

NATIONAL MARINE BIOLOGICAL AQC SCHEME / BEQUALM
Teleconference Meeting 04/10/2012
Meeting minutes

Attending: Tim Mackie (TM, Chair, NI EA), Mandy Prior (MP, Finance Manager, EA) Myles O'Reilly (MoR, SEPA), David Hall (DH, Contractor), Keith Cooper (KC, CEFAS), Carol Milner (CMi, Contractor representative), Clare Scanlan (CS, SEPA), Joe Silke (JS, Marine Institute Ireland), Rafael Salas (RS, Marine Institute Ireland), Jessica Haapkylä (JH, Technical Secretary SAHFOS),

Apologies: Gavin McNeill (GM, AFBI)

1. Last Meeting Actions

1. Priorities paper outcomes from HBDSEG meeting

Action: TM to update on NMBAQC chair issue.

Action: Zooplankton component development. *Done* (JH is working on this with SAHFOS).

Action: TM will circulate the minutes of the last HBDSEG meeting.

Action: TM timeline for NMBAQC.

2. PSA

Action: JH to copy statement of performance to CS. *Done*

3. Benthic Invertebrates

Action: DH will produce interim report i.e. without external OS data, for TM to present at next HBDSEG meeting.

4. Macroalgae

Action: CS to update the Committee on macroalgae/seagrass and rocky shore reverse ring tests. *Done*

5. Epibiota

Action: TM will give Ed from CEFAS a ring to see what they are doing. *Done*

6. Fish

Action: new contact person for the fish component.

7. AOB

Action: JH Statement of Performance for all components.

Meeting

1. Priorities from HBDSEG

TM: No temporary chair for the NMBAQC has yet been nominated. I may have more time in 6 months time. The priorities of the HBDSEG remain the same.

2. Phytoplankton update

RS: We have got all the results back from the enumeration and identification tests (50 results). The next step is to generate the 2nd part of the test (online quiz 'Ocean Teacher') by the end of October. It will be sent out to participants on 1.11.2012 and they have 2 weeks to do it. There will be a 2-day workshop (1 day training exercise, 1 day presentation) between 2.-4.12.2012 held in Denmark (hosted by IOC). There is a capacity for 20 people, the workshop is fully booked. After that I will be writing a report (in January).

RS: Everything is going very well. We now have 54 laboratories participating and the participation has increased in recent years. We now have labs from North Africa, Australia and South America participating.

RS: We would like to mention the big phytoplankton bloom event on the NMBAQC web site. There have been/is other blooms as well and we can give you an update on them. We can possibly give you some pictures if the workshop participants have images of unusual events (i.e. blooms).

RS: We have sent out a Certificate of Performance to the participants.

DH: There is no need to change the one you have, we are changing the other ones so that they are uniform.

JS: Everything has gone well.

JH: I am developing a questionnaire in order to develop the zooplankton scheme with SAHFOS.

TM: It will be interesting to see. You should make the questionnaire easy to return so you can get a response. Make it open so that it can be circulated with other people.

MOR: We've started to analyse zooplankton from the East coast.

TM: Do you want to talk to Jess about it?

Action CS: JH could you please send the questionnaire to Cathryn Cook?

3. PSA

DH: Year 17 all reported. Year 18 completed, a draft annual report has been sent to Myles and it will soon be put on the web. All the previous years are fully up to date. This week 2 exercises were sent out to 11 participants. A few labs are overdue.

Action: MP to forward details to DH.

MOR: Brian Miller (can't remember what company) wants to join.

DH: It depends what they want to do. They can join easily PSA, benthic ring tests more difficult to join.

MOR: Your report says that the deadline for some of them has passed.

4. Benthic Invertebrates

Yr17 (2010/11) All reported.

Yr18 (2011/12) Own samples to get through. We are introducing the certificates of performance in Year 18. There should be no issues with late participation in those components.

Yr19 (2012/13) Ring test prepared. Waiting for official confirmation if a French lab from Gironde (Jacques Gral) will participate.

OTHER

MB exercise gone out in last week. Basically, everything is up and running. We have a new version of a taxonomic literature database which has >800 references. DH has sent samples of the list. There is tagging to do for some species.

Experts' workshop (5-9th November) @ Dove; as before, it is overbooked.

Action: DH to look to find a bigger venue in order to be able to accommodate more people. The price of the venue we have had has changed. In 2003, the price was 360 pounds and in 2012, 700 pounds.

DH: Tim, will you be able to participate?

TM: I would be keen to get there but has to see.

DH: Carol?

CM: No, I'm not coming.

CS: Someone had requested the time schedule for the workshop.

Action: DH will send a finalised time table out.

5. Macroalgae

Rocky shore Macroalgae Identification

CS: Rocky shore only 6 labs participating, haven't had any feedback. We have had interest from an Estonian lab.

Action: JH to chase up the Estonian lab to ask if they are still interested.

TM: Do we know who has dropped out?

