

Meeting Notes for MLSSG 16 April 2019

Chair - Morag Campbell - Marine Scotland Policy	Teresa Fernandes – MASTS
Faron McLellan – KIMO UK	Helen Downie – Marine Scotland Policy
Doreen Bell – Scottish Water	Kim Young – Zero Waste Scotland
Madeline Berg – Fidra	Isabel Glasgow – Scottish Coastal Forum
Paul Bancks – Crown Estate Scotland	Laura Woollacott – Keep Scotland Beautiful
Catherine Gemmell - Marine Conservation Society	Malcolm Morrison – Scottish Fishermen's Federation
Bill Turrell – Marine Scotland Science (telephone)	

1. Welcome

Apologies – Dan Merckel - SEPA
Karen Hall – SNH
Mark Hartl - MASTS

2. Minutes and Action Points

Previous minutes agreed for November 2018 pending inclusion of MSS update.

A.P.1 – MS Policy – Add MSS update to Nov minutes and put online.

3. Group Updates

Marine Scotland Policy

Scotland's International Marine Conference 2019 (SIMC19)

- The conference was a success with good engagement from people internationally across sectors.
- Thanks for all MLSSG members and stakeholders who contributed to the development, organisation and running of the conference which resulted in its success.

- Conference outputs report is taking longer than expected to compile, hoping to get it online in the coming weeks.
- First Minister announced that as part of efforts to tackle period poverty, Scotland will promote reusable menstrual products to encourage more sustainable solutions, as part of a suite of actions to tackle plastic pollution. The project plan is in the final stages of development.

FM also announced the publication of “Future of fisheries management in Scotland: National Discussion Paper”, which states Scottish Government will explore the mechanisms under which we will establish it as an offence to throw overboard any type of litter whilst at sea.

British-Irish Council (BIC) Marine Litter Symposium for Environment Ministers committing to:

- Promoting marine litter education within schools and the fishing industry
- Reducing Pre-production Plastic Loss across the supply chain, (nurdles)
- Improve Recycling Routes for End of Life Fishing Nets

Members discussed the difficulties encountered in recycling nets due to the number and combinations of plastics and other materials used to make them. A new system cannot be implemented until the number of end of life nets per year can be quantified. An existing scheme requires nets to be taken to Denmark for material analysis, however it was highlighted that Cefas are developing their own database to identify net material here in the UK.

A.P. 2 – SFF – Send contact details for Scottish net-makers to Marine Scotland Policy.

- Scotland will continue to at least match EU ambition with regards to single-use plastics and marine litter post EU Exit.

Nurdles

- Work with the Pellet Loss Steering Group continues. Members met with Eunomia, the contractor who will trial and test solutions and auditing. Efforts will build on Operation Clean Sweep and look to incorporate the full supply chain into its approach, reviewing regulations across all businesses who handle pellets. Scotland’s size makes it an ideal test site for a solution, so we will share outcomes with other devolved administrations and companies through the OSPAR marine litter working group.

Plastic stemmed cotton buds

- Regulation Notification periods end tomorrow. Assuming there are no responses, the Business & Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA) will be completed for Ministerial approval ahead of laying in parliament for a period of 40 days. Ban expected to come into force in Summer 2019.

Microfibres

- Private meeting of fabric designers, retailers, and standards bodies was held and hosted by the Director of Marine Scotland. As a relatively new area, there is not yet agreement on what part of the industry of textile’s lifecycle sheds the

most microfibres. It is however known that in the case of some polymers, recycled fibres shed less.

- An English university is in the process of creating a database of textiles to enable designers to select the material based on a shedding index.
- It was highlighted that in one season alone, one organisation can use over 1000 different textiles, with a use of only 500 considered to be incredibly efficient.
- White goods manufacturers did not attend the meeting as Standards and agreed testing parameters for microfibre filters have not been agreed, making it difficult to compare products.

Arrochar

A Big Clean has been organised for 26 May, by local community. Being supported by Keep Scotland Beautiful and Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park. Marine Scotland will organise for a digger to attend in advance to clear seaweed containing plastic fragments following winter storms.

A.P. 3 – MS Policy – Set date for heavy machinery use at Arrochar and share with steering group members.

