

Argyll and Lochaber Area Advisory Group (AAG)

9th October 2012, 1000 – 1330

Draft minutes of Argyll and Lochaber AAG meeting

West Highland College, Fort William

Present:

Jim Frame, West Highland and Argyll Team Unit Manager, SEPA, Chair
Paul Griffiths, Senior Scientist, Environmental Quality, SEPA
Julia MacPherson, River Basin Planning Coordinator (Argyll and Lochaber), SEPA
Stephen McIntyre, Senior Environment Protection Officer, SEPA, Fort William office
Linda MacLeod, Environment Protection Officer, SEPA, Fort William office
Steve McFarland, Senior Policy Officer, Flood Risk Management, SEPA
Iris Kramer, Policy Officer, Flood Risk Management, SEPA
Ben Bickle, Scottish Water
Corrina Mertens, on behalf of Stephen Austin, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
Craig McIntyre, Argyll Fisheries Trust and Argyll District Salmon Fisheries Board
Elaine Jamieson, Forestry Commission Scotland

Apologies:

Richard Hearnden, replacing Astie Cameron, Riotinto Alcan
Robert Reilly, replacing Sally Davies, Association of Scottish Salmon Producers
Adam Reeves, Planning, Marine Scotland
Walter Speirs, Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers,
Mark Steward, Marine & Coastal Development Unit, Argyll and Bute Council
Alan Kettle-White, Argyll Fisheries Trust
Lucy Ballantyne, Lochaber Fisheries Trust
Diane Baum, Lochaber Fisheries Trust
Andy Robinson, Conservation Officer, Argyll Area, RSPB
Alan Nicol, SGRPID
Richard Ballantyne, British Ports Association
Olivia Lassiere, British Waterways
Charlotte Wallace, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park
Lucy Sumsion, National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS)
Robert Wylie, Scotch Whisky Association

Note – all papers and presentations from this meeting will be available at

http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/river_basin_planning/area_advisory_groups/argyll_and_lochaber.aspx

Argyll and Lochaber Area Advisory Group meeting		
No	ITEM	Action lead
1	Welcome and Apologies Jim Frame welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies are as noted above.	
2	Minutes from last meeting and update on action points from previous meetings Action point 1 – BB to send JM amendments to last (May 2012) minutes Action point 2 – JM to correct spelling of Barbara Gritten in last minutes Following above amendments, the minutes from the last meeting (<i>paper 2</i>) were accepted. See following table for update on outstanding actions from previous meetings. Action point 3 – JM to send by email all May action point updates discussed and included in table below.	BB JM – done JM - done

Summary and update on Action Points from 22nd May 2011

Action point number	Action	Update
1	Get update from AKW on outputs from catchment walks and diffuse pollution data gathering.	JM emailed AKW and CM to ask for outputs from catchment walks and diffuse pollution data gathering. Update from CM at meeting – Argyll Fisheries Trust surveyed Loch Fyne last year. This year Islay and Jura surveyed. Lots of diffuse pollution impacts etc cattle poaching and some channalisation also picked up. Only Loch Etive left to survey. Given the amount of data gathered and the fact that it will be very useful to feed into the river basin planning process, it was agreed that CM would send data to AAG Coordinator for discussion at a meeting before end of 2012. Action point 4 – CM to send AAG coordinator the Argyll Fisheries Trust survey data – Data received and passed on to Alaisdair Duguid, Dominic Habron. Action point 5 – AAG coordinator to set up a meeting

