



The one-hundred-and-fourth meeting of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee to be held at 0915 hours on 8 September 2015, Natural Resources Wales, Ty Cambria, Cambria House, 29 Newport Road, Cardiff, CF24 0TP

This paper is provided to the Joint Committee for decision/discussion or information. Please refer to the minutes of the meeting for Committee's position on the paper.

To view other Joint Committee papers and minutes visit <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-2671>

To find out more about JNCC visit <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1729>

## Joint Nature Conservation Committee

### Performance report for quarter 1 2015/16

Paper by Sarah Harrison, Tracey Quince and Marcus Yeo

#### 1. Priority performance measures

- 1.1. JNCC's business plan for 2015/16 contains 14 priority performance measures (PPMs). A detailed summary of performance against PPMs is shown at Annex 1a.
- 1.2. In quarter 1:
  - i. there are eight PPMs making good progress and delivery is where it is expected to be (Green), seven of these are forecasting green to the end of the year);
  - ii. six PPMs have some issues affecting delivery but these are being managed (Amber), two of these are forecasting to continue experiencing problems to the end of the year;
  - iii. there are no PPMs reporting major issues affecting delivery (Red) at the present time.
- 1.3. Notable achievements during quarter 1 include:
  - i. provision of advice to ministers on proposed SACs for harbour porpoise in UK waters;
  - ii. publication of the latest annual results of the National Bat Monitoring Programme, providing data on the distribution and abundance of bats in the UK;
  - iii. completion of an integrated seabed habitat monitoring survey within marine protected areas west of Cornwall (on Cefas RV Endeavour).
- 1.4. For three PPMs the outlook for the remainder of the year is reported as amber:
  - i. PPM 4.1 (identification of marine protected areas). Much of the work within this PPM is progressing well (e.g. advice on Marine Conservation Zones). However, some aspects of work on proposed harbour porpoise SACs will be delayed for reasons outside JNCC's control, and there will also be a short delay in submission of advice to government on one proposed offshore SPA;
  - ii. PPM 5.1 (offshore industry advice). A high level of staff vacancies will put pressure on the delivery of this PPM for the remainder of the year. Action is being taken to ensure that input to the highest priority work (including statutory casework) is maintained;
  - iii. PPM 1.3 (Marine biodiversity and monitoring). At the end of quarter 1 all milestones were on track. However, progress continues to be

challenged by staff vacancies and recruitment problems, which are predicted to persist throughout the year. Actions are in hand to minimise disruption and fill vacancies, for example through secondment of a Cefas staff member.

- 1.5. Four PPMs are reported as Amber in quarter 1 but Green for the remainder of the year. Minor slippage against milestones has occurred, but it is anticipated that work will be brought back on track by the end of the year.
- 1.6. Annex 1b contains a request for a change to a milestone in PPM 3.2 (international advice) due to a change in date for the CITES Animals Committee meeting.

## **2. Financial reporting**

- 2.1. A table showing spend to date including commitments and forecast against budget by programme is given at Annex 2a. A forecast of JNCC's overall financial position is provided at Annex 2b.
- 2.2. The £200k SCANS III funds which are being held by Defra have been included in the budget tables for this report and in the forecasts provided.
- 2.3. The £500k held by Defra for work under the Cefas Partnership Agreement has not been included in the tables for this report, and the GIA receivable has been reduced to £10,211k accordingly.
- 2.4. To achieve its spending targets for 2015/16, Defra requires JNCC to underspend against Marine and Reserved GIA by 2% (£80k in total).
- 2.5. The forecast spend at the end of quarter 1 indicates that there will be a total underspend of £86k against grant in aid (GIA). There are projected underspends of £78k for Reserved GIA, £4k for Defra Marine GIA and £53k for Governance and Corporate Services GIA. There is a projected overspend of £49k for UK Coordination GIA. These figures do not take account of the following:
  - i. £150k (£75k programme, £75k salaries) has not yet been allocated to budgets and is not included in the forecast spend. Spending these funds would reduce the underspend. Decisions will be made during quarter 2 about use of the unallocated funds to achieve PPMs;
  - ii. £66k income for salaries is included in the forecast spend but has not yet been allocated to posts. This will increase the underspend against GIA.
- 2.6. The main risks around programme spend are in the Marine Evidence and Marine Monitoring programmes due to some uncertainties around final costs for offshore survey, associated sample analysis and reporting costs. These uncertainties should become clearer during quarter 2 and be resolved in quarter 3 but there is some risk around spending to budget in these areas.

