of existing structures and vehicles to organise collaboration, and ways that co-operative and effective fundraising mechanisms could be developed. The terms “collaboration”, “network” and “federation” were used to describe the potential structure of the collaboration. It was agreed that communication

would be at the core of any collaboration. Some groups also discussed the need for collaboration not to be imposed or forced, but there might be value in it evolving naturally.

- Risks to collaboration were also identified by some break-out groups. A highly organised joint collaboration could be seen too much as a single entity and could be viewed as an NGO (thus losing the important community-based status) and could pull groups away from their different individual objectives. Any collaboration would need to ensure that each community maintained its own identity and community base.

4.3. What kind of support is useful to communities aspiring to influence marine management? What types of support are best on a case by case level, and what could be offered at a higher “network” level?

- All the break-out groups identified the need for different types and sources of support.
- Support (both organisational and technical) already being provided was acknowledged (including the role of FFI and other NGOs). There were aspirations to replicate the work of the Community Support Officer at a more local or regional level.
- Other support needed and/or valued included legal advice, advice on working with/engaging politicians and academic/scientific support (including survey support, use of graduate students, community-led monitoring, socio-economic data collection and sharing of research findings). In addition the moral support of just talking with each other, and recognising shared problems, was acknowledged. The need for more financial support/funding was also noted (fundraising support).
- The need for a single go-to place for information and advice was stated by a number of groups, even if they were then referred on to other groups or individuals from there. Being able to have an access point to engage with local, regional and national expertise was seen as a real opportunity (and would also help people know what types of skills they might be able to find within their own communities).
- One break-out group suggested a mentoring system, which would pair communities to share specific skills (e.g. development of funding applications).
- There was interest in working more closely with government, with disappointment in the lack of locally based personnel and opportunities for regular engagement and relationship building for communities. Break-out groups suggested a value in more outreach from government, and also more technical and practical support from government departments (e.g. more compliance training).

4.4. If there were some form of network of communities, how would it function? Would a website platform be valuable and if so what could be on the website?

- There was broad agreement on the need for some form of ongoing communication network at the centre of the collaboration. The main purpose of any future network would be a vehicle for Scotland-focused communication and to ensure connectivity - a “network of the trusted”.
- A range of different communication systems and structures were discussed. There was no consensus between groups in regard to the specifics of this or how formal it should be, but discussions included a comparison of hierarchical (based on representatives from different groups or core “super-users”) vs flat engagement systems (where everyone talks to everyone), with the latter being favoured as more democratic.
- It was advised that it might be worth looking at existing models of other umbrella groups e.g. Community Land Scotland; however any emerging network must reflect (and respect) both the commonalities *and* the differences between groups.
- Whilst the structure of a network was not pinned down consistently, some common themes emerged with regards to its practical functionality. A communication mechanism would allow for sharing of knowledge and experiences between separate community groups. As well as a communication mechanism, other functions identified included: the need for an information resource facility, the need for further opportunities for physical group meetings (symposiums) with the suggestions being that these happened every 1-2 years, and probably the need for someone (paid) to help co-ordinate the network/collaboration – at least initially. Other ideas proposed included revolving inter-community visits and opportunities for experience exchange or shared training opportunities (e.g. media training).
- It was agreed that a website might be an important resource, but more important would be some form of communication platform, which would not necessarily be dependent on a website. Ideas included email lists, a closed Facebook group or a specific online forum.
- It was discussed that a website might include:
 - a private discussion forum for internal communications (although this could be achieved independently of the website) where questions can be asked and key issues raised
 - a public facing area for new groups to access
 - some indication of the overall purpose of the network/collaboration/website
 - profiles of the different community groups (and links to their websites (if relevant))

- a simple interactive map with where the communities are located and the MPAs or other important areas
 - contact lists (who to contact for what, including within government)
 - an event calendar
 - resource pages including case studies
 - roadmaps or guidance on key marine management processes, organisations, people etc and a glossary of marine management terms and acronyms
 - online legal advice
 - science content
 - photo archive for sharing
 - learning resources for adults and children
- The need for a website administrator/moderator (at least initially) was identified and perhaps some key regular users actively promoting experience sharing (and stimulating wider debate).



Nick Underdown (LINK) and Hannah Becker (FFF)



Caroline Younger and Will Goudy from Craignish



Andy Holbrow (Sea Change), Kerri Whiteside (FFI) and Russ Cheshire (COAST)

5. Workshop Conclusions

Key themes that surfaced during the weekend:

- Marine/coastal communities are organising themselves in various localities and are faced with similar challenges (complexity of governmental systems and policies, under-representation within management, practical challenges e.g. geography) and aspire to similar goals (more influence, more support, effective protected areas).
- Communities working together can help to address these challenges and strengthen resilience within and between groups with common aims.
- Communication will be at the core of enhanced collaboration – there is a clear appetite for some form of future “network” which would ensure connectivity and information sharing between groups, and could provide the means for aligned communications and a stronger “voice”.
- There is, however, a high level of uniqueness within each site/group which should be maintained, and the balance between independence and collaboration needs to be achieved so as to ensure authenticity.
- The time is now – the workshop provided an opportunity to take stock of how the context has dramatically shifted in Scotland over the past 5-6 years with a genuine move within government toward community empowerment.

6. Next Steps

- ✓ Communicate with one another (e.g. via the established email thread and via social media) on issues where there may be shared interest or value in collaborative action.
- ✓ Use this report and the information gathered to provide an in-depth insight into marine/coastal communities-of-place to government agencies (and others) such as those who attended i.e. Marine Scotland and SNH.
- ✓ The Marine Community Support Officer (MCSO) will further develop options for network development over the next few months, in consultation with constituent community groups and with reference to models of other functioning networks.

- ✓ Over the next year the MCSO (in partnership with others) will develop a website to host key resources and to potentially provide a hub for communications.
- ✓ Over the next year the MCSO (and others) will identify opportunities for and (where appropriate) facilitate direct experience exchanges/shared training opportunities between communities.
- ✓ The MCSO will plan for future Marine Communities Workshops on a 1-2 year basis (subject to securing sufficient funding) and ensure the learning and feedback from the 2016 workshop informs the organisation and delivery of future workshops.
- ✓ The MCSO will also continue to offer ongoing direct support to groups and individuals upon request and where appropriate.