SCRA Pbook

- Cabinet Secretary attending SCRA Pbook event on 30th May to celebrate milestone of mapping entire Scottish mainland coastline.
- Highland Park are going to give a proportion of proceeds from one of their whiskies to SCRAPbook to support cleaning efforts on Orkney's coast.

Marine Scotland Science

Monitoring - Seabed Litter

- All data from 2018 surveys submitted to ICES
- Data from 2019 surveys being processed
- Statistical analysis of data still underway – nearly complete
- Aim is to publish this study as a peer-reviewed paper
- Objective of study is to obtain Scottish-specific estimates of seabed litter, quantities and trends

Monitoring – Floating Microplastics

- January 2019 all-Scotland survey completed
- 2019 November Clyde/Forth surveys planned

Monitoring – Fish Stomachs, Seabed Sediments

- “Nile Red” digest and staining method being implemented and written up

Monitoring – Fulmar Stomachs

- Reminder - We have set up a reception facility whereby we will take in dead fulmars if found, store them and get them to the OSPAR analysis workshops when they are run
- This facility is not aimed at replacing any other such facility in Scotland, but simply offering another way the public can submit fulmars to the system.
- Please do pass on the web site details:

<https://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/marine-environment/litter/fulmar>

Research – Beach Litter

- A model has been devised and published last year (Turrell, W R, 2018. A simple model of wind-blown tidal strandlines: How marine litter is deposited on a mid-latitude, macro-tidal shelf sea beach. Marine Pollution Bulletin, 137, 315–330).
- A follow up paper has been published which analyses MCS data (thank you MCS!) and looks at the difference between east and west coast, open coasts and embayments, and find spatial patterns around Scotland (Turrell, 2019. Spatial distribution of foreshore litter on the northwest European continental shelf. Marine Pollution Bulletin, Volume 142, May 2019, Pages 583-594).
- Link: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0025326X1930270X>
- A set of Performance Indicators has been developed in order to monitor the future effect of litter management policies. Hopefully these too will be published.

Research – External Contracts

- Marine Scotland and SEPA have a mini research programme, which went out to tender last year, considering the flow of marine plastics in Scotland. The projects have now started
- The MS project will consider the socio-economics and value chain whilst the SEPA project will take a more traditional environmental science approach to mapping flows of plastics.

Research – Studentships

- MSc Student starting this summer with MSS / University of Stirling – Quantifying plastic pollution contributions by major rivers within the Greater North Sea Region to inform modelling of oceanic litter fluxes
- SUPER DTP PhD student – MSS/SAMS – awarded and starting in September - Understanding marine microplastic dynamics using macroplastics as a proxy – three year study using modelling of floating macro / micro plastic dispersion on west coast

KIMOUK

- Fishing For Litter (FFL) project has been hitting and exceeding targets. At this stage it has removed 1418.42 tonnes of litter, 199.44 tonnes of which were retrieved in the 2018/19 calendar year. This has exceeded the funding period target of 330 tonnes between April 2017 and March 2020, as of April 2018 the

total removed is 346.75 tonnes. One harbour now has two skips to cope with the volume of litter being retrieved.

- Database being updated to identify all vessels participating in FFL. 227 vessels have been identified so far though the database has not yet been completed, so this number will increase and is expected to be around 300.
- Mallaig harbour will be the 19th UK harbour to participate in FFL. Likely to be funded by Tesco via World Animal Protection.
- Lochinver harbour will be the 20th UK harbour involved in FFL. Community engagement has been underway and KIMO aim to launch the project there in June.
- FFL will be relaunched in Shetland on 6 May 2019.
- KIMO UK won the 2019 Scottish Rural Award for Conservation & the Environment for FFL project.
- Education packs are being given to schools, will report on reach.

A.P.4 – SFF – Share contact details for SeaFish Training with KIMO UK

- Supporting litter pick at Cairnbulg beach led by East Grampian Coastal Partnership. 100 volunteers expected, KIMO will undertake an OSPAR 1000m litter survey prior to the event and provide KIMO waste bags. Have asked volunteers to keep Show a blue gloves separate to fully quantify them.