		<p>with CM, local SEPA Ops staff and EQ. Involve SEPA land unit too to get a template for type/format of diffuse pollution data which would be most useful.</p> <p>JB - DONE</p>
2	JM to send diffuse pollution catchment walking methodology (as sent to AKW) to Drew McFarlane Slack.	<p>Action point 6 – AAG coordinator to send diffuse pollution catchment walking methodology (as sent to AKW) to Drew McFarlane Slack on a CD.</p> <p>JB - DONE</p>
3	DMS would be keen to accompany a SEPA catchment officer on a diffuse pollution catchment walk to understand how it is managed. JM to contact Grahame Newman, SEPA Elgin, to organize.	<p>Update at meeting – this was not possible to arrange over summer.</p> <p>Action point 7 - AAG coordinator to consider a catchment walk with AAG members with Pete Wright (SEPA Land Unit) as a site visit following the spring 2013 AAG meeting.</p> <p>JB – no spring meeting.</p>
4	Circulate minutes of DP meeting	JM – DONE
5	JM to update Argyll and Lochaber AAG members on progress following national meeting with Forestry Commission Scotland.	<p>JM – national meeting now on 25th October. Action point 8 – AAG coordinator to circulate an update on national Forestry Commission meeting on 25th October 2012</p> <p>JB – DONE. Minutes circulated.</p>
6	JM to contact MS for RBMP policy approach proposed in the main issues report to AAG before August consultation	JM – DONE. Mark Steward provided email update, circulated with the minutes, and will be in touch with Argyll and Lochaber RBMP coordinator and AAG when Argyll and Bute Council Local Development Plan goes out for consultation later in year.
7	JM to ask Joyce	JM – DONE. The main outcomes of the shellfish

	Carr, Scottish Government, for a summary of the main outcomes of the shellfish consultation.	consultation were published as part of the Aquaculture and Fisheries Bill consultation report available here http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0039/00398755.pdf The shellfish section is on p65 of the document.
8	Paul Griffiths to develop WFD classification training materials ("easy guide to classification") for AAG members and other external stakeholders. This material is nearing completion and PG will send classification training information, including for morphology, to AAG members for their comments by the end of July.	PG – DONE. See agenda item below.
9	JM to circulate link to the National Advisory Group (NAG) minutes and NAG representatives.	JM – DONE.
10	JM to circulate a link to the Getting involved public consultation when it goes live in August 2012.	JM – DONE. The consultation is open until 28 February 2013 available online on the SEPA website. http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/river_basin_planning.aspx AAG members are encouraged to respond.
11	Circulate minutes of INNS meeting	JM – DONE
12	Circulate	JM –DONE

	information on the crayfish eradication to AAG members	
13	JM to contact Mags Russell, SNH coordinator for agricultural shows about getting diffuse pollution information to the shows attended.	DONE - Diffuse pollution information was sent to agricultural shows in summer 2012 through members of the north area diffuse pollution subgroup.
14	AAG members to let JM know any ideas for venues for diffuse pollution awareness raising farm events	AAG – ongoing SAC organizing DP event at Oban Livestock Centre on 14 th November 2013. Peter Wright to present on GBRs and future issues.
15	Send a link to the restoration fund criteria to all AAG members for circulation to any interested contacts	JM – DONE
16	BB to send JM a link to the Scottish Water Sustainable Land Management Initiative information and JM to explore linking it with other funding information	BB/JM – DONE. BB is updating the Sustainable Land Management Initiative section to make better links with the Diffuse Pollution Management Advisory Group (DPMAG) and SEPA's Land Unit (Janette MacDonald) is doing the same to their websites to make links better and clearer.
17	JM to send presentation on small water bodies and local	See agenda item below.

