

Monday 23rd November 7-8.30pm on Zoom

Attendees:

Wynford Hopkins, John Mecklenburg, Fr Andrew Johnson, Fil Marshall, Kevin & Tina Rogers, John Bramley, John Mecklenburgh, John Walmsley, Peter Morgan

Sue Burton, PMSAC

Richard Unsworth – Swansea University

Nick Ainger, Jetske Germing – PCF

AGENDA

1. Minutes & Actions
2. Appointment of Chair /secretary
3. Update on Seagrass / surveys / Visitor Moorings update
5. AOB:
 - Simplify website seagrass page hosted by PCF
 - Update to wider stakeholder lists

Notes and slides have been uploaded to the website too:

<https://www.pembrokeshirecoastalforum.org.uk/seagrassoceanrescue/>

Dale Seagrass Stakeholder Group (contact details held by PCF):

DYC	John	Bramley
PMSAC	Sue	Burton
FSC	Fiona	Day
Community	Fr Andrew	Johnson
CHAIR and Moorings Officer DYC	Fil	Marshall
Community	John	Mecklenburgh
DCC	Peter	Morgan
DYC Chair	Kevin	Rogers
Community	Tina	Rogers
Swansea University	Richard	Unsworth
DYC Chair	John	Walmsley
WWF	Ricardo	Zanre
NRW	Anne	Bunker
POMH	Jonathan	Monk
Community/fishers	<i>Wyn</i>	<i>Hopkins</i>

1. Minutes and Actions

Minutes correct record.

Jetske ran through the actions. Richard's update will cover most.

Actions:

Action	Who	When
Consider chair for group	All	Before next meeting
Share slides/notes	RU/JG	asap
Approach POMH Harbourmaster/ Commercial Director on waiving of fees for moorings	RU	When applying for licence
Share website idea to host donation page	RU	Asap
Short report for Peninsular papers – deadline 21 July	RU/SB	21 July
Progress Fisher Accreditation	RU with fishers	
Information sharing to wider community – via Pen Paper and via email list as previous and those helping at Dale Fort	RU via JG	21 July

2. Appointment of Chair/ Secretary

Two people proposed – Paul Garnish and Fil Marshall

Peter updated from DCC – Community Council agreed for Paul to be a chair. For last three years he has worked with Dale Sailing. Now freed up to get more involved. Knowledge from Dale Sailing helps completing the role.



Mature seagrass plants
starting to form a meadow

(images not from the actual dive, as visibility was awful)

Planting Results

First seed planting hasn't been as good a success as we'd hoped for

Density in early September was 0.2 shoots per m² (varied as some places very dense and some places none)

Shoots in clumps of up to 10 and averaging around 25cm in length

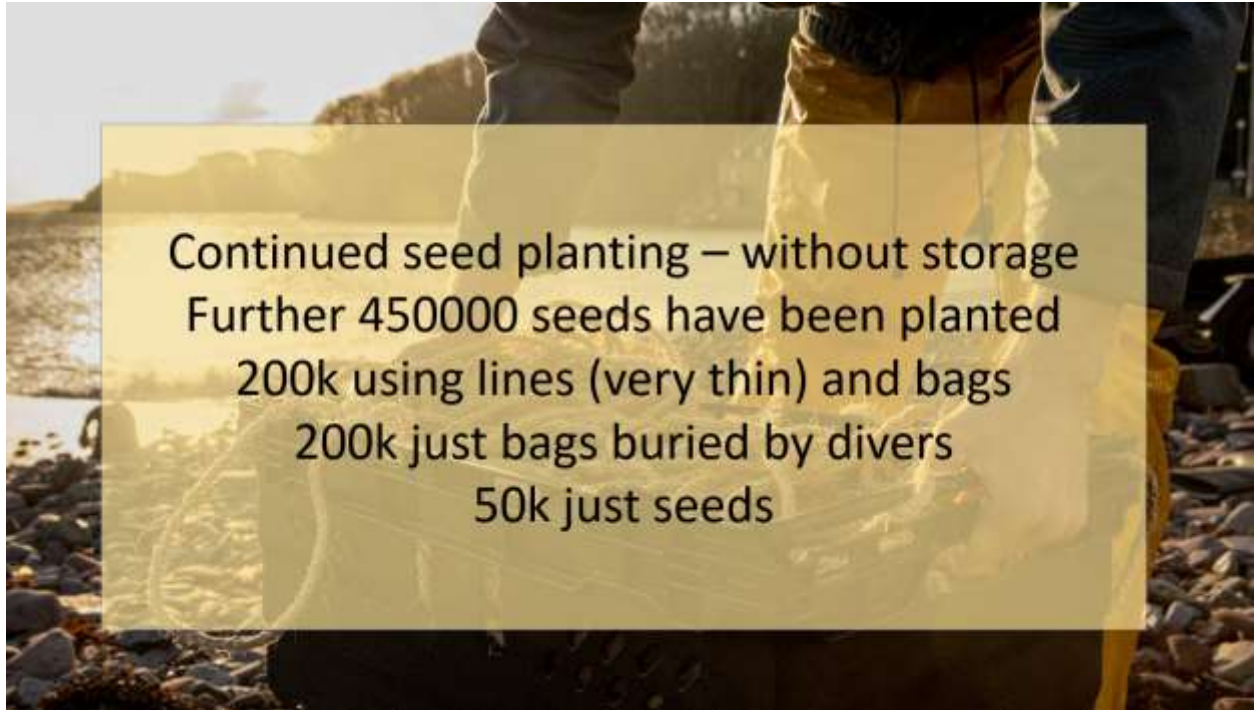
Storage of seeds likely to have reduced viability but some seeds will continue to germinate next spring