Appendix.1. Delegate List

	Name	Group/Organisation	Email
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16	David Ainsley	Sea Life Adventures, Isle of Seil by Oban	info@sealife-adventures.com
17	David Bailey	Glasgow University	David.Bailey@glasgow.ac.uk
18	David Donnan	Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)	David.Donnan@snh.gov.uk
19	Diyanne Ross	Sea Change, Wester Ross	diyanne@hotmail.co.uk
20	Donald Macneish	Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST)	donmacneish@gmail.com
21	David Bailey	University of Glasgow	David.Bailey@glasgow.ac.uk
22	Eileen Armstrong	South Skye Seas Initiative	eileen@thehirsle-on-skye.com
23	Eleanor Scott	H&I Green MSP (2003-2007); Co-convenor of the Scottish Green	Eleanorsco@gmail.com

		Party (2008-2011)	
24	Grant Laidlaw	St Abb's & Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve	grant.laidlaw@hotmail.com
25	Hannah Becker	Fauna & Flora International (FFI)	Hannah.Becker@fauna-flora.org
26	Hannah Braithwaite	Fauna & Flora International (FFI)	Hannah.Braithwaite@fauna-flora.org
27	Howard Wood	Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST)	howard@arrancoast.com
28	Hugh Raven	Ardtornish Estate Company	hugh@ardtornish.com
29	Inge Thomson	Fair Isle Marine Environment & Tourism Initiative	ingethomson@me.com
30	James Merryweather	South Skye Seas Initiative	j.merryweather369@btinternet.com
31	Jean Ainsley	Sea Life Adventures, Isle of Seil by Oban	jean@ainsleysmith.co.uk
32	Jenny Stark	Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST)	jestark@arrancoast.com
33	Katie Gilham	Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)	Katie.Gillham@snh.gov.uk
34	Kerri Whiteside	Fauna & Flora International (FFI)	Kerri.Whiteside@fauna-flora.org
35	Lizzie Williams	Sea Change, Wester Ross; & Tanera Mor	lizzie.w.williams@gmail.com
36	Manuela de los Rios	Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST)	manuela@arrancoast.com
37	Mark Woombs	WA Marine & Environment,; & Sea Knoydart	mark@wamarine.co.uk
38	Morag Campbell	Marine Scotland	Morag.Campbell2@gov.scot
39	Nick Underdown	Scottish Environment LINK	nick@scotlink.org
40	Peter Cunningham	Wester Ross Fisheries Trust	info@wrft.org.uk
41	Richard Luxmore	National Trust Scotland	rluxmoore@nts.org.uk
42	Rob Gibson	SNP MSP for H&I (2003-2011) + Caithness, Sutherland and Ross (2011-2016)	robgybson273@btinternet.com
43	Roger Cottis	South Skye Seas Initiative	cottiskye@btinternet.com

44	Russell Cheshire	Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST)	russell@obrt.co.uk
45	Sam Tedcastle	Celtic Seas Partnership, WWF	STedcastle@wwf.org.uk
46	Sara Nason	Sea Change, Wester Ross	wa.nason@scotnet.co.uk
47	Sarah Russell	St Abb's & Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve	sarah.russell@berwickshirecoast.org.uk
48	Sebastian Howell	Marine Scotland	Sebastian.Howell@gov.scot
49	Stewart Thompson	Fair Isle Marine Environment & Tourism Initiative	thomson403@btinternet.com
50	Sue Pomeroy	Sea Change, Wester Ross	sueandwill@icloud.com
51	Tom Appleby	University of West England; & COAST; & Blue Marine Foundation	tpsappleby@hotmail.com
52	Trudi Clarke	Isle of Rum Community Trust	trudi_clarke@hotmail.com
53	Will Goudy	Craignish Recovery of Marine & Coastal Habitats (CROMACH)	will_goudy@hotmail.com

Appendix.2. Workshop Agenda

Friday 6th May

- 18.00 **Arrival (refreshments available)**
- 18.00 **“Let’s Talk About...”**
- Social Media
 - Data Collection & Research
 - MPA Compliance
 - Funding
 - Open: is there something you want to bring up? Table it here!

↑ These are focused skills & information ‘drop-in’ sessions, set up across one or two rooms, where anyone interested in how to access certain areas can ask questions to those with specific knowledge or interest in that area.

- 19.30 **Buffet-style dinner**
- 20.30 *“Community empowerment and involvement in the marine environment”*
Howard Wood & Donald Macneish; co-founders of the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST)
- 21.15 **Move to bar**

Saturday 7th May

- 08.00 **Breakfast**
- Sharing Experiences from Marine Community Initiatives (09.00–12.45)**
- 09.00 Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST)
www.arrancoast.co.uk
- 09.30 St. Abb’s & Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve
<https://www.marine-reserve.co.uk/>
- 10.00 Fair Isle Marine Environment & Tourism Initiative (FIMETI)
www.fimeti.org
- 10.30 **Coffee Break**
- 11.00 Sea Change, Wester Ross
[Sea Change Wester Ross Facebook Page](#)
- 11.30 CAOLAS; Community Association of Lochs and Sounds – Sunart & Mull
[CAOLAS Facebook Page](#)

12.00 South Skye Seas Initiative

<http://www.scottishsalmonthinktank.net/>

12.45 Lunch

Perspectives & Updates from Marine Scotland and SNH (13.30-15.00)

13.30 *"Scotland's MPA Network"*

Sebastian Howell; Marine Scotland (Marine Environment & Policy)

14.15 *"Coastal communities and conservation of our seas – looking back and looking forward"*

Katie Gillham & David Donnan; SNH (Coastal & Marine)

15.00 Coffee Break

Break-out Sessions (15.15-17.15)

15.15 Small break-outs focused on ambitions and challenges for marine community groups across Scotland

17.15 Stroll/refresh

18.00 *"Spotlight on Loch Sunart from an Underwater Photographer"*

Mark Woombs; [WA Marine & Environment](#)

18.45 Wine reception

19.15 Dinner

20.30 [Inge Thomson](#)

A musical performance from the Fair Isle folk singer, including songs from her album on the Fair Isle MPA "Da Fishing Hands"

Sunday 8th May

08.30 Breakfast

Discussions on Policy & Planning (09.30-11.00)

