



Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Relevant Authority Group (RAG) Annual Report 2017

1. Introduction

The Relevant Authorities for the Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC) have been a multi-sectoral partnership dedicated to joint working to improve SAC feature condition since 1999. The agreed management scheme for the site was launched in August 2008. Work since then has focused as much as possible on management scheme implementation. Due to reduced core funding availability in recent years (primarily lack of funding from NRW), work has necessarily become more project orientated as the RAG have needed to explore use of different funding grants to take forward active SAC management implementation. This report summarises the period 01 Jan 2017 to 31 December 2017.

Following her departure from Pembrokeshire County Council, Cath Ranson stepped down as the RAG Chair in 2017 after four years in the role. The RAG would like to pay tribute to her commitment to its work and to the local environment. RAG members were delighted to welcome Sara Morris, also from Pembrokeshire Council, who ably assumed the role as Chair in October.

MPA Inquiry by the National Assembly's Climate Change, Environment & Rural Affairs Committee



CCERA members were taken on a field trip to The Gann in March to see the impacts of bait digging.

The inquiry into the management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Wales was seen to be a pivotal study, and one that the RAG felt it very important to input into. As well as providing significant written evidence, the RAG also hosted a visit by the committee to Pembrokeshire in March where a presentation on the work of the RAG was given and a field visit organised to The Gann Flats, Dale. Following this, the SAC Officer was called to give oral evidence at the Senedd. The response to the inquiry by Welsh Government and further discussions during Plenary in November were all carefully followed. The inquiry took up some considerable time commitment in 2017; it is the hope of the RAG that MPA management across Wales will benefit because of it.

It should be noted, that whilst contributions to national work such as the inquiry are seen to be essential and should also assist management long-term of the

Pembrokeshire Marine SAC, this does reduce the ability to progress the RAG's site-based work programme.

Milford Haven Native Oyster Regeneration Project Phase One – current status and practicalities (GRANT FUNDED PROJECT WORK) - Practical marine management implementation.

West Wales Shellfisherman's Association Ltd. commissioned the SAC Officer to project manage this NRW funded Native Oyster project. The main aim of the project was to gather evidence needed to support a local Native Oyster regeneration programme. Fieldwork totalling 17 days (provided in kind by fishermen) produced data that was the basis of a project report by consultant Philine zu Ermgassen detailing practical considerations for native oyster regeneration specific to the waterway. The report concluded that the current most likely contributors to the low oyster densities and recruitment in Milford Haven were lack of broodstock, bonamia and low quality cultch. The work led to further collective discussions for stage two of the work (to significantly improve the native oyster population within the waterway) that resulted in NRW (as a scientific/technical body was needed) taking the lead in an application for EMFF funding that, following a successful expression of interest, was submitted in November 2017.

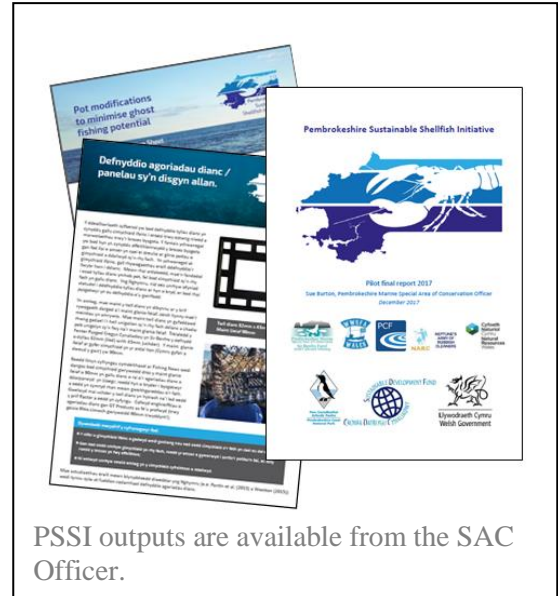
Pembrokeshire Sustainable Shellfish Pilot Initiative (GRANT FUNDED PROJECT WORK) - Practical marine management implementation.

The project, a partnership between the RAG, West Wales Shellfisherman's Association Ltd and 20 local fishermen, was originally due to finish in July 2017, but was able to be extended until December 2017 which allowed another full summer season for the gear trial.

