# Circle  Description automatically generated with medium confidenceNE ATLANTIC MARINE BIOLOGICAL AQC SCHEME COMMITTEE MEETING

**Agenda****25th September 2024 1100-1330**

**Venue: Welsh Government Offices, Cathays Park, King Edward VII Avenue, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ**

**Confirmed Attendees:** David Johns (DJ, MBA, Chair), Graham Phillips (GP, EA, Finance Manager), Claire Mason (CM, CEFAS, PSA Technical Manager), Myles O’Reilly (MOR, SEPA, Benthic Invertebrates Technical Manager - online), Gillian Annett (GA, DAERA, Macroalgal Technical Manager), Tim Mackie (TM, DAERA, Senior Scientific Officer) Claire Taylor (CT, MBA, Technical Secretary), David Hall (DH APEM Benthic Administrator), Matt Green (MG, NRW, Marine Monitoring Ecologist), Lydia McIntyre-Brown (LMB, APEM Ltd, PSA administrator), Georgina Brackenreed-Johnston (GBJ, APEM Ltd, Macroalgae administrator), Ross Griffin (RG, Ocean Ecology, Contractors Rep), Debbie Walsh (DW, APEM Ltd, Fish Administrator) and Vera Fonseca (CEFAS guest attendee for eDNA)

**Apologies:** Jim Ellis (JE, CEFAS, Fish Technical Manager), Alexander Callaway (Senior Scientific Officer, AFBI), Karen Wade (JNCC) and James Albrecht (JNCC)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **Last Meetings Actions** (summarised below on the agenda)
 |  | ALL |
| 1. **Minutes of the last meeting**
 |  | CT |
|  Approval of April meeting minutes |  | DJ |
|  |  |  |
| 1. **Epibiota update**
 |  | JA/KW |
|  |   |  |
| 1. **Phytoplankton update**
 |  | RS |
|  |  |  |
| 1. **Priorities to HBDSEG**
 |  | DJ |
| **eDNA discussion Vera Fonseca CEFAS (after 1145 online)** |  |  |
| 1. **PSA update**
 |  | CM/LMB |
|  |  |  |
| 1. **Benthic Invertebrates update**
 |  | DH/MoR |
|  |  |  |
| 1. **Macroalgae update**
 |  | GA/GBJ |
|  |  |  |
| 1. **Fish update**
 |  | JE/DW |
|  |  |  |
| 1. **Zooplankton update**
 |  | tbc |
| 1. **eDNA – Under Development**
 |  | ALL |
| 1. **AOB**
 |  | ALL |
| 1. **Contractor Questions**
 |  | RG |
| 1. **Finance update\* Confidential**
 |  | GP |

**Presentation to follow from Matt Green**

1. **Ongoing actions:**

**eDNA: - moved to new section (11)**

**PSA:**

Guidance to be updated following on from workshop. Action: CM to implement this prior to next NMBAQC committee meeting - **update, this is ongoing with the aim to discuss at next committee meeting.**

**Benthic - TDP**

The committee congratulated DH and team regarding work on TDP. This is a ‘live’ document and would be useful to review annually (created August 2023) with version control Action: MOR, **update to review around the time the contract is up for renewal. TDP will also have version control. Further update – this will be reviewed at next meeting post contract renewal.**

**Fish:**

The group discussed ichthyoplankton, currently falling between fish and zooplankton and no group is currently picking this up. DJ advised the MBA have ran fish larvae workshops in the past. Also harder to get specimens with fewer fish surveys being undertaken.

**Action: DJ to investigate getting fish samples from MBA *Sepia* during their sampling to St Austell Bay (goes out in next few weeks following delay) DW requires 20 specimens of each type.**

**AOB:**

MOR highlighted that we are the group are now in our 30th year (March 1994) and this needs celebrating.

To create a summary document of the groups achievements which could go into the Marine Biologist magazine. **Action DJ to approach editor, authors needed. Update: DJ has approached author, once heard back, will approach committee for contributions.**

1. **Minutes of the last meeting - approved**
2. **Epibiota update (JA/KW):**

POST MEETING NOTE – SEE UPDATE FROM KW BELOW.

Message from KW to Big Picture Group:

Thank you to everyone for your patience whilst I transitioned into my new role and started as Big Picture coordinator. A big thanks also to those who have taken the time to meet and bring me up to speed on your work and ongoing projects - this has been a huge help! Please do continue to reach out to me directly, or via the Big Picture email if you would like to meet.