09.30 *"The Community Empowerment Agenda"*

Angus Hardie; Scottish Community Alliance

10.15 *"Scotland's National Marine Plan & Regional Marine Planning"*

Morag Campbell; Marine Scotland

11.00 Coffee Break


11.15 Wrap-up & Feedback Session


12.15 *A short film on the Wester Ross MPA*

12.40 Lunch

14.00 Departure

Appendix.3. Local Group Profiles

<p>The Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST)</p> 	<p>COAST is a community organisation, set up in 1995, working for the protection and restoration of the marine environment around Arran and the Clyde. The simple and principal message which COAST has always pushed, and still pushes in 2016, is the one that the Arran island community - and all coastal and island communities - should have more say what goes on in the water around them. COAST aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the local marine environment for the benefit of everyone • Help sustain the livelihood of those dependent on fishing and tourism • Increase the popularity of the area as a diving site and tourist destination • Educate future generations on the need for marine conservation. <p>COAST is recognised worldwide as one the UK's leading community marine conservation organisations. They were responsible for the establishment of Scotland's first No Take Zone in Lamlash Bay. They are now working towards effective management of the recently legally enforced South Arran Marine Protected Area (MPA).</p>
<p>The St Abb's & Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve</p>	<p>The St. Abbs and Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve is a charitable organisation, established in August 1984, that aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve the biodiversity of the coastal waters • Raise awareness of the marine environment through education • Promote responsible recreational use alongside a sustainable fishery to the mutual benefit of all. <p>As a voluntary reserve, protection of the marine life relies on the goodwill of the numerous groups of people who use the area and adhere to the 'Code of Practice'. Primarily the organisation was</p>





	<p>established as an unbiased forum to mediate conflicts arising between user groups. The VMR is currently undergoing a complete restructuring; converting from an Unincorporated Charity to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), with a complete change in Management Committee and reassessment of the aims and objectives.</p>
<p>The Fair Isle Marine Environment & Tourism Initiative (FIMETI)</p> 	<p>FIMETI is a Fair Isle community-led initiative in partnership with Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust and The National Trust for Scotland. The initiative was established in 1995 with the purpose of establishing the long term protection and sustainable management of the marine resources around Fair Isle, to the mutual benefit of the community of Fair Isle, users of the marine area and for the education and enjoyment of visitors.</p> <p>In 2011 FIMETI submitted a community-led proposal for a Demonstration & Research MPA within its local waters. There is a dual focus behind the Fair Isle MPA proposal; to establish robust research focused on migratory sea bird population decline and to demonstrate the social and economic value of a healthy marine environment to the Fair Isle community and other stakeholders. The proposal is currently out to public consultation with the hope that it becomes a designated MPA later in 2016. If designated it will be Scotland's first D&R MPA and will lead the way in demonstrating the effectiveness of a community-led partnership approach which ensures the marine environment is in a condition that benefits all.</p>
<p>SEA CHANGE, Wester Ross</p>	<p>Sea Change is a local group based around the shores of the Wester Ross Marine Protected Area - set up to encourage more local say in the management of inshore waters and our MPA. Sea Change wants to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RESTORE biodiversity and the marine ecosystem using a more holistic model and increase the numbers of mature breeding adults to improve stocks. • PROMOTE low impact sustainable fishing within inshore waters.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENCOURAGE Scientists and Fishermen to share knowledge and work together to create a world class model of sustainable local management. • EDUCATE by engaging with the community in an inclusive way and promote greater public awareness through factual education. • BAN Scallop dredging and other Sea bed damaging practices from inshore waters to protect fish nurseries and spawning grounds. • SUPPORT the socio-economic recovery of the area by promoting sustainable seas and fishing vital to the social fabric of our community. • RETAIN an independent voice and promote the public as the key stakeholder in our marine environment. • BUILD relationships between fishermen, scientists, environment groups and the public to work for best practice which fits local needs - and serves the public. • JOIN with like-minded groups such as COAST of Arran and other's to promote a united west coast voice for a thriving sea and coastal economy which embraces sustainable fishing. • MONITOR recovery by supporting surveys to measure sea bed and fin fish recovery with 'Citizen Science'. <p>SEA CHANGE includes ordinary members of the public, scientists, fishermen and conservationists, united by a shared love of the sea and a desire to restore it for the next generation. All who agree with us are welcome to join the group.</p>
The Community Association of Lochs & Sounds – Sunart & Mull (CAOLAS)	<p>CAOLAS (also Gaelic for ‘narrow neck of water’) is a community association which believes that management of the marine environment in Loch Sunart and the Sound of Mull should be in the public interest and contribute to the collective benefit of the people of Morvern, Mull and Ardnamurchan. CAOLAS is a nascent group, constituted in July 2015. It aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and promote sustainable use of local waters for



	<p>recreation, fishing and other marine activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and carry out research, surveys and investigations of the local marine environment • Involve the community and raise awareness of marine issues and the related cultural heritage • Educate and involve younger members of the community • Protect and allow recovery of biodiversity and natural processes in the Sound of Mull, Loch Sunart, the seas of Scotland and the wider marine environment.
<p>South Skye Seas Initiative (SSSI)</p>	<p>SSSI group members have achieved much already as ‘Scottish Salmon Think-Tank’ – an entity born from the knowledge and experience gained since 2012 in response to a sequence of open-net fish farm planning applications in Lochs Slapin and Eishort in south Skye and whose main aim is the promotion of land-based closed-containment. Now emerging as the South Skye Seas Initiative, the group seek to tackle head-on the absence of adequate protection for the natural biodiversity within the South Skye Seas whilst at the same time championing ecologically sustainable use of the marine environment. SSSI aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further ecological research and mapping and further socio-economic research. • Increase the conservation, recovery and enhancement of biodiversity features within the South Skye sea lochs. • Increase public awareness of the qualities of the loch system and the need for adequate protection. • Encourage community involvement leading to an enhanced sense of stewardship & well-being. • Drive forward thriving and ecologically sustainable local economies & increased access to/opportunities for local employment. • Build & maintain stronger relationships between the community & relevant authorities.




Appendix.4. Delegate Profiles


Name	Profile
Abigail Entwistle 	<p>Abi's love for the natural world was formed in a childhood spent running around a wood in south-east Scotland. She later studied Zoology and then undertook a PhD at Aberdeen University studying bats. Bats later took her off to Tanzania, where her work was supported by Fauna & Flora International (FFI). She started volunteering with FFI in 1996 and has undertaken a range of roles at FFI since then, including Director of Eurasia Programme. She is currently Director of Conservation Science and Design, as part of which she oversees FFI's global marine programme. She also has a specific interest in marine plastics and enjoys looking for nurdles on Scottish beaches in her spare time.</p> <p>Contact: abi.entwistle@fauna-flora.org</p>
Alasdair Firth 	<p>Alasdair Firth is a consultant ecologist from Drimnin in Morvern, specialising in native woodlands and upland habitats. He is a sea kayaker and fisherman, fishing from the kayak whenever weather and time permit. He has been involved with CAOLAS since its inception and is keen to broaden the group to include as wide a range of people as possible. His main focus in CAOLAS is on community benefits from sustainable use of the natural environment.</p> <p>Contact: alasdairwfirth@gmail.com</p>
Alex Kinninmonth 	<p>Alex is currently Head of Marine Policy at RSPB Scotland and has been working in a variety of UK government, agency and NGO roles over the past 10 years. All very policy and regulation focussed though, and unfortunately he does not get out to the coast quite as much as he would like to. His appreciation for sea life stems from a childhood (mis)spent on the shores of the East Neuk of Fife.</p> <p>Contact: Alex.Kinninmonth@rspb.org.uk</p>



