# NE ATLANTIC MARINE BIOLOGICAL AQC SCHEME Meeting Agenda – 24<sup>th</sup> of August 2021 10.30-12.30

## https://zoom.us/j/94697172980?pwd=YjFITG5BT0toM1MreHNUcWpFS1NKQT09

Confirmed Attendees: David Johns (DJ, MBA, Chair), Graham Phillips (GP, Finance Manager, Environment Agency), Claire Mason (CM, CEFAS, PSA Contract Manager), Myles O'Reilly (MoR, SEPA, Invertebrates Contract Manager), Claire Taylor (CT, MBA, Technical Secretary), David Hall (DH, Benthic Invertebrates, APEM Ltd), Lydia McIntyre-Brown (LMB, APEM, Senior Marine Taxonomist), Joey O'Connor (JOC, Epibiota Contract Manager, JNCC), Ross Griffin (RG, Ocean Ecology, Contractors rep), Stephen Duncombe-Smith (SDS, APEM Ltd, Fish), Paul McIlwaine (PM,CEFAS, Marine Benthic Ecologist), Alex Callaway (AC, Senior Scientific Officer, AFBI) and Paul Brazier (PB, Marine Intertidal Ecologist, NRW)

#### Apologies: Jim Ellis, Matt Green

| <ol> <li>Last Meetings Actions (summarised below on the agenda)</li> </ol> | ALL     |
|--|---------|
| 2. Minutes of the last meeting   | CT      |
| Approval of April meeting minutes  | DJ/CM   |
| 3. Epibiota update   | JOC/HvR |
| 4. Phytoplankton update  | RS/JS   |
| 5. Priorities to HBDSEG  | DJ      |
| 6. PSA Update  | LMB/CM  |
| 7. Benthic Invertebrates update  | DH/MoR  |
| 8. Macroalgae  | CY      |
| 9. Fish update   | JE/DH   |
| 10. Zooplankton update   | DJ/CT   |
| 11. AOB – website update   | ALL/CM  |
| 12. Finance update* Confidential   | GP      |

## 1. Actions Arising from Previous Meeting (ALL)

Re new NMBAQC website Further Action: CT to send reminder email to component managers to each review content of their section and provide CT with update along with any good, high-resolution images. This needs to all be done by the end of May 2021. Meeting was held in July and draft website is soon to be released – see AOB for further info.

CM to make document outputs from PSA workshops available (originally circulated to workshop participants). CM to put these together and send to CO for website. Guide for Asbestos will be made available for end of May as part of the updated NMBAQC PSA guidance (see above) Action: CM – include workshop notes and Guide for Asbestos in NMBAQC PSA guidance as part of update for completion by the end of May. Updated PSA guidance will be circulated to committee for comment before being finalised and being made available on the website. Update: CM currently updating general text, with MG, JOC, MoR, TM and GP involved in reviewing.

DJ and MoR: Put together protocol/guidance for group to avoid potential conflicts of interest and increase communication. **Action: CT to follow up with DJ/MoR- Ongoing** 

RG advised the committee of the merits of using Microsoft team to track actions, alerts maybe participant's area etc. **Action: CT to investigate merits** – RG is now looking to this. After discussions around setting up private areas, access rights, SharePoint etc. it was agreed that this could be valuable to us once up and running. **Action: JOC to look into setting up a test site.** 

JNCC and NE are currently developing guidelines for the acquisition and storage of DNA samples from the benthic environment. The guidelines are expected to be ready by April 2021. This work has been identified as a high priority action (Action 37) from the Benthic DNA Action Plan developed by the UK Marine DNA Technical Group, one of the UK DNA Working Group's thematic subgroups. Mike Nelson (Mike.Nelson@jncc.gov.uk) is the JNCC project manager behind the work and a good point of contact for further queries —

Action: TM to send group notes from technical working group's last meeting. Action: HvR to put MoR in contact with Mike Nelson at JNCC. Further Action: JOC to follow this up, please see below further update. Now completed.

O Mike Nelson has left JNCC so JNCC's point of contact for this work is Karen Webb. The guidelines have been produced and are just waiting publishing by NE and JNCC, Karen hopes they will be available by the end of September, there has been a delay in the review stage of this document and due to staff changes. However JNCC will be testing the guidelines on an upcoming survey sampling eDNA to see if *Arctica* can be detected. Further work has not been funded this year by Defra but we will continue to look for alternative sources of funding and "contributions in kind" towards advancing the actions on the DNA action plan.