The Pembrokeshire Sustainable Shellfish Initiative Pilot demonstrated that practical modifications can be easily incorporated into lobster pots as effective means of minimising ghost fishing and also improving fishing sustainability by releasing juvenile target species and by-catch. Pot hooks modified with Ghost Buster hog rings were tested in the pilot trial and deemed a success from the fishing industry point of view as they held for between 11 – 17 months. This was an acceptable working lifespan for all fishers whether potting seasonally (April – October) or right through the year.

Incorporating a biodegradable element to the pot hook offers a novel solution that the fisher can easily monitor. Whilst such modifications are unlikely to completely stop ghost fishing from happening should pots become lost, it is taking steps to help reduce it.

Use of 82mm x 43mm escape hatches to allow release of <90mm European lobsters was universally popular within the trial. The pilot recommended further investigation of hatches made of fully biodegradable material (Polyhydroxyalkanoate (PHA)). The full project report and bilingual summary information sheets are available from the SAC Officer. Information on the project, and a link to the video (searchable on YouTube), is available at www.pembrokeshiremarinesac.org.uk/pspi.html



PSSI outputs are available from the SAC Officer.

Additional RAG marine management scheme implementation.

Time to pro-actively pursue other management scheme actions has been limited due to time spent on project work. However, the following are still maintained as much as possible:

- Partnership working to address management of living resources – in particular the bait digging voluntary code and the pursuit of a byelaw by NRW to improve feature condition.
- Marine recreation management, working with PCF to maintain the Pembrokeshire Marine Code and Outdoor Charter work. A training day on rocky shores, conservation and foraging was co-delivered to outdoor providers in May.
- Education and awareness raising. The SAC Officer worked with PCC's Sustainable Schools Project on 'Pembrokeshire Jellyfish Day' to raise awareness of marine litter (held on June 8th for World Oceans Day). Towards the end of the year, the RAG created a presence on social media with a Facebook page set-up @Pembrokeshire Marine Wildlife and a Twitter feed @PembsMarineLife.

Additional RAG liaison.

The RAG continues to work closely with many Pembrokeshire-based partnerships and organisations.

- A letter of support was provided to the Wildlife Trust for their 'Living Seas Wales' Heritage Lottery Fund application. This was to deliver various marine education initiatives/events which, it was hoped, could aid Pembrokeshire Marine SAC awareness raising.
- The RAG worked with the Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership to co-deliver an event in September to raise awareness and promote action to minimise impacts from marine invasive non-native species.
- The SAC Officer was invited to attend the Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) and agreed to step in and attend when NRW couldn't do so.

On a national level, marine protected area related work liaison took place mainly via the Welsh MPA Management Steering Group. No dedicated RAG meetings have been able to be held with Welsh Government's Marine & Fisheries Division in 2017. Welsh Government is however routinely included in

RAG correspondence. A short presentation about the RAG to highlight how industry and the SAC coexist, and the long-term commitment shown by members was given to Cabinet Secretary Lesley Griffiths when she visited the Port in December.

In addition:

- The Marine Biodiversity Restoration and Enhancement Task & Finish Group, chaired by Welsh Government, and attended by the SAC Officer concluded its goal in 2017 agreeing on a prioritised list of 10 biodiversity habitats/species that may be appropriate for restoration work (based on existing knowledge/experience). Native oysters came out as no.1 followed by seagrass and saltmarsh.
- The SAC Officer input to a collaborative project led by NRW on marine recreation/tourism to raise the profile of the marine environment and its conservation during Visit Wales' "Year of the Sea" in 2018.

The SAC Officer attended Natural England's annual MPA officer site management workshop on 18th/19th October in Exeter. The workshop was for sharing ideas and experience and provided an excellent opportunity to reconnect with some European Marine Site staff in England.

RAG Finances

RAG members DCWW, PCC, PCNPA, and MHPA all continued to successfully contribute financially to the Group to enable joint working to continue. NRW did not fund the RAG this year. Additional funding via project work secured through grant money helps to 'top-up' group funds to allow the continuation of the SAC Officer part-time post. However this means that project work then dominates and can take precedence over what may be higher priority actions for the RAG to address. Having insufficient resource to properly address management scheme reviews, work programme prioritisation, beneficial liaison and even routine matters such as minutes of meetings, means that this core work suffers as a consequence.

Notable Consultations / Policy / Information of relevance to SAC management.