<p>Alice Bucker</p> 	<p>Alice started working at FFI in January 2015 on an internship focusing on the links between biodiversity and agricultural productivity having graduated in 2014 from Cambridge University in Natural Sciences. She moved into her role as Conservation Partnerships Administrator in July and helps to provide support to a range of teams including the Conservation Science and Design Team where the marine programme sits.</p> <p>Contact: alice.bucker@fauna-flora.org</p>
<p>Andrew Binnie</p> 	<p>Like a lot of kids of his generation Andrew was inspired by Greenpeace and Jaques Cousteau to take an interest in campaigns and our marvellous ocean life. Since then he has worked with many coastal and island communities around the world, published books on sustainable community development and gained an MSc in Aquatic Ecosystems Management. He has been with COAST for nearly 5 years, prepared the South Arran MPA proposal and is their Executive Director.</p> <p>Contact: andrew@arrancoast.com</p>
<p>Andy Holbrow</p> 	<p>Andy has run his own scallop diving business around the Summer Isles since 1991, and has seen the decline in the fishing due to the dredgers. He has been active in supporting the MPA for his local area, helping out with seabed surveys and being involved with Sea Change.</p> <p>Contact: andyholbrow@gmail.com</p>
<p>Andy Jackson</p> 	<p>Andy runs Ardnamurchan Charters and has over 20 years of experience in providing wildlife experiences on-board Laurencia. In 2003 Andy became the care taker of the Isle of Carna in Loch Sunart, offering a truly remote getaway in the two cottages, whilst being fully supported and protected by the existing marine operation. Since then he has established a community interest company - Carna Conservation Initiative - to support and enhance the wildlife and ecology of Carna. Andy plays an active role in many community initiatives and has more recently been part of establishing the community association 'CAOLAS- Sunart and Mull'. He has taken an active interest in the establishment and promotion of the recent Loch Sunart, Sound of Mull & Firth of Lorne marine protected area (MPA). He hopes the MPA will protect Loch Sunart (and the rest) for future generations to come and enable sustainable use</p>



	<p>of the Loch for fishing as well as wildlife tourism.</p> <p>Contact: andy@carnaconservation.org</p>
<p>Angus Hardie</p> 	<p>Although originally trained in accountancy and then social work, Angus' principle interest is community work. He spent 20 years setting up and developing community organisations in and around the peripheral housing schemes of Edinburgh before moving to establish the national umbrella body for development trusts (DTA Scotland). More recently he initiated the Scottish Community Alliance - a broad coalition of the major community based networks operating in Scotland – with the aim of promoting the interests of the community sector more widely. Married with two daughters, he enjoys the occasional game of football. But with age taking its toll on his knees, he now spends more time cycling.</p> <p>Contact: angus@scottishcommunityalliance.net</p>
<p>Ann Hume</p> 	<p>Ann is a member of COAST's Community Advisory Panel. A former primary school teacher, she created COAST'S Marine Education Resource pack. She believes it is important to provide marine education for all children in schools. She is a graduate of Glasgow School of Art and designs and makes jewellery in her workshop on Arran as well as working part time with Visit Scotland.</p> <p>Contact: annandwylliehume@gmail.com</p>
<p>Annabel Lawrence</p>	<p>Annabel is a maritime archaeologist. She trained as a commercial diver and joined the Archaeological Diving Unit (ADU) as a professional maritime archaeologist in 1995. From 2005-2015 Annabel established the Lochaline Dive Centre as a top destination for recreational diving. The Centre provides in depth interpretation of the shipwrecks in the Sound of Mull using sonar and archaeological techniques. Annabel was nominated in the Institute of Directors, Female Director of the Year 2013. She also instigated the SMARTdiving.co.uk project which proposes to sink a decommissioned</p>




	<p>British Naval Destroyer in the Sound Of Mull, West Coast of Scotland to create the first artificial reef from a decommissioned Naval vessel in Scotland, and only the second in Europe. Annabel has been involved in the stewardship of the maritime historic assets in the Sound of Mull over the past decade. In 2015 she began a project to record the life and habitats associated with wrecks and dive sites in the Sound of Mull with a view to producing a guide for divers, snorkelers and beach explorers.</p> <p>Contact: dive@lochalinedivecentre.co.uk</p>
<p>Bryce Stewart</p> 	<p>Bryce is a marine ecologist and fisheries biologist whose work has ranged from temperate estuaries to tropical coral reefs and the deep-sea. The central thread in his research has been to gain an increased understanding of the factors regulating marine populations and communities so as to ensure their sustainable use, primarily by fisheries. Since moving to the UK in 1999, much of his research has focussed examining the utility of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) for improving both marine conservation and the management of fisheries. Through investigations in the Isle of Man, Arran and on the Yorkshire coast, his work has revealed not only the benefits that MPAs can provide, but also that engagement with local communities and stakeholders are vital to their success. Bryce is passionate about communicating science and conservation issues to the widest possible audience. His work has been featured regularly in print media and on radio and TV. He writes regular popular science articles and is highly active on social media. Bryce has also presented his findings at everything from scientific conferences to advisory groups, public and business meetings and the UK and EU parliaments</p> <p>Contact: bryce.beukers-stewart@york.ac.uk</p>

<p>Calum Duncan</p> 	<p>Calum Duncan is Head of Conservation Scotland at the Marine Conservation Society, establishing the Scotland programme in 2000, helping increase participation in MCS beach litter, diver survey and wildlife sighting citizen science projects and raise awareness of Scotland's amazing marine life. He co-ordinated the Seasearch project in Scotland for 14 years helping divers gather evidence to identify and designate MPAs and other important areas, and remains involved as a tutor. He also convenes Scottish Environment LINK's Marine Group, including steering the Save Scottish Seas project which helped secure the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the National Marine Plan and 30 nature conservation MPAs flowing from it. Calum is committed to working toward cleaner, healthier seas, richer in life, that support resilient, sustainable communities.</p> <p>Contact: Calum.Duncan@mcsuk.org</p>
<p>Camille Dressler</p> 	<p>Camille Dressler is the chair of the Small Isles Community Council. She has been a wildlife watch leader for a number of years and is passionate about the preservation of the Small Isles natural environment. As a former director of the Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust, she has seen the results of the marine environment surveys made at the time of the island's purchase, which shows areas of complete desertification, which alerted her to the damage done to the marine environment by irresponsible trawling. She has worked hard with Dr Richard Luxmoore of NTS to ensure the Small Isles should be designated as an MPA. Presently, she is involved in the Great Nurdle Hunt, as plastic nurdles are regularly washed up on the islands' beaches.</p> <p>Contact: camille.d@talk21.com</p>
<p>Caroline Younger</p> 	<p>Caroline Younger was born in Edinburgh in 1946. She lives between Argyll and London and has a small estate at Craignish in the Firth of Lorne. She is a keen gardener and on the steering committee of CROMACH (Craignish Restoration of Marine and Coastal Habitats) a nascent association concerned with marine conservation. Her immediate particular interest is banning fishing with mobile gear in MPAs.</p>