One laboratory were asking for final reports and Statements of Performance for an MMO validation application. Certificates are not usually issued until all the modules are completed, and after consulting with CM, the participant that a certificate couldn't be issued at the current time, and an email contact was offered so that the MMO can request directly proof of participation or results if required.

Action: LMB to provide a new data entry workbook and updated protocols to CM for review prior to making available on the website Completed and to be sent out with years samples

There is an Italian laboratory (BioChemie Lab) currently undertaking a trial of the PS module, potentially looking to sign up to the next scheme year. In addition, a Spanish laboratory have expressed an interest in signing up for next year. No further action needed due to differences in methodologies.

Action: LMB to follow up with Spanish laboratory to see if they would be interested in undertaking a trial of the PS module. No news

There was some discussion with MG/DH around quarterly taxonomic clinics and prep for next steps. Both to chat regarding sharing online. MG looking at face-to-face meetings to look at images rather than online as good for social connectivity.

Action: DH to look into pooling images together for website – Ongoing and would be good resource for new website. In meantime could create a useful index which would bring people onto the site.

Action: DH looking at potential to host virtual quarterly benthic clinics following suggestion from MG. Ongoing concept, no action needed.

CY advised that the three macroalgal components for 2021 have been completed. Going forward Wells Marine will no longer be the provider (from July 2021) and therefore will be up for tender. Action: ALL let CY know if you are aware of anyone suitable. Graham is currently producing a tender. CT will also ask DJ if there was a response from any MBA staff. POST MEETING NOTE — CT spoke to DJ and MBA awaiting further info before making a decision.

From JOC: Christine Maggs recommended Francis Bunker <a href="mailto:fbunker@marineseen.com">fbunker@marineseen.com</a>, Martin Wilkinson <a href="mailto:m.wilkinson@hw.ac.uk">m.wilkinson@hw.ac.uk</a> and/or the British Phycological Society (note Francis is the secretary at the moment).

GP advised the committee of two tenders (1 for each) which have been submitted for Rockyshore Macroalgae Identification and Opportunistic Macroalgae/Seagrass Percentage Cover and Biomass components.

RG to provide feedback to one contractor question, although this was covered by DH in his summary. The question concerned timings of back-to-back invertebrate ring tests. This was a one off and will revert back to normal deadlines. Action: RG to feedback – see AOB for further info.

- 2. Approval of April Meeting Minutes (DJ/CT) Approved
- 3. Epibiota update (JOC)

JNCC/Cefas/MSS will continue to require independent reanalysis of subset of imagery data and comparison/remediation with primary analysis as part of analysis contracts for seabed imagery collected from MPA monitoring surveys.

Big Picture Epibiota QA Framework live on NMBAQC website and being adopted by JNCC for imagery analysis contracts run this FY. JNCC have bid for funds from Defra to progress epibiota QAF work this FY (e.g. to further develop the EIP), decision expected by Autumn.

Action: JOC to look at adding results/reports onto the website.

James Albrecht (JNCC) has taken over as Big Picture Action Plan Coordinator from Henk. The next meeting is planned for September and James to be included in future emails going forward.

Big Picture workshop outputs, including report and recording of epibiota QAF session, now live on JNCC website (https://jncc.gov.uk/news/big-picture-ii/).

- 4. Phytoplankton update no update received
- 5. Priorities to HBDSEG (DJ)

DJ attended the last HBDSEG in July where he provided an update on NMBAQC activities. One of the actions from this was to discuss at the next NMBAQC committee meeting, a call for R&D proposal which would then be taken to their next meeting in October 2021. Email with further info sent out by DJ (23/08/2021)

Action: JOC to contact Karen Webb to see if eDNA aspect is applicable.