- The conclusions of the 'fitness check' for EU nature legislation (Birds Directive, Habitats Directive) were published in January.
[.http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/fitness_check/docs/nature_fitness_check.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/fitness_check/docs/nature_fitness_check.pdf)
- On 30 November, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended), was consolidated into the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. No change in the law resulted as this was simply a tidying up of the statute book.
- Transference of the nature conservation powers and functions of UK Government for the Welsh offshore marine area to Welsh Government started on 30 November for those powers relating to European protected sites (SAC's, SPA's). The powers relating to domestic sites (SSSI's etc) will transfer in April 2018. Welsh Government will delegate its licensing power to NRW. This means that where hitherto project promoters have had to apply to NRW for inshore waters and the MMO for offshore waters, in future it will all be NRW.
- New Special Areas of Conservation for Harbour Porpoise and Special Protection Areas for seabird feeding areas were confirmed as candidate sites. Of relevance/overlap to the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC is the new site for Harbour Porpoise (West Wales Marine / Gorllewin Cymru Forol cSAC) and a boundary change to the Skomer, Skokholm and the Seas off Pembrokeshire / Sgomer, Sgogwm a Moroedd Benfro SPA (formerly the Skokholm and Skomer SPA). The process for managing these sites in combination with the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC was yet to be fully determined.
- In December, Lesley Griffiths, Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs, delivered a written statement in response to the Nitrate vulnerable zones (NVZ) consultation in 2016. The Minister recognised that poor nutrient management was a major problem across Wales, and was "minded to introduce a whole Wales approach to tackling nitrate pollution from agriculture". Work with stakeholders would focus on trying to get the right balance of regulatory measures, voluntary initiatives and investment in order to provide land managers with flexibility to achieve the same or better outcomes than a straight regulatory approach.

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 2017. These actions are of direct relevance to the SAC. They do not represent the sum total of SAC related work from each authority, but are examples of work done, often in connection with priorities for the year (see annual report 2015). 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.

With consideration to the outputs of NRW's LIFE N2K project (the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC Prioritised Improvement Plan (PIP) and relevant Thematic Action Plans (TAPs)), an additional column is included which indicates where links to these exist. Note that because many Management Scheme actions fall outside the remit of PIPs/TAPs, some actions here are additional to those included in LIFE N2K outputs. Relevant TAPs include Access & recreation (AccRec), Flood & coastal erosion risk management (Flood), Diffuse water pollution (Diffuse), Marine litter (Litter), Air pollution: nitrogen deposition (Air), Marine fisheries (Fisheries), Non-native invasive species & pathogens (INNS), and Climate change and habitat fragmentation (Climate). There is also a set of five Cross-cutting Action Plans (Cross) which identify strategic actions relating to capacity-building activities to facilitate direct action to manage and restore Natura 2000 features.

Table 1: Main Relevant Authority Group Achievements 2017

PMSAC Management Action		Authority	Action(s) achieved	PIP / TAP?
Living resources (including fisheries)				
LR 6.3	<i>Consider the best means to enhance populations of native oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>) throughout the Milford Haven Waterway</i>	RAG	Successfully completed the Native Oyster Regeneration Project Phase One (NRW funding to WWSFA Ltd) and facilitated follow-on work by supporting NRW in applying for EMFF funds for native oyster restoration work, including within the Milford Haven Waterway (hopefully for a 5 year project starting in 2018).	(Not in PIP as considered better to pursue as a project), restoration in TAP Climate restricted to woodlands.
LR 9 (+AR 6.4)	<i>Minimise effects to SAC features by lost gear (e.g. by 'ghost fishing')</i>	RAG	Successfully completed the Pembrokeshire Sustainable Shellfish Pilot Initiative (SDF funding) and gave recommendations for future work.	TAP Litter 3, relevance to PIP, TAP Fisheries 3