It has been a busy summer for us on the coordination team. Following discussions with the Steering Committee, we have been reviewing how to improve awareness of the Group and better support the Project Working Groups. A priority action from these discussions was to improve communications and awareness of the Group and its work. In response to this, the Big Picture Group has now published webpages that are hosted on the JNCC website (https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/big-picture-group/) - we hope that these will provide a useful landing page to share work and promote the network. Shortly, all members will also receive an invitation to complete a questionnaire to provide us with a better understanding of what support you would find most useful and identify key actions to take forward. Please do look out for the email and provide your feedback - it shouldn’t take too long to complete, and responses will be shaping the future of the group.

I would also like to thank Graeme Duncan for his previous work as a co-lead for the Data Flows PWG and welcome Jonny Savage who has taken over this role, alongside Dan Lear. Jonny will be attending the Marine Imaging Workshop in California in just over a week - if you are going, please say hi!

Webpages now live! Find them here: <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/big-picture-group/>

1. **Phytoplankton update (RS)** – below added by Claire Taylor.

Rafael sent an update to one of our IPI participants highlighting his previous email address is no longer in use. His new contact address is rafaelsalasipi@gmail.com – Claire has updated this on the NMBAQC website. Raf states “The OCHABS network in Gran Canaria stopped funding the website and webmail associated with the website and it was discontinued on the 1st of September. We will continue to operate as normal using this gmail address until the end of this IPI programme and we will review the situation for next year”.

1. **Priorities to HBDSEG (DJ):** - to discuss progress with eDNA at next meeting (see Section 11)
2. **PSA update (CM/LMB):**

**PARTICLE SIZE COMPONENT PROGRESS REPORT**

**2023-24, Year 30**

* 1. **Subscriptions (to date)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| LabCode | PS 88/89 | PS90/ 91 | PS – OS28/29/30 |
|  PSA\_3001 | 1 | 1 | - |
| PSA\_3002 | 1 | 1 | - |
| PSA\_3003 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PSA\_3004 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PSA\_3005 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PSA\_3006 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PSA\_3007 | 1 | 1 | - |
| PSA\_3008 | 1 | 1 | - |
| PSA \_3009 | 1 | 1 | - |
| PSA \_3010 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PSA \_3011 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PSA \_3012 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PSA \_3013 | 1  | 1  | - |
| PSA \_3014 | 1 | 1 | - |
| PSA \_3015 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PSA \_3020 | - | - | 1 |
| PSA \_3021 | - | - | 1 |
| ° (change from 2022/23) | **15(-2)**  | **15 (-2)** | **10(-7)** |

* 1. **2023-2024, Year 30 Operations**

Particle Size exercises were distributed in line with the 2023-2024 timetable (available below). Returns, results and exercise status details are summarised in the table below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Exercise | Status | Returns / Comments |
| PS88 | Samples to be distributed 01/12/23Submission deadline 02/02/24Interim reports to be issued 09/02/24Final Report to be issued 29/02/24**Exercise complete** | Sands Test12 out of 15 returned results |
| PS89 | Samples to be distributed 01/12/23Submission deadline 02/02/24Interim reports to be issued 09/02/24Final Report to be issued 29/02/24**Exercise complete** | Diamicton Test12 out of 15 returned results |
| PS90 | Samples to be distributed 01/03/24Submission deadline 26/04/24Interim reports to be issued 03/05/24Final Report to be issued 31/05/24**Exercise complete** | Fines Test12 out of 15 returned results |
| PS91 | Samples to be distributed 01/03/24Submission deadline 26/04/24Interim reports to be issued 03/05/24Final Report to be issued 31/05/24**Exercise complete** | Diamicton Test12 out of 15 returned results |
| OS28-30 | Sample data to be requested 15/11/23Data submission deadline Batch 1 15/12/2023/ Batch 2 22/03/24Sample submission deadline Batch 1 26/01/2024/ Batch 2 26/04/24OS Module Summary Report deadline Batch 1 22/03/2024/ Batch 2 05/07/24**Exercise complete** | 10 out of 10 data sets submitted30 out of 30 samples selected30 out of 30 samples received10 out of 10 reports sent |
| 2023/24 Annual Report & SoPs | Annual Report & Statement of Performance documents deadline 26/07/24 | Annual report completed 06/08/2024SOP’s distributed 07/08/24 |

