



# Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Relevant Authority Group (RAG) Annual Report 2011

## 1. Introduction

The Relevant Authorities for the Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC) launched their agreed management scheme for the site in August 2008. Work since then has focused as much as possible on management scheme implementation. A full revision of the scheme is due in 2014 to allow inclusion of formal site condition reporting, due to occur in 2013. This report summarises the period Jan 2011 to December 2011.

The year 2011 saw the work of the Relevant Authorities Group (RAG) limited by: 1) the need for many members to individually input into the Pembroke Power Station consenting process (more on this in Section 3), and 2) the need to input into national documents and policy (see below). Some progress has been made however which Section 2 goes into in more detail. Progress is not as fast as the Group would like, especially given that SAC feature condition remains largely unfavourable – a sign that much work is needed to protect the European-important marine biodiversity that the site is designated for.

Lack of sufficient staff time and financial limitations have reduced the ability to achieve many actions. Uncertain times lie ahead, but one thing is for sure, in this climate of uncertainty and change it is even more important to pool resources – all the more reason for the RAG as a

partnership to share what it can and join forces to implement management actions whenever feasible.

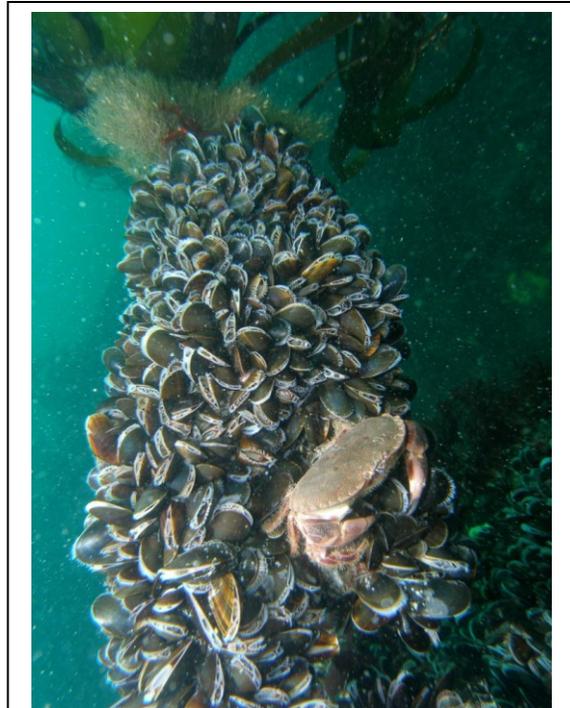
Looking after a marine SAC, with no man-made physical boundaries and open to common access, where no single authority has jurisdiction and where responsibilities both overlap and leave gaps, and with very large, highly interconnected and dynamic physiographic habitats, necessitates partnership management at an ecosystem scale and through an ecosystem approach. The RAG model has clearly been established as a key element of good practice for marine protected area management in Wales, and it is this RAG's intention to build upon that foundation and make a positive contribution to marine biodiversity conservation in Pembrokeshire for the benefit of Wales and beyond.

### **Noteworthy Legislation and Policy**

The EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive seems to have taken precedence in the last year, no doubt due to the need for Member States to provide a comprehensive assessment of the state of the environment, identifying the main pressures on their respective marine regions, and defining targets and monitoring indicators by July 2012. A draft is due in the spring.

### The Marine Conservation Zone Project Wales

The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 gave powers to better protect and manage the marine environment of Wales. These powers include creating Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) – a new type of marine protected area. The Welsh Government's MCZ Project intended to identify the first tranche of 'focus' sites in 2011 for public consultation. The timetable for this has slipped, and it is looking like this will not now occur until April 2012. These sites, through a series of further consultations, will be filtered down to



Kelp with mussels and brown crab, St Govan's Head, South Pembrokeshire  
*SeaSearch (David Kipling)*

‘proposed’ sites until at last the final ‘proposed’ sites can be put to Welsh Ministers for designation (currently timetabled for spring 2014). Welsh Government has said that they expect to designate only 3 or 4 small highly protected MCZs. Skomer Marine Nature Reserve which lies within the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC will be an MCZ as the legislation supporting the MNR status has been superseded by the M&CA Act. Whether it will be a highly protected MCZ remains to be seen; it is certainly a high contender. The MCZ Project has attracted a lot of interest (both negative and positive) in Marine Protected Areas within Wales, and rather taken the focus away from European Marine Sites as far as some stakeholders and the public have been concerned.



Dahlia anemone, Beggars Reach, Milford Haven *SeaSearch* (David Kipling)

The Marine Protected Area Management Review Wales  
With the advent of new MCZs, the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), as conservation advisors to Welsh Government, have been tasked by Welsh Government to review MPA management in Wales and to make recommendations for the continued management of the network of MPAs in Wales (to include the new MCZs). In 2011, CCW developed a review document and recommendations aided by input from RAG partnerships; the SAC Officer in particular, along with other European Marine Site Officers in Wales, fed detailed comment into this review. This advice will be formally delivered to Welsh Government by CCW, after which it will be up to Welsh Government to take action as they see fit. There are implications for future SAC management if the recommendations from the review are taken forward.

The Natural Environment Framework ‘A Living Wales’ Following the ‘A Living Wales’ consultation, and the preparation of a detailed business case, the Environment and Sustainable Development Minister for Welsh Government announced his intention to simplify arrangements for managing the environment in Wales. The creation of a new single body will bring together the functions of the Countryside Council for Wales, the Environment Agency Wales, and the Forestry Commission Wales. It is also the intention of Welsh Government to reinforce these institutional changes by bringing forward legislation on sustainable development, environment and planning to modernise the current legal framework. Consultation on the proposals will be taking place in 2012, with the single body on the cards for 2013. Having two of the key members of the RAG merging will have an impact on the partnership that has yet to be realised.

## 2. SAC Management Scheme Action Progress (Regulation 36 work)

Table 1 presents the main achievements from each relevant authority, and the relevant authorities collectively (the RAG), for 2011. It should be noted that Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water are not included in this table as their SAC management actions, which are relevant to water quality and water abstraction, are covered within their day-to-day regulated operations.

**Table 1: Main Relevant Authority Group Achievements 2011**

PMSAC Management Action		Authority	Action(s) achieved
<b>Ports, harbours &amp; shipping</b>			
<b>PHS 6.0</b>	<i>Develop, implement and maintain under review an integrated dredging strategy to minimise requirement for and effect of dredging and identify most appropriate best practice and also address dredge spoil disposal.</i>	<b>MHPA</b>	Dredging strategy development progressed. Second edition of Maintenance Dredging Strategy Document issued accompanied by an Appropriate Assessment and Water Framework Directive compliance document submitted as part of a 5-year dredging disposal licence application. The 5-year licence was issued by Welsh Government Marine Consents Unit in September 2011.
<b>PHS 8.2</b>	<i>Continue to undertake regular hydrographic surveys in order to identify areas within the Haven where dredging is essential and where it can be reduced (or not undertaken at all)</i>	<b>MHPA</b>	Pre and post dredging surveys and the annual multibeam survey were conducted in 2011 and will be repeated on an annual basis as part of the Dredging Strategy – particularly to assess accretion rates within berth pockets etc.
<b>Living resources (including fisheries)</b>			
<b>Water quality, pollution &amp; waste disposal</b>			
<b>WQW 1.1</b>	<i>Keep under review existing routine chemical and biological monitoring to meet EU Directives</i>	<b>EAW</b>	Ongoing programme of investigations to fulfil water framework directive obligations which also deliver actions for the SAC.
<b>WQW 3</b>	<i>Ensure that existing management is sufficient to safeguard SAC features from any unfavourable effects of pollutant discharges from urban and industrial discharge &amp; run-off</i>	<b>EAW</b>	Working with DCWW and RWE npower, phosphate stripping was introduced to Pembroke Dock sewage treatment works.
<b>WQW 3.1</b>	<i>Continue to review all permissions, including discharge and abstraction licences, under the requirements of the Habitats Directive (the Review of Consents programme)</i>	<b>PCC</b>	Review of Consents work completed, in that all have been reviewed and none progressed to the stage whereby further assessment needed.
<b>WQW 6.3</b>	<i>Manage maritime pollution (operational and accidental spills) to safeguard SAC features. Promote and enforce existing pollution regulations, byelaws and agreements.</i>	<b>MHPA</b>	All oil pollutions investigated. Annual number of spills continues to reduce. 13 spills (6 in Milford Docks) in 2010 totalling 168 litres; 11 spills (7 in Milford Docks) in 2011 totalling 121 litres.

<b>PMSAC Management Action</b>		<b>Authority</b>	<b>Action(s) achieved</b>
<b>WQW 8</b>	<i>Manage pollution response to safeguard SAC features</i>	<b>PCC</b>	PCC led on the multi-agency Exercise Celtic Coast which tested various plans, and concluded with an action plan that will be taken forward by the Local Resilience Forum
		<b>MHPA</b>	Multi agency Exercise Celtic Coast involving the emergency services and several local authorities was completed in October 2011.
		<b>EAW</b>	EA contributed to the PCC-led marine national contingency plan exercise Celtic Coast and are working with PCC and the Local Resilience Forum in taking forward actions arising from the exercise (lessons learnt etc.).
		<b>PCNPA</b>	Participated in Exercise Celtic Coast and provided environmental advice via the West Wales Environment Group and the shoreline reponse centre. Ongoing contribution to WWEG and contingency work.
		<b>CCW</b>	Exercise Celtic Coast - more the a dozen CCW staff involved in this exercise, which tested the local WWEPHG contingency plan (amongst others). A very useful exercise from which we have taken away a number of lessons that are now being addressed through revisions of the plan. SCAT (Shoreline Clean-up Assessment Technique) training was also attended by a number of CCW staff. A refresh/revision of the National Contingency Plan is due this coming year.
<b>WQW 12.3</b>	<i>Continue to sensitively and manually clean amenity beaches of litter during the tourist season</i>	<b>PCC</b>	Council beach cleaning continues to be all hand gathered – no mechanical – and only non organic litter.
<b>Recreation</b>			
<b>Rec 2.2</b>	<i>Ensure promotion of the local area for tourism recreation takes account of potential impacts on the SAC</i>	<b>PCNPA</b>	Official launch of the Enjoy Pembrokeshire website has raised the profile of the importance for sustainable recreation within the National Park/SAC. In addition, a new Sustainable Recreation Plan, produced by PCF for PCNPA in 2011, seeks to ensure that recreational activities do not negatively impact SAC features within the Park.

<b>PMSAC Management Action</b>		<b>Authority</b>	<b>Action(s) achieved</b>
<b>Rec 7</b>	<i>Develop and introduce new management measures, as required, to safeguard the SAC features from any unfavourable effects of organised group foreshore use</i>	<b>PCNPA</b>	Involvement in and support for PCF-run Wales Activity Mapping website. In addition to ongoing seasonal restrictions/agreements with the Outdoor Charter Group (e.g. to protect seals), a pro-active approach has been taken to coasteering provision with the introduction of a new interactive layer on the Wales Activity Mapping website to sensitively manage growing coasteering interest.
<b>Rec 9</b>	<i>Manage diving/snorkelling (recreation and recreation providers) to safeguard SAC features.</i>	<b>PCNPA</b>	Support for PCF marine code led diving event which brought together divers (individuals, clubs and providers) who use the SAC. The well-attended event raised awareness of the SAC and its management needs, discussed the diving code of conduct, gathered information on diver-observed issues, and paved the way for improved engagement with this sector.
<b>Rec 10+11</b>	<i>Maintain and implement the Milford Haven Waterway Recreation Plan and withdraw mooring rights from persistent offenders</i>	<b>MHPA</b>	Revised MHPA 5-year Recreation Plan was issued in November 2011, incorporating needs of SAC.
<b>Rec 10.1.2</b>	<i>Promote and implement existing byelaws and codes of conduct on the water, in particular the Pembrokeshire Marine Code.</i>	<b>CCW</b>	Together with RSPB, CCW have met with and provided information to/ fed into discussions regarding the proposal from local boat operators to develop their own marine code for implementation in the Ramsey area ('Ramsey Marine Code'). Unfortunately, their engagement with the Pembrokeshire wide Marine Code has broken down for various reasons, but local boat operators are still keen to avoid/minimise impacts of their activities on wildlife. CCW and RSPB are in continuing positive discussions with them, and wish to ensure that any code developed for this particular area does not undermine the Pembrokeshire Marine Code.
<b>Rec 14.1.1</b>	<i>Exclude all anchoring and new moorings in areas of Zostera spp. (seagrass) and Maerl spp. (chalky seaweed) beds within the Haven.</i>	<b>MHPA</b>	MHPA drew together a proposal for mooring & anchoring controls in the Waterway to protect maerl & seagrass beds, which went out to consultation in April 2011.
		<b>CCW</b>	Met with recreational users and fishermen to increase understanding of conservation issues and needs of seagrass and Maerl, and to gain support for no anchoring/mooring areas.

PMSAC Management Action		Authority	Action(s) achieved
<b>Miscellaneous</b>			
<b>Mis 1.2</b>	<i>Undertake Appropriate Assessments where there may be a 'likely significant effect' on SAC features</i>	<b>CCW</b>	The level of casework and required responses regarding "plans and projects" has dominated work, notably the provision of conservation advice for the Pembroke Power Station. In addition, we have been working with EA and RWE npower to agree a programme of monitoring of the impacts of the power station, to be in place before it is fully commissioned.
		<b>PCC</b>	Plans & Projects routinely screened for "likely significant effect" on the SAC features; standard agreed pro-forma utilised.
<b>Mis 2.0</b>	Ensure that any maintenance procedures (of civil engineered structures) take into account and minimise any unfavourable effects on SAC features	<b>PCC</b>	PCC process of consultation on Coastal Defence Infrastructure and Shoreline Management Plans as part of a national review to update shoreline management.
<b>Mis 2.1</b>	<i>Use environmentally sensitive alternatives to harmful chemical agents when cleaning shoreline surfaces (steps, slipways etc.), such as pressure washing with sea water (where this method is effective enough to ensure public safety). Where cleaning agents are necessary, consider only using non-chlorinated products without phosphate. Consider, where appropriate, introducing new surfaces which require less cleaning</i>	<b>PCC</b>	Slipways and relevant surfaces are now cleaned using pressure hose and Mould Remover supplied by the Natural Solution Cleaning Company. The Health and Safety Data Sheet states it is not classed as hazardous in accordance with the Chemical Regulations 1994.
<b>Resources</b>			
<b>Res 2</b>	<i>Secure the resources necessary to implement the SAC management scheme</i>	<b>RAG</b>	Even through times of extreme financial insecurity in the public sector, funding has been secured to maintain the SAC officer post and contribute to the RAG's ongoing work programme.
<b>Raising awareness</b>			
<b>AR 2+3</b>	<i>Raise level of awareness of fishermen and the fishing industry regarding the impact they might cause to the SAC features and what actions they can take to reduce impacts.</i>	<b>RAG</b>	Continued attempts at engaging with fisheries have led to a (shared) seat on the Welsh Government led South Inshore Fisheries Group, and improved individual liaison with local fishermen. In the absence of meaningful engagement with WG fisheries in SAC management, this liaison is vital.
<b>AR 16</b>	<i>Raise level of awareness of general stakeholders and the public to enable understanding of the SAC and its management scheme</i>	<b>RAG</b>	Provision of SAC talks on request, partner provider for 4 events, responding to general information requests, maintaining SAC website.

<b>PMSAC Management Action</b>		<b>Authority</b>	<b>Action(s) achieved</b>
<b>AR 17+18</b>	<i>Effective/comprehensive relevant and competent authority awareness and understanding of the SAC and its management scheme.</i>	<b>EAW</b>	Contributed to a review of the community planning process.
		<b>CCW</b>	Shellfish Health Classification issues have arisen again this year, with a number of applications being received for consultation. CCW has met with the local agents for this classification (Pembrokeshire County Council), and has recently approached Food Standards Agency, the body with overall responsibility for this classification, to try and open discussions as to how impacts on the SAC features of the classification, and the processes that are required to maintain it in place, can be minimised/ reduced.
		<b>RAG</b>	Input into a national review of Marine Protected Area management, analysed the role of the RAG, and gave recommendations for the future management of the network of MPAs in Wales (including EMSs and new Marine Conservation Zones yet to be designated).
		<b>RAG</b>	Ensured that the work of the RAG is acknowledged, furthered through liaison with other sites, and support for it gained at a national level through working with the Welsh Group of European Marine Sites (GEMS) and Wales Environment Link.
<b>Information and data collection</b>			
<b>ID 14.2</b>	<i>Improve understanding of the interaction between diffuse pollution and the SAC features</i>	<b>EAW</b>	Monitoring work was carried out as part of a 2 year plan to research algal mat growth in the Haven, and to further look into its causes.
<b>ID 22</b>	<i>Secure effective relevant data acquisition and usage sufficient to best inform SAC management</i>	<b>RAG</b>	Proposed and then designed a Plans and Projects data inventory in order to assist both competent authorities and developers with Habitats Regulations Assessments.
<b>ID 2.1.8 +</b>	<i>Research historical contamination within the Haven by analysis of sediments</i>	<b>MHPA</b>	Milford Haven Waterway Environmental Surveillance Group (MHWESG) work, chaired by MHPA. Recent sediment investigations include transport and contamination review, sediment hydrocarbon forensics, and bioaccumulation studies.
<b>Monitoring, review and reporting</b>			
<b>MRR 2</b>	<i>Effective/comprehensive knowledge of the condition of the SAC features.</i>	<b>CCW</b>	Sublittoral and littoral monitoring programme for 2011 fully completed, including all dive sites. Intertidal baseline information is showing a lot of natural variation on the open coast, and not so much within the Haven. In addition, saline lagoon sediment infaunal samples were taken from Carew Mill pond and West field Pill this year, analysis to follow next financial year.

### **3. Routine Assessments (Regulation 61 work)**

Authorities routinely deal with what are termed “plans and projects” (something that requires some sort of specific statutory consent, authorisation, licence or permission). When such “plans and projects” occur within or have the potential to affect the SAC, they need to undergo a Habitats Regulation Assessment. This is a formal step-wise process that should ensure that any effects to the SAC are considered, and that plans and projects only get the go ahead if they will not have an adverse effect on site integrity, and will not result in deterioration of SAC habitats or significant disturbance of SAC species. Under certain specified conditions, plans and projects with adverse effects on site integrity can go ahead provided that those effects are compensated through other measures.

Plans and projects have perhaps the biggest collective impact on the SAC’s features. It is for this reason that the RAG, within the partnership, routinely exchanges information on current plans and projects, and seeks ways to locally improve the consenting process and ultimately to minimise any effects on the SAC. Plans and projects are not addressed in detail within the site management scheme because they are dealt with individually by RAG members through Habitats Regulation Assessments. The response to plans and projects is necessarily reactive, whereas conversely the SAC management scheme is proactive, looking at what improvements need to be made to current management, and identifying the information needed to better inform future management.

Dealing with plans and projects, such as large developments with multiple consents associated with them, can be time-consuming both for the consenting authority and for the nature conservation advisors, the Countryside Council for Wales. The ‘project’ that dominated in 2011 was the Pembroke Power Station. The need to respond to the consents, and associated paperwork, required for the Power Station meant that unfortunately RAG members had little time in 2011 to address the proactive work of the SAC management scheme. The final permit was given approval in November 2011. This marked the end of a long and controversial consenting process; permission to build the Power Station was given in early 2009.

In order to improve management of the workload that plans and projects can impose, the RAG developed a GIS-based Plans and Projects Inventory in 2011. The Inventory is an on-line user-friendly interactive resource for use primarily by marine managers and developers in carrying out Habitats Regulations Assessments. It is hoped that the data inventory will help inform future plans and projects work within the SAC by easing publicly-available data acquisition, and aiding ‘in combination’ assessments. Ultimately the objective of the Inventory is to facilitate better management of the site by achieving and maintaining its favourable conservation status. At the very least, its existence should lessen the burden of information requests on RAG members and generally untangle and clarify the complex recent history of marine consenting.

To access the Plans and Projects Inventory, users are directed to <http://www.pembrokeshiremarinesac.org.uk/english/manage/plans.htm>. The Inventory is hosted by the Wales Activity Mapping (WAM) website managed by the Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum. The quickest way to get to grips with the project is to watch the demo video at <http://www.walesactivitymapping.org.uk/help-videos/>. It should be noted that the Inventory has yet to be populated, and for this reason the individual layers are not currently ‘live’. One of the priorities for the RAG for 2011 is to input the required data into the system. This is a not-inconsiderable task, but once completed, the system should be a valuable one.

#### 4. Site Feature Condition

The last formal assessments of the condition of the SAC features were conducted in 2006 to inform European reporting on the overall state of Natura 2000 features across all member states. The next reporting round to Europe on the condition of SACs is in 2013. Formal assessments are carried out by CCW and then fed up to the UK's Joint Nature Conservation Committee for submission to Europe. CCW's 2006 assessment, being the first since site designation, was based on just one round of feature monitoring within the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC. The second formal assessment will take place this year (to inform reporting to Europe in 2013) and will benefit from, in some cases, annual monitoring, and so will be much better informed. Early informal interim information from CCW, pre the formal assessment which will take place later this year, suggests that the assessment results remain unchanged, except for the feature 'reefs' which have moved to *unfavourable: declining*. The table below illustrates this.

It should be noted that 'condition' relates to how the feature is now, its current condition, whereas 'status' (favourable conservation status) incorporates not just current condition, but also its future prospects into the foreseeable future.

**Table 2: Informal interim summary of feature assessment by CCW (early 2012)**

Feature name (informal)	Condition assessment	Status	Comments	Adverse Activity [unprioritised - some have (or are likely to have) a more adverse impact than others].
Allis shad	Not assessed	Not assessed	No data	
Atlantic salt meadows	Unfavourable: Declining	Unfavourable	Medium confidence based on data available.	Loss of habitat, pollution.
Estuaries	Unfavourable: Declining	Unfavourable	High confidence	Loss of habitat, pollution, disrupted physical processes and biological quality
Grey seal	Favourable: Maintained	Unfavourable	Medium confidence based on localised limited data available.	Prey depletion, disturbance concerns. Status unfavourable due to Irish Sea fish stocks.
Intertidal mudflats and sandflats	Unfavourable: Declining	Unfavourable	High confidence that the sediment particle size analysis, topography of flats and surface relief are unfavourable. Varying confidence that the species populations, sediment contaminants, spatial range of species and distribution of biotopes are unfavourable. The future management is unfavourable.	Coastal defence, cockle fishery.
Lagoons	Favourable: Maintained	Favourable	Medium confidence based on partial data available.	Nothing specifically identified.

Feature name (informal)	Condition assessment	Status	Comments	Adverse Activity [unprioritised - some have (or are likely to have) a more adverse impact than others].
Otter	<b>Favourable: Maintained</b>	<b>Favourable</b>	Low confidence due to lack of time series data, and therefore ability to establish trends in population structure. Assessment determined on baseline data which indicates widespread coastal otter activity.	Disturbance especially via recreational activity, possible interaction with inshore fisheries potting/netting, habitat modification.
Reefs	<b>Unfavourable: No-change</b>	<b>Unfavourable: declining</b>	Medium confidence in condition and high confidence in status	Fisheries/management security / potential developments including oil/gas industry, power generation and renewable energy
River lamprey	<b>Unfavourable: No-change</b>	<b>Unfavourable</b>	Results based on upstream monitoring of Afonydd Cleddau SAC	Possibly due to water resources issues
Sea caves	<b>Favourable: Maintained</b>	<b>Favourable</b>	Low confidence / lack of data	Very little known to be adverse/possible recreation and tourism pressures
Sea lamprey	<b>Unfavourable: Decline</b>	<b>Unfavourable</b>	Results based on upstream monitoring of Afonydd Cleddau SAC	Possibly due to water resources issues
Shallow inlets and bays	<b>Unfavourable: Declining</b>	<b>Unfavourable</b>	High confidence	Habitat loss/pollution/disrupted physical processes and biological quality
Shore Dock	<b>Favourable: Maintained</b>	<b>Favourable</b>	Population size stable and reproductive.	Nothing specifically identified.
Subtidal sandbanks	<b>Unfavourable: No-change</b>	<b>Unfavourable</b>	Medium confidence	Fisheries/management security
Twaite shad	<b>Not assessed</b>	<b>Not assessed</b>	Medium confidence	Lack of secure fisheries management

## 5. RAG priorities

Any review of work done is not complete without some forward planning. The RAG is continuously evaluating SAC issues, and priorities may change. Priorities are also set in recognition of feature condition assessments. Current priorities for each relevant authority and also joint RAG priorities for 2012 are summarised in Table 3. It should be noted that Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water are not included in this table as their SAC management actions, which are relevant to water quality and water abstraction, are covered within their day-to-day regulated operations.

**Table 3: Relevant Authority Group Priorities for 2012**

Authority	Action	Action plan reference	Action ref. also a priority for:
Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)	Finalise agreement with recreational users on no mooring/ anchoring zones to protect maerl & seagrass, and pursue fisheries support.	Rec 14.1.1	MHPA
	Work towards the resolution of bait digging and related fisheries management issues in the intertidal zone.	LR 10+13	PCC, PCNPA
	Feature condition reporting – CCW to report on all the SACs in Wales, with results due in to the JNCC by September, in order to allow them to report back on the whole of the UK in 2013.	MRR 2	-
	Address oyster dredging, including clarifying and resolving health classification issue, and license status.	LR 6	-
	Saltmarsh (Atlantic salt meadow) monitoring to be undertaken this year, in partnership with EA's WFD monitoring team.	MRR 2	-
Environment Agency Wales (EAW)	Seek to further encourage the development of recovery plans to deal with mitigation and clean up after incidents.	WQW 7 + 8	PCC, PCNPA, RAG
	Continue to look for opportunities to embed work on Directive compliance with RAG partners.	AR 17 + 18	PCC, RAG
	Aim to complete the recommendations made in MHWESG commissioned report (Little, 2009).	ID 2.1.8 + 13 + 14	MHPA
	Continue to look into the causes of algal mat growth within the Haven and hopefully draw some conclusions at the end of the 2 year study currently midway.	ID 13 + 14	-
	Water Framework Directive work on catchments to include Pembroke River, Spittal brook, Cartlett brook and Anghof, aimed at bringing river stretches into good ecological status.	WQW 1 + 2	-
	Llys y Fran nutrient investigation/ local liaison following blue-green algae incidents.	WQW 1 + 2	-

Authority	Action	Action plan reference	Action ref. also a priority for:
Milford Haven Port Authority (MHPA)	Implement dredge strategy. 2012 will be year 1 of the 5-year maintenance dredging strategy. Upon confirmation of the 2012 maintenance dredging requirements for the terminal and port marine operations, the volumes for maintenance dredging will be calculated and dredging campaign conducted during the later Summer, in line with the 5- year strategy and 5-year disposal licence conditions. Pre and post-dredging bathymetric surveys will be conducted in order that estimates of sediment deposition rates can be further refined as a predictive tool to anticipate future maintenance dredging requirements throughout the port.	PHS 6.0	-
	Finalise agreement with recreational users on no mooring/ anchoring zones to protect maerl & seagrass.	Rec 14.1.1	CCW
	Monitor and encourage the forward MHWESG work programme, and provide feedback on where work can provide added value to the SAC management scheme.	ID 2 + 3 + 13 + 14	EAW
	Ensure continued appropriate representation on the RAG, and smooth transition as appropriate, following MHPA corporate restructuring.	AR 17.1 + R 4.2	EAW, RAG
Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC)	Bait digging – partnership working to halt damage.	LR 10+13	CCW, PCNPA
	Relevant data (EIA/AA etc.) from plans & projects to be provided for inclusion in the RAG Plans and Projects Inventory.	ID 6.10.22 (also Mis 1.3)	RAG
	Formalise shoreline / pollution response plans and involvement, and provide EROCIPS type data for input to an appropriate database, following up ARCOPOL work.	WQW 7 + 8	EAW, PCNPA, RAG
	Build greater awareness of SAC issues throughout the Council, making better use of SAC Officer where possible.	AR 17 + 18	EAW, RAG
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA)	Contribute to resolution of bait digging and related fisheries management issues in the intertidal zone through partnership working.	LR 10+13	CCW, PCC
	Continue to support the work of the marine code and outdoor charter groups.	Rec 8 + 12 (+others)	-
	Continue advocacy role for the SAC's conservation objectives, both in policy consultations (e.g. Living Wales programme and MCZ Project), and in general promotion of the park.	AR 16	RAG
	Continue to advocate for, and contribute to the development, review and exercising of, all marine pollution contingency plans that are relevant to the SAC.	WQW 7 + 8	EAW, PCC, RAG

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Action plan reference</b>	<b>Action ref. also a priority for:</b>
Relevant Authorities Group (RAG)	Continue to raise general awareness of the SAC and its needs, particularly through use of the SAC website.	AR 16	PCNPA
	Populate & share Plans & Projects Inventory database to aid SAC management.	ID 6.10.22 (+ Mis 1.3)	PCC
	Pursue SEACAMS supported research to fulfil information requirements of the SAC	ID 9.2.8 + 3.2.4...)	-
	Encourage progress with marine contingency plans in order to safeguard the SAC.	WQW 7 + 8	EAW, PCC, PCNPA
	Encourage more active WG involvement in SAC management.	AR 17 + 18	EAW, PCC, MHPA
	Continue to secure resources to continue the work of the RAG (funding the SAC officer and committing appropriate staff time).	Res 2	-
	Develop, maintain & share GIS datasets relevant to SAC management.	ID 6.10.22 (also MR 3)	-
	Develop compliance monitoring systems.	MR 6+7	-

Sue Burton, Pembrokeshire Marine SAC Officer, Spring 2012

For more information on the SAC including management documentation, see [www.PembrokeshireMarineSAC.org.uk](http://www.PembrokeshireMarineSAC.org.uk)