

Meeting notes

Meeting Title:	Local Nature Partnership Board Meeting
Date:	10 th September 2020
Time:	10:00 – 12:00
Location:	via Microsoft Teams
Present:	Kevin Gaston (KG) Co-Chair, Robin Teverson (RT) Co-Chair, Wesley Smyth (WS), Carolyn Cadman (CC), Tom Hooper (TH), Karen Burrows (KB), Steve Marks (SM), Steve Ford (SF), Oliver Baines (OB), Cllr Jonathan Smith (JS), Sarah Mason (SMa), Cllr Rob Nolan (Cllr RN), Nick Bruce-White (NB-W)
In attendance:	Philippa Hoskins (PH), Lorna Gaunt (Minutes)
Guests:	Matt Witt, Rachel Turner and Owen Exeter from Exeter University
Apologies	Helen Dobby (Steve Marks attending for EA), Sophie Hosking

PLEASE NOTE: due to current Covid-19 related restrictions this meeting took place virtually and was shorter than usual Board Meetings

Item	
1.	<p>a) Ocean Health Index (OHI) with Q&A</p> <p>Owen Exeter gave a presentation “An Ocean Health Index for South West England” with the support of Rachel Turner and Matt Witt.</p> <p>The project, which reports on ocean health, started in 2018. Six distinct regions have been assessed and 77 local datasets have been incorporated. The final outputs were completed in July 2020 and planned stakeholder feedback to identify any gaps will be undertaken.</p> <p>Wild Caught Fisheries: OHI+ target (100/100) ‘all stocks harvested at or below the maximum potential of the ecosystem’. Cornwall has a moderate or highly sustainable score (63/100), as does IoS (76/100). There is an increased need for stock assessments and open access, high resolution spatial data (electronic logbooks) to help inform monitoring of what species are from where.</p> <p>Biodiversity: Habitats: OHI+ target score (100/100) ‘coastal marine habitats (seagrass, saltmarsh, maerl) are in ‘favourable’ condition and benthic sub-littoral habitats are least impacted by bottom towed fisheries’.</p> <p>Cornwall scores highly (83/100) for its benthic habitats due to reduced trawling in 2018 compared to the last five years of data. However, there’s a need to understand how much of the region has been</p>

trawled by towed bottom gear fishing, affecting the soft benthic habitats. Cornwall scores close to the SW average for the OHI+ habitats goal. The coastal habitats at the majority of sites are in 'favourable' condition. Seagrass and Maerl habitats are in reasonable condition, although monitoring needs standardisation.

IoS scores below the SW average (51/100) for OHI+ habitats goal. It has limited coastal habitats monitored under SSSI status. Seagrass beds are in good condition. 2018 saw IoS record its highest trawling intensity since 2014 over soft benthic habitats, resulting in low status scores. IoS had low levels of trawl activity in raw data.

In summary: -

- OHI+ provides a neutral, quantitative and repeatable assessment framework
- The assessment covers social, economic and ecological factors relevant to a diverse range of stakeholders
- Initial results show variation between SW regions and OHI+ goals, highlighting areas for improvement
- Accompanying materials ([https://www.sustainable-seas.org./](https://www.sustainable-seas.org/)) highlight key considerations and data gaps to improve future marine monitoring
- Report will be uploaded in late Autumn via www.sustainable-seas.org

Board Members had a question and answer session, the main points being: -

- the project can be repeated again, every year, as long as there is a 5 year window of data to look at. It would also need grant funding
- involvement from the Office for National Statistics and the Marine Management Organisation is seen as important for quantitative numerical data
- it is good to see SSSI assessment data being used, and as SSSI conditions are reviewed over the next 5 years improvements in data will be seen
- the long-term decline in salt marsh for the Tamar Valley is due to coastal squeeze which won't show in data
- IFCA's may have data sets as they need to collect data to the same standard for their fisheries and conservation remit.

b) Marine Focus: C&IoS LNP

Philippa Hoskin gave a presentation, the main points were: -

- In 2019 only 34% of Cornwall's coastal waters were protected
- In 2019 7% of Cornwall's inshore waters were delivering environmental growth and there are no highly protected in shore

The following are suggested potential devolution asks and ideas for local pilots: -

- Marine biodiversity net gain: framework and developer levies
- Ocean accounts: exploring a natural capital approach to marine decision-making that incorporates carbon budgets; rights and responsibilities across all marine sectors

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term monitoring observatory to inform decision making and effectiveness of policies and interventions • A voluntary highly protected marine area trial • MPA trial to demonstrate how fisheries and environmental management can be aligned more effectively • Developing sustainable blended finance models to enable active management <p>Suggestions for ways of working locally: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration of marine and coastal opportunities for nature-based solutions into catchment partnership activities • Create an ongoing mechanism for early engagement with other strategic partnerships, sectors and developers to ensure environmental growth is designed in from the concept stage <p>Recommendations:</p> <p>That the LNP: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) considers endorsement of the MLG recommendation that the MPA network forms the spatial focus for marine nature recovery in Cornish waters for the next 5 years 2) ensures marine and coastal issues are fully considered at the Catchment partnership 3) continues to champion the marine environment and ensures it is given full consideration in other strategies, policies and projects <p>Endorsement: due to lack of time it was decided the Board would consider the recommendations and communicate responses electronically</p>
2.	<p>2.1 Apologies, items for AOB, Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Apologies: Sophie Hosking, Helen Dobby (Steve Marks attending for EA) AOB: Climate Change DPD & National Pilot for LNR Strategy</p> <p>2.2 Minutes of previous Board Meeting</p> <p>Minutes of the last meeting were approved</p> <p>2.3 Matters Arising and Actions</p> <p>Matters Arising:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devolution Asks were progressing • ERDF – updates on ERDF planned into future meetings • Kevin Gaston gave an update from the Leadership Board Informal meeting where the LNP’s Recovery and Renewal paper was presented. It was supported and goes to the formal board on 21st September for agreement. • There’s lots of support and enthusiasm for the Nature Recovery Pilot and a Ministerial visit will be arranged • A small Working Group consisting of CC, RT, SF & OB has looked at how the LNP should operate. The IoS will be integrated through JS, and to possibly involve Paul Masters • A meeting is to be had with the Chair of the LEP, Mark Duddridge and Glenn Caplin-Grey to shape a stronger working relationship between the LNP and the LEP • A meeting will be had about how the LNP can get better media presence <p>2.4 Chair’s update</p>

	<p>The Co-chairs gave updates</p> <p>2.5 Board Member Update Board members gave individual updates</p>
3.	<p>Subsidiary bodies of CloS LNP To be re-scheduled</p>
4.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it was Kevin Gaston’s last meeting with the partnership and he was thanked by RT and board members for his leadership as co-chair adding that he had been instrumental in extending the reach and influence of the LNP • LNP Conference – feedback from board members was welcomed with regards to taking part in the Question Time session • Cornwall Sustainability Awards are being held on 4th December and nominations can be submitted online until 30th October
	<p>Dates of Next Meetings – 10th December 2020 14th January 2021 25th February 2021 8th April 2021 20th May 2021</p>