## **3. Risk reporting**

- 3.1. The significant risks register for 2015/16 is contained in Annex 3. In June, the Joint Committee asked that the risks be ordered with the highest risk first.

This has been actioned but risk numbers have been retained as these are referred to in ARAC minutes and in other documents.

**4. HR reporting**

4.1. A table showing HR statistics for quarter 1 is contained in Annex 4.

**5. Other reporting**

5.1. Reports on other matters are included in Annex 5.

5.2. Annex 5 includes an annual report on health and safety. The report discharges an audit recommendation that management provide the Joint Committee with an annual report on health and safety.

## Annex 1a - Summary of PPM delivery and risks

Key to RAG assessments

RAG assessment	PPMs
<b>RED</b>	Critical issues have materialised that could affect delivery and intervention is necessary
<b>AMBER</b>	Some issues that could affect delivery but they are being managed.
<b>GREEN</b>	Good progress- delivery is where we expect it to be.

PPM description	Milestones by quarter	Cumulative summary of progress against milestones	PPM RAG status for current quarter	PPM outlook for remainder of the year
<b>Theme 1 Biodiversity evidence</b>				
<b>1.1</b> Provide updated information on status and trends of terrestrial biodiversity across the UK.	a) Publish UK and site-related trends for wintering wetland birds and make available through a flexible on-line system (Q4). b) Publish UK and country trends for breeding terrestrial bird species and determine how to improve the range of habitats and species covered (Q2). c) Publish UK and country trends for breeding seabird species (Q2). d) Publish UK and country trends for bat species by applying improved analytical techniques and provide interpretation of the trends reported (Q1). e) Publish UK and country trends for butterflies (Q4). f) Produce by November 2015 an indicator for priority species for the UK Biodiversity Indicators suite by applying innovative analytical approaches to general biological recording data developed with CEH through the Biological Records Centre (Q3). g) Partner Centre for Ecology and Hydrology in the Biological Records Centre to pilot integration of biological recording with research outputs to develop crop or area specific pollinator indicators (Q3). h) Evaluate uptake and volunteer feedback from the first field season of the National Plant Monitoring Scheme, and review analytical uses and development of potential indicators (Q3). i) Identify critical terrestrial surveillance and	a) Milestone due in Q4. b) Milestone due in Q2. c) Milestone due in Q2. d) Milestone completed in Q1. e) Milestone due in Q4. f) On track for completion in Q3. g) Milestone due in Q3. h) Milestone due in Q3. i) Milestone not yet completed. Work is ongoing in Q2.	<b>AMBER</b>	<b>GREEN</b>