* 1. **2023 – 2024 Comments**

For the PS ring test. twelve out of fifteen subscribing laboratories submitted results. Of the non-participators one lab (PSA\_3013) provided no correspondence regarding their non- participation despite reminders. This participant has subscribed but not submitted any data for the past two years (Year 30 and Year 29), and the year previous to this (Year 28) they only submitted results for half of the exercise. For the other two non-participators communication was provided; one lab has been re-locating (this year they submitted PS84 from Year 29 as part of their UKAS validation), the other lab do not undertake PS analysis in-house and we have discussed that going forward the own-sample module may be more applicable for them to get projects/ sub-contractors audited.

PS-OS module all laboratories who subscribed participated and submitted data and samples.

**Action: GP to add a secondary contact to next year’s application forms which should alleviate any communication issues**

**Particle Size Component 2023-2024 Timetable (Scheme Year 30)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Module / Exercise** | **Event** | **Date** |
| PS88 & PS89 | Samples distributed | 01/12/23 |
|  | Results deadline | **02/02/24** |
|  | Interim reporting deadline | 09/02/24 |
|  | Final report deadline | 29/02/24 |
|  |  |  |
| PS90 & PS91 | Samples distributed | 01/03/24 |
|  | Results deadline | **26/04/24** |
|  | Interim reporting deadline | 03/05/24 |
|  | Final report deadline | 31/05/24 |
|  |  |  |
| OS28 - 30 | Request for sample data distributed | 15/11/23 |
|  |  |  |
| Batch 1 | Data submission deadline for sample selection | **15/12/23** |
|  | Selected samples submission deadline | **26/01/24** |
|  | Interim report final deadline (for samples received before 23 December 2022) | 22/03/24 |
|  |  |  |
| Batch 2 | Data submission deadline for sample selection | **22/03/24** |
|  | Selected samples submission deadline | **26/04/24** |
|  | Interim report final deadline | 05/07/24 |
|  |  |  |
| Annual Report | Annual report deadline | 26/07/24 |
|  |  |  |

1. **Benthic Invertebrates update (MoR/DH):**

**BENTHIC INVERTEBRATE COMPONENT PROGRESS REPORT**

**2023-24, Year 30**

* 1. **Subscriptions**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| LabCode | RT65/66 | LR28 | OS83/84/85 |
|  BI\_3001 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| BI\_3002 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| BI\_3003 | 1 | - | 1 |
| BI\_3004 | 1 | - | 1 |
| BI\_3005 | 1 | - | - |
| BI\_3006 | 1 | - | 1 |
| BI\_3007 | 1 | - | 1 |
| BI\_3008 | 1 | - | - |
| BI\_3009 | 1 | - | - |
| BI\_3010 | 1 | - | - |
| BI\_3011 | 1 | - | 1 |
| BI\_3012 | 1 | - | 1 |
| BI\_3013 | 1  | - | - |
| BI\_3014 | 1 | 1 | - |
| BI\_3015 | 1 | 1 | - |
| BI\_3016 | 1 | - | - |
| BI\_3017 | 1 | - | - |
| BI\_3018 | 1 | 1 | - |
| BI\_3019 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| BI\_3020 | 1 | - | - |
| BI\_3021 | 1 | - | - |
| BI\_3030 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_3031 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_3032 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_3033 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_3034 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_3035 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_3036 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_3037 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_3038 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_3039 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_3040 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_3041 | - | - | 1 |
| BI\_3042 | - | - | 1 |
| ° (change from 2022/23) | **21 (-2)**  | **6 (-)** | 1. **(-15)**
 |

