

Marine Community Workshop



Gartmore

May 6th - 8th 2016



Aim

Enable coastal community groups interested in sustainable marine management to network and share knowledge and experiences.

It was hoped that the workshop would enable participants to:

- ✓ increase knowledge;
- ✓ feel more connected with one another;
- ✓ be better positioned to maintain communication in the future;
- ✓ be inspired to take the next steps to meet aspirations of their own group.



Fig 1: Location (general) of
community delegates



The weekend involved...

Talks from Community Groups and Government



Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST)

St Abbs & Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve

Fair Isle Marine Environment & Tourism Initiative (FIMETI)

Sea Change

CAOLAS - Sunart & Mull

South Skye Seas Initiative

Scottish Natural Heritage

Marine Scotland

The Scottish Community Alliance





Networking

Break-out Discussion Groups



Challenges? Collaboration? Support? Network?



Positives with govt? Negatives with govt? Ways forward?

Key Themes

- Marine/coastal communities are increasingly organising themselves;
- Marine/coastal communities 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);
- Working together can help to address these challenges and strengthen resilience within and between groups;
- Clear appetite for future “network” - communication will be core of an ongoing network ensuring connectivity between groups;
- Uniqueness to be maintained within each site/group and balance between independence and collaboration to ensure authenticity;
- Context is rich in Scotland right now for community empowerment.

Next Steps

- Communicate on issues where there is a shared interest/value in collaborative action;
- Use report and info gathered to provide in-depth insight into marine/coastal communities-of-place to e.g. government departments;
- Over the coming months Marine Community Support Officer (MCSO) to develop options for network development in consultation with community groups;
- Over the next year the MCSO to develop website to host key resources, and potentially to host communications hub;
- MCSO (and others) to identify opportunities for and (where appropriate) facilitate direct experience exchanges/shared training between communities;
- Plan for future Marine Communities Workshops on a 1-2 year basis (subject to securing sufficient funding);
- MCSO to continue offering direct support to groups and individuals upon request and where appropriate.



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

kerri.whiteside@fauna-flora.org