A.P.5 – MCS – Investigate opportunities to undertake 100m Beachwatch at Cairnbulg beach.

- Exhibiting at Skipper's Expo in May, sharing stand with Aberdeenshire Council.
- Presenting keynote speech tomorrow (17 April) at Scotland Excel Annual Conference 2019, hoping to increase membership and working with Fidra encourage local authorities to think about how they can affect marine litter through procurement decisions.
- KIMO are putting together trail through contractor Rick Nickerson to test net recycling in Shetland. Funding yet to be secured.
- 75% of KIMO UK funding currently comes from European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. Reassurances received from DEFRA that continuation funding will be in place following EU Exit.
- As part of OSPAR Regional Action Plan, KIMO have target to increase number of vessels participating in FFL by 100% over the OSPAR region by 2021 in comparison to 2017 figures.

Scottish Water

Plastic Impact Reduction Group

- Scottish Water has formed an internal Plastic Impact Reduction Group (PIRG). Its formation and outcomes are backed by the Regulatory Management Group which has prepared a Position Statement on plastics. One of the key elements is an

audit of plastic use throughout the business. The document is available to view <https://www.scottishwater.co.uk/en/Help-and-Resources/Document-Hub/Key-Publications/Energy-and-Sustainability>

Sink to River, River to tap project

- Scottish Water has a representative on the UK Water Industry Research (UKWIR) Sink to River, River to tap project. Preliminary results of water analysis are in from the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology and not available outwith UKWIR group. A dissemination event will be held in June in London.

Marine Plastics indicators

- Attended the Scottish Government workshop on indicators for Marine Plastic and provided some input to indicators relevant to Scottish Water

Fine to Flush standard

- “Fine to Flush” standard is welcomed as a target for industry to aim. Scottish Water position remains control at source and 3P’s (Pee, Poo and [toilet] Paper) only disposed of down toilets.

Hollywood event

- Represented at the Hollywood event - Tackling Plastic Waste and Pollution

Upstream Battle

- Scottish Water has contributed to Keep Scotland Beautiful “Upstream Battle” project; the funds will help to fund 2 workshops in each of the participating Local Authority areas and one in Scottish Water’s Stepps office. External communications team lead on this for Scottish Water .

Meeting with Resource Futures

- Concall meeting with contractor at Resource Futures working on behalf of The Scottish Government to investigate opportunities to stem the plastic tide in Scotland

Scotland’s International Marine Conference 2019

- Chaired a session titled “Sewage Related Debris” in which SW presented the Forth Estuary Study

Fidra

Nurdles

- The Great Nurdle Hunt took place between 8th – 17th February. Surveys took place across all 7 continents, with nurdles found in 30 of 32 participating

countries. Numerous organisations participating in nurdle work meaning that there is data held globally.

- Nurdle hunt will be 5 years old in May, so looking into reviewing data to disseminate findings (albeit not scientifically analysed).
- New website will be live in a couple of months.
- Now working in more formal relationship with Fauna & Flora International and Environmental Investigation Agency to ensure work is complementary.
- PlasticsEurope publically committed at BIC Marine Litter Symposium to make Operation Clean Sweep certifiable. They are looking to develop a standard with BRC Global Standards. This will allow companies to add pellet management as certified selling point.
- Continues to attend Marine Scotland's Pellet Steering Group and happy it was highlighted at BIC Symposium to promote and raise awareness globally.
- Pellet pollution was mentioned at UN Environment Assembly & G7 summit.

Pitch-In

- Microplastic granular infill from artificial sports pitches is often not thought of as a marine litter but it clearly spills into wider environment.
- Fidra have developed toolkit promoting best practice which has been reviewed by industry, available online - <https://www.fidra.org.uk/pitch-in/>
- Attending Scotland Excel Annual Conference 2019 to talk to Local Authority procurement officers to encourage them to write measures to reduce microplastic pollution into tender documents.
- Highlighted that proposed EU microbead legislation may classify granular infill as an added microplastic. If it were to receive an exemption then it's possible that this would require control measures to prevent escapement of microplastics into the wider environment.
- Old pitches are being stockpiled, and there is now a company being set-up to recycle old pitches. A full lifecycle perspective is required when installing these pitches.