**7.2 2023-2024, Year 30 Operations**

Benthic Invertebrate exercises were distributed in line with the 2023-2024 timetable (available below). Returns, results and exercise status details are summarised in the table below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Exercise | Status | Returns / Comments |
| RT65 | Specimens distributed 01/12/23Submission deadline 02/02/24Interim reports issued 09/02/24Ring Test Bulletin issued 08/04/24**Exercise complete** | General Ring Test19 out of 21 data sets receivedBulletin delayed due to staff illness |
| RT66 | Specimens distributed 08/04/24Submission deadline 31/05/24Interim reports issued 07/06/24Ring Test Bulletin to be issued 05/07/24 (14/08/24 online)**Exercise complete** | Targeted Ring Test – Deuterostomes17 out of 21 data sets receivedBulletin report issued late due to extensive input required for challenging RT content |
| LR28 | Request for specimens distributed 15/11/23Submission deadline 26/01/24 (extended)Interim reports deadline 15/03/24 (extended)LR Module Summary Report to be issued 22/03/24 (21/06/24 online)**Exercise complete** | 3 of the 6 sets of specimens received and reportedDeadline extended and reminders issued |
| OS83-85 | Sample data requested 15/11/23Data submission deadline Batch 2 22/03/24Sample submission deadline Batch 2 26/04/24OS Module Summary Report deadline 05/07/24 (17/06/24 online)**Exercise complete**  | 21 out of 22 data sets received62 out of 62 requested samples receivedAll samples reported, including 3 samples via the external auditor |
| 2023/24 Annual Report & SoPs | Annual Report & Statement of Performance documents deadline 26/07/24**Report & SoPs Issued** | Report uploaded to website 02/09/24SoPs issued for approval/distribution 10/07/24 |

* 1. **Issues arising**
		1. **Taxonomic Workshops**

Expert Taxonomic Workshop, University of Galway

The taxonomic workshop planning is on-going, and details will be confirmed as soon as possible along with the issue of a workshop EOI form (subject to award of new contract, otherwise planning details will be transferred to the new contractor).

* 1. **AOB**

**30 Years of the NMBAQC scheme (1994/95 – 2023/24)**

Some Big Numbers for the BI Component

1. 2,085 Macrobenthic Own Samples audited across 85 exercises



1. 41,250 Ring Test individual invertebrate specimens prepared across 66 exercises

General ring tests alternating with targeted tests focusing on themes, such as:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Mollusca | Estuarine taxa |
| Bivalvia | Offshore Gravels taxa |
| Gastropoda | Scottish fauna |
| Oligochaeta and similar | Species at limit of range |
| Cirratulids | ‘Biotope-defining species’ |
| Spionida | Non-native species and similar |
| Syllids and similar | ‘Problem’ taxa |
| Syllids, Tanaids & Cumaceans | ‘Easiest’ taxa |
| Crustacea | [3x Fish exercises] |
| Amphipoda |  |
| Pericardia (excluding Amphipoda) |  |
| Decapoda |  |
| Deuterostomes (Echinodermata, Cephalochordata, Ascidiacea) |  |

QC/QA Milestones

* NMBAQC website
* Ring Test Bulletins with high quality images
* Own Samples Pass/fail standards review & remedial action framework
* Application of OS methodology outside of ‘local’ waters, e.g. Black Sea & Mediterranean
* Review of benthic recording & identification differences
* Processing Requirements Protocol (PRP)
* Taxonomic Discrimination Protocol (TDP)
* Taxonomic Bibliography Lists
* Numerous taxonomic workshops with international attendees & uploaded identification guides
* SHARED BEST PRACTICES
* IMPROVED DATA CONSISTENCY
* INCREASED DATA QUALITY/RESOLUTION
* BENTHIC INVERTEBRATE COMMUNITY
* WORLDWIDE REPUTATION

Colleagues/contributors over the years



|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * Richard Parks
 |  |  |
| * Matt Service
 | * Andy Robinson
 | * Steve Coates
 |
| * Mike Elliott
 | * Keith Cooper
 | * James Strong
 |
| * Anne Henderson
 | * Jane Hawkridge
 | * Joe Silke
 |
| * Hubert Rees
 | * Paolo Pizzola
 | * Sarah Peaty
 |
| * Roger Proudfoot
 | * Clare Scanlan
 | * Prue Addison
 |
| * Joe Breen
 | * Mandy Prior
 | * Jess Haapkyla
 |
| * Ivor Rees
 | * Elaine Hamilton
 | * Astrid Fischer
 |
| * Nigel Grist
 | * Alison Miles
 | * Nigel Proctor
 |
| * Jon Davies
 | * Carol Milner
 | * Grant Rowe
 |

The group congratulated this great achievement, including David Hall being part of the committee since its inception.