PMSAC Management Action		Authority	Action(s) achieved	PIP / TAP?
LR 10+13	<i>Develop and implement specific management measures to protect habitats and species of SAC features sensitive to commercial bait collection and recreational hand gathering</i>	NRW	NRW's Regulatory Business Board approved the paper proposing a new byelaw to control bait digging at the Gann. Work in this area was being developed to include resources required for enforcement; this would include support from the NRW Enforcement Crime Team and possibly the police. Monitoring of the site continued and there was some general engagement with the voluntary code, however certain individuals continued to ignore this. As some individuals may prove hostile and aggressive to approaches by regulatory officers, health and safety controls are paramount including support from officers with the required enforcement skills such as powers of arrest.	PIP, TAP AccRec (multiple actions)
		PCNPA	Continued to liaise with PM SAC Officer and NRW in order to contribute to resolution of bait digging and related fisheries management issues in the intertidal zone through partnership working.	PIP, TAP AccRec (multiple actions)
Water quality, pollution & waste disposal				
WQW 1+2	<i>Manage general water quality and pollution to safeguard SAC features.</i>	NRW	Follow-up work to bring Water Framework stretches feeding into the marine SAC up to good ecological status continued, with NRW working in this area through its incident response, Bathing Water programme, development planning consultation, permit compliance and targeted farm visits. NRW have input to the development of the Building Resilience in Catchments (BRIC) project working to build resilience into farm businesses to contribute to sustainable economic development whilst addressing the unfavourable conservation and moderate ecological status of the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC and Milford Haven Waterway (final grant funding yet to be confirmed).	PIP, TAP Diffuse (multiple actions)
WQW 7 + 8	<i>Manage pollution response to safeguard SAC features</i>	PCC	PCC have continued to work with multi agency partners to prepare and plan for the response and recovery to pollution incidents likely to affect the coastline under the umbrella of the Dyfed Powys Local Resilience and in alignment with the risk register.	PIP
		PCNPA	PCNPA continued to contribute to marine pollution contingency planning as and when appropriate.	PIP
Recreation				
Rec 8+11	<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. The Marine Code helps protect wildlife through voluntary codes and seasonal access restrictions, developed through the Outdoor Charter Group which also provides training.	PIP, TAP AccRec (multiple actions)

PMSAC Management Action		Authority	Action(s) achieved	PIP / TAP?
Miscellaneous Activity				
<i>Misc 1+2</i>	<i>Manage development to safeguard SAC features</i>	POMH	Continued to operate the Ports Marine Licensing regime to regulate activities in the Waterway, exercising competent authority duties to safeguard SAC features, including those duties that fall outside of NRW marine licensing.	relevant to Cross Cutting (Integration 1)
Information and data gathering				
<i>ID various</i>	<i>To secure good quality relevant data sufficient to adequately inform SAC management.</i>	POMH	The Port has taken up the Deputy Chair position for MHWESG continuing to support the work of the Group and its research of relevance to SAC impacts and management. The Port has also supported independent marine research within the Waterway to help further marine science knowledge.	relevant to Cross Cutting (Integration 1)
		NRW	NRW continue to contribute to the work of the Milford Haven Waterway Environmental Surveillance Group (MHWESG). In 2017 contracted work included sediment contaminant data analysis, sediment macrobenthic sampling and rocky shore surveillance.	relevant to Cross Cutting (Integration 1)
Resources				
<i>Res 2 + 4.2</i>	<i>Secure the resources (and use and build upon those existing) necessary to implement the SAC management scheme.</i>	PCC	Continued success in securing vital funding from Welsh Government's Single Revenue Fund to enable continuation of RAG work, helping to reduce the impact of current lack of funding from NRW.	relevant to Cross Cutting (Finance)
		POMH	Increased accounting and procurement support was provided to the SAC Officer to aid multiple grant output requirements (relating to SAC project work).	relevant to Cross Cutting (Finance)
<i>Res 4</i>	<i>Utilise and build upon existing resources which contribute to implementing the SAC management scheme</i>	NRW	NRW carried forward actions from the Life N2K Programme for Wales (2012 to 2015) through the MPA Condition Improvement Project comprising various packages of work including fisheries assessments, unlicensed activities and recreation; the SAC Officer was involved in these later two. In addition Regulation 35 packages were revised.	relevant to Cross Cutting (Finance)