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Best Fishes

- Best practice doesn't currently include plastic litter, Fidra looking to add this.

Food packaging

- Looking to promote alternatives to polystyrene.
- Aware that compostable plastic requires careful handling as a waste product.
- Setting up steering group of local businesses in North Berwick to review alternatives.

Crown Estate Scotland

- Highlighted that Crown Estate Scotland are looking to invest but have not agreed if funds should be invested in grant funded projects or elsewhere. If shared by grant then it is classified as a revenue cost and would therefore be

the responsibility of the Scottish Government to spend. Further discussions are needed at quarterly meetings and nothing has been decided yet.

- The Marine Litter Strategy could be key in helping to allocate funds appropriately.
- Discussed recent talk from Police Scotland on “Rural Watch”, which is an extension of “Neighbourhood Watch”. Highlighted that fly-tipping is often related to organised crime including drug and/or human trafficking, as groups buy rural farms and properties and launder funds through it, and fly-tip their waste instead of organising legal disposal.
- **N.B. ZWS highlighted that Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC) are leading on this in Scotland with Rural Crime Strategy 2019-2022.**

Marine Conservation Society

Education Highlights:

Since Aug 2018, MCS have;

- visited 23 schools in Scotland and reached more than 3054 children
- delivered 17 beach cleans and litter surveys with a total of 442 children

Volunteer & Community Engagement Manager Tara Proud continues to deliver workshops and beach cleans with schools, youth groups and other education groups including training up new Sea Champion volunteers to deliver education workshops. We are also working with KSB for #UpStreamBattle, Clean Up Scotland and #MyBeachYourBeach. Tara has also just recruited a new Dornoch Firth Information Officer hosted by Glenmorangie in Tain.

MCS and HYG TB have been delivering joint workshops to schools in Edinburgh around marine litter and the upcoming deposit return system.

MCS worked with SCRAPbook to deliver two days of educational activities including a 'Meet the Pilot', a photo analysis challenge and some beach clean & survey training at Dynamic Earth for the Edinburgh Science Festival.

Scotland Conservation Officer Catherine Gemmell delivered 5 talks and 4 high school visits across Scotland with RSGS about marine litter.

MCS are about to start a big schools beach cleaning event to be held around the UK in May/June. There will be a series of flagship events hosted by MCS as well as the opportunity for schools and children's groups to access resources to lead their own clean.

Thanks to funding from Crown Estate Scotland Tara is now planning an education roadshow to the Outer Hebrides and Orkney for May/June.

Partnerships

- Blue Planet UK gave MCS great opportunity to highlight some of our projects such as Beachwatch and Seasearch as well as the work being done by the Berwickshire Marine Reserve team.
- MCS Scotland Conservation Officer has been asked to speak at the British Sub-Aqua Club Conference in Birmingham this October on marine litter and what Dive Clubs can do to get involved.
- MCS continues to support the SCRAPbook Project through sharing of Beachwatch data, engagement opportunities and social media.
- Zero Waste Scotland – MCS took part in the Nudge Theory Masterclasses and hope to get some of our Beachwatch volunteers involved in some experiments in their local area.
- Venture Jam - Scotland Conservation Officer attended Blue Planet Live at the Hydro personally and saw the winning teams video during the break.
- Angus Coastal Festival - will be held again this year to coincide with the Great British Beach Clean – 20th-23rd of September.
- Discussions have begun with ASH Scotland on how to work together to raise awareness about cigarette litter.
- In discussion with Dr Kate Sang at HW University around fair and accessible single use plastic policy making.
- Have You Got The Bottle? - Spoke at a Parliamentary event hosted by MSP Angus McDonald talking about the need for an all-inclusive deposit return system in Scotland.
- Fidra – supported the Great Global Nurdle Hunt and continue to promote year-round nurdle hunts.
- Marine Scotland – helped support the International Marine Conference in February with a stall, speakers, session chair and conference entertainment.