**Invertebrate Component 2023-2024 Timetable (Scheme Year 30)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Module / Exercise** | **Event** | **Date** |
| RT65 - General | Samples distributed | 01/12/23 |
|  | Results deadline | **02/02/24** |
|  | Interim reporting deadline | 09/02/24 |
|  | Final report deadline | ~~29/02/24~~ 08/04/24 |
|  |  |  |
| RT66 - Targeted | Samples distributed | ~~01/03/24~~ 08/04/24 |
|  | Results deadline | **~~26/04/24~~ 31/05/24** |
|  | Interim reporting deadline | ~~03/05/24~~ 07/06/24 |
|  | Final report deadline | ~~31/05/24~~ 05/07/24 |
|  |  |  |
| LR28 | Protocol and request for specimens distributed | 15/11/23 |
|  | Specimen submission deadline | **26/01/24** |
|  | Interim reports deadline | 15/03/24 |
|  | LR summary report deadline | 22/03/24 |
|  |  |  |
| OS83–85 | Request for sample data distributed | 15/11/23 |
|  |  |  |
| Batch 1 | Data submission deadline for sample selection | **15/12/23** |
|  | Selected samples submission deadline | **26/01/24** |
|  | Interim report final deadline (for samples received before 23 December 2022) | 22/03/24 |
|  |  |  |
| Batch 2 | Data submission deadline for sample selection | **22/03/24** |
|  | Selected samples submission deadline | **26/04/24** |
|  | Interim report final deadline | 05/07/24 |
|  |  |  |
|  | OS summary report deadline | 19/07/24 |
|  |  |  |
| Annual Report | Annual report deadline | 26/07/24 |
|  |  |  |
| Workshop – experts | TBC (University of Galway) | (Autumn24/Spring25) |
| Workshop – beginners | TBC – subject to demand | TBC |

NB – TDP is now included in all specs with most labs being fully aware of this.

**Action: MOR/DH to update literature and bibliography list for website. CT to upload.**

1. **Macroalgal update (GA/GBJ):**

**MACROALGAE BIOMASS AND PERCENTAGE COVER COMPONENT PROGRESS REPORT**

**2023-24, Year 30**

* 1. **Subscriptions**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Lab Code | RT15 OMC | RT15 OMB |
| MA\_3001 | 1 | - |
| MA\_3002 | 1 | - |
| MA\_3003 | 1 | 1 |
| MA\_3004 | 1 | 1 |
| MA\_3005 | 1 | 1 |
| MA\_3006 | 1 | 1 |
| MA\_3007 | 1 | 1 |
| MA\_3008 | 1 | 1 |
| MA\_3009 | 1 | 1 |
| MA\_3010 | 1 | - |
| MA\_3011 | 1 | 1 |
|  |  |  |
| Total (change from last year) | **11 (+0)** | 1. **(-3)**
 |

 **8.2** **2023-2024, Year 30 Operations**

All circulations of MA exercises were distributed in line with the 2023-2024 timetable (available below). Returns and results are summarised in the table below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Exercise | Status | Returns / Comments |
| RT15OMC | Samples distributed: 26/01/2024 |  |
| Sample deadline: 08/03/2024 |  9 out of 11 returned results |
| Interim reports issued: 05/04/2024 |  |
| Final reports issued: 03/05/2024 |  |
| **Exercise in progress** |  |
| RT15OMB | Samples distributed: 26/01/2024 |  |
| Sample deadline: 08/03/2024 | 6 out of 8 returned results |
| Interim reports issued: 05/04/2024 |  |
| Final reports issued: 03/05/2024 |  |

* 1. **Issues arising**

Of the nine laboratories that sent in their OMC results there were thirty-three individual submissions of data.

Preparation and collection of material for 24/25 ring test is underway.

**Macroalgae Biomass and Percentage Cover Component 2023-2024 Timetable (Scheme Year 30)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Module / Exercise** | **Event** | **Date** |
| RT15 OMB | Samples distributed: 26/01/2024 | 26/01/2024 |
|  | Sample deadline: 08/03/2024 | 08/03/2024 |
|  | Interim reports issued: 05/04/2024 | 05/04/2023 |
|  | Final reports issued: 03/05/2024 | 28/04/2024 |
|  | **Exercise complete** |  |
|  |  |  |
| RT15 OMC | Samples distributed: 26/01/2024 | 26/01/2024 |
|  | Sample deadline: 08/03/2024 | 08/03/2024 |
|  | Interim reports issued: 05/04/2024 | 05/04/2023 |
|  | Final reports issued:  | 28/04/2024 |
|  | **Exercise complete** |  |

GP advised there maybe appetite to reinstate the Rocky Shore element.