PMSAC Management Action	Authority	Action(s) achieved	PIP / TAP?	
Awareness Raising				
AR 1	<i>Manage introduction of alien species to the SAC and raise awareness of all vessel users regarding the impact these might cause to the SAC features and what actions users can take to reduce those impacts.</i>	PCC	Considerable support was given to organising and attending a joint marine invasive non-native species (INNS) event in September. This was a collaborative event to raise awareness of and provide information about marine INNS locally, including providing advice on how to 'stop the spread'.	Supporting PIP A3, 4, 36
		NRW	NRW provided information and specimens for and attended a marine invasive non-native species (INNS) event in September. This was a collaborative event to raise awareness of and provide information about marine INNS locally, including providing advice on how to 'stop the spread'. In addition, information about non-natives was provided at a rocky shore training event in May to Pembrokeshire Outdoor Charter and Marine Code members (organised by PCF).	Supporting PIP A3, 4, 37
AR 16	<i>Raise awareness of local marine wildlife within the SAC</i>	PCNPA	Continued to raise awareness of local marine wildlife within the SAC, particularly through Discovery Ranger work during public events and school sessions. A total of 93 sessions were held in 2017, including 11 on crabbing, 1 seashore safari and 9 seal walks.	relevant to Cross Cutting (Communication 5)
		POMH	Public relations and digital media help was provided with setting up the SAC social media presence. The Port also hosted the INNS event for local stakeholders in September.	relevant to Cross Cutting (Communication 5)
		RAG	Set up Facebook and Twitter profiles and began to build up a following in order to raise general awareness of the SAC, its wildlife and needs. Worked with a consortium led by NRW on a national project to raise awareness of the special nature and conservation needs of the marine area during the Year of the Sea and beyond.	relevant to Cross Cutting (Communication 5)
AR 17+18	<i>Maintain and improve internal and external communications about the SAC within and between relevant and competent authority organisations</i>	PCC	Continued commitment to Chairing the RAG and aiding the SAC Officer, as well as appropriate specialist representation on the group. Following a change in staff, the new Development Plans and Conservation Manager for PCC took on the role of the RAG's new Chair in October 2017.	relevant to Cross Cutting (finance)

PMSAC Management Action		Authority	Action(s) achieved	PIP / TAP?
		PCC	PCC continued its advocacy role raising awareness of SAC management needs, both separately and through the Welsh Local Government Association, by responding to Welsh Government consultations involving marine issues, and contributing to the Welsh Government's Marine Protected Area Management Steering Group.	relevant to Cross Cutting (various)
		POMH	Supported the new Harbourmaster in developing understanding of RAG work and SAC issues.	relevant to Cross Cutting (various)
		PCNPA	PCNPA continued its advocacy role, including responses to Welsh Government consultations involving marine issues, and contributing via the Welsh Government's Marine Protected Area Management Steering Group. PCNPA also routinely comment on Marine Licensing consultations. Staff helped with a field visit for the MPA Inquiry CCERA in March. An MPA briefing paper was provided to board members in June.	relevant to Cross Cutting (various)
		RAG	Significant input to CCERA's MPA Inquiry. Responded to consultation, hosted a RAG/field visit by the Committee, gave evidence at the Senedd and liaised to ensure that RAG knowledge and experience are best used to advance MPA management in Wales. The SAC Officer continued to input advice to the Welsh MPA Management Steering Group and multiple RAG members attend the Group.	relevant to Cross Cutting (various)
		RAG	Input to Welsh Government's Marine Biodiversity Restoration and Enhancement Task and Finish Group which agreed on a prioritised list of 10 biodiversity habitats/species that may be appropriate for restoration work.	relevant to Cross Cutting (various)
AR 18	<i>Effective/comprehensive relevant and competent authority awareness and understanding of the SAC and its management scheme</i>	RAG	Increased liaison with MPAs in England by attending an MPA conference (Poole) in May and English Nature MPA workshop (Exeter) in October. Sharing best practice across sites is valuable to management progress.	relevant to Cross Cutting (various)
Monitoring, review and reporting				
MRR 1.1	<i>Link effectively to local Biodiversity Action Plans where applicable</i>	PCC	Collaboration over relevant marine-focused Local Biodiversity Action Plans and related work, in particular considerable input to the West Wales Fisherman's Association Ltd's Native Oyster regeneration project which resulted in a new local biodiversity action plan for Native Oyster.	relevant to Cross Cutting (various)
MRR 2	<i>Effective/comprehensive knowledge of the condition of the SAC features.</i>	NRW	All the intertidal biological monitoring work this year was completed as planned including finishing the epifaunal monitoring at The Gann.	TAP AccRec 2

PMSAC Management Action		Authority	Action(s) achieved	PIP / TAP?
		RAG	Finalised conclusions from the last coastal SAC otter research project. Additional open coast monitoring completed at key sites, and an agreement in place for future trail camera work to address the lack of dna analysis of spraint samples in the last contract due to a 3rd party based in Ireland.	Feature monitoring
MRR 10	<i>Ensure that the SAC is taken fully into account in the preparation and review of all policies, plans and initiatives.</i>	POMH	The Environment Manager has attended numerous external liaison groups, taking the opportunity to raise awareness of the needs of the SAC and enhance opportunities to utilise and build upon the work of the RAG. E.g. Draft Marine Plan pre-consultation, BREXIT, Wales Marine Action and Advisory Group, Wales Clean Seas Partnership, and MPA Management Steering Group discussions.	relevant to Cross Cutting (various)

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 one of the biggest collective impacts 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.