Beachwatch Highlights:

- **Since last meeting the Great British Beach Clean 2018 results were published and can be found online here: <https://www.mcsuk.org/clean-seas/great-british-beach-clean-2018-report>**
- Continued monitoring of OSPAR beaches.
- MCS supporting Spring Clean initiatives all over the UK including the Spring Clean run by KSB.
- Supporting Scottish Water Adopt a Beach project through giving PR quotes.
- Marine Scotland Science Dr Bill Turrell has been looking to use MCS Beachwatch data to develop KIPs for marine litter as part of Scottish Government MSFD and other requirements. Bill published a scientific paper on modelling the interaction between wind, tide and litter in which the MCS Beachwatch dataset is integral.

Policy work

- MCS is working on consultation responses to the joint consultation on DRS by the UK and Welsh Governments as well as the consultations on EPR, recycling systems and a plastic tax.

- MCS continues to represent Scottish Environment LINK on the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership, including helping to develop the marine litter chapter of the draft Clyde Marine Plan.
- MCS sits on the Economic Working group for Scotland Environment LINK and attended their seminar in December on potential policy interventions to help move Scotland towards a circular economy.
- MCS are looking forward to hearing further information on the Scot Gov commitment to adopt EU SUP legislation.

MASTS

- Many MASTS members happy to be able to contribute to SIMC19.
- Teresa Fernandes sat on expert panel for event “Oceans in Crisis: A Public Debate” in Edinburgh earlier this month as part of the Edinburgh Science Festival. Marine litter and plastics was one of the main topics discussed.
- COnsortium for Plastics And SuStainability a.k.a COMPASS, is planning for marine plastics, getting social scientists, circular economy specialists, material scientists etc. involved. The first meeting will be in a couple of weeks.

A.P.6 – MASTS - To share link and invitation to first COMPASS meeting with members

- Mark Hartl currently working on historic sediment samples from St. Abbs.

Scottish Coastal Forum

- East Grampian Coastal Partnership have undertaken a large number of beach litter picks since recruiting a beach litter officer. The officer has engaged with schools and is working to engage local community councils in the region.
- Moray Firth Partnership have received further funding from Highland Park for the SCRA Pbook project, with profits being used to facilitate removal of coastal litter from Orkney.
- Solway Firth Partnership have been undertaking beach cleans
- LCPs looking to each celebrate World Oceans Day on 8 June
- Isabel Glasgow now retired as chair of SCF and Clyde Marine Planning Partnership, though will continue until a new chair has been appointment. This may therefore be her last attendance at the MLSSG.

Zero Waste Scotland

- The Deposit Return consultation received nearly 3500 responses and the subsequent report was published in February 2019. There is agreement that a deposit should be in excess of 15 pence. The plans for the scheme will be shared later this year.
- Confirmed that Cath Wilson has now left Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS), Kim will be representing ZWS in MLSSG from now on.
- Recruiting two new posts in litter and fly tipping team.
- Trailing an online litter monitoring system using an app over the next six months. Five local authorities involved, Forestry Commission Scotland and Inverclyde, East Renfrewshire, Aberdeen, Angus and Fife Councils. This will give a solid baseline for prevention activities.
- Three engagement events planned later this month with Keep Scotland Beautiful.
- Education – Nine schools involved in Get #LitterLiterate trial, report due today.
- Held a pilot Nudge masterclass on 27nd March.
- Now five potential case studies off the back of the Nudge masterclass. These are all feasible applications for potential litter/flytipping related nudges.

Crown Estate Scotland

- CES are looking to invest, but it has not yet been agreed whether this money should be fully invested or instead grant funded. If the latter then it would classify as a revenue cost, making it the responsibility of the Scottish Government to allocate and administer. Further discussion is required at quarterly board meetings, it is possible that the review of the Marine Litter Strategy may highlight areas requiring further funding and investment.
- CES staff received talk from Police Scotland in “Rural Watch”, an extension of neighbourhood watch. The talk highlighted that fly tipping is often related to organised crime such as drug and human trafficking. Groups purchase rural properties to launder funds and fly tip waste. Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC) is leading on this in Scotland.

Keep Scotland Beautiful

Upstream Battle

Citizen Science - Citizen science toolkit

- The citizen science toolkit has been tested and finalised during this period. It comprises a comprehensive step by step guide to undertaking the litter survey at a chosen site. The guide can be viewed and downloaded on KSB's [website](#). Participants can also submit their data online via this page.