CS: CEFAS has 1 lab participating now, whereas they had 3 before. It is the cost of the scheme more than anything. Blooming side 9 labs taking part, seagrass as well. Again, not seen a lot of feedback on this.

Action: CS to chase the feedback with Emma.

TM: Are you guys doing work on seagrass?

CS: We are trying to get our heads around the data. We've done some monitoring. We are working on saltmarshes but we are even further behind than with seagrass. We are now working on the WFD Biological Standards document, UK National tool. We have to make our first draft by Friday next week. It includes also macroalgae and seagrass. The biological standards documents will be going on the UKTAG website., species ID literature which might make people more interested.

TM: Could you ask Emma about saltmarshes? Could any of the seagrass % cover tests be used on saltmarsh data? I may have a chat with some freshwater guys.

JH: Z-scores?

CS: I'm hoping I can get down quality checks.

6. Epibiota

TM: I did talk to Ed. He has sent me a few names. No protocol on how they did it.

KC: MCZ (Marine Conservation Zones).

TM: Can talk about it after the meeting.

KC: One idea is to get some footage and to process it and write..., highlight differences in methods.

TM: Contributing labs. The issue was that everyone used it for different uses (discussed 2 years ago). We can circulate same footage and analyse under three headings.

KC: MZD should be the priority.

TM: Yes, but people taking video may not be same people who analyse it. We should develop a questionnaire to ask what the most useful video shot would be.

KC: Set distance, still images at regular intervals so you don't need to pick points of interest.

TM: Set up the questionnaire, involve CEFAS and Emma Verling (JNCC) etc.

Action: JH to send out an email to gauge the interest in developing this, send out the documents related to epibiota and set up a teleconference for all the interested parties where the needed actions would be discussed.

7. Fish

DH: Year 17 fully reported, year 18 annual report on the web, year 19 RRT-Fish just going out. Signed up so far are 24 participants and 19 fish teams.

Replacement of fish person: no news.

8. AOB

Saltmarsh mapping standard

MP: Niall (in EA) will write it up.

TM: I have one of my groups doing it. If you only work on pictures, you are bound to make mistakes.

MP: Niall needs a template of the format. Do we have a standard? OK, just give him some examples and he can send it to us.

TM: Just out of interest, are there any specialists?

MOR: Claire is more in the know than me.

TM: Sometimes the way we do it can be different from EA.

MERMAN

There were a number of Sample Flagging proposals to be agreed/confirmed by committee.

1. AQC "Fail Flag" – AQC Fail status applied on "one out / all out basis". ie. one sample fails audit then all samples for participating/analytical lab for same CSEMP sampling year are flagged unless or until remedial actions are undertaken. **Confirmed / Agreed**

Action MOR: Clarify how the AQC status actually appears in Merman for subcontracted labs by getting a Merman export of AQC status from a CMA that has used subcontractors.

2. CMAs that have undertaken CSEMP sampling but have not participated or presented relevant data to NMBAQC scheme for auditing will be deemed as AQC fail.

Confirmed / Agreed

3. Details of pass/fail should be accessible by hyperlink from Merman to the Summary of CSEMP Own Sample Audit 1999-2008 report (or any subsequent updates) on the NMBAQC website. **Agreed**
4. Each CMA to be presented with summary by BODC of its own AQC pass/fail history 1999-2008 as extracted from Merman for checking against the Summary of CSEMP Own Sample Audit 1999-2008 report. Any proposed changes or updates by the CMA should be reviewed/agreed by the committee. **Agreed**

Action MOR: Instruct BODC to export Summary of Merman AQC Results 1999-2008 to each CMA and cc these to MOR.

Action CMAs: Each CMA to check Merman exports against Summary of CSEMP Own Sample Audit 1999-2008 and report any mismatches to MOR.

(Might be worth adding these CMA AQC summaries as an appendix to the Audit Report? There may need to be some clarification provided where CMAs have used subcontracting labs for analysis)

5. There will be an “AQC amnesty” for all pre-1999 benthic data (rationale for this is highlighted in correspondence below).

Not Agreed – after some debate it was decided to leave pre 1999 AQC flagging as is rather than changing it. A summary of the potential problems with the pre-1999 flagging will be inserted into the introduction of the Summary of CSEMP Own Sample Audit 1999-2008 report. Action: MOR/DH

6. There should be a procedure for accessing “failed” (un AQCed) data as it may still have value for some purposes.

Agreed Action MOR: Clarify if and how un-AQCed data can be accessed.

7. The introduction to the Summary of CSEMP Own Sample Audit report will be amended to provide fuller explanation of the issues above.

Agreed Action MOR / DH

MSBIAS

TM: Makes perfect sense to be part of it.

DH: Unicorn list fits well in it, maybe do some ID literature?

MOR: I'm interested.

DH: 4 meetings/year

TM: Sounds like we should be involved. We can put new species on the list.

Next NMBAQC Committee meeting

It will be held on the 24th of January 2013 in Edinburgh.

Action: MOR to investigate the meeting venue.