	SEPA colleagues for comments and suggestions of where the approach could be used.																
18	JM to circulate a link to the spreadsheet of restoration projects shown	JM – DONE															
19	JM to investigate why the Awe catchment restoration work does not appear on the restoration projects spreadsheet	JM – DONE. JM confirmed the Awe catchment work was on the spreadsheet under INNS work.															
20	JM to send a link to the classification spreadsheet to AAG members	JM – DONE															
21	PG to clarify whether the standard for copper is being changed for coastal waters.	<p>PG – DONE.</p> <p>There are proposals to change the copper standard in marine waters. These proposals have just been the subject of consultation by UKTAG, and whilst it can't yet be confirmed, it's looking like the changes will go ahead. Summary taken from the draft proposals is as follows:</p> <p>Table 2.11: Recommended standards for copper</p> <table><tr><th>Water</th><th>Exposure</th><th>Annual statistic</th><th>UKTAG proposal</th><th>Existing standard</th></tr><tr><td>Fresh</td><td>Long-term</td><td>Mean</td><td>1µg/l bioavailable</td><td>1–28 µg/l dissolved</td></tr><tr><td>Salt</td><td>Long-term</td><td>Mean</td><td>2.64 µg/l dissolved, where DOC ≤ 1 mg/l</td><td>5 µg/l dissolved</td></tr></table> <p>2.64 + (2.677 x ((DOC/2) - 0.5)) µg/l dissolved, where DOC > 1 mg/l</p> <p>Notes:</p> <p>"Bioavailable" means the fraction of the dissolved concentration of copper likely to result in toxic effects as determined using the Metal Bioavailability</p>	Water	Exposure	Annual statistic	UKTAG proposal	Existing standard	Fresh	Long-term	Mean	1µg/l bioavailable	1–28 µg/l dissolved	Salt	Long-term	Mean	2.64 µg/l dissolved, where DOC ≤ 1 mg/l	5 µg/l dissolved
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		<p>Assessment Tool (also referred to as a PNEC Estimator) for copper [8].</p> <p>"DOC" means the annual mean concentration of dissolved organic carbon in mg/l.</p> <p>The proposed salt water standard applies to the fraction of a water sample that passes through a 0.45-µm filter or that is obtained by any equivalent pre-treatment.</p> <p>The existing freshwater standard depends on the hardness of the water.</p> <p>Without going into the details of the maths, where the DOC concentration is less than 1 mg/l the standard will tighten considerably from the current 5 ug/l down to 2.64 ug/l. At DOC concentrations of 2.74 mg/l and above the standard will get progressively more relaxed. At this stage it's not clear what the implications will be for marine waters in Argyll without knowing the average levels of DOC. In general though, UKTAG have noted that there is a lack of data for DOC in saltwater, so it might be a while before we can assess the implications.</p>
22	EC to circulate the flood risk management arrangements document	EC – DONE
23	EC to send the Solway Tweed summary mentioned to AAG members.	EC – DONE
24	JM to circulate a link to SEWeb to AAG	JM – DONE
25	JM to investigate whether there is a link between the Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory (SPRI) and SEWeb.	<p>JM – DONE.</p> <p>SEWeb currently links to SEPA's published SPRI data through the mapping pages :</p> <p>http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/map.aspx</p> <p>click on "Advanced Maps" – when you pick a location/postcode in the "Place of Interest" box, you</p> <p>Under "Society" you'll see the SEWeb Maps present</p>

		<p>SPRI data on Air Releases, Water Releases, Waste Water Releases and Waste Transfers</p> <p>Under “Air” the SEWeb Maps present SPRI data on Air Releases</p> <p>For any point that is then shown on the map, click on the point for summary SPRI info, and then click on “more information” and it will direct you straight to the SEPA SPRI web pages</p> <p>SEWeb doesn’t publish any of its own data, it provides tools (such as this mapping tool) to present data that is published by a range of different organisations (including SEPA) in one place – so for the SPRI example noted above, all of the SEWeb SPRI data, is just a representation of the data that is already published by SEPA.</p>
26	JM to circulate an update on when the river basin planning interactive GIS map on SEPA website will be updated.	<p>JM – DONE.</p> <p>There is no definite date for this update as SEPA is currently investigating various options for data/map presentation for the second river basin management plans, not necessarily updating the existing interactive GIS map. It could be a different, better system such as Spotfire which is currently being investigated. Further updates will be provided to AAG as available.</p> <p>BB commented that a Spotfire demonstration at the Tay AAG looked impressive and asked whether the tool would be available externally on SEPA’s website. It was confirmed that there are no firm plans to do this just now as the tool is still in development internally.</p>
27	JM to circulate the Better Regulation consultation email to AAG	JM – DONE

No.	Agenda item	Lead
2	<p>Easy guide to classification for AAG members</p> <p>PG demonstrated a series of presentations developed to provide an overview and understanding of WFD classification for different waterbody types and pressures. They contain detailed information, but are also designed to be able to dip in and out as required. It was suggested that SEPA consider recording</p>	