- From April the citizen science toolkit will be actively promoted beyond the anchor groups to known community groups in the Clyde Valley, via Local Authorities and more broadly through our social channels.

A.P.7 – KSB - To share citizen science toolkit and methodology with group.

Citizen Science - Anchor group training

- During March anchor groups received their Upstream Battle training. The training consisted of two sessions:
 - Comprehensive training in how to select a site, apply the methodology and stay safe;
 - Litter prevention behaviour change theory and the creation of a behaviour change project.
- The second workshop required each group to focus on a specific littering issue at their chosen site and use the Shifting Normal behaviour change framework to scope out a litter prevention behaviour change project to deliver in their community.
- Over the coming months anchor groups will be supported to undertake their surveying activities and to promote findings to their immediate community and more broadly across the Clyde Valley. Groups will be conducting initial surveys during the Spring Clean period of April and May.
- During this time KSB will also work with each group to further develop their litter prevention projects which were scoped out in the second training workshop.

Citizen Science - Children and young people

STEM the Flow engineering challenge

- The STEM the Flow engineering challenge is underway. Challenge guidance resources have been developed and initial twilight training sessions were delivered to school representatives in March. This activity has the full support of Education Scotland and the West Partnership, the Regional Improvement Collaborative that covers the Clyde Valley.

Primary School Marine Litter Art Competition

The marine litter art competition ran from mid-January through to mid-March. 22 entries were received from schools across 7 authorities including 3 ASN schools, 15 Primary schools, 1 Early Years Establishment and 3 other groups.

Three zonal winners were selected:

- Central: Eastmuir Primary School, Glasgow “Fear for our Fishy Friends”
- East: Aitkenhead Primary School, North Lanarkshire “Sea the Damage”
- West: Glencoats Primary School, Renfrewshire “Clean Up the Clyde”

The overall winner is Eastmuir Primary School. All entries can be viewed **here**.

Citizen Science for Schools

School specific citizen science resources have been developed to facilitate the involvement of schools in the project. Resources include an adapted version of the surveying guide and survey sheet. These resources will be promoted across the 8 local authorities following the spring break.

Doug Allan Online Live Event

Doug Allan, photographer and wildlife cameraman, will host separate online Q&A events for Primary and Secondary aged pupils as part of Upstream Battle during May and June. He will give an overview of his work, his pathway to his current occupation and an overview of the types of experiences he has had in his job. He will then answer questions which schools have submitted in advance.

Young Reporters for the Clyde

Young Reporters for the Clyde involves intensive engagement with two high schools, training young people in media and production skills through the context of source to sea litter. Two high schools have been recruited. In-depth engagement with chosen schools will commence in May. Pupils will workshop their chosen issue and receive training in filming and editing producing a final film by June.

Professional Learning Programme

The Professional Learning Programme is in development and will be delivered in the next academic year. The outcomes focus will be to deliver a high-quality career long professional learning programme for teachers across the West Partnership

Raising awareness

Scottish Water Awareness Raising Workshops

During the quarter KSB continued the planning phase of 15 Upstream Battle outreach workshops funded by Scottish Water. The workshops target increased engagement of the general public, community groups and businesses in Upstream Battle.

Spring Clean 2019 – Source2Sea week

Spring Clean, the largest voluntary clean up event, takes place in April and May. This year we are encouraging all local authorities, businesses, schools and community groups to collaborate to Clean Up their local neighbourhood.

Source2Sea week is one of four themed weeks during April and May which calls for a focus on marine litter and its pathway from land to the sea through our rivers. The week runs from Saturday 4th May to Friday 10th May. The call to action is to join or organise a clean-up on a local waterway to stop marine litter at the source.

Clean Up Scotland update

- Participant numbers Jan – Mar (inclusive): 6,341 participants overall (2,694 adults and 3,647 children). 30 events on beaches (874 participants), 18 riverside (459 participants) and five on canals (90 participants).

- Spring Clean 2019 has launched. So far we have over 15,000 people registered to take action but our target is 40,000 so we're still looking to inspire people to take action.
- So far we have over 30 events organised across Beaches, Rivers and Canals over the Spring Clean with around 3,500 people

Beach Awards

- Beach Managers Forum 24th May at the KSB Offices in Stirling – any interested speakers please contact aoife.hutton@keepsotlandbeautiful.org
- Beach Award 2019 announcement end of May, following Beach Managers Forum.

