



Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Relevant Authority Group (RAG) Annual Report 2013

1. Introduction

The Relevant Authorities for the Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC) launched their agreed management scheme for the site in August 2008. Work since then has focused as much as possible on management scheme implementation. A full revision of the scheme is due in 2014 to allow inclusion of formal site condition reporting – this is discussed later. This report summarises the period 01 Jan 2013 to 31 December 2013.

The year 2013 was a year of change. The new body Natural Resources Wales came into being and whilst “business as usual” was maintained as much as possible, some staffing shuffles and cuts in funding have had an impact upon the resource available to the RAG. In addition, Welsh Government’s fisheries and marine departments merged to form a new Marine & Fisheries Division. A meeting was arranged with the division to discuss EMS management and scheduled for early 2014.

But whilst 2013 was a year of change, it was really a year where change was managed and planned for the future; in other words, many potential ramifications are still due to take effect.



Angler fish (known as monkfish at the fishmongers)
SeaSearch (Ross Bullimore)

The new body - Natural Resources Wales

As of 1st April, the Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency Wales and Forestry Commission Wales became Natural Resources Wales (NRW). NRW is the principal adviser to the Welsh Government on the environment, enabling the sustainable development of Wales’ natural resources for the benefit of people, the economy and wildlife.

NRW Chairman Prof. Peter Matthews and the Chief Executive, Emyr Roberts, both visited Pembrokeshire in 2013, getting to know the Port and coastal environment better. In addition, the NRW Marine Licensing Team has visited the Port twice for discussion. Welsh Government delegated powers to the Marine Licensing Team enabling them to act as a “one stop shop” for marine licensing in Wales. It is hoped that this will improve turn-around times and be less complex than previously.

Internally, NRW are gradually re-organising their staffing structure. This has had some effect on the RAG partnership, but by far the biggest impact continues to be limited NRW staff time due to marine casework (in 2013 this was dominated by the proposed South Hook Combined Heat and Power Station, Tidal Energy Limited and Pembroke Power Station monitoring).

Life Natura 2000 Programme

The LIFE Natura 2000 Programme is producing a strategic plan for the management and restoration of all Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in Wales, both on land and at sea for the period 2014 to 2020 and beyond. The project is run by Natural Resources Wales and is financially supported by the EU LIFE+ fund. The Programme Manager is Kathryn Hewitt and the Marine Coordinator for the programme is Jennifer Kelly (ex Cardigan Bay SAC Officer).

The first task of the project has been to compile evidence on the main issues and risks (pressures and threats) affecting designated species and habitat features on Natura 2000 sites. Information has been obtained primarily from NRW's Special Sites Actions Database to begin with. Information from European Marine Site Management Schemes will help inform the marine part of the programme. The RAG has been involved in stakeholder and technical workshops to help inform the programme.

Welsh Government Policy

Marine Conservation Zones: The MCZ Stakeholder Task Group reported to the Minister at the end of April 2013, and the initial options for creation of Highly Protected MCZs in Welsh waters were withdrawn. A period of further review to identify gaps in a UK network of Marine Protected Sites, and any part Welsh marine habitats can play in contributing to that network, is underway.

Marine and Fisheries Strategic Action Plan: A new Wales Marine and Fisheries Strategic Action Plan was announced by the Natural Resources Minister, Alun Davies, at the end of November 2013. The Plan is intended to provide a framework for clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse seas, whilst supporting a sustainable marine economy.

Reporting to Europe

Reporting obligations under the Habitats Directive are set out in Article 17. Every six years each Member State must report on the implementation of the EU Habitats Directive. Member States have completed three reporting rounds for the Habitats Directive, covering the periods 1994-2000, 2001-2006 and the most recent 2007-2012. The 3rd UK Habitats Directive Report was submitted to the European Commission in 2013.

The most important reason for periodic reporting is to assess how the implementation of the Habitats Directive affects species and habitats. The UK considers that reporting should focus on outcomes and be used as part of a feedback loop in to management of the UK's natural resources – the results of reports should help policy makers and site managers evaluate whether current action and regulatory processes need to be changed or not.

However, due to the process of data collation and the overall reporting format (following EU guidance) habitat and species assessments are aggregated. This results in conservation status being assessed at a UK-level, with a UK-level report being produced by JNCC.

Country-level information on habitats and species in Wales is provided to JNCC by NRW. No formal site level (or even Country level) reports have been produced following the third reporting round, although, following requests by the RAG, NRW have promised to produce site level condition reports by the end of 2014. The RAG considers that feature condition information is paramount to evaluating current site management. The review of the management scheme (due to take place in 2014) may have to be delayed in order to allow effective management feedback to the condition results.



Diver enjoying good underwater visibility brought about by a fine early summer in 2013. *SeaSearch (Blaise Bullimore)*

2. SAC Management Scheme Action Progress (Regulation 36 work)

Table 1 presents some of the main achievements from each relevant authority, and the relevant authorities collectively (the RAG), for 2013. It should be noted that Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water are not included in this table as their SAC management actions, which are relevant to water quality and water abstraction, are covered within their day-to-day regulated operations.

Table 1: Main Relevant Authority Group Achievements 2013

PMSAC Management Action		Authority	Action(s) achieved
Ports, harbours & shipping			
PHS 6.0	<i>Develop, implement and maintain under review an integrated dredging strategy to minimise requirement for and effect of dredging and identify most appropriate best practice and also address dredge spoil disposal.</i>	POMH	Continued to implement the five-year Maintenance Dredging Strategy for its third year in 2013. There was no requirement for maintenance dredging in 2013 other than small-scale bed levelling at Murco Terminal Berth 1 by plough dredge.
Living resources (including fisheries)			
LR 10+13	<i>Develop and implement specific management measures to protect habitats and species of SAC features sensitive to commercial bait collection</i>	CCW/NRW	The CCW Police Wildlife Liaison Officer spent some time on The Gann, met with concerned locals, and issued letters to 2 individuals thought to be digging commercially to inform them that commercial activity on The Gann without permission was illegal. A lot of time was spent exploring management possibilities with PCNPA and a commercial digging representative. Liaison occurred with the local community and anglers. A proposed permit system was drafted, but the conservation legal framework prevented this from being adopted. Talks were underway with Welsh Government at the end of 2013 to find a way forward.
		PCNPA	Continued to liaise with CCW/NRW (lead partner) and other partners re. the most appropriate way forward.
Water quality, pollution & waste disposal			
WQW 1 + 16	<i>Manage general water quality and pollution and sewage discharge specifically to safeguard SAC features</i>	EA/NRW	Maintained the excellent Bathing Water standards already achieved at the majority of beaches within the SAC. Additional programmes of work are continuing to be undertaken at Nolton Haven, in partnership with DCWW, to provide improved storm overflow mitigation.

PMSAC Management Action		Authority	Action(s) achieved
WQW 2 + 3	<i>Manage all run-off to safeguard SAC features</i>	EA/NRW	An ongoing WFD programme includes implementation of measures identified in the 2009-11 investigation phase to bring Water Framework stretches feeding into the Marine SAC up to good ecological status.
WQW 7 + 8	<i>Manage pollution response to safeguard SAC features</i>	EA/NRW	An ongoing dialogue with the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) is underway. Work on the development of recovery plans to deal with mitigation and clean up after incidents is included in the LRF work plan - plans have been exercised.
		PCNPA	PCNPA continued to contribute to marine pollution contingency planning e.g. revision/updating of the WWEG oil spill contingency plan; responding to consultations on other contingency plans e.g. the MHPA oil pollution contingency plan as and when appropriate.
WQW 11+12	<i>Develop and introduce new management measures, as required, to safeguard the SAC features and minimise potential unfavourable effects of refuse and litter on SAC features</i>	PCC	In December 2013, Council resolved that a voluntary ban on the release of sky lanterns and helium balloons from Council owned/controlled land be introduced; and that a communication exercise be undertaken to make consumers and charity organisations aware of the risks associated with sky lanterns and helium balloons and the fact they should not be released from Council owned/controlled land.

Recreation

Rec 14.1.1	<i>Exclude all anchoring and new moorings in areas of <i>Zostera</i> spp. (seagrass) and <i>Maerl</i> spp. (chalky seaweed) beds within the Haven.</i>	CCW/NRW	Agreement was reached with representatives of the Milford Harbour Users Association for voluntary anchoring/mooring restrictions to protect seagrass and maerl. Wider promulgation of the agreement and provision of supporting information is needed in 2014.
		POMH	Provided support in reaching agreement with MHW Recreational Users, on voluntary sensitive habitat zones to protect maerl & seagrass. (SAC Officer and CCW/NRW led). Acceptance in principle of deploying visitor mooring buoys in Longoar Bay as a facility for users (dependant on external funding).
		RAG	The SAC Officer facilitated an agreement with representatives of the Milford Harbour Users Association for voluntary anchoring/mooring restrictions to protect seagrass and maerl. These sensitive habitat zones will be promulgated in time for the 2014 season.
Rec 8+12	<i>Continue to support the work of the Marine Code and Outdoor Charter groups</i>	PCNPA	PCNPA continued to provide practical and financial support for the Marine Code and Outdoor Charter groups.

PMSAC Management Action	Authority	Action(s) achieved
Information and data gathering		
ID 1+3	<i>Maintain and expand the knowledge base of the distribution and scale (and effects) of shipping and shipping-related (in this case 'vessel') operations sufficient to inform SAC management- in particular that of non-native 'alien' species.</i>	POMH Participation in the Bangor University led research project on movement of Introduced Non-Native Species (INNS) via leisure craft movements. The Environmental Manager is a corresponding member of the Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership INNS Task Group, and raises awareness of INNS throughout the Port of Milford Haven regularly in the employee newsletter.
ID 2.1.8	Aim to complete the recommendations made in MHWESG commissioned report (Little, 2009).	EA/NRW <i>Environmental Pressures on the Milford Haven Waterway</i> was a report written in 2013 but published in Jan 2014 by NRW and circulated to the RAG with a particular focus on nutrients. The report reviews available data and compliance with relevant European directives, in particular the Water Framework Directive (WFD). It also provides evidence to inform decisions regarding potential designation under the Nitrates Directive and Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.
ID 13 + 14	<i>Secure good quality relevant data on pollution sufficient to adequately inform SAC management.</i>	EA/NRW The 2 year study to look into the causes of algal mat growth within the Haven has concluded and the report <i>Environmental Pressures on the Milford Haven Waterway</i> compiled. Evidence from WFD monitoring in the Milford Haven Inner water body shows that dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) levels are Moderate and this appears to be reflected in the opportunistic macroalgae classification, which also achieves Moderate status. Therefore, this transitional water body is currently failing to meet the Good standard that will be required for WFD compliance by 2027. Further investigations will be required to identify reasons for failure and a programme of measures to achieve Good ecological status will need to be put in place by 2014. The Waterway is being assessed for its suitability as a candidate Polluted Water (eutrophic) under the Nitrates Directive and candidate Sensitive Area (eutrophic) under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD).
ID 14.2	<i>Improve understanding of the interaction between diffuse pollution and the SAC features.</i>	EA/NRW An ongoing programme of work with DCWW and Afonydd Cymru is underway to tackle the problem of blue-green algae incidents at Lllys y Fran.
ID 22	Ensure up to date information sharing both within and between organisations.	PCC Relevant data (EIA/AA etc.) from plans & projects provided for inclusion in the RAG Plans and Projects Inventory.
		RAG Managed to enlist the help of Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum and a SAC placement student to input historical data into the RAG plans and projects inventory. This was nearing completion by the end of 2013. Multiple consents have been entered for 25 separate 'projects'.

PMSAC Management Action		Authority	Action(s) achieved
ID various	<i>To secure good quality relevant data (in particular on PORTS, HARBOURS & SHIPPING and POLLUTION) sufficient to adequately inform SAC management.</i>	POMH	<p>Monitored and encouraged the forward MHWESG work programme, and provided feedback on where work can provide added value to the SAC management scheme. 2013 saw the reporting of the following projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sediment Profile Imaging (SPI): Final reporting on the extensive coverage throughout the Waterway from the entrance to the lower reaches of the Eastern and Western Cleddau, of the photographic images of the surficial sediment profiles and plan views of more than 550 sampling points. This project has provided a step-change in the detail of understanding of the mosaic of sediment types which are found throughout the waterway. (Germano Associates). • HC Sediment Forensics: Further detailed interpretation of Hydrocarbon sample analyses, to refine the interpretation of sources and sinks of sediment entrained hydrocarbon contaminants. (Yakob Galperin, ECG Consulting and David I Little). • Shelduck – the annual surveillance of summer shelduck populations within the waterway. (J E Hodges, PCNPA). • Data reporting on Macrobenthic sample processing (NRW). • Rocky shoreline monitoring site reporting. (Dale Fort Field Centre) <p>In addition to monitoring studies and habitat surveys MHWESG has also funded the following Environmental Studies Reviews:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of the Status of Wetland Birds in the Milford Haven Waterway and Daugleddau Estuary, 2013. (Annie Haycock, WeBS coordinator). • A review of the Port Met Data set (4+years from 3+ stations) to identify trends and establish monitoring methodologies to track Climate Change related impacts. (SEACAMS).

Resources

Res 2 + 4.2	<i>Secure the resources (and use and build upon those existing) necessary to implement the SAC management scheme.</i>	CCW/NRW	CCW/NRW staff have attended all RAG meetings and continue to contribute to the work of the partnership as much as work load allows; staff time is dominated by case work (e.g. South Hook proposed CHP), and site level reports.
		EA/NRW	EA/NRW staff have attended all RAG meetings and continue to contribute to the work of the partnership as much as work load allows; staff time is dominated by case work and mandatory monitoring.
		RAG	Although diminished, enough funding has been secured to maintain the SAC officer post and contribute to the RAG's ongoing work programme. Relevant Authority member involvement remains constant despite organisational changes such as the CCW and EA becoming part of the new Natural Resources Wales (NRW) in April 2013.

PMSAC Management Action	Authority	Action(s) achieved
Awareness Raising		
AR 6+7	<i>Target specific users to reduce potential marine litter at source and promote improved general waste management at sea.</i>	POMH General increased fishing industry liaison. Implementation and promoting 'Fishing For Litter' to participating member state vessels (Belgian) but unfortunately with little evidence of active participation. No FfL waste bags were put ashore in Milford Docks, despite clearly labelled waste provision.
AR 16	<i>Raise awareness of local marine wildlife within the SAC</i>	<p>PCNPA PCNPA continued to develop its advocacy role for the SAC's conservation objectives, both in policy consultations and in general promotion of the National Park.</p> <p>PCNPA PCNPA produced a series of 'where to go, what to know' public information leaflets including seals, crabs, and rock pooling. All incorporated mention of the SAC, and were developed in liaison with the SAC Officer.</p> <p>PCNPA The PCNPA visitor centre, Oriel y Parc in St David's, provided space for a display on coastal otters that was produced in liaison with interpretation staff and the SAC Officer. A record book was also provided and public sightings of otters on the coast encouraged - over 60 sightings were collected by mid-November. Associated media articles were produced in <i>The Western Telegraph</i> and <i>Welsh Country</i> magazine.</p> <p>PCNPA PCNPA supported the marine awareness roadshow project by administering the SDF fund that funded it. Education staff helped by providing comments on the associated supplementary education pack.</p> <p>PCC Key partner for potential awareness raising project 'Undersea Explorers Pembrokeshire'. Hosted meeting, and collated information to help inform a funding bid for the project partnership.</p> <p>PCC Awareness raising of marine wildlife via Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership communications (Facebook page, newsletter etc.).</p> <p>RAG The marine awareness schools road show was delivered to 25 primary schools in Pembrokeshire in the 2012-2013 academic year using a £2400 SDF grant. Road shows were oversubscribed and all feedback received was positive. The supplementary pack was well used and remains a useful resource after road show visits. It is hoped that more road shows can be offered next year. In addition, the SAC Officer has gathered interest in another educational project 'Undersea Explorers' with partners including the Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>RAG Provision of SAC talks on request (including visiting Universities), partner provider for 3 public events including Pembrokeshire Fish Week and a Bioblitz weekend at Stackpole, responding to general information requests, and maintaining the SAC website. Short piece on sea caves for The One Show.</p>

PMSAC Management Action		Authority	Action(s) achieved
AR 17 + 18, MRR 11	<i>Effective/comprehensive relevant and competent authority awareness and understanding of the SAC and its management scheme. Promote a more holistic and integrated management approach where appropriate.</i>	EA/NRW	Following the formation of NRW, an internal co-ordination group has been set up to ensure a consistent approach to all relevant work programmes undertaken by the three legacy bodies.
AR 17+18	<i>Maintain and improve internal and external communications about the SAC within and between relevant and competent authority organisations</i>	PCC	Provided a new Chair for the RAG Partnership, Cath Ranson, Development Plans and Conservation Manager (and President of the Royal Town Planning Institute). Continued in addition to provide appropriate specialist representation on the group.
		RAG	The SAC Officer continues to sit on the Welsh Government led South Inshore Fisheries Group which provides a useful direct link to WG Fisheries staff. Towards the end of 2013, a meeting with WG's newly combined Marine and Fisheries Division was pursued and agreed for early 2014.

Monitoring, review and reporting

aiding MRR 2, AR 16	<i>Effective/comprehensive knowledge of the condition of the SAC features, and general awareness raising of a SAC feature and its management.</i>	RAG	Continuing to manage the SAC otter research project, making use of a network of volunteers to help collect data, despite the wet winter. This project's deadline has been extended to make the most of volunteer data. Awareness of the project, and otters generally using the coast, has been raised through providing a display for the PCNPA visitor centre in St David's where over 65 otter sightings have since been recorded by visitors. The SAC Officer assisted PCNPA with related press articles and also helped deliver a talk on otters at the Pembrokeshire Marine Wildlife Sightings event.
MRR 2	<i>Effective/comprehensive knowledge of the condition of the SAC features.</i>	CCW/NRW	Following provision of Welsh data to JNCC for incorporation into the UK's report to Europe, NRW agreed to provide site level feature condition reports to the RAG to aid site management. Resources meant that this couldn't be achieved in 2013; it is NRW's intention to deliver these by the end of December 2014.
MRR 3-5	<i>Effective/comprehensive knowledge of the effects of human activity in and upon the SAC</i>	RAG	A Welsh Government Resilient Ecosystems Grant was gained for the project "Guidelines for Sustainable Intertidal Bait and Seaweed Collection" which will collate information on activity impacts and associated regulatory regime in 2014. Not only will this help to fulfil information requirements of the SAC, but it should actively aid future management. The RAG continues to be a partner on a seagrass-friendly mooring design project with SEACAMS, and remains a corresponding member for seagrass research based in North Wales.

PMSAC Management Action		Authority	Action(s) achieved
AR 18, MRR 10	<i>Maintain and improve external communications about the SAC between relevant and competent authority organisations. Ensure that the SAC is taken into account in the preparation/review of all statutory management policies, plans and initiatives.</i>	POMH	Maintained close liaison with developing Welsh Regulatory mechanisms with relevance to the SAC, and fed back to the RAG as appropriate. In 2013 the Port's Environmental Manager attended the Welsh Marine Planning Stakeholder Group, MCZ Stakeholder Group, Natural Resources Reference Group, and Western Wales WFD Liaison Panel meetings.
MRR 10+11	<i>Ensure SAC is taken fully into account in the preparation and review of all statutory management policies, plans and initiative; promote more holistic integrated approach where appropriate.</i>	RAG	Input into the NRW led LIFE+ project, seeking mechanisms and agreements to better integrate SAC management scheme actions into the NRW special sites database, upon which prioritised improvement plans will be based and future funding streams identified which should ultimately aid site management. In addition, contributed to relevant consultations and continued national level liaison through working with the Welsh Group of European Marine Sites (GEMS) and Wales Environment Link.
MRR 12.1	<i>Update RAs/CAs and Liaison Forum on the results of feature condition monitoring and surveillance work</i>	CCW/NRW	The fine weather in 2013 enabled completion of all planned intertidal monitoring, and also subtidal reefs in the waterway, subtidal reefs site maintenance offshore, and trial biosonics work for seagrass monitoring in the waterway and Skomer North Haven.

3. Routine Assessments (Regulation 61 work)

Authorities routinely deal with what are termed “plans and projects” (something that requires some sort of specific statutory consent, authorisation, licence or permission). When such “plans and projects” occur within or have the potential to affect the SAC, they need to undergo a Habitats Regulation Assessment. This is a formal step-wise process that should ensure that any effects to the SAC are considered, and that plans and projects only get the go ahead if they will not have an adverse effect on site integrity, and will not result in deterioration of SAC habitats or significant disturbance of SAC species. Under certain specified conditions, plans and projects with adverse effects on site integrity can go ahead provided that those effects are compensated through other measures.

Plans and projects have perhaps the biggest collective impact on the SAC’s features. It is for this reason that the RAG, within the partnership, routinely exchanges information on current plans and projects, and seeks ways to locally improve the consenting process and ultimately to minimise any effects on the SAC. Plans and projects are not addressed in detail within the site management scheme because they are dealt with individually by RAG members through Habitats Regulation Assessments. The response to plans and projects is necessarily reactive, whereas conversely the SAC management scheme is proactive, looking at what improvements need to be made to current management, and identifying the information needed to better inform future management.

Dealing with plans and projects, such as large developments with multiple consents associated with them, can be time-consuming both for the consenting authority and for the nature conservation advisors, Natural Resources Wales. The big 'projects' that dominated in 2013 included Tidal Energy Limited (Ramsey Sound), the Pembroke Power Station (monitoring work), and pre-application talks concerning a proposed new combined heat and power station at South Hook. Of note because it was the first Pembrokeshire project (possibly first or second only in Wales) to be taken through the full Regulation 61 process including IROPI (imperative reasons of overriding public interest) was the proposed new RNLI lifeboat station at St Justinian's. This reached the IROPI stage due to the adverse impact on the SAC of a small but permanent loss of intertidal rock. Substitute natural rock will form a new three dimensional foreshore reef in compensation.

Work was done to populate the RAG's GIS-based Plans and Projects Inventory in 2013 by a SAC placement student (6 weeks duration) and also the Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum (PCF). Data entry will need to be vetted by the RAG before being uploaded to the inventory (which remains password protected). This is scheduled to happen in 2014.

To access the Plans and Projects Inventory, users are directed to <http://www.pembrokeshiremarinesac.org.uk/english/manage/plans.htm>. The Inventory is hosted by the Wales Activity Mapping (WAM) website managed by the Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum. The quickest way to get to grips with the project is to watch the demo video at <http://www.walesactivitymapping.org.uk/help-videos/>. (Note that until the inventory is uploaded to the website, data layers will not be 'live').

4. Site Feature Condition

As stated in the introduction, site feature condition has yet to be reported on a site level by NRW following the third reporting round to the European Commission in 2013. Indications are that Pembrokeshire Marine SAC features are unchanged or in some cases worse than when last reported. The RAG will need to wait until later in 2014 before site-specific feature condition assessment information is made available.

5. RAG priorities

Any review of work done is not complete without some forward planning. The RAG is continuously evaluating SAC issues, and priorities may change. Current priorities for each relevant authority and also joint RAG priorities for 2014 are summarised in Table 3. It should be noted that Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water are not included in this table as their SAC management actions, which are relevant to water quality and water abstraction, are covered within their day-to-day regulated operations.

Table 3: Relevant Authority Group Priorities for 2014

Authority	Action	Action plan reference	Action ref. also a priority for:
Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) – Natural Resources Wales (NRW) as of April 2013	Deliver site specific feature condition and status information by the end of 2014 to all relevant authorities in order to help inform RAG work and future management.	MRR 12.1	
	Continue to work towards the resolution of bait digging and related fisheries management issues in the intertidal zone at The Gann.	LR 10+13	PCNPA, PCC, RAG
	Provide information to support the sensitive habitats zone voluntary agreement with recreational users to protect maerl & seagrass within the Haven.	Rec 14.1.1	POMH
	Intertidal and sublittoral monitoring work.	MRR 2	
	Seek to ensure that the RAG partnership continues to have strong local staff representation and financial support following the creation of 'Natural Resources Wales'.	Res 4	
Environment Agency Wales (EAW) – Natural Resources Wales (NRW) as of April 2013	Seek to ensure that the RAG partnership continues to have strong local staff representation and financial support following the creation of 'Living Resources Wales'.	Res 2 + 4.2	
	Follow-up work to bring Water Framework stretches feeding into the Marine SAC up to good ecological status (making use of database of measures for improvement).	WQW 2 + 3	
	Bathing water improvements.	WQW 1 + 16	
	NRW will continue ongoing initiatives on embedding work on Directive compliance with RAG partners, particularly where pilots and any DCWW bids are successful.	AR 17 + 18, MRR 11	PCC, POMH, RAG
	Continue to further encourage the development of recovery plans to deal with mitigation and clean up after incidents.	WQW 7 + 8	PCNPA, PCC
	Continue to input into and support the work of the Milford Haven Waterway Environmental Surveillance Group (MHWESG) and aim to complete the recommendations made in the MHWESG commissioned report (Little, 2009).	ID 2.1.8	

Authority	Action	Action plan reference	Action ref. also a priority for:
Port Of Milford Haven (POMH)	Monitor and encourage the forward MHWESG work programme, and provide feedback on where work can provide added value to the SAC management scheme. Continue to provide practical support (marine craft & staff time) for annual Shelduck monitoring. Continue SEACAMS Meteorological Data analysis project and other potential collaborative projects utilising existing Milford Haven waterway environmental datasets.	ID various	
	Liaise as appropriate with Crown Estate and facilitate visitor mooring buoy deployment within Longoar Bay (note - dependant on external funding). Ensure <i>Zostera</i> and maerl sensitivities are integrated into the Waterway Recreational Management Plan and annual Leisure Users Guide (zonations, voluntary no anchoring areas etc). Promulgate information via Notice to Mariners.	Rec 14.1.1	NRW, RAG
	Continue to implement the five-year Maintenance Dredging Strategy for its fourth year in 2014.	PHS 6.0	
	Maintain close liaison with Welsh Regulatory mechanisms with relevance to the SAC. i.e. Welsh Marine Planning, Welsh MPA Management Steering Group, Single Body (NRW), WFD Second Cycle planning etc.	AR 18, MRR 10	PCNPA, RAG
	Continue the trial period of 'Fishing for Litter' waste reception facilities at the Milford Dock. Encourage local (<10m) and other member state visiting vessel participation in the 'Fishing for Litter' scheme.	AR 6+7	
	Continue to closely monitor the emergence, ratification and eventual entry into force of the IMO Ballast Water Management Convention. Continue to closely monitor the emergence of any Ballast Water Best Practice Guidelines (MCA, DfT, OSPAR etc).	PHS 13	
	Continue to maintain the profile of the SAC and encourage responsible leisure user activity within the SAC via Milford Marina berth holder notice boards, newsletters, and management actions. Include SAC description, sensitivities, and best practice within all new Port Staff Environmental Induction Module.	AR 1+17	NRW, PCC, RAG
	Marine Licensing: Continue to submit comments to NRW Marine Licensing Team as a consultee for all Marine Licence Applications within the Port Limits, with particular attention to SAC considerations. Marine Works Licences: Continue to progress Marine Work Licences with due regard for SAC considerations in LSE tests and HRAs. Continue to copy MWL details to SAC Officer for entry into SAC Plans & Projects Inventory.	Misc 1+2	PCC, RAG
Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC)	Formalise shoreline / pollution response plans and involvement, and provide EROCIPS type data for input to an appropriate database, following up ARCOPOL work.	WQW 7 + 8	NRW, PCNPA, RAG

Authority	Action	Action plan reference	Action ref. also a priority for:
	Ensure continued commitment to Chairing the RAG, as well as appropriate specialist representation on the group. Build greater awareness of SAC issues throughout the Council, making better use of SAC Officer where possible.	AR 17 + 18	NRW, POMH, RAG
	Relevant data (EIA/AA etc.) from plans & projects to be provided for inclusion in the RAG Plans and Projects Inventory.	ID 22 (also Misc 1)	POMH, RAG
	Bait digging – partnership working to halt damage.	LR 10+13	NRW, PCNPA
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA)	Continue to contribute to the resolution of bait digging and ancillary management issues in the intertidal zone with partners and the local communities.	LR 10+13	NRW, PCC, RAG
	Continue to provide support for the work of the Marine Code and Outdoor Charter groups	Rec 8 + 12 (+others)	
	Continue to develop/pursue advocacy role for the SAC and the site's conservation objectives e.g. through responding/contributing to policy consultations and in the general promotion of the National Park	AR 16, MRR 10	POMH, RAG
	Continue to advocate for and to contribute to the development, review and exercising of all marine pollution contingency plans that are relevant to the SAC.	WQW 7 + 8	NRW, PCC, RAG
Relevant Authorities Group (RAG)	Review management scheme. Evaluate compliance with and effectiveness of management actions. Make best use of data (particularly GIS-based) held by partners and maintain/build upon/share as appropriate.	MRR 8	
	Ensure current data is regularly entered in order to keep the Plans and Projects Inventory up to date. Verify final data and enable system to go 'live' in order to share data. Online system will aid both competent authorities and developers with Habitats Regulations Assessments.	ID 6.10.22 (+ Mis 1.3)	
	Successfully complete the WG-funded project 'Guidelines for Sustainable Intertidal Bait and Seaweed Collection', promulgate findings, and seek to build recommendations into the management scheme review.	MRR 3-5	
	Continue to raise general awareness of the SAC and its needs, particularly through use of the SAC website, and education projects.	AR 16	POMH, PCNPA
	Complete the SAC otter research project, promulgate findings, and seek to build recommendations into the management scheme review.	aiding MRR 2	
	Seek to ensure that RAG knowledge and experience are best used to advance MPA management in Wales. Input into the LIFE Natura programme, and seek to ensure that resulting plans build upon the work of the RAG and benefit the SAC.	AR 17 + 18, MRR 10	NRW, POMH

Authority	Action	Action plan reference	Action ref. also a priority for:
	Encourage progress with marine contingency plans in order to safeguard the SAC, in particular with respect to local shoreline response.	WQW 7 + 8	NRW, PCC, PCNPA

Sue Burton, Pembrokeshire Marine SAC Officer, Spring 2014

For more information on the SAC including management documentation, see www.PembrokeshireMarineSAC.org.uk