	<p>explanatory audio content to accompany the presentations online.</p> <p>It was clarified that this is intended as an awareness raising tool for how classification works and not a full training tool to be delivered comprehensively. It is hoped that the presentations could be used as a self help tool or their contents cascaded by AAG members to their colleagues as required. SEPA would consider requests for classification training sessions, but can not guarantee to deliver on all requests.</p> <p>The AAG gave broad positive feedback on the approach.</p> <p>CM asked whether the classification information could be put on the water body datasheets too. JM confirmed that these datasheets are not currently planned to be updated until discussions about data presentation for the second plans are complete.</p> <p>Action point 9 – AAG coordinator to put draft classification guide presentations on SEPA Argyll and Lochaber AAG website</p> <p>Action point 10 – AAG members to feedback comments on usefulness and clarity of the guidance, in particular focusing on how they could be improved to provide useful stand alone guidance.</p>	<p>AAG coordinator JB - DONE</p> <p>AAG members</p>
3	<p>Argyll & Lochaber RBMP update</p> <p>JM summarized the contents of paper 3 previously circulated.</p> <p>The paper included updates on the National Advisory Group (NAG), Diffuse Pollution Management Advisory Group (DPMAG), Fish and Fisheries Advisory Group (FFAG) and the Getting Involved consultation document.</p> <p>The consultation is open until 28 February 2013 available online on the SEPA website. http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/river_basin_planning.aspx</p> <p>AAG members are encouraged to respond.</p>	
4	<p>Roundtable implementation update from all AAG members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Water – Ben Bickle <p>BB reported that Scottish Water finalizing its business plan for</p>	