1. **Fish Update (JE/DW):**

**FISH COMPONENT PROGRESS REPORT**

**2023-2024, Year 30**

* 1. **Subscriptions (to date)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| LabCode | F-RRT15 | F-RT17 |
|  F\_3001 | 1 | 1 |
| F\_3002 | 1 | 1 |
| F\_3003 | 1 | - |
| F\_3004 | 1 | - |
| F\_3005 | 1 | - |
| F\_3006 | 1 | - |
| F\_3007 | 1 | - |
| F\_3008 | 1 | - |
| F\_3009 | 1 | 1 |
| F\_3010 | 1 | 1 |
| F\_3011 | - | 1 |
| F\_3012 | - | 1 |
| F\_3013 | - | 1 |
| F\_3014 | - | 1 |
| F\_3015 | 1 | 1 |
| F\_3016 | - | 1 |
| F\_3017 | - | 1 |
| F\_3018 | - | 1 |
| F\_3019 | 1 | 1 |
| F\_3020 | - | 1 |
| F\_3021 | 1 | 1 |
| Total (change from last year) | **13 (+3)** | **14 (+7)** |
|  |  |  |

* 1. **2023-2024, Year 30 Operations**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Module / Exercise | Event | Date |
| F-RRT15 | Protocol and request for specimens distributed (including supply of fish postage boxes) | 25/03/24 |
|  | **Specimen submission deadline** | **04/05/24** |
|  | Final report deadline | 07/06/24 |
|  |  |  |
| F-RT17 | Samples (specimens & images) distributed | 10/05/24 |
|  | **Results deadline** | **21/10/24** |
|  | Interim reporting deadline | 05/11/24 |
|  | Final report deadline | 02/12/24 |
|  |  |  |
| Annual Report | Annual report deadline | 30/12/24 |
|  |  |  |
| Workshop – experts | TBC – subject to demand | TBC |
|  |  |  |
| Workshop – beginners | TBC – subject to demand | TBC |

F-RRT15 - 12 out of 13 submissions received. Interim results sent to participants. Report started pending any changes or queries from participants.

F-RT17 – Currently short 4 species for ring test. Should have full complement of specimens by Friday 27th September, collection from CEFAS. Photos taken and sample bags prepped for 11 species. Hoping to post boxes next week.

* 1. **2022-2023, Year 29 Operations**

Reports completed and posted on NMBAQC website.

* 1. **Issues arising**
	2. **Taxonomic Workshop**

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

* 1. **Outstanding issues**

N/A

1. **Zooplankton Update (DJ):** The next ring test maybe slightly delayed due to staff changes.
2. **eDNA**

The committee welcomed Vera Fonseca from CEFAS who gave an update on work so far. Vera advised this area of work is not yet ready for any policy decisions and requires prior validation. Kate Wade, JNCC has started to instigate a working group, consolidating the work of others around the UK. The UK has also initiated a marine related eDNA centre of excellence. This is all very much funding dependent**. Action DJ to drop KW/VR an email to look into pursuing R&D money from DEFRA.**

The committee thought it was a good idea to sit eDNA under the NMBAQC umbrella as an under-development component and report to HBDSEG. **Action: DJ to report at the next HBDSEG meeting (in a few weeks’ time) and speak to KW to see if some guidelines can be implemented. Action: CT to look at drafting something for the NMBAQC website.**

The group also discussed how to acquire the required material as this can be done in parallel with the collection of samples. Could use fish as a good starting point? Discussion also took place in looking at molecular work around Blue Green algae/Cyanobacteria which has become prolific in some areas of the UK. **Action: DJ to contact RS.**

1. **AOB**

The committee discussed putting together a video for the website/other social media platforms/press release to celebrate our 30th anniversary. **Action: MG to collate?**

Myles has drafted a Beginners Guide to Macrofauna **Action: CT to add onto website once finalised.**

1. **Contractor Questions (RG):**

RG noted a complimentary comment to the BI bulletin, which although was delayed, this was due to an increase in content, which has been well received.

1. **Finance (GP) \*Confidential**

**DONM likely to be around December and online.**