6. PSA update (CM/LMB)

#### PARTICLE SIZE ANALYSIS COMPONENT PROGRESS REPORT

## 2020-21, Year 27

#### **6.1** Subscriptions

| LabCode  | PS76/77 | PS78/79 | PS-OS19/20/21 |
|----------|---------|---------|---------------|
| PSA_2701 | 1       | 1       | -             |
| PSA_2702 | 1       | 1       | -             |

| PSA_2703 | 1       | 1            | -            |
|----------|---------|--------------|--------------|
|          |         |              |              |
| PSA_2704 | 1       | 1            | -            |
| PSA_2705 | 1       | 1            | -            |
| PSA_2706 | 1       | 1            | -            |
| PSA_2707 | 1       | 1            | -            |
| PSA_2708 | 1       | 1            | <u>-</u>     |
|          | _       | <del>-</del> |              |
| PSA_2709 | 1       | 1            | -            |
| PSA_2710 | 1       | 1            | 1            |
| PSA_2711 | 1       | 1            | 1            |
| PSA_2712 | 1       | 1            | 1            |
| PSA_2713 | 1       | 1            | 1            |
| PSA_2714 | 1       | 1            | 1            |
| PSA_2715 | 1       | 1            | 1            |
| PSA_2716 | 1       | 1            | <del>-</del> |
| PSA_2717 | -1      | -            | 1            |
| PSA_2718 | -       | -            | 1            |
| PSA_2719 | -       | -            | 1            |
| PSA_2720 | -       | -            | 1            |
| PSA_2721 | -       | -            | 1            |
| PSA_2722 |         |              | 1            |
|          |         |              |              |
| Total    | 17 (-2) | 17(-2)       | 13(+1)       |
| (change  |         |              |              |
| from     |         |              |              |
| last     |         |              |              |
| year)    |         |              |              |
|          |         |              |              |

# **6.2** 2020-2021, Year 27 Operations

All circulations of PS exercises will be distributed in line with the 2020-2021 timetable (available below). Returns and results are summarised in the table below.

| Exercise       | Status                             | Returns / Comments                       |
|----------------|------------------------------------|--|
| PS76           | Samples distributed: 29/10/2020    | Fines Test                               |
|                | Sample deadline: 18/12/2020        |  |
|                | Interim reports issued: 15/01/2021 | 16 out of 17 returned results            |
|                | Final reports issued:              | 1 communicated non-participation         |
|                | Exercise complete                  |  |
| PS77           | Samples distributed: 29/10/2020    | Mixed Test                               |
|                | Sample deadline: 18/12/2020        |  |
|                | Interim reports issued: 15/01/2021 | 16 out of 17 returned results            |
|                | Final reports issued:              | 1 communicated non-participation         |
|                | Exercise complete                  |  |
| PS78           | Samples distributed: 10/12/2020    | Gravel Test                              |
|                | Sample deadline: 11/02/2021        |  |
|                | Interim reports issued:05/03/2021  | 14 out of 17 returned results            |
|                | Final reports issued:              | 2 communicated non-participation         |
|                | Exercise complete                  | 1 non communicated non-<br>participation |
| PS79           | Samples distributed: 10/12/2020    | Mixed Test                               |
|                | Sample deadline: 11/02/2021        |  |
|                | Interim reports issued:05/03/2021  | 14 out of 17 returned results            |
|                | Final reports issued:              | 2 communicated non-participation         |
|                | Exercise complete                  | 1 non communicated non-<br>participation |
| PS-OS19-<br>21 | Samples request sent: 29/10/2020   |  |
|                |                                    |  |

Batch 1

Data submission deadline: 13/11/2020

Sample submission deadline: 11/12/2020

Reports Issued: 01-02/03/2021

**Exercise complete** 

Batch 2

Data submission deadline: 31/03/2021

Sample submission deadline: 16/04/2021

Reports issued: July 2021

**Exercise complete** 

12 out of 13 data sets submitted

36 out of 39 samples selected

33 out of 39 samples received

11 out of 13 reports sent

1 non-participation communicated

#### **6.3** Issues arising

All exercises now complete – other than the communicated non-participation one other PS-OS participant did not send any samples; data were submitted, and samples selected in Feb 2021, despite numerous reminders and follow ups the samples have still yet to be sent. If the participant does decide to send the samples then we can issue a report but it is now too late to be included in the annual report.

Statements of Performance were sent to David Johns and Claire Mason to review (Monday 23<sup>th</sup> Aug), providing there are no issues these will be sent to participants this week or next.

Annual report is almost ready for Claire Mason to review – will endeavour to send this week.