Minimum estimate as dives have been minimal due to Covid – surveys in turbid conditions

Lines have been caught and dragged, probably reducing number of seedlings

Lines not degrading as quickly as we'd liked –possibly due to no initial wintering

Talking: Richard Unsworth



Continued seed planting – without storage
Further 450000 seeds have been planted
200k using lines (very thin) and bags
200k just bags buried by divers
50k just seeds



Poor success with seeds in SE corner.

Final seeds planted into Dale this morning! These have not been stored over winter, so high viability.

Now using much thinner line to help the rotting process. Further amount put in by divers, hand planted into sediment. A further additional test with seeds directly into the sediment to see how effective.



Planted in locations with low recruitment, targeting areas to fill the gaps. Had hoped to fill smaller gaps than the actual current situation. New seeds should germinate well. Hoping to report more process next year.

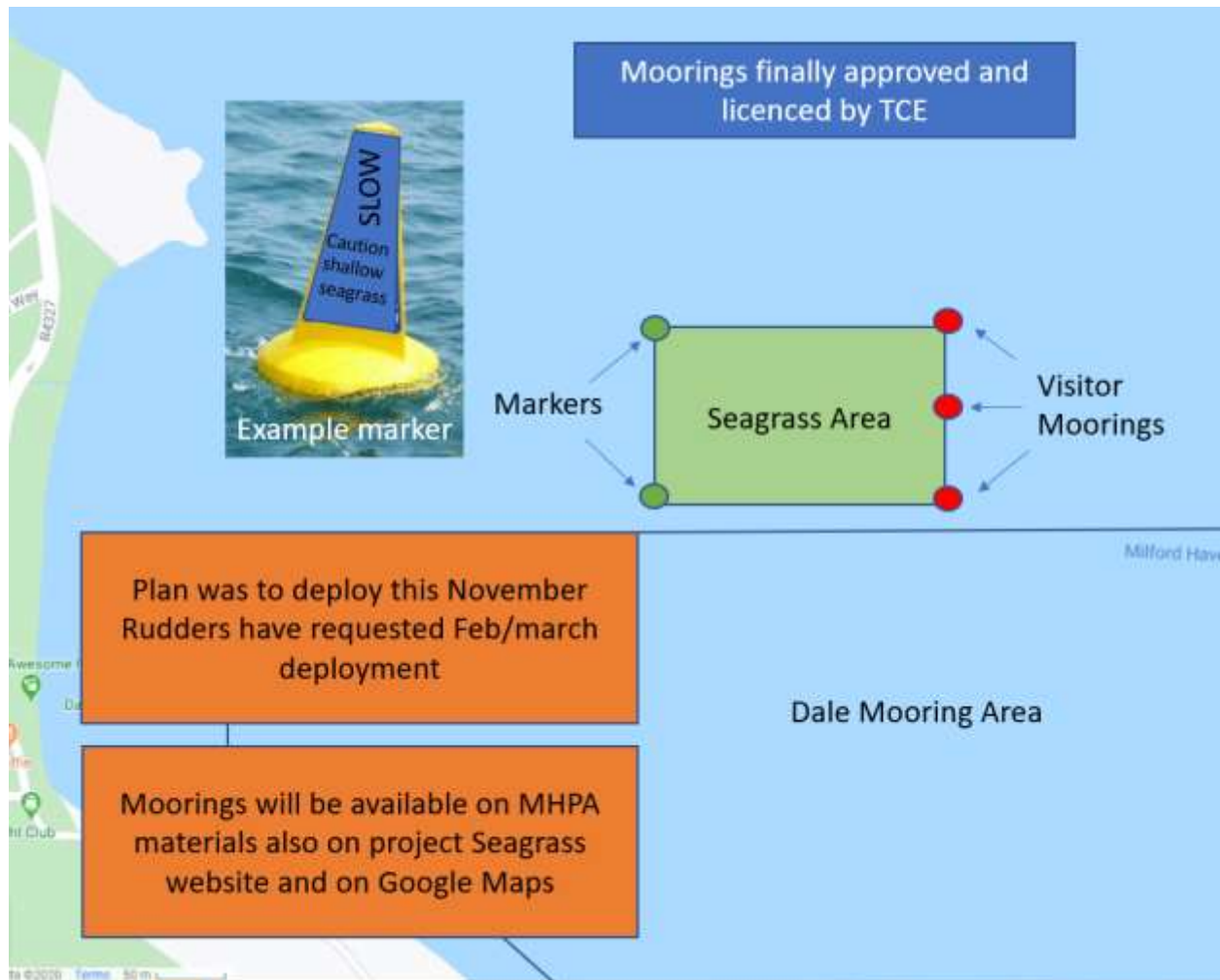


Further biodiversity data collection. This can be revisited in a decade's time. A couple of PCF team helped out.

***Note red lines = annotation on Richard's slide*



Local fisher reminded Richard that some old trials are still out. It was planned to remove last winter. Did not happen due to circumstance, not allowed April/May. Now planned to remove Spring 2021.



Visitor buoys and markers agreed by Crown Estate. All paid for. Requested by Rudders to install in Feb/March. Existing buoys in place until then.

Info on free moorings will be on Google Maps/ Project Seagrass website and the POMH tide table.

Still open to wider ideas on fundraising through the moorings. A payment system could work through Project Seagrass Charity website if group wishes to use this.



Agreement in principle to a code of conduct to facilitate awarding the first Seagrass Ecosystem Responsible Fisher Award through Project Seagrass to a Dale Fisher.

Proposed timeline:

Final Agreement by end of 2020 (local fisher to circulate with interested parties)

Initial 'one fisher' launch by end of March 2021

Draft concept:

The Seagrass Ecosystem Responsible Fisher Award (SERF) Award

by Project Seagrass

Award to have to be endorsed by WSC, WSA, WTS, SEAP/SA, Loggansburgh, DTS and MCHP (award needs initial approval)

Proposed to award to a Dale (Frost Water) and also to a local project. PD from a fisher from to be the first SERF award.

Richard now spoken with local fisher to discuss Fisher award. He will now discuss with others. Information taken from global ideas on such fisher awards, adapted to seagrass.

