



Marine Management Organisation

Gov.UK- Board Meeting Minutes: 7TH July 2021

Location- MS TEAMS

MMO Board

Hilary Florek (HF) – Chair
Belinda Howell (BH)
Bill Dickson (BD)
David Lyall (DL)
Peter Judge (PJ)
Robert Wilson (RW) – Remuneration Committee Chair
Terence Jagger (TJ)
Tony Delahunty (TD)
William Roberts (WR) -Audit * Risk Assurance Committee Chair

MMO Executive Leadership Team

Tom McCormack (TMc) – Chief Executive Officer
Andrew Wareing (AW) – Director of Digital and Analysis
Jenny Stewart (JS) –Director of Planning and Change
Michelle Willis (MW) – Director of Finance and Resources
Phil Haslam (PH) – Director of Operations
Selina Stead (SS) – Chief Scientific Advisor
Trudi Wakelin (TW) – Director of Licensing, Marine Planning and Blue Belt

Defra

Mike Rowe (MR) - Director, Marine and Fisheries

Apologies

None

Board Secretariat

Danielle Lee-Moulding (DLM)

Governance

1. Welcome and Introductory Remarks

1.1 HF welcomed all, recognised for the minutes a formal thanks and goodbye to Phil Haslam who is leaving MMO on the 6th August.

2. Declaration of Interests

2.1 Bill Roberts declaration of investing in new company responsible for provision of hydrogen fuel systems .

3. Minutes and actions of previous meeting.

3.1 Approval of April MMOB minutes suspended to a further date due to amendments needed. MW to take forward. Actions arising have all been completed .

Action – MW to correct minutes.

3.2 Chair invited JS to cover update on action regarding actions document for the MMO Strategy. TMc has shared note with MMOB. Chair queried update and any new timescales. JS gave update.

Action- Brief note outlining comms plan to chair with key dates following staff conference.

Operational & Financial

4. MMO Annual Report & Accounts 2020/21 Update

4.1 MW updated on the ARA. ARA is on hold due to the recent judgement of an ongoing legal civil case.

4.2 BR acknowledged as ARAC chair that without the legal judgement issue there are no significant findings or weaknesses in the accounts or controls. The layout of the financial analysis shows a clear position of how we have spent and exercised our resource. The performance and ARA are very clearly laid out.

Recommendation- to delay until this legal matter has concluded and we are in a confirmed position to proceed.

Action- to discuss at a future MMOB.

5. Defra view from bridge and introduction

5.1 MR acknowledged it has been a very intense and busy three months. Fisheries negotiations have now been concluded, hopefully 2022 will be a smoother process as we now have a platform for discussions in place with work only needed on a few small areas.

5.2 Domestically we have had the G7 summit , a big announcement on global protecting 30 by 30, Blue Planet with the fund now up and running. We had the publication of the remaining MP, this brings us to a key stage thanks to the close work between Defra and MMO on the Marine Plans.

6. Commercial Approvals- BB Surveillance Update

6.1 TJ excused himself due to a possible conflict in a related industry role.

6.2 TW covered the BB surveillance update, this is replacing existing framework, and has been re-rendered in line with commercial framework. MMOB queried the funding stream and how we evaluate this accordingly. TW advised work packages are produced and used throughout the year at various BoT. Each of the different OT have different compliance and enforcement and areas of concern. We analyse the movements of vessels to confirm or support risk assessments in line with that. As a result of that intelligence, operational and tasking decisions are made but information is also used in order to support detentions. We have had a successful prosecution during the period.

6.3 In terms of affordability and value for money we have also used the information from the commercial satellite to compare against lower cost options. We have looked at using lower cost satellite imagery as an alternative or long range drones. Allowing the BoT to look at the most cost effective surveillance. The FCDO are the SRO for the project, they set out the Programme mandate and objectives, with input from the BoT. Annual reports are produced to demonstrate activities and outcomes we have achieved which is published more broadly to stakeholders and there is a detailed set of criteria that the contract is assessed against.

7 Performance, Finance, Risk & Change

7.1 MW presented financial update. Tracking run rates and spend in line with budget, we are confident of delivering a balanced budget but we as an ELT have work to do to minimise pressures.

7.3 MW signposted two areas to draw attention to; the additional resource for the marine protected areas and that, MMOB will receive a new finance pack for Q1, which WR has assisted in simplifying, it will be uploaded outside of the next board and MMOB are invited to give feedback.

7.4 JS invited comment and feedback in terms of overall performance acknowledging the positive start, and the big success with marine plans, as well as continued delivery on BB. Highlighted launch of fisheries and seafood scheme.

Action- DLM to confirm timescale with JS.

7.5 Update on recent ARAC meeting. A newly recruited Risk specialist has helped us reframe and reorientate our risk around the orange book and how we look at risk, including looking at the benefits of our risk appetite and what this will look like. We have a roadmap for the year with a clear plan and timeline of what we want to do, not only within the organisation but also lifting ourselves out to look at risk differently.

7.6 WR acknowledged success of work so far and extended invitation to risk workshops to all of the non-executive team, further work to develop the strategic notes will be actioned ahead of a workshop in the Autumn.

7.9 Health & Safety Update – took as read.

8 Marine Planning

8.1 TW provided update and reflection on MPA. Very successful with next plans due shortly. We are pushing as far as we can with ambition and Defra are in full support, with all acknowledging we are at a critical environmental juncture.

9 Offshore MPA Update

9.1 MC presented paper to provide an update to the Board on progress with the management of fisheries in offshore MPAs. Specifically to update on progress with management of four offshore MPAs which were subject to formal consultation between 1 February to 28 March 2021 and progress with the implementation of the three year programme of managing 40 offshore MPAs.

Committee Reports and Subgroups

10 Arac Minutes

10.1 Minutes taken as read with no amendments.

Closing Matters

11 . AOB

11.1 No items to discuss. Chair closed meeting.