



Marine Management Organisation

Board Meeting Minutes: 19 October 2022 (Public)

Location - Lancaster House

MMO Board
Hilary Florek (HF) – Chair Belinda Howell (BH) Bill Dickson (BD) David Lyall (DL) Peter Judge (PJ) Robert Wilson (RW) Terence Jagger (TJ) Tony Delahunty (TD) William Roberts (WR)
MMO Executive Leadership Team
Tom McCormack (TMc) – Chief Executive Officer Jenny Stewart (JS) – Director of Planning and Change Michelle Willis (MW) – Director of Finance and Resources Pete Clark (PC) – Director of Operations Simon Dixon (SD) - Acting Director of Digital & Analysis Trudi Wakelin (TW) – Director of Licensing, Marine Planning and Blue Belt
Defra
Mike Rowe (MR) - Director, Marine and Fisheries
Apologies
Selina Stead (SS) – Chief Scientific Advisor
Board Secretariat
Joanne Simpson (JSi)

Governance

Welcome -Declaration of Interests- Review of Previous Minutes

1.1 HF welcomed all and recognizing this was BD's final Board, thanked him for his service to MMO. BD in turn recognised the work of the NED's and commended TMc and wider ELT on their work, alongside the secretariat.

1.2 The following declarations of interest were noted;

- i) PJ highlighted a conflict of interest regarding any discussions on Crustacean Mortality and advised he would recuse himself from any discussions.
- ii) BH advised she is joining board of Digital Catapult *representing* Innovate UK *from 2 November 2022*

1.3 HF noted that she had some amends to be made to July's minutes including those noted by others and would pass these on to be updated. MW advised she would issue a summary from Septembers extraordinary meeting for CCP.

Operational & Financial

2. CEO Update

2.1 TMc spoke to paper MMO BM 9103

- i) MMO Delivery Assurance – TMc confirmed that MMOB members will be offered a session with the team on the Strategic Goals by 31 December 2022.
- ii) ALB Reform - HF highlighted it would be good for the Board to be linked into the ALB proposal once a date for discussion at ExCo has been confirmed.
- iii) Discussions were had on REUL, it was advised that MMO would have greater clarity on this once the Bill goes through Parliament, TMc confirmed that MMOB will come back with a further update as more detail becomes available
- iv) Reputational matters – Crustacean Mortality, senior licensing leads would be providing a summary report with ELT, MMOB and Defra.
- v) It was confirmed the IROKO Lessons Learned report would be shared with MMOB.

Strategic Developments

3. Defra view from The Bridge

3.1 MR gave an update from Defra, which included

- i) New Ministers in posts would be Lord Benyon has been reappointed, Minister for Fisheries is Mark Spencer, Minister for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity, Trudy Harrison, responsibilities include OSW, byelaws, and HPMA's, Scott Mann (strong interest in Cornish Fishing) responsibilities include Blue Planet Fund, COP, IWOC, improving growth across all sectors, Zac Goldsmith, Foreign Office Minister.
- ii) Fiscal Environment could not confirm any required efficiencies as yet waiting for official confirmation from HMT.
- iii) Ministerial Delivery Assurance Board (MDAB) - good and effective partnership working, adding value.

4. Annual Reporting Accounts

4.1 MW spoke to MMO BM 9104 outlining

- i) ARA anticipated laying date noted as late November/early December 2022
- ii) It was agreed that if the ARA came back from Ministers without change that this would be signed off by correspondence with HF/WR/TMc/MW
- iii) It was noted that the delay in the ARA was disappointing, noting delays in NAO resourcing had largely led to this.
- iv) It was confirmed that the climate change report would be shared with MMOB.

Decision 1910-01D - ARA to be signed off by correspondence with HF/WR/TMc/MW following Minister review

5. Finance, Performance, Risk, Assurance and Change

Finance

5.1 MW talked through BM9105 Annex 1, highlighting that performance MI was to August 2022, with the remainder of MI provided reflecting end of September 2022.

5.2 MW advised that vacancies and attrition were the main reason behind the forecasted underspend, following Mid-Year Review, there will be clear visibility on any underspends. It was agreed that any material change in underspends would be declared to Defra, in line with the requirements of the MMO Delegation Letter, with MMOB to be updated at the next formal meeting.

Performance

5.3 JS talked through BM9105 Annex 2, noting it was a fairly positive picture across all services, it was noted by BD that performance was good given the pressures on capacity/resource.

Risk

5.4 MW talked through paper BM9105 Annex 5, highlighting that there were changes made in the Annex relating to the strategic risks, confirming that those risks in red being actively tracked and managed.

5.5 Risk appetite was discussed. It was agreed that ARAC would advance discussions on changing risk appetite levels and bring a paper with proposals/recommendations to the Board in future.

5.6 MW advised that two further final versions of audit reports (Marine Licensing and Global) were due for completion and would be shared before the 31 December 2022

Change Delivery

5.6 JS highlighted that;

- i) UKSF project has been formally closed;
- ii) Mobile Working Release 1, phase 3 is now live for MMO, but not yet for Wales (due to last minute legal advice), this should be concluded soon and is not a significant concern
- iii) As agreed on 30 September, iVMS Control Team is in place to support oversight of independent testing to mitigate supplier and device risks. A Delivery Board is also being implemented which will include all Devolved Administrations and Defra senior representatives.
- iv) DL highlighted that this paper provided a good oversight of all projects, however he still had concerns regarding FES and asked for an off-line meeting with colleagues on this.
- v) WR asked for an outline of the Strategic Reporting Database, SD confirmed that he would pick this up off-line
- vi) Discussions were held around the Performance Report presentation and content, including the need to be forward looking/horizon scanning, there were mixed views across the MMOB. HF and TMc agreed to consider this as part of the Board Effectiveness Review.

6. British Energy Security Strategy (BESS)

Paul Gilliland (PG) joined the meeting for this session

6.1 TW outlined BESS and commended the team in undertaking this piece of work, noting that was a significant additional undertaking from BAU and commitments in the Corporate Plan.

6.2 PG talked through paper BM9106, providing background and an update on the 'spatial commission' and implications for MMO to MMOB. It was acknowledged by MMOB, that this a really informative report and presentation and they all felt it was important continue with this project.

6.3 MR and MMOB were supportive of the work that had been undertaken, and ongoing commitment to the ongoing need for this to be prioritised.

Closing Matters

7. AOB/Minutes of last meeting

7.1 No items to discuss. Chair closed meeting.

Decision Log			
Ref	Decision	Date	Agreed by
Decisions from meeting held on 19 October 2022			
1910 – 01D	ARA to be signed off by correspondence with HF/WR/TMc/MW following Minister review	19/10/2022	All MMOB attendees