Such an award could nicely wrap up the first phase of project.

Longer term

Continued monitoring and assessment
 Further removal of remaining ropes
 Reporting to the community
 Maintenance of moorings and commitment to community
 Continued Dale SSG
 Work with Fishers through SERF Award
 A pint in the pub in Dale

Questions

A) With the **accreditation** – local fisher would get it. Can others get it as well? How would that work?

Richard example Mark is a unique example, as SU has worked alongside him in these waters for a long time. His approaches match the needs for the accreditation.

Other fisher involvement would be great – we would like to expand the restoration to other sites in Wales/ England/Scotland. Taking lessons learned forward. A system that works with fishers would be great.

Still to be decided how to set this up with others. If other local fishers were inspired, they can sign up to the criteria. Mechanism to be decided.

Can other fishers be accredited on SERF? Need to thread carefully. MSC certification etc.

MSC is sustainability proposal as a whole. Much larger scale than the Dale example. Which is focused on particular habitat type.

B) **Moorings** – good to not get them out yet. Suggested mechanism to contribute online. Needs to be some mechanism to indicate where and how.

Kevin to pick this up with Richard after the meeting.

C) get **moorings** on hydrographic charts?

Is this possible? How do we go about this?

Visitor moorings are generally not included on admiralty charts. Areas of moorings would be. Almanacs and pilot books would be (i.e. Reid's).

The 3 moorings have been incorporated into the POMH leisure guide for 2021. In the key – further info onto Port Leisure page.

4. AOB

- Group agreed to simplify seagrass page on PCF - latest update/meeting notes of DSSG and contact details Richard/ DSSG Chair Fil Marshall
- All agreed ok to share names in these notes
- All agreed ok to share contact details amongst group/ to chair/secretary
- Update to go to wider stakeholder list following meeting – signing off by DSSG via email

Action	Who	When
Discuss mechanism for funding	Kevin and Richard	After meeting
Add mooring detail to Port Leisure page	Richard and Sue	When moorings installed
Finalise SERF idea	Richard/ fishers/ Fil	Before spring season 2021
Agree update for wider stakeholders and website	Richard/Jetske to circulate to DSSG group	asap
Update https://www.pembrokeshirecoastalforum.org.uk/seagrassoceanrescue/ with latest update/ notes from DSSG/ slides	Jetske	When update agreed

Date of next meeting (generally quarterly) - to be decided.