	<p>Contact: carolineyounger1@gmail.com</p>
<p>Charles Millar</p>	<p>Charles is the Executive Director of the Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust – a Scottish charity founded in 2011 which aims to promote the sustainable management of Scotland's inshore waters so that they provide the maximum long term benefits to all coastal communities. SIFT is currently promoting the establishment of a new spatial management system for the Firth of Clyde fishery using a Regulating Order. It is also (in collaboration with the Marine Conservation Society) revising its Aquaculture Information Pack – a document that is intended to assist coastal communities participate in the planning process relating to marine fish farms. He is also Chairman of the Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland, Scotland's oldest established environmental charity, which is currently campaigning for the introduction of a Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers, and for the establishment of additional National Parks. Charles previously worked as a corporate environmental consultant and in the environmental technology investment business.</p> <p>Contact: Charles.Millar@sift-uk.org</p>
<p>David Ainsley</p> 	<p>David completed Marine Zoology at Bangor University. Worked in fish-farming and started as a creel fisherman in the Firth of Lorne in 1988. He has run Sealife Adventures diving and wildlife charters since 1991, also in the Firth of Lorne. He was very much involved in the process that led to the end of tangle netting in the FoL in 2002 and also the European complaint which led to the end of Scallop Dredging in the Firth of Lorne and Creran SACs. More recently he has been involved in the MPA process including making a short video for social media "1% is not enough". David is currently involved in a campaign to try to persuade Scottish Water not to put poorly treated sewage into the SAC/MPA. David's hobby is underwater filming and this has been invaluable in publicising fishfarm pollution, the unnecessary shooting of seals, the damage to the seabed caused by scallop dredging and on a positive side has shown the improvements in the FoL SAC since scallop dredging stopped with some of his filming being shown on TV.</p>

	<p>Contact: info@sealife-adventures.com</p>
<p>David Bailey</p> 	<p>Dr David Bailey is a senior lecturer in marine ecology at the University of Glasgow. His main interests are in the biology and conservation of marine fish. He has worked on deep ocean, polar and tropical systems, but since moving to Glasgow in 2007 has worked extensively on coastal environments on the west coast of Scotland. His team have studied the effectiveness of marine protected areas, effects of fishing on fish populations and the role of seabed quality for the success of commercial fish species.</p> <p>Contact: David.Bailey@glasgow.ac.uk</p>
<p>David Donnan</p> 	<p>David Donnan works in the 'Coastal & Marine Ecosystems and Use Unit' in Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). Joining SNH's predecessor body Nature Conservancy Council for Scotland in 1991, David worked initially on marine casework, which at the time was dominated by aquaculture. From 1994 onwards David became increasingly involved in fisheries-related work, focused on the interactions between fisheries and marine biodiversity. Throughout this time, David has participated in SNH's field surveys, and had a particular interest in the use of ROVs and fossicking around on rocky shores. David also works on invasive non-native species and the conservation of the native oyster.</p> <p>Contact: David.Donnan@snh.gov.uk</p>

<p>Diyanne Ross</p> 	<p>Diyanne Ross lives in Achiltibuie and is an artist who works with stained glass and paints in oil. She also Skippers for 'Falamadair' an organisation based in Stornoway, which maintains and sails a number of traditional dipping lug sail fishing boats. She has skippered a local community owned traditional fishing boat for the last eight years and tries to be at sea as much as possible. Diyanne is involved with the local community group Sea Change.</p> <p>Contact: diyanne@hotmail.co.uk</p>
<p>Donald Macneish</p> 	<p>While Don Macneish and his good friend Howard Wood dived and fished around the coast of Arran for several decades they realised the abundance and diversity of marine life was disappearing before their eyes. Finally after a great deal of procrastination they decided that something had to be done and they were the only ones mad enough to try and do it. Eventually this led to the founding of the Community of Arran Seabed Trust in 1995, an organisation that grew organically from its grassroots into a champion for marine environmental justice. It has consistently punched above its weight politically due entirely to the commitment of the locals of Arran to try and protect the marine habitat around their shores for future generations. Don and his wife Kathleen raised their two children on Arran and have lived there permanently for over 45 years.</p> <p>Contact: donmacneish@gmail.com</p>
	<p>Eileen Armstrong moved to Skye in 2004 to a house with a view hoping to live a more settled and calmer life. The view became much, much more than just a view as over the years she discovered the rich biodiversity it offered up was to shape and change her life. Its influence took over her spare time in efforts to safeguard against unsustainable aquaculture development and at the moment this effort has been successful with the help of our local community. She is not a scientist, nor a placard waving activist, not yet anyway, but believes in fighting for what should be fought for by means of educating and informing stakeholders so they can have an informed opinion. She works 2 days a week in the local GP Surgery as a dispenser/receptionist,</p>

 <p>Eileen Armstrong</p>	<p>runs a successful holiday home business, and is a Board member of Skye and Lochalsh Environment Forum and a Board member of Sleat Community Trust. She is also Chair of SEALL (rural arts promoter organising around 60 performances a year) and has a very understanding and supportive husband, two dogs and two cats. She certainly wouldn't say she has achieved a calmer way of life but the knowledge and interest she has gained far outweighs that luxury.</p> <p>Contact: eileen@thehirsle-on-skye.com</p>
<p>Eleanor Scott</p> 	<p>Eleanor Scott was the MSP for Highlands and Islands (2003-2007) and the Co-convenor of the Scottish Green Party (2008-2011).</p> <p>Contact: Eleanorsco@gmail.com</p>
<p>Grant Laidlaw</p>	<p>Grant is involved in the St Abb's & Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve.</p> <p>Contact: grant.laidlaw@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Hannah Becker</p> 	<p>Hannah has worked at Fauna & Flora International (FFI) since 2011 initially in the role of Executive Assistant to the CEO, and later Programme Officer, East Africa. Hannah moved into her current role as Programme Manager in the Conservation Science & Design last year. In this role she oversees grant reviewing processes for external donors, supports the management and external evaluation of a large internal grant, manages the internal project approval process, and more recently has taken on responsibility for FFI's East Africa Marine Programme operating in Kenya and Zanzibar. During her time at FFI she also completed an MSc in Development Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies where she specialized in food security and water governance, focusing on urban water provision during the current Syrian refugee crisis in Jordan. Hannah is particularly interested in the relationships between development, forced migration, human rights and sustainable natural resource management. Prior to joining FFI Hannah completed an MA (Hons) in Arabic and Modern History from the University of St Andrews and worked for Jordan Red Crescent and the British Red Cross.</p> <p>Contact: Hannah.Becker@fauna-flora.org</p>