PPM description	Milestones by quarter	Cumulative summary of progress against milestones	PPM RAG status for current quarter	PPM outlook for remainder of the year
	monitoring evidence, the most cost-effective means for delivery, and how this relates to statutory drivers and current solutions (Q1).			
<p><b>1.2</b> Collate and provide access to biodiversity data and products derived from them.</p>	<p>a) Agree with each country how to deploy habitat mapping methods to meet country evidence priorities (Q2).</p> <p>b) Contribute to the Defra network Earth Observation Centre of Excellence, and develop its function as a shared service to support the processing of remote-sensed data for the assessment of habitats and their condition (Q4).</p> <p>c) Support the National Biodiversity Network as the preferred solution for managing species data and making them available for use within the country conservation bodies (ongoing).</p> <p>d) Operationalise earlier pilots towards a more efficient geographic data strategy within JNCC and explore how this can be integrated with existing country strategies (Q4).</p>	<p>a) Milestone due in Q2.</p> <p>b) Milestone due in Q4. In Q1, JNCC has worked with Defra to define work packages within the Earth Observation Data Integration Pilot, which will be the main deliverable of the Centre of Excellence.</p> <p>c) In Q1 JNCC agreed a mechanism for how the NBN Gateway will be maintained. Work with the NBN Trust and Scotland around the development of a new system is underway. A responsive service around the existing NBN Gateway has been maintained.</p> <p>d) Milestone due in Q4. In Q1, JNCC created prototypes of new geographic data infrastructure and developed experience around its population.</p>	<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
<p><b>1.3</b> Collect data on marine biodiversity, and undertake research and development to improve the quality and efficiency of marine monitoring.</p>	<p>a) Conduct three integrated monitoring surveys of offshore marine protected areas focussing on seabed habitats and produce cruise reports (Q4).</p> <p>b) Continue coordinating collection of seabird colony monitoring data for 2015 and lead the Seabird Monitoring Programme partnership in starting the next seabird census of Britain and Ireland (Q4).</p> <p>c) With partners, develop funded proposals for 2016 surveys of small cetaceans in European Atlantic waters (SCANS III) (Q2).</p> <p>d) Develop the Marine Monitoring Tools Portal online resource, including publication of high priority monitoring protocol updates (e.g. National Marine Biological Analytical Quality Control epibiota guidelines) (Q4).</p> <p>e) Update plan for operational monitoring surveys of offshore marine protected areas, including estimation of costs, taking account of monitoring options produced through the JNCC-led R &amp; D programme (Q2).</p> <p>f) Complete reporting on 2014-15 marine protected</p>	<p>a) Milestone due in Q4. In Q1, one integrated seabed habitat monitoring survey was completed on Cefas RV Endeavour to East of Haig Fras MCZ and Haig Fras SCI/cSAC. Two further integrated monitoring surveys planned for Q3.</p> <p>b) Milestone due in Q4. In Q1, seabird colony monitoring triennial sampling made progress; seabird trend report due in August. Some fieldwork for seabird census 'soft start' has been completed and a project plan has been drafted and shared with partners with a view to sourcing additional funding.</p> <p>c) Milestone due in Q2. In Q1, a proposal for carrying out a reduced SCANS III survey using available funds has been drafted and shared with partners.</p> <p>d) Milestone due in Q4.</p> <p>e) Milestone due in Q2. In Q1, preparatory work to update the offshore MPA monitoring survey plan has begun.</p> <p>f) Milestone on target. The Fladen Ground case study report</p>	<b>GREEN</b>	<b>AMBER</b>

PPM description	Milestones by quarter	Cumulative summary of progress against milestones	PPM RAG status for current quarter	PPM outlook for remainder of the year
	<p>area case study surveys (Fladen Ground by end of Q2 and Dogger Bank by end of Q4) to in order to enable the development of seabed habitat monitoring protocols.</p> <p>g) Enhance capability in deep water survey and make further efficiency gains in vessel use by forming a new partnership with Marine Scotland Science and building relationships with British Antarctic Survey, with a view to implementing offshore surveys in 2016/17 (Q4) .</p> <p>h) Hold workshops with governments and agencies to consider options for monitoring cetaceans and seabirds/marine birds (Q3).</p> <p>i) Complete review of monitoring options for deep seabed habitats and present to Governments and UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy partners (Q2).</p> <p>j) Establish conceptual ecological models for two broadscale marine habitats (shallow sublittoral mud and sublittoral rock) (Q3).</p> <p>k) With the country conservation bodies, develop revised advice on monitoring and assessment of habitats within marine protected areas (Q2).</p> <p>l) Publish an updated version of the high level Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Strategy (Q2).</p>	<p>has been completed and peer reviewed, and awaits final editing.</p> <p>g) Milestone due in Q4.</p> <p>h) Milestone due in Q3.</p> <p>i) Milestone due in Q2. Draft options for deep sea habitats have been circulated to partners.</p> <p>j) Milestone due in Q3. The first part of the conceptual ecological models for shallow sublittoral mud and sublittoral rock has been published.</p> <p>k) Milestone due in Q2. An inter-agency senior monitoring review group has been established under Chief Scientists Group. This is reviewing and agreeing the report and recommendations considering monitoring in MPAs from 1994-2013.</p> <p>l) Milestone due in Q2.</p>		
<p><b>1.4</b> Publish marine evidence products, including standards, and undertake strategic work to support continued efficient delivery of these products.</p>	<p>a) Publish updated benthic habitat maps, including EUSeaMap (Q3), and contribute to the development of UK standards for marine habitat mapping (Q4).</p> <p>b) Publish abrasion and extraction pressure datasets and their associated standards (Q3), and develop efficient routines for creating new pressure layers (Q4).</p> <p>c) Launch a fully functional and tested noise register for the UK populated with historical data (Q4).</p> <p>d) Process offshore survey data and deliver to relevant Data Archive Centres, and develop proposals for establishing Data Archive Centres for other derived data products (e.g. habitat maps and pressure datasets) (Q4).</p>	<p>a) Milestone due in Q4.</p> <p>b) Milestone due in Q4.</p> <p>c) Milestone due in Q4.</p> <p>d) Milestone due in Q4. In Q1 staff started to explore options for establishing Data Archive Centres for derived data products, including the update of internal metadata and data holdings.</p>	<p><b>GREEN</b></p>	<p><b>GREEN</b></p>