<p>2015 – 2025 which will include actions required by WFD.</p> <p>The Sustainable Land Management Initiative is ongoing with three out of five catchment liaison officers returned to Scottish Water after their time with SEPA. Work is continuing on the six catchments with ad hoc work being done in other areas as required where water quality is affected. Also working in River Deveron on pesticides which are affecting water quality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEPA – Stephen McIntyre <p>Measures have been agreed with Alcan to improve the Cour from bad ecological potential to good ecological potential as planned by 2015. The new design for a Q95 flow through the dam to the Cour has been agreed and works are to start in next few months. This work will be complete a couple of years ahead of planned.</p> <p>Conversely, flow mitigation measures were to be provided at Kinlochleven, through a run of river hydroscheme and the current economic climate means this measure could be delayed into the second river basin planning cycle.</p> <p>Action point 11 – AAG coordinator to find out how objective setting will be dealt with in second river basin management plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argyll Fisheries Trust – Craig McIntyre <p>Awe catchment invasive non-native species (INNS) project - hoping to eradicate Japanese knotweed by 2015.</p> <p>River Awe – Pass of Brander – new flow agreed with Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE), SEPA and landowners to improve habitat. AFT also doing manual restoration in area to improve spawning success.</p> <p>Working with SEPA in Glen Creran on the woodland anastomized channel restoration with landowner. Final project meeting on 12th October with landowners.</p> <p>Carradale – would like to move from the scoping report to implement some pilot sites for restoration.</p> <p>Action point 12 – AAG coordinator to get more involved again with Creran and Carradale projects in order to facilitate appropriate links and a move to implementation of restoration measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry Commission Scotland - Elaine Jamieson <p>Doing rhododendron removal through SEPA INNS group. Looking to concentrate on two to three sites through Argyll using land ownership, risk, funding etc to see what projects could be successful. Also looking at work in Glen Creran.</p> <p>EJ had a specific query about road culverts in general and in the</p>	<p>AAG coordinator JB- ongoing</p> <p>AAG coordinator JB – Creran involvement ongoing.</p>
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	<p>Carraig Ghael/WLATHR in particular. Barbara Gritten, SEPA, has been involved and it was confirmed that the culverts should be fixed once the road profiling complete.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Natural Heritage – Corrina Mertens <p>SNH also involved in the Glen Creran project and would like to link this to similar work in Strontian. See action point 12 above.</p> <p>Crayfish eradication in Ballahulish quarry seems to have been a success although it will be five years before the results are conclusively known. Hundreds of crayfish were eradicated and fortunately do not appear to have moved to the smaller neighbouring ponds.</p>	
5	<p>Subgroup update</p> <p>JM gave updates on the two AAG subgroups -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North diffuse pollution subgroup This joint group covering Argyll and Lochaber, North and West Highland AAGs, met in March (minutes previously circulated). Next step is a meeting in October 2012 to discuss potential sites for demonstration farms to be used to raise awareness of diffuse pollution, GBRs etc in Loch Etive and Kintyre (candidate priority catchments for the next RBMP cycle). These events would be held in summer 2013. Action point 13 – AAG coordinator to involve CM and EJ in diffuse pollution subgroup discussions and to keep AAG members updated on progress. • Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) subgroup Action point 14 – AAG coordinator to follow up actions from INNS subgroup meeting in February 2012 	<p>AAG coordinator Ongoing</p> <p>AAG coordinator JB –DONE</p>
6	<p>Small waterbodies and shellfish waters update</p> <p>Following the presentation given at the meeting in May, JM presented further detail on the approach to address improvements on small waterbodies and how it could be applied in Argyll and Lochaber.</p> <p>The group was asked to consider whether this approach could be used in this area and specifically –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choice of ranking criteria Adapt those used in Orkney? • Preparation of list of candidate small WBs Who can help? 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identification of threats need more information• Prioritisation can only be done when all information collated <p>It was suggested that designated sites are included as a ranking criteria for small burns as well as lochs (which was not done in Orkney). It was also suggested to look at the productivity of small coastal burns for sea trout as they could be locally important and criteria could include length of accessible river/capacity for sea trout. Burns under threat from abstractions was also suggested as a criteria.</p> <p>Broadly the group were unconvinced whether this approach was appropriate for the AAG. Some felt it was being too ambitious when there were already many pressures to be addressed. There was also a view that as small scale hydro schemes are being approved on small burns instead of more vulnerable baseline burns how would this work be done and recorded.</p> <p>In order to allow the group to consider further, the following actions were agreed –</p> <p>Action point 15 – AAG coordinator to circulate small water bodies presentation and data and AAG to consider the detail.</p> <p>Action point 16 – AAG coordinator to feed back how the small waterbodies workshop goes with West Highland AAG on 12th October and whether anything can be learned from their more detailed look at the approach.</p> <p>Shellfish waters update PG gave an update on shellfish waters currently at risk of not meeting their 2015 objectives and highlighted sites which could be candidates for source tracking work.</p> <p>4 shellfish waters in Argyll currently at amber risk of not meeting their objectives for faecal coliforms by 2015 (an amber risk being 2-3 passes out of 5 for the guideline value between 2007 – 2011). Those waterbodies are shown below along with the number of passes achieved between 2007-2011.</p> <table><tr><th>Designation name</th><th>No Years Compliant 07-11 (Guideline value)</th></tr><tr><td>Seil: Ardencaple</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Lismore</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Loch Moidart, South Channel</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Loup (West Loch Tarbert)</td><td>3</td></tr></table>	Designation name	No Years Compliant 07-11 (Guideline value)	Seil: Ardencaple	2	Lismore	3	Loch Moidart, South Channel	2	Loup (West Loch Tarbert)	3	<p>AAG coordinator JB- DONE.</p> <p>AAG coordinator JB -DONE</p> <p>AAG coordinator JB- DONE</p>
Designation name	No Years Compliant 07-11 (Guideline value)										
Seil: Ardencaple	2										
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Loup (West Loch Tarbert)	3										