Post 1995 data has been used to populate the RAG’s GIS-based Plans and Projects Inventory. This was uploaded to the inventory (which remains password protected) in 2014. Regular updates are required to keep it a useful tool. These have unfortunately not been possible since 2015 due to other work pressures.

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. A demo video is available to get to grips with the Inventory.

4. Site Feature Condition

The situation regarding reporting on site feature condition at a site level by NRW remains outstanding. This concerns information 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 reported for the second round. NRW held internal workshops in May to progress site level reporting. NRW informed the RAG in the autumn that indicative site condition assessments had been completed and had been sent to JNCC and Welsh Government; it was hoped that they would be made widely available by the end of the year. This did not occur.

In the absence of site condition monitoring information, it is not possible to confidently target management actions towards specific areas identified as being able to contribute towards maintaining or improving feature condition/status. However RAG members have a good understanding of the main issues for the site and through liaison with site-based NRW staff are able, with adequate resources, to tackle areas in need of improvement.

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 2017 are summarised in Table 2. 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. The table below also draws upon the light-touch management scheme review conducted in 2016, and as for Table 1 includes a column to refer to LIFE Natura 2000 outputs.

Table 2: Relevant Authority Group Priorities for 2017

Authority	Action	Action plan reference	Action ref. also a priority for:	PIP /TAP?
Natural Resources Wales (NRW)	Seek to resolve RAG funding issues by exploring ways of funding local SAC improvements using the experience and expertise of the RAG.	<i>Res 2+4</i>	POMH, RAG	relevant to Cross Cutting (Finance)
	Provide site specific feature condition and status information to all relevant authorities in order to help inform RAG work and future management.	<i>MRR 12.1</i>		of relevance to Cross Cutting (Integration)
	Continue to build upon and learn from the work done to date on the resolution of bait digging and related fisheries management issues in the intertidal zone at The Gann in order to gain improvements in feature conservation status. Further pursue the byelaw and resources required for enforcement.	<i>LR 10+13</i>	PCNPA, RAG	PIP, TAP AccRec (multiple actions)
	Maintain intertidal and sublittoral monitoring to aid assessment of the condition of the SAC features against the conservation objectives.	<i>MRR 2</i>		of relevance to Cross Cutting (Integration)
	Follow-up work to bring Water Framework stretches feeding into the marine SAC up to good ecological status including incident response, Bathing Water programme, development planning consultation, permit compliance and targeted farm and sewage treatment site visits. NRW and partners are awaiting Welsh Government to decide on NVZ designations in Wales and the result of the BRICs project bid.	<i>WQW 2</i>		PIP, TAP Diffuse (multiple actions)
	Use Visit Wales' Year of the Sea theme for 2018 to raise the profile of marine life and conservation within the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC and throughout Wales.	<i>AR 16</i>	PCNPA, RAG	Cross Cutting (integration)
	Maintain and improve effective/comprehensive relevant and competent authority awareness and understanding of the SAC and the actions needed to improve features (including PIPs/TAPs and the SAC management scheme).	<i>AR17+18</i>	POMH, PCC, RAG	Cross Cutting (integration)
Port of Milford Haven (POMH)	Complete the biosecurity risk assessment needed in association with the dredge strategy (this was a condition of licence by NRW).	<i>PHS 6.0</i>		TAP INNS 1.2+1.6
	Seek to resolve the core funding issue for the RAG by pursuing suitable agreements with NRW as the RAG's hosting organisation.	<i>Res 2</i>	NRW, RAG	relevant to Cross Cutting (Finance)