Hannah Braithwaite

Hannah has worked in the fundraising team at FFI since 2014, managing relationships with trusts and foundations mainly in the UK and Europe. She focuses on bringing in income to support FFI's projects through progressing existing relationships with donors as well as identifying opportunities and fostering new relationships. Previous to FFI, Hannah has worked in fundraising for charities of varying sizes including the NSPCC, a large national children's charity, and also for the Marston Vale Trust, a small local NGO focused on forest conservation.

Contact: Hannah.Braithwaite@fauna-flora.org

Howard Wood





Howard Wood, with his friend and dive buddy Don, founded the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) in 1995. With the initial objective of "just" setting up a trial marine reserve off Arran, they soon realised that a couple of individuals no matter how committed would make little headway without widespread community support. They motivated local activists who, had a variety of skills, but were all committed to protecting the local marine environment with the aim of improving the sustainable economic benefit to their island over the longer term. Although Howard had no formal training, as an environmental activist or in campaigning and political lobbying, he did undertake training to identify marine habitat and species using Seasearch. Using his, mainly self-taught, still and video camera skills enabled him to bring to the community's attention both the beauty and the destruction of the Clyde's seabed. Over the decades his knowledge and experience in most aspects of marine conservation and management has grown in volumes. However Howard is still frustrated after all the progress COAST has made that the majority of legitimate marine stakeholders are still excluded or ignored from marine decision making bodies in Scotland.




Contact: howard@arrancoast.com



Hugh Raven







Hugh Raven has lived by the Hebridean Sea for much of his life. He is a director of his family's business, Ardtornish Estate (www.ardtornish.co.uk), a trustee of the John Ellerman Foundation, a director of Corroul Estate, and chair of the Marine Conservation Society and the Open Seas Trust. An experienced grant-maker, he chairs the Environmental Funders' Network – the umbrella body for UK trusts and foundations. He was formerly a member for Scotland of the UK Sustainable Development Commission, advising the Prime Minister and First Ministers of the

	<p>devolved nations, and a board member of Scottish Natural Heritage and the RSPB. He divides his time between Argyll and London.</p> <p>Contact: hugh@ardtornish.com</p>
<p>Inge Thomson</p> 	<p>Inge is a musician/composer brought up on Fair Isle, now living in the Lothians. She grew up with music being a very normal, essential part of life. The music has taken her to many far-flung places and afforded opportunities to create and collaborate. At the moment she is writing a new commission for the Welsh Festival of Voice. She loves her job. It is never dull.</p> <p>Two years ago Inge produced a body of work called 'Da Fishing Hands' whose job, initially, was to run alongside Fair Isle's, already knee deep, campaign for marine protected status. She is currently one of the artists contributing to a new network dedicated to understanding and managing long term environmental conflicts, more info here: http://prolongedconflicts.com. Growing up on Fair Isle Inge was never more than a minute away from the sea - in fact there's nowhere on the isle that you can't hear it (or taste it) - the sea has always seeped into her music. On an island so small and remote the sea is everything.</p> <p>Contact: ingethomson@me.com</p>
<p>James Merryweather</p> 	<p>James Merryweather is a biologist/musician living in Auchtertyre, just before the Skye Bridge. Fifteen years ago, he retired (early) from research at the University of York where, in Prof. Alastair Fitter's lab., he studied the field ecology of a ubiquitous, but little understood soil symbiosis: mycorrhiza. Annually 1976-2009 he taught marine biology to first year undergraduates, accumulating knowledge he now uses to share the wonderful seashore biodiversity and ecology of the Highlands. Author of several field guides, James spends much of his time studying and teaching natural history around Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross and contributes to the work of numerous local and national environment NGOs, including Skye & Lochalsh Environment Forum and a new conservation branch of the Scottish Salmon Think-Tank, both of which he represents at this meeting.</p> <p>Contact: j.merryweather369@btinternet.com</p>


<p>Jean Ainsley</p> 	<p>Jean helps to run Sealife Adventures diving and wildlife charters in the Firth of Lorne with her husband David. Via this she has been involved in the processes of ending tangle netting in the Firth of Lorne in 2002 and also in the European complaint which led to the end of Scallop Dredging in the Firth of Lorne and Creran SACs. Jean has invested time in writing reports, letters and newspaper articles to support the work of ensuring adequate protection of the Firth of Lorne, and has also spent much time lobbying MSPs on conservation issues.</p> <p>Contact: jean@ainsleysmith.co.uk</p>
<p>Jenny Stark</p> 	<p>Jenny's love of the ocean has been firmly cemented by submerging herself beneath the waves in many countries – her particular highlight is still that she had the privilege of calling the Great Barrier Reef her office! Jenny's work with the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) stemmed from her MSc in Marine Environmental Management, for which she completed a summer project on Arran. Seeing first-hand the detrimental impacts unsustainable fishing activities were having on our national seas, she knew that educating those who will utilise the oceans in the future is vital. Her role as Marine Outreach Officer with COAST allows her to pass on her enthusiasm of marine conservation to people of all ages, whilst being part of a close-knit, inspiring and determined community organisation.</p> <p>Contact: jstark@arrancoast.com</p>
<p>Katie Gilham</p> 	<p>Katie Gillham is joint Head of the Coastal and Marine Ecosystems and Use Unit at Scottish Natural Heritage. Her responsibilities include MPAs, Priority Marine Features and overseeing work on marine data and survey. She is involved in a range of work from producing guidance, communications, and helping develop site management. Katie previously worked for SNH on the Scottish MPA Project, with a focus on policy development, stakeholder engagement and mobile species. And before that Katie worked on various topics including development of the Scottish Marine Bill, aquaculture, oil and gas, producing management schemes for European Marine Sites, and providing advice on cetaceans and seals.</p> <p>Contact: Katie.Gillham@snh.gov.uk</p>