	Action point 17 – AAG coordinator to follow up shellfish waters work with AAG members	
6	<p>Water Environment Fund</p> <p>JM gave a presentation on the Water Environment Fund including a reminder of the types of projects eligible and a list of projects funded to date.</p> <p>It was confirmed that projects previously funded for INNS removal will continue to their completion, but no further funding for INNS projects is currently available.</p> <p>JM also drew the group's attention to the projects which have received funding for scoping, but have yet to be progressed to works. Further work on these projects – including the Creran and the Carradale are encouraged and the RBMP coordinator offered to be involved to assist as required (see action point 12 above).</p> <p>CM updated the group on the reason for the River Euchar scoping not progressing to works. This was due to the quality of the scoping report as well as to landowner issues and the fact that the land is currently for sale. The project could be resurrected if the new landowner was willing to participate.</p>	
7	<p>Current conditions and challenges for the future – update</p> <p>JM gave a presentation on the <i>Current conditions and challenges for the future</i> report which is due to be submitted to Europe by December 2013. This report will combine what was, for the first river basin planning cycle, published as two separate reports - the risk assessment and the Significant Water Management Issues (SWMI) report. It will be subject to public consultation between December 2013 and June 2014 and inform the development of the second draft RBMPs to be published in December 2014.</p> <p>The group will be more involved in the detail of this draft report at the spring 2013 AAG meeting.</p>	
11	<p>Any other business</p> <p>BB asked whether every INNS removal project goes to SEPA for authorization. Scottish Water is consulted when there may be risks to drinking waters and he wanted to understand the process for authorization. It was confirmed that not all eradication work requires a licence, but that good practice dictates that any works should be notified through SEARS.</p> <p>Action point 18 - BB to email Jim Frame with further details of INNS removal query and any concerns.</p>	BB

Action points 9th October 2012 – summary table

Action point number	Action	Lead
1	BB to send JM amendments to last minutes	BB
2	JM to correct spelling of Barbara Gritten in last minutes	JM-DONE
3	JM to send by email all May action point updates discussed and included in table above.	JM-DONE
4	CM to send AAG coordinator the Argyll Fisheries Trust survey data	CM
5	AAG coordinator to set up a meeting with CM, local SEPA Ops staff and EQ. Involve SEPA land unit too to get a template for type/format of diffuse pollution data which would be most useful	AAG coordinator JB - DONE
6	AAG coordinator to send diffuse pollution catchment walking methodology (as sent to AKW) to Drew McFarlane Slack on a CD	AAG coordinator JB -DONE
7	AAG coordinator to consider a catchment walk with AAG members with Pete Wright (SEPA Land Unit) as a site visit following the spring 2013 AAG meeting	AAG coordinator No spring meeting – open.
8	AAG coordinator to circulate an update on national Forestry Commission meeting on 25 th October 2012	AAG coordinator JB - DONE
9	AAG coordinator to put draft classification guide presentations on SEPA Argyll and Lochaber AAG website	AAG coordinator JB - DONE
10	AAG members to feedback comments on usefulness and clarity of the guidance, in particular focusing on how they could be improved to provide useful stand alone guidance.	AAG coordinator JB - DONE
11	AAG coordinator to find out how objective setting will be dealt with in second river basin management plan	AAG coordinator Open
12	AAG coordinator to get more involved again with Creran and Carradale projects in order to facilitate appropriate links and a move to implementation of restoration measures	AAG coordinator JB – Creran actions ongoing. Followed up Carradale, no WFD driver for

		restoration improvement.
13	AAG coordinator to involve CM and EJ in diffuse pollution subgroup discussions and to keep AAG members informed of progress.	AAG coordinator Ongoing
14	AAG coordinator to follow up actions from INNS subgroup meeting in February 2012	AAG coordinator JB – DONE
15	AAG coordinator to circulate small water bodies presentation and data and AAG to consider the detail.	AAG coordinator JB-DONE
16	AAG coordinator to feed back how the small waterbodies workshop goes with West Highland AAG on 12 th October and whether anything can be learned from their more detailed look at the approach.	AAG coordinator JB - DONE
17	AAG coordinator to follow up shellfish waters work with AAG members	AAG coordinator JB - DONE
18	BB to email Jim Frame with further details of INNS removal query and any concerns	BBs