

From Dale Seagrass Stakeholder Group Meeting - 14th July 2020 7pm on Zoom

6 attendees from community (names omitted for GDPR on these public minutes), Richard Unsworth, Swansea University; Sue Burton, PMSAC; Ricardo Zanre WWF; Jonathan Monk, POMH; Jetske Germing, PCF

Chair: Nick Ainger (NA)

Notes: Jetske Germing, PCF

Apologies received: JM, JW

Agenda

1. Appointment of Chair
2. Update on Seagrass – Richard
3. Terms of Reference (TOR) (final draft for agreement)
4. Visitor Moorings discussion to agree plan of action
5. MOU Swansea University and Seagrass Stakeholder Group
6. AOB

Notes

Introductions by NA

1. Chair appointment

NA explained that Chair really should come from the community, NA can chair this meeting and next.

Rolling chair suggested?

2. Seagrass update- RU

Slides – shared

Images of snorkelling site visit from June were shared. Germination starting, possibly later than expected but then planting had been delayed. Ropes had been cut as planned.

Planned to visit site again later this month (SCUBA diving). Looking to put in time lapse camera.

Due to Covid some deadlines are being pushed back.

Part of the scheme is to get quantitative data on success rate of germination. Compared against previous trials.

Next steps:

Monitoring of current seedlings

Further seed collections (N Wales/ Haven/Solent)

Completion of seed planting in winter 2020

Monitoring will continue. Autumn will show how successful February planting was.

Observation made that it is great that the rope sections when cut are taken away. The bags are already breaking away and the rope rotting.

Request to get some images to show that bags are breaking away/ falling apart.

Question whether second round of planting (also in bags/ on rope) is output driven or can include community input also if opportunity arises. Smaller scale this time, due to time pressure. Possibility to involve the community/school again if interest and enough seeds to justify.

Seagrass progress

Requirement of WG/NRW marine licence to cut the ropes to reduce any entanglement concerns before boating season
Early June – Ropes were cut



3. Terms of Reference

TOR were amended to include that group should appoint Chair.
TOR therefore accepted.

4. Visitor Moorings

Moorings

General consensus from feedback:
Three boat moorings
Two markers

General consensus from feedback:
No compulsory charging - free at point of use
Some interest in collecting voluntary donations for local Dale community use (e.g. childrens environmental education activities) (could be run through 'collection tin' on the bar and/or through a Project Seagrass webpage)

Le Way
B4327
Awesome Fishing
Dale Pontoon
Griffin
Yacht Club
Milford Haven

RU reiterated that moorings are for voluntary use. No restrictions on anchoring imposed.
Community input on locations and on charging.

Consensus seems to be on 3 moorings with 2 markers.

The meeting agreed this to be most appropriate.

POMH may have observations once applied for license upon application.

The favoured option for the moorings is for them to be a free resource . Charging model difficult to implement/ operate.

Voluntary revenue collection could be an option?

Suggestion that money raised could be going to environmental education activities.

SU would welcome this idea.

This can be done through collection tin(s) or via website with donation option.

- Funding available to run 3 moorings for up to 7 years (including maintenance)
- SU can take on insurance liability for moorings.
- Need to confirm locations to get Crown Estate and MHPA approval (could fees be waived? Longoar Bay as example)
- Aim to complete deployment by end of season

Info sharing of moorings should go into:

Port Leisure user guide (back of tide tables)

Into Pembrokeshire Marine Code App (and PCF publications)

Newsletters

Yacht clubs

Suggestion that group could perhaps include info on visitor mooring buoys (webpage to include donation charging) as crews may not come to shore so could donate from their mooring.

Suggestion to put short update into Peninsular Papers for the August/September edition- ask

5. MOU – Memorandum of Understanding between Swansea University and Dale Seagrass Stakeholder Group

NA explained that MOU is meant to be a dynamic document. It may well change as things develop.

Question – are there any plans to progress Fisher Accreditation?

RU explained that there is – however Covid has delayed this a bit. Fisher has been given initial draft idea document. Basis is more on what is happening in the sea – this can then be built on with marketing opportunities.

Alison Hargrave – Pen Llyn Sarnau SAC has worked with fishers for a while – and they are keen to progress also. Bigger group to get ball rolling.

Community offer to link further with local fisher. JG to link RU.

6. AOB

Sue is working with NRW on future funding opportunities for continuation of seagrass work in Pembrokeshire including Dale (monitoring, covering mooring costs etc).

Next meeting date: mid October

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