#### 6.4 Other news

An Italian lab (BioChemie Lab) undertook a trial of one of last year's samples, however they follow a very different methodology so not sure how much they gained from it – yet to hear any feedback from the report they received.

Belgian lab ILVO are also undertaking a trial of 4 samples from last year and intend to sign up to Year 28 – just finalising quotes (liaising with Graham\_ EA), will post the samples next week.

This year will see the introduction of a new style of workbook – all data is entered onto one tab to try to provide more continuity and conditional formatting should pick up any basic errors when coping data from in-house spreadsheets – this has been tried and tested by Claire's team at Cefas. There will be detailed instructions on how to fill it out within the workbook itself and in the PS protocol. I can send a copy of the workbook to anyone who is interested in seeing it.

Unusualness Statistic paper hoping to be finally accepted. Action: CM to send link to group

I (Lydia McB) start my maternity leave on 10<sup>th</sup> September – either Steve D-S or Soren Pears will be taking over while I'm away. All PS replicates have been made in advance.

The committee thanked LMB for all her hard work.

# **6.5** Subscriptions

TBC

# **6.6** Provisional timetable

# $Particle\ Size\ Component\ 2021-2022\ Timetable\ (Scheme\ Year\ 28)\ -\ {\color{red}Provisional}$

| Module / Exercise | Event   | Date     |
|-------------------|---|----------|
| PS80 & PS81       | Samples distributed   | 27/08/21 |
|                   | Results deadline  | 22/10/21 |
|                   | Interim reporting deadline  | 05/11/21 |
|                   | Final report deadline   | 03/12/21 |
| PS82 & PS83       | Samples distributed   | 19/11/21 |
|                   | Results deadline  | 14/01/22 |
|                   | Interim reporting deadline  | 28/01/22 |
|                   | Final report deadline   | 25/02/22 |
| PS-OS22–24        | Request for sample data distributed   | 27/08/21 |
| Batch 1           | Data submission deadline for sample selection                               | 24/09/21 |
|                   | Selected samples submission deadline  | 22/10/21 |
|                   | Interim report final deadline (for samples received before 22 October 2021) | 25/03/22 |
| Batch 2           | Data submission deadline for sample selection                               | 25/03/22 |
|                   | Selected samples submission deadline  | 15/04/22 |
|                   | Interim report final deadline   | 01/07/22 |
|                   |   |          |

| Annual Report | Annual report deadline | 29/07/22 |
|---------------|------------------------|----------|
|               |                        |          |
| Workshop      |                        | TBC      |

# 7 Benthic Invertebrate update (DH/MOR)

# 2020-21, Year 27

# **7.1** Subscriptions

| LabCode | RT59/60 | LR25 | OS74/75/76 |
|---------|---------|------|------------|
| BI_2701 | 1       | 1    | 1          |
| BI_2702 | 1       | 1    | 1          |
| BI_2703 | 1       | -    | 1          |
| BI_2704 | 1       | -    | 1          |
| BI_2705 | 1       | 1    | -          |
| BI_2706 | 1       | 1    | -          |
| BI_2707 | 1       | 1    | -          |
| BI_2708 | 1       | -    | 1          |
| BI_2709 | 1       | 1    | -          |
| BI_2710 | 1       | -    | 1          |
| BI_2711 | 1       | -    | 1          |
| BI_2712 | 1       | -    | 1          |
| BI_2713 | 1       | -    | -          |
| BI_2714 | 1       | -    | -          |
| BI_2715 | 1       | -    | -          |
| BI_2716 | 1       | -    | -          |
| BI_2717 | 1       | -    | -          |
| BI_2718 | 1       | -    | -          |
| BI_2719 | 1       | -    | -          |
| BI_2720 | 1       | -    | -          |
| BI_2721 | 1       | -    | -          |
| BI_2722 | 1       | -    | -          |