Authority	Action	Action plan reference	Action ref. also a priority for:	PIP /TAP?
	Contribute to the Clean Seas Partnership and commit to a public pledge.	WQW 10-11		TAP Marine Litter, Cross Cutting (Education)
	Continue the work with local businesses and stakeholders to raise awareness of the issues and minimising impacts of marine litter/plastics.	WQW 10-12		TAP Marine Litter, Cross Cutting (Education)
	Renew Eco Ports accreditation, securing commitment to environmental improvement within the organisation.	PHS 1+2		relevant to Cross Cutting (Integration)
	Continue to try to influence Welsh Government to secure long-term statutory contributions to SAC management by attending cross sectoral groups such as WMAAG, WGMPASG, EU Exit Roundtable etc.	AR 18, MRR 11	NRW, RAG	relevant to Cross (Finance + Integration)
Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC)	Continue partnership working to implement the biodiversity action plan for Native Oyster, seeking to improve Native Oyster numbers within the Waterway and so improve SAC feature condition.	MRR 1.1	RAG	(Not in PIP as considered better to pursue as a project), restoration in TAP Climate restricted to woodlands.
	Ensure continued commitment to funding and Chairing the RAG, as well as appropriate specialist representation on the group. Build greater awareness of SAC issues throughout the Council, especially in 2018 Year of the Sea, making better use of the SAC Officer where possible.	AR 17, Res 2	NRW, PCNPA, RAG	relevant to Cross Cutting (Finance + Education)
	Finalise and publish the Dyfed Powys Local Resilience Forum (DPLRF) Shoreline Pollution Plan and ensure appropriate involvement with the West Wales Environment Group. Provide EROCIPS type data for input to an appropriate database, following up ARCOPOL work.	WQW 7 + 8	PCNPA	PIP, TAP Cross Cutting (Integration)
	Link 2 minute beach clean boards around the County to SAC management, thereby raising awareness of SAC features and the impacts that marine plastic pollution in particular can have.	WQW 12		TAP Marine Litter, Cross Cutting (Education)

Authority	Action	Action plan reference	Action ref. also a priority for:	PIP /TAP?
	Continue to develop/pursue advocacy role for the SAC and the site's conservation objectives e.g. through responding/contributing to policy consultations, participating in the Welsh Government Marine Protected Areas Management Steering Group and other inputs either as a single Local Authority or via the Welsh Local Government Association.	AR 18	NRW, PCNPA, POMH, RAG	relevant to Cross (Integration)
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 local communities.	LR 10+13	NRW, RAG	PIP, TAP AccRec (multiple actions)
	Continue to provide support for the work of the Marine Code and Outdoor Charter groups.	Rec 8+ 12 (+others)		PIP, TAP AccRec (multiple actions)
	Continue to develop/pursue advocacy role for the SAC and the site's conservation objectives e.g. through responding/contributing to policy consultations, participating in the Welsh Government Marine Protected Areas management steering group and in the general promotion of the National Park.	AR 17+18	NRW, POMH, PCC, RAG	relevant to Cross (Integration)
	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	PCC	PIP, TAP Cross Cutting (Integration)
	Use Visit Wales' Year of the Sea as an additional opportunity to continue to raise awareness of local marine wildlife within the SAC and increase knowledge of the condition of the SAC features.	AR 16, MRR 2	NRW, PCC, RAG	relevant to Cross (Communication 5)
Relevant Authorities Group (RAG)	Continue to pursue resources to take forward the work of the RAG in delivering conservation improvements for the SAC.	Res 2	NRW, POMH	
	Seek to ensure that RAG knowledge and experience are best used to advance MPA management in Wales. Continue to advise the Welsh MPA management steering group and progress the recommendations of CCERA's MPA inquiry.	AR 17 + 18	NRW, PCNPA, PCC, RAG	relevant to Cross (various)
	Continue to raise awareness of recreational codes of conduct within the SAC including the bait digging code at The Gann and the voluntary sensitive habitat zone within the Waterway. Maximise opportunities for feature improvements.	LR 10+13, Rec 14.1.1	NRW, PCNPA	links to PIP, TAP AccRec (multiple actions)
	Use Visit Wales' Year of the Sea as an additional opportunity to continue to raise general awareness of the SAC and its needs, particularly through online means and education work.	AR 16	PCNPA, NRW, PCC	relevant to Cross (Communication 5)

Authority	Action	Action plan reference	Action ref. also a priority for:	PIP /TAP?
	Seek to maximise the effectiveness of actions taken to manage the SAC by ensuring good integration between delivery of the SAC management scheme and PIPs/TAPs. Work with NRW on joint projects to deliver improvements for the SAC.	<i>Res 4 + MRR11</i>	NRW	Cross Cutting (Integration)

Sue Burton, Pembrokeshire Marine SAC Officer, Oct 2017

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