<p>Kerri Whiteside</p> 	<p>Kerri grew up in Northern Ireland, where jumping into the freezing silvery-green waters off the Antrim coast was a rite of passage...to be renewed every summer!! It wasn't until she started snorkelling (admittedly getting the 'snorkelling bug' in the slightly warmer waters of Fiji) and then learnt how to dive (in the Irish Sea!) when she began to see first-hand how fascinating our own waters can be, and how fragile.</p> <p>Kerri's passionate about the power of local action and would like to see the processes of how we look after our seas becoming more accessible and more participatory. She studied her undergraduate in politics and later went on to complete a masters in rural sustainable development. Kerri has volunteered and worked within various charitable and community organisations; giving support to those seeking better access to rights and services such as refugees and asylum seekers living in Belfast and young women and children within a domestic violence support charity. She worked for Ulster Wildlife as their Living Seas Community Engagement Officer for several years before moving to Scotland to work for FFI in the role of Marine Community Support Officer; identifying and supporting local grassroots action on marine conservation across Scotland's coast.</p> <p>Contact: kerri.whiteside@fauna-flora.org</p>
<p>Lizzie Williams</p> 	<p>Lizzie studied biology and conservation before joining Cambridge-based Fauna & Flora International in 2003, working on community conservation issues throughout the world. In 2009 she moved to the Highlands to help run a small family tourism business and take care of a lovely island called Tanera Mòr, in the Summer Isles. As she spends a lot of time beside or on the sea, and she is part of a small sea-dependent community, she keenly feels the need to look after it. Lizzie still works freelance for FFI whilst helping manage Tanera, and her two small children, and she tries to be involved with 'Sea Change' when time allows.</p> <p>Contact: lizzie.w.williams@gmail.com</p>





<p>Manuela de los Rios</p> 	<p>Manuela has 15 years of practical expertise developing and implementing local coastal and marine management projects and programmes for public and private bodies throughout Europe. She is particularly keen in closing the gap between marine education and community learning and empowerment. Inspired by COAST's work she joined the team last Summer, moving to Arran with her partner and three young children from Cadiz.</p> <p>Contact: Manuela@arrancoast.com</p>
<p>Mark Woombs</p> 	<p>From 1989 to 2000 Mark was the marine biologist and Principal of Knott End Sea Centre, a residential education centre that taught marine ecology in the field, usually from boats. Since then he has been self-employed running a marine environmental consultancy, WA Marine & Environment, a boat charter business, Sea Knoydart and a RYA school, Sunart Sea School. He has been a Ministerial Appointee to the North Western and North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee, a Director and Council Member of the Marine Conservation Society, joint founder of Lancashire Marine Conservation Society and Diving Officer and member of numerous scientific diving teams. He dives for fun as well as for work and now find it difficult to dive without a camera. He usually dives in Loch Sunart two or three times a week.</p> <p>Contact: mark.woombs@wamarine.co.uk</p>
<p>Morag Campbell</p> 	<p>Morag works for Marine Scotland in a small Regional Marine Planning team, which is working towards establishing Marine Planning Partnerships around the coast. She will be supporting them to develop Regional Marine Plans for their areas. Her background is in marine biology, and in particular fisheries research, which gives her a good understanding of the many complex issues arising in the field of marine planning. She lives and works by the Clyde and spends her spare time sailing and kayaking so has a personal as well as professional interest in the subject.</p> <p>Contact: Morag.Campbell2@gov.scot</p>


<p>Nick Underdown</p> 	<p>Nick is a law graduate with an MA in international journalism and became interested in environmental issues writing for Ethical Corporation Magazine before becoming a reporter for a local newspaper on the Isle of Arran, often reporting on the management of local land and marine resources, including fish farming, land reform and the Right to Buy and the Community of Arran Seabed Trust's campaign for a NTZ/MPA. He has since worked for the Clyde River Foundation (the fishery trust for the Clyde catchment), and assisted community-level campaigning for the COAST on marine conservation issues. Nick currently works as a marine policy and engagement officer for Scottish Environment LINK, an environmental coalition campaigning for a network of Marine Protected Areas and a progressive planning system for Scotland's seas. Nick is also a community councillor (for Maryhill & Summerston) and supports the work of Planning Democracy, an organisation dedicated to improving fairness and accountability within the Scottish planning system.</p> <p>Contact: nick@scotlink.org</p>
<p>Peter Cunningham</p> 	<p>Peter has worked as a biologist for Wester Ross Fisheries Trust based in Gairloch since 2001, following periods of employment in salmon farming; as a VSO fisheries instructor in Thailand (teaching students); and as a village-based VSO community fisheries assistant in Lao PDR. Most of his current work is focussed on monitoring and supporting salmon and sea trout populations around Wester Ross. Both marine and freshwater habitats are of importance to sea trout, and the trust's work includes activities in both environments. With support from across local community, he helped to pull together a 3rd Party Local Community bid for a Marine Protected Area for Loch Gairloch and Wester Loch Ewe. Subsequently responses have been prepared in support of effective management measures for the Wester Ross MPA. He enjoys snorkelling when the sun is shining and finding undocumented sea grass beds and exploring other underwater habitats. He would like to help to set up a series of small no-take zones within the area to support recovery of some species (e.g. shellfish) and to help to raise awareness and encourage more active interest in looking after the seas within the local area.</p> <p>Contact: info@wrft.org.uk</p>
<p>Richard Luxmore</p>	<p>Richard is the Senior Nature Conservation Adviser for the National Trust for Scotland, where he has been working since 1998. He takes particular responsibility for marine</p>

	<p>issues, including seabirds. He has a PhD in marine ecology, obtained while working for the British Antarctic Survey, after which he joined the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge where he researched, among other things, sea turtles, coral reefs, Arctic conservation, crocodile farming and ivory trade. At other times he has been assistant manager of a salmon farm in Loch Sunart and deck hand on an inshore trawler working out of Tarbert. He is a recreational diver, kayaker and keen sailor.</p> <p>Contact: rluxmoore@nts.org.uk</p>
<p>Rob Gibson</p> 	<p>Rob Gibson was an SNP MSP for Highlands and Islands (2003-2011) and the SNP MSP for Caithness, Sutherland and Ross (2011-2016)</p> <p>Contact: robgibson273@btinternet.com</p>
<p>Roger Cottis</p> 	<p>Roger Cottis developed an ecological interest from an early age concentrating on mammals, principally influenced by the Mammal Society. 25 years ago saw him arrive on Skye where he formed a wildlife consultancy following a career in the aerospace industry. Since then his ecological horizons have widened being involved with many fine NGO's including Scottish Badgers, with whom he is Vice Chair and responsible for delivering training for badger awareness in the forestry sector in conjunction with SNH. He also liaises with Transport Scotland, providing badger data for major road schemes. Locally he became involved with like-minded people through Skye & Lochalsh Environment Forum and jointly the recent forming of Scottish Salmon Think-Tank in response to fish farm applications in the south Skye sea lochs. Responsible ecological conservation remains a guiding principle in all of his endeavours.</p> <p>Contact: cottiskye@btinternet.com</p>