| BI_2727                    | -      | -            | 1        |
|----------------------------|--------|--------------|----------|
| BI_2728                    | -      | -            | 1        |
| BI_2729                    | -      | -            | 1        |
| BI_2730                    | -      | -            | 1        |
| BI_2731                    | -      | -            | 1        |
| BI_2732                    | -      | -            | 1        |
| BI_2733                    | -      | -            | 1        |
| BI_2734                    | -      | <del>-</del> | 1        |
| BI_2735                    | -      | -            | 1        |
| BI_2736                    | -      | <del>-</del> | 1        |
| BI_2737                    | -      | -            | 1        |
| BI_2738                    | -      | <del>-</del> | 1        |
| BI_2739                    | -      | -            | 1        |
| BI_2740                    | -      | -            | 1        |
| BI_2741                    | -      | -            | 1        |
| BI_2742                    | -      | <del>-</del> | 1        |
| BI_2743                    | -      | -            | 1        |
| BI_2744                    | -      | -            | 1        |
| BI_2745                    | -      | -            | 1        |
| BI_2746                    | -      | -            | 1        |
| ° (change from<br>2019/20) | 22 (-) | 6 (-)        | 28 (-11) |

# **7.2** 2020-2021, Year 27 Operations

Benthic Invertebrate exercises have been distributed in line with the 2020-2021 timetable (available below). Returns, results and exercise status details are summarised in the table below.

| Exercise | Status                                      | Returns / Comments                                    |
|----------|---|---|
| RT59     | Specimens distributed 29/10/20;             | General Ring Test;                                    |
|          | Submission deadline 18/12/20;               | 18 of 22 labs participated;<br>CV19 restrictions were |
|          | Interim reports issued 14/01/21 (08/01/21); |   |

|              | Ring Test Bulletin issued 05/02/21 (29/01/21);  Exercise complete   | the primary factor for non-participation   |
|--------------|---|--|
|              |   |  |
| RT60         | Specimens distributed 10/12/20;  Submission deadline 11/02/21;  Interim reports issued 05/03/21 (25/02/21);  Ring test Bulletin issued 30/03/21 (19/03/21);  Exercise complete  | Targeted Ring Test – Biotope defining species;  17 of 22 labs participated; CV19 restrictions were the primary factor for non-participation  |
| LR25         | Request for specimens distributed 29/10/20;  Submission deadline 29/01/21;  Interim reports issued 10/06/21 (19/03/21);  LR Module Summary Report issued 29/06/21 (26/03/21);  Exercise complete  | 4 of 6 sets of specimens received and reported; extensions were provided for late receipt; CV19 cause of one non-participation   |
| O\$74-<br>76 | Sample data requested 29/10/20;  Data submission deadline Batch 1 13/11/20;  Sample submission deadline Batch 1 11/12/20;  Interim report final deadline Batch 1 26/03/21;  Data submission deadline Batch 2 31/03/21;  Sample submission deadline Batch 2 16/04/21;  Interim report final deadline Batch 2 30/07/21;  OS Module Summary Report deadline 27/08/21;  Exercises in progress | 23 out of 28 datasets received;  69 out of 69 requested samples received, including 6 samples for external audit; analysis complete for 60 samples (6 external and 3 late OS in-progress); extensions were provided for late receipt up to end July for CV19 impacted laboratories |

# 7.3 2019-2020, Year 26 Operations (outgoing scheme year)

Annual report posted on Scheme website. Approval of Statement of Performance documents pending ahead of distribution to participants. **Action: DH to issue them out after checking by MOR Done** 

**7.4** 2021-2022, Year 28 Operations (forthcoming scheme year)

Benthic Invertebrate exercises are in preparation and will be distributed in line with the provisional 2021-2022 timetable (available below). Note that due to the deadline for participant registration, the initial start date (highlighted in yellow on the timetable below) will be pushed back 1-2 weeks to accommodate completion of the registration process ahead of final preparations and circulation of the first exercises.

## 7.5 Issues arising

## **TDP Development**

TDP development is in progress. A draft version (and TDP spreadsheet) will be soon be circulated to the Committee and scheme participants for comment. We hope to add a finalised Version 1 to the scheme website this year.

## 7.6 Own Sample – Inclusion of Pooled Samples

The inclusion of pooled samples/data for OS exercises was trialled for NRW data in scheme year 27 (2020/21), i.e. all pooled replicates are provided under a single OS audit sample. This will enable quality assurance to be applied at a more meaningful 'Site' level resolution.

## 7.7 Outstanding issues

Own Sample remedial actions are continuing to be tracked from 2013/14 (Year 20), but only those related to the active and recent exercises (OS 71, 72, 73, 74, 75 & 76) will be presented in meeting reports; due to COVID19, participants have not been able to review their audit results/specimens. Details will be provided only when remedial actions stated in interim reports are agreed.