A.P.8 – KSB - To share date/location of Beach Managers Forum with group.

- 61 applicants: mostly local authority, several community council and community group applicants.
- Summer assessing period between 1st June and end of July, trained assessors will visit awarded beaches for inspections.

My Beach, Your Beach

- KSB will be carrying out a second year of the My Beach, Your Beach project – a public engagement campaign targeting dog fouling, litter and gull sources of pollution to bathing water quality. Runs alongside efforts by SEPA, Scottish Water and Scottish Government to improve bathing water standards in Scotland.
- Selected locations: Portobello, Ayr, Fisherrow Sands (Musselburgh), Kinghorn Harbour (Fife).
- Report from year one now available online: www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/mybeachyourbeach
- Launch date: June, World Ocean's Day.

Scottish Fishermen's Federation

- Still encouraging members to sign up for Fishing For Litter project
- Currently in the process of writing environmental statement.
- Working with East Grampian Coastal Partnership to undertake beach clean
- Marine Scotland is encouraging Inshore Fisheries Groups to present to Local Coastal Partnerships, which will encourage partnership working and actions to prevent or remove marine litter.

SEPA

Although not able to attend the meeting, SEPA provided an update for circulation amongst members.

- CRF Microplastics project led to Eunomia (“Understanding Plastics in the Scottish Environment”) and underway – inception report available (15th March 2019), Amy McQueen involved as member of steering group as project runs parallel to the project she is leading (“Mapping Economic, Behavioural and Social Factors within the Plastic Value Chain that lead to Marine Litter in Scotland”).

A.P.9 – MS Policy- To share inception report “Understanding Plastics in the Scottish Environment” with members.

- Related microplastics project led by Defra of similar size and scope but more focussed on analytical techniques to complete shortly – will circulate when available.
- Literature – major new report from Science Advice for Policy by European Academies “A scientific perspective on microplastics in nature and society” published (freely available on internet)
- Highlight that EPA NET interest group plastics holding next meeting on 2 & 3 May in the Hague on littering.

Discussion about marine litter strategy review

The group discussed how the MLS can be improved. MS Policy is reviewing the strategy and will work with the steering group to ensure agreed ambition and content.

The next version will be relevant for 3 years, and will complement the terrestrial litter strategy and the circular economy strategy.

A.P.10 – MS Policy – To confirm consultation needs of the review process.

It is aimed to have strategy review completed by 2020, in line with the Year of Coast & Waters.

It was suggested that there should be more emphasis on litter removal, to complement the prevention work.

Membership

In reviewing the strategy, steering group membership should also be considered, to ensure that members are constructive, relevant, and representative of major industries responsible for addressing marine litter in Scotland.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the MLSSG meeting will be within three months to allow members to agree the pillars and goals of the next strategy. Members will share

typed updates in advance of the meeting so that more time can be dedicated to reviewing the strategy.

A.P.11 – ALL – To compile suggestions for consideration of strategy review at next meeting.

Action Points

A.P.1 – MS Policy – Add MSS update to Nov minutes and put online.

A.P. 2 – SFF – Send contact details for Scottish net-makers to Marine Scotland Policy.

A.P. 3 – MS Policy – Set date for heavy machinery use at Arrochar and share with steering group members.

A.P.4 – SFF – Share contact details for SeaFish Training with KIMO UK

A.P.5 – MCS – Investigate opportunities to undertake 100m Beachwatch at Cairnbulg beach.

A.P.6 – MASTS - To share link and invitation to first COMPASS meeting with members

A.P.7 – KSB - To share citizen science toolkit and methodology with group.

A.P.8 – KSB - To share date/location of Beach Managers Forum with group.

A.P.9 – MS Policy - To share inception report “Understanding Plastics in the Scottish Environment” with members.

A.P.10 – MS Policy – To investigate whether it is appropriate for SG strategy to undergo public consultation process.

A.P.11 – ALL – To compile suggestions for consideration of strategy review at next meeting.