<p>Russell Cheshire</p> 	<p>Russell joined COAST in late 2008 because he was fully supportive of the new NTZ and wanted to do his bit to make the seas healthier again, and not just so that he has more chance of showing his passengers more megafauna! He is delighted the new MPAs is in place; and is hopeful that the Scottish government will manage it sensibly! He is looking forward to big improvement over next 5-10 years and maybe sooner!</p> <p>Contact: russell@obrt.co.uk</p>
<p>Sam Tedcastle</p> 	<p>Sam works for WWF as the Scottish Stakeholder Engagement Officer for the Celtic Seas Partnership. Sam grew up in the North East of Scotland near Banff on a small croft by the sea where she developed her interest in the marine environment. Sam studied Environmental Science at Aberdeen University and began her work life in environmental education and then community development in land management. She has worked overseas in the Congo in West Africa and on the Thai Burmese border working in environmental conflict resolution. On her return to the UK she lived in the North West of England where she worked with Mediation Northern Ireland to develop civic mediation across England as a tool to work on racial tensions and guns and gangs. Following the birth of her daughter, Sam decided to come home to Scotland and has worked with WWF to apply her mediation experience to try and build better working relationships with governments, the fishing industry and eNGOs to support the achievement of healthy productive seas. Sam now lives in Kinghorn, Fife – close to the sea.</p> <p>Contact: STedcastle@wwf.org.uk</p>
<p>Sara Nason</p> 	<p>A Filmmaker working in feature documentaries & impact campaigns that inspire change through storytelling - as well as a foodie and cook! Sara's films tell stories about extraordinary people, indigenous ways and support women's equal participation in the world. Her passion for the sea came from a childhood exploring 'venus' pools, snorkelling and sailing in Guernsey. Having an island childhood meant the sea was her playground and gave her an enduring love of the small, often overlooked, sea creatures. Brought up also within a highland regiment, it seemed natural to settle by the sea in Wester Ross, but in 2011 she learnt to her horror that dredgers were legal! She was so appalled she contacted COAST and SIFT to ask them</p>

	<p>advice. Then, reassured by planning for an MPA, it was only when she saw the small print that MPA's allowed dredgers that she knew we must build a similar group to protect the sea, linking the public voice with the sustainable fishermen's - that is now called Sea Change.</p> <p>Contact: wa.nason@scotnet.co.uk</p>
<p>Sarah Russell</p> 	<p>A strong interest in the marine environment from an early age influenced the course of Sarah's studies. After a degree in Zoology and a master's in Marine and Fisheries Science, itchy feet ensured that numerous expeditions to far flung places followed. Solomon Islands working on Fruit bats, Falkland Islands working on squid and Belize surveying a coral reef did not pay the bills so jobs with the Marine Lab in Aberdeen, SNH, Sea Life Surveys and for the St. Abbs and Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve as Ranger had to be found!! Time out for the last 9 years for the family left her chomping at the bit. By a coincidence the Voluntary Marine Reserve was recently looking for a project officer, which ticked all the boxes.</p> <p>Contact: sarah.russell@berwickshirecoast.org.uk</p>
<p>Sebastian Howell</p> 	<p>Sebastian's work in the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and Environment's office gave him an interest in environment policy and he has transferred to a position working on marine conservation, where he has been policy adviser on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) for the past 4 years. Whilst his work to date has been focussed on the designation of MPAs, recently he has been getting more involved in wider designations, such as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) as well as more directly community based proposals such as the Fair Isle Demonstration and Research MPA.</p> <p>Contact: Sebastian.Howell@gov.scot</p>
<p>Stewart Thomson</p>	<p>Stewart Thomson is a permanent resident of Fair Isle. He served 33 years as local keeper in the lighthouse service at both Fair Isle North and South lighthouses. Happiest at sea, Stewart has been collecting marine data for decades and was active in the inception of FIMETI. He has been involved in many expeditions; aiding diving expeditions, shipwreck exploration, nature tours and transporting marine vehicles. During the summer season Stewart volunteers as local historian at Fair Isle's museum The George Waterson's Memorial Centre. Stewart is a founder member of the band</p>

	<p>Fridarey, with whom he has produced two studio albums and toured extensively. Music is a very important part of daily life on Fair Isle and Stewart remains the cornerstone of the dance band. Stewart is currently the proprietor of Fair Isle Straw Crafts, making traditional straw backed chairs.</p> <p>Contact: thomson403@btinternet.com</p>
<p>Sue Pomeroy</p> 	<p>Sue is a propagator in horticulture, specialising in tour guiding around gardens and wild flowers! She conducts interviews with fishermen for scientific info, archival material and radio productions. She is a trained marine medic and loves the marine environment with a passion. Sue lives in the West Highlands and is part of Sea Change.</p> <p>Contact: sueandwill@icloud.com</p>
<p>Tom Appleby</p> 	<p>Dr Tom Appleby is an Associate Professor at the University of the West of England. He is a former commercial lawyer and non-practising solicitor and before that went to Edinburgh University and read Geography. He used his legal expertise to help found and set the direction for the Community of Arran Seabed Trust Limited and the Blue Marine Foundation. He has helped on a number of high profile marine legal cases. His take on the marine environment in general is that it is a large public open space and should be managed for the public benefit.</p> <p>Contact: tpsappleby@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Trudi Clarke</p> 	<p>Trudi Clarke is an environmental biologist with many years' experience in nature reserve management and field biology. She has worked with Sandwich terns on Anglesey; saltmarsh birds, plants and Natterjack toads in Dorset; mice on St Kilda and rare plants in southern Portugal. She has had a special affinity for the wildlife and communities of the Scottish Western Isles since her first visit to Islay in 2006. Trudi has visited the Outer Hebrides twice and returned to Islay and Jura nearly ten times now. In 2012, she spent four weeks on St Kilda working as a field research assistant</p>

	<p>for the St Kilda Mouse Project.</p> <p>Contact: trudi_clarke@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Will Goudy</p> 	<p>Having grown up on the coast in mid-Argyll, Will has always had a passion for natural history and the sea. He moved away from the area to study for an honours degree in marine biology at Stirling University and an MSc in "Climate Change & Managing the Marine Environment" at Heriot-Watt University before returning to Ardfarnach to raise a family. He is a keen recreational fisherman and surfer and believes there is a real need to raise public awareness of the importance of protecting our marine environment. He currently works as a wood cutter in Argyll.</p> <p>Contact: will_goudy@hotmail.com</p>

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