Participants list for website needs updating - Action DH to send update to CT - Done



# **Invertebrate Component 2020-2021 Timetable (Scheme Year 27)**

| Module / Exercise | Event  | Date     |
|-------------------|--|----------|
| RT59 - General    | Samples distributed                            | 29/10/20 |
|                   | Results deadline                               | 18/12/20 |
|                   | Interim reporting deadline                     | 08/01/21 |
|                   | Final report deadline                          | 29/01/21 |
| RT60 - Targeted   | Samples distributed                            | 10/12/20 |
|                   | Results deadline                               | 11/02/21 |
|                   | Interim reporting deadline                     | 25/02/21 |
|                   | Final report deadline                          | 19/03/21 |
| LR25              | Protocol and request for specimens distributed | 29/10/20 |
|                   | Specimen submission deadline                   | 29/01/21 |
|                   | Interim reports deadline                       | 19/03/21 |
|                   | LR summary report deadline                     | 26/03/21 |
| OS74–76           | Request for sample data distributed            | 29/10/20 |
| Batch 1           | Data submission deadline for sample selection  | 13/11/20 |

|                         | Selected samples submission deadline                                    | 11/12/20 |
|-------------------------|---|----------|
|                         | Interim report final deadline (for samples received before 11 Dec 2020) | 26/03/21 |
| Batch 2                 | Data submission deadline for sample selection                           | 31/03/21 |
|                         | Selected samples submission deadline                                    | 16/04/21 |
|                         | Interim report final deadline   | 30/07/21 |
|                         | OS summary report deadline  | 27/08/21 |
| Annual Report           | Annual report deadline  | 27/08/21 |
| Workshop – experts      | Venue TBC   | TBC      |
| Workshop –<br>beginners | TBC – subject to demand   | TBC      |



# Invertebrate Component 2021-2022 Timetable (Scheme Year 28) - Provisional

| Module / Exercise | Event               | Date                  |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| RT61 - General    | Samples distributed | <mark>27/08/21</mark> |

|                 | Results deadline  | 22/10/21 |
|-----------------|---|----------|
|                 | Interim reporting deadline  | 05/11/21 |
|                 | Final report deadline   | 03/12/21 |
| RT62 - Targeted | Samples distributed   | 19/11/21 |
|                 | Results deadline  | 14/01/22 |
|                 | Interim reporting deadline  | 28/01/22 |
|                 | Final report deadline   | 25/02/22 |
| LR26            | Protocol and request for specimens distributed                              | 27/08/21 |
|                 | Specimen submission deadline  | 28/01/22 |
|                 | Interim reports deadline  | 18/03/22 |
|                 | LR summary report deadline  | 25/03/22 |
| OS77–79         | Request for sample data distributed   | 27/08/21 |
| Batch 1         | Data submission deadline for sample selection                               | 24/09/21 |
|                 | Selected samples submission deadline  | 22/10/21 |
|                 | Interim report final deadline (for samples received before 22 October 2021) | 25/03/22 |
| Batch 2         | Data submission deadline for sample selection                               | 25/03/22 |
|                 | Selected samples submission deadline  | 15/04/22 |
|                 | Interim report final deadline   | 01/07/22 |
|                 | OS summary report deadline  | 15/07/22 |

| Annual Report        | Annual report deadline  | 29/07/22 |
|----------------------|-------------------------|----------|
|                      |                         |          |
| Workshop – experts   | Venue TBC               | TBC      |
|                      |                         |          |
| Workshop – beginners | TBC – subject to demand | TBC      |

- **8. Macroalgae update (CY)** GP advised offering contracts out this week for the new contractor
- 9. Fish update (JE/SDS)

# FISH COMPONENT PROGRESS REPORT

# 2021-22, Year 28

9.1 Subscriptions

TBC

**9.2** 2021-2022, Year 28 Operations

2021-2022 timetable for fish exercises created, as summarised in the table below.

| Exercise | Status  | Returns / Comments               |
|----------|---|----------------------------------|
| F-RT15   | Specimens and images to be distributed 22/11/21;  Results deadline 26/01/22;  Interim reports due 18/02/22;  Final report due 11/03/22  Exercise in preparation | aiting confirmed subscriptions   |
| F-RRT13  | Protocol and request for specimens to be distributed 10/09/21;  Specimen submission deadline 03/12/21;  Final report due 21/01/22  Exercise in preparation      | Awaiting confirmed subscriptions |

## 9.3 Issues arising

N/A

# 9.4 Taxonomic Workshop

Currently no taxonomic workshop is planned for fish. A targeted workshop can be developed if sufficient interest is shown.

# 9.5 Outstanding issues

N/A



# Fish Component 2021-2022 Timetable (Scheme Year 28) Provisional

| Module / Exercise | Event   | Date     |
|-------------------|---|----------|
| F-RRT13           | Protocol and request for specimens<br>distributed (including supply of fish<br>postage boxes) | 10/09/21 |
|                   | Specimen submission deadline  | 03/12/21 |
|                   | Final report deadline   | 21/01/22 |
| F-RT15            | Samples (specimens & images) distributed  | 22/11/21 |
|                   | Results deadline  | 26/01/22 |
|                   | Interim reporting deadline  | 18/02/22 |
|                   | Final report deadline   | 11/03/22 |
| Annual Report     | Annual report deadline  | 01/04/22 |
|                   |   |          |

| Workshop – experts   | TBC – subject to demand | TBC |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-----|
|                      |                         |     |
| Workshop – beginners | TBC – subject to demand | TBC |

SDs advised that always looking for specimens from trawls, especially rarer species – needs at least 15 of similar size and condition – **Action: DJ to ask MBA** 

## **10. Zooplankton Update** (DJ/CT)

The ring test specimens and quizzes went out earlier in the year. An online meeting has been set up for September where each participant will get their results and be provided with feedback. There are also key speakers attending to provide taxonomic training. A report will follow in due course.

#### 11. AOB

Website: (CM/CT) We are hoping for a demo of the website to be available imminently with CT being able to populate in due course once Cefas are ready to go. Action: All component managers to send through their updated website content asap. CM to set up committee meeting in September once some content has been received for demo (and after CT has had some training). CT also needs account setting up. Any areas which haven't been looked over may get transferred to the new website but it is preferable that reviewed areas are carried across.

RG is to send through summary of proposed development requirements (API for IQI workbooks; Teams link for committee to use). Noted any developments new to original request will need costing and agreed with Cefas Principal Investigator before confirming go ahead. Costs for hosting may be increased for example if teams link added, which may be disproportionate to the added functionality given.

Tim (Cefas) is to investigate whether old website can be archived so content is kept and let us know how we will be able to access this.

**RG:** would like to discuss the addition of the most up to date IQI taxon list to the NMBAQC website. This could be added onto the new website once up and running. GP OK with this and would need reviewing once a year. **Action: CT/CM** to chat to developers, making sure previous version can be archived.

RG discussed two contractor questions. The first question regarded keeping up to date with the latest acceptable keys. The committee does have an updated 2020 version of taxonomic literature on the website and will provide the necessary link. We will also look at creating a new participants area/forum to facilitate discussion and if acceptable keys could be shared via a sharepoint system.

MoR advised there had been a lot of interest concerning unpublished keys. He had been copying them but has lost all but one in cyber-attack. There are hard copies in their lab and he is hoping to continue copying them upon his return.

The second contractor question was regarding the level of participation of each laboratory for the Invertebrates component - using the NMBAQC as a rubber stamp when they have only participated in the ring test module. Laboratories must participate in the OS audit modules in order to state that they have participated in the NMBAQC scheme. Action: RG/CT/MoR to compile a response and a clear statement to be added to next year's application form (GP) - Done

There was also an action for Tim in previous to compile a 'dummies guide for invertebrates'. **Action: CT to follow up** 

JOC asked about freezing samples re Particle Size – some organisations have said that samples should now be stored in the refrigerator. CM advised it was agreed freezing does change particle size but if freezers have been used previously then this should remain. **Action: CM to raise this with NOC.** 

JOC also advised of sample storage problems as many places aren't interested in taking them. NRW are reviewing the situation. Action: PB to talk to MG to look at protocols/contracts. There is a very good reason to keep everything and perhaps a financial incentive to museums is a possibility.

DJ thanked LMB for all her hard work and wished her well as she shortly commences maternity leave.

DONM: tba – likely Oct/Nov 2021