PPM description	Milestones by quarter	Cumulative summary of progress against milestones	PPM RAG status for current quarter	PPM outlook for remainder of the year
	<p>e) Specify for implementation in 2016/17, a cross agency/JNCC project to identify improvements in the supply and use of marine data (Q3).</p> <p>f) Produce a report identifying evidence needs for strategic conservation advice on seabirds at different scales and across different steps of the environmental management cycle (Q4).</p>	<p>e) Milestone due in Q3.</p> <p>f) Milestone due in Q4.</p>		
<p><b>1.5</b> Work with partners to identify strategic UK evidence priorities.</p>	<p>a) Contribute to the development of Defra's Network Evidence Action Plans, maintaining good links with the devolved administrations to identify UK priorities and ensure these are adequately represented (Q2).</p>	<p>a) Milestone due in Q2.</p>	<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
<b>Theme 2 Shared UK approaches to nature conservation</b>				
<p><b>2.1</b> Work with the country conservation bodies to develop and apply UK-wide principles, standards and approaches for nature conservation.</p>	<p>a) Publish annual update of UK biodiversity indicators (Q3).</p> <p>b) Publish revised chapters of the guidelines for the selection of biological Sites of Special Scientific Interest (including chapters for birds, lowland heathland, freshwater habitats and freshwater fish) (Q4).</p> <p>c) Submit recommendations to government for revisions of Schedule 9 (non-native species) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (Q3).</p> <p>d) Following external peer review, publish a decision framework for using national and site-based evidence to account for, and attribute, atmospheric nitrogen deposition as a threat to or cause of unfavourable habitat condition or protected sites (Q1).</p> <p>e) Submit proposals to Government on species protection measures (follow up to the 6th Quinquennial Review of Schedule 5 and 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act) (Q4).</p> <p>f) Complete the review of terrestrial Special Protection Areas (Q4).</p> <p>g) Working with the country nature conservation bodies, provide advice on the interpretation and development of Common Standards Monitoring for protected areas in light of emerging new approaches and strategies for the natural environment in different parts of the UK (Q3).</p> <p>h) Develop and pilot approaches to the valuation</p>	<p>a) Milestone due in Q3.</p> <p>b) Milestone due in Q4.</p> <p>c) Milestone due in Q3.</p> <p>d) Milestone not yet completed. Contract report delivered in May 2015. Paper will go to Chief Scientists Group for approval in August 2015. Analytical phase now proposed for Q3.</p> <p>e) Milestone due in Q4.</p> <p>f) Milestone due in Q4.</p> <p>g) Milestone due in Q3.</p> <p>h) Milestone due in Q4.</p>	<b>AMBER</b>	<b>GREEN</b>



PPM description	Milestones by quarter	Cumulative summary of progress against milestones	PPM RAG status for current quarter	PPM outlook for remainder of the year
	<p>and assessment of natural capital and ecosystem services, including standards, tools, advice and models for the use of species data and habitat mapping at a variety of scales (Q4).</p> <p>i) Working with partners, build a knowledge hub on ecosystem resilience and explore through case studies the applicability of key concepts in risk and ecosystem resilience to past pest and disease outbreaks (Q4).</p>	<p>i) Milestone due in Q4.</p>		
<p><b>2.2</b> Provide technical expertise on marine ecosystem assessments.</p>	<p>a) Agree with Defra and other government partners a plan for coordinating and delivering the biodiversity aspects of the UK's Article 8, 9 and 10 report under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (due in 2018) (Q3).</p> <p>b) Undertake research to develop benthic habitat indicators for OSPAR and UK waters (Q4).</p> <p>c) Submit specifications and assessment sheets for common biodiversity indicators being used for OSPAR's 2017 Intermediate Assessment to the 2016 Biological Diversity Committee (Q3).</p> <p>d) Agree a plan with the country nature conservation bodies for delivering marine assessments under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, OSPAR, Nature Directives and the Marine Acts between 2016 and 2019 (Q4).</p> <p>e) Publish outputs from phase 1 and 2 of the offshore marine protected area assessment pilot (Q4).</p> <p>f) Lead delivery of the marine components of the European Topic Centre on Inland, Coastal and Marine waters Action Plan for 2015 and development of the 2016 Action Plan (Q4).</p>	<p>a) Milestone due in Q3.</p> <p>b) Milestone due in Q4.</p> <p>c) Milestone due in Q3.</p> <p>d) Milestone due in Q4.</p> <p>e) Milestone due in Q4.</p> <p>f) Milestone due in Q4.</p>	<p><b>AMBER</b></p>	<p><b>GREEN</b></p>
<p><b>Theme 3 EU and international advice</b></p>				
<p><b>3.1</b> Provide technical expertise to support UK implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy and EU environmental legislation.</p>	<p>a) Develop a list of challenges and implications for governments and country nature conservation bodies in relation to areas of risk and opportunity under the Nature Directives (Q1).</p> <p>b) Coordinate the update of the UK Prioritised Action Framework (Q4) and lead on finalising the offshore section (Q3).</p> <p>c) Develop JNCC's role in assisting Defra, devolved administrations and country conservation bodies in coordinating UK bids for EU LIFE funding</p>	<p>a) Milestone not completed. This work has been put on hold due to lack of staff resources, and will be finalised in Q4.</p> <p>b) Milestone due in Q3 and Q4.</p> <p>c) Milestone due in Q2.</p>	<p><b>AMBER</b></p>	<p><b>GREEN</b></p>

PPM description	Milestones by quarter	Cumulative summary of progress against milestones	PPM RAG status for current quarter	PPM outlook for remainder of the year
	<p>(Q2).</p> <p>d) Coordinate delivery of the updated Natura Standard Data Forms (Q3).</p> <p>e) Advise Defra and devolved administrations on important EU biodiversity issues, including the REFIT process, Habitats and Birds Directive reporting, the mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy, and the Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystem Services initiative (ongoing).</p> <p>f) Define Favourable Conservation Status, and identify next steps in improving application of the concept, ensuring links are made with the definition of Good Environmental Status under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (Q4).</p> <p>g) As the UK National Reference Centre for biodiversity, support the UK National Focal Point to engage effectively with European Environment Agency biodiversity initiatives (Q4).</p> <p>h) Provide scientific advice to Governments on biodiversity aspects of the proposed revision of the MSFD Commission Decision (Q4).</p> <p>i) Provide scientific advice to Governments to support submission of the MSFD Programme of Measures (Article 13) to the European Commission (Q3).</p>	<p>d) Milestone due in Q3.</p> <p>e) In Q1, JNCC provided advice on the REFIT questionnaire and the consultation on the EU State of Nature report, and attended EU meetings for the UK covering implementation of and reporting on the Nature Directives.</p> <p>f) Milestone due in Q4.</p> <p>g) Milestone due in Q4.</p> <p>h) Milestone due in Q4.</p> <p>i) Milestone due in Q3.</p>		
<p><b>3.2</b> Provide technical advice on international biodiversity and ecosystems (including Overseas Territories).</p>	<p>a) Contribute to UK delegations to the 12th Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention (Q1), the 19th meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity's scientific advisory group (Q3), the 3rd Meeting of the Parties to the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement MoP6 (Q3) and the 4th plenary of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (Q4).</p> <p>b) Lead for the UK at 28th Animals Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and related working groups (Q1).</p> <p>c) Provide advice, through the Darwin Expert Committee, to the 22nd round of the Darwin</p>	<p>a) Q1 element of milestone completed.</p> <p>b) Preparation for the 28th Animals Committee meeting is underway including the submission of the European regional report and the reports of two inter-sessional working groups (captive breeding and extinct species) which JNCC has been chairing. The meeting date has changed to the end of Q2 so a request for this milestone to be moved has been made – see Annex 2b.</p> <p>c) Milestone due in Q4.</p>	<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>

PPM description	Milestones by quarter	Cumulative summary of progress against milestones	PPM RAG status for current quarter	PPM outlook for remainder of the year
	<p>Initiative (and Darwin Plus) (Q4).</p> <p>d) Contribute to the delivery of the 2009 UK Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy by coordinating a regional technical event to share knowledge and build capacity to deal with biosecurity issues in the South Atlantic Overseas Territories (Q2).</p> <p>e) Contribute to the delivery of the 2009 UK Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy by delivering a regional Overseas Territories training programme to build capacity in the use of biodiversity data, data management systems and economic techniques to assess, conserve and manage natural capital in a small island context (Q4).</p> <p>f) Support implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels in the South Atlantic Overseas Territories (ongoing).</p> <p>g) Contribute to the delivery of the UK position at the OSPAR Commission meeting (Q1) and the Biodiversity Committee (Q4) and its intersessional working groups on marine protected areas and biodiversity assessment and monitoring.</p>	<p>d) Milestone due in Q2.</p> <p>e) Milestone due in Q4.</p> <p>f) Support is ongoing.</p> <p>g) Q1 element of the milestone completed. JNCC-led work is progressing as expected within the intersessional working groups that are delivering the work of the Biodiversity Committee.</p>		
<b>Theme 4 Identification and provision of information on marine protected areas</b>				
<p><b>4.1</b> Provide technical advice on Marine Protected Area identification, designation and conservation objectives.</p>	<p>a) Provide formal scientific advice to Defra on a second tranche of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) by July 2015, taking into account the results of the public consultation (Q2).</p> <p>b) Subject to the outcome of milestone a, publish site information centres to support the designation of new offshore MCZs and assist public authorities (Q3).</p> <p>c) Provide formal scientific advice to Defra on a third tranche of MCZs by [date to be agreed], to support preparations for a public consultation (Q3).</p> <p>d) Subject to Scottish Government approval, lead on the public consultation of potential offshore Special Protected Areas (SPAs) and provide final advice to Scottish Government on areas suitable to classify as SPAs in offshore waters around Scotland (Q3).</p> <p>e) Provide formal scientific advice packages (site brief and draft Conservation Objectives) to Defra to</p>	<p>a) Milestone due in Q2.</p> <p>b) Milestone due in Q3.</p> <p>c) Milestone due in Q3.</p> <p>d) Milestone due in Q3.</p> <p>e) Milestone partially completed. Working jointly with NRW JNCC's formal advice on Skomer, Skokholm and the Seas off</p>	<b>AMBER</b>	<b>AMBER</b>

PPM description	Milestones by quarter	Cumulative summary of progress against milestones	PPM RAG status for current quarter	PPM outlook for remainder of the year
	<p>seek approval to consult on potential SPAs in UK offshore waters around Wales, England and Northern Ireland (Q1).</p> <p>f) Subject to Government approval, lead on the consultation of potential offshore SPAs and provide final advice to Defra on areas suitable to classify as SPAs in UK offshore waters around Wales, England and Northern Ireland (Q3).</p> <p>g) Publish non-technical summaries of seabird and waterbird survey and analyses to support country marine SPA consultations (Q2).</p> <p>h) Complete technical support for country marine SPA consultation processes that reach their post-consultation report and final advice to government stages (Q4).</p> <p>i) Deliver to Defra and devolved administrations an assessment of the sufficiency of the UK marine SPA suite (Q3).</p> <p>j) Prepare draft site boundaries, site descriptions, conservation objectives and impact assessment to support Governments in the consultation for designation of, and submission to the European Commission of SACs for harbour porpoises (Q3).</p> <p>k) Provide a UK conservation strategy and implementation plan for harbour porpoise (Q3).</p>	<p>Pembrokeshire dSPA was submitted to Defra on time. In parallel an advice package has been developed for the Irish Sea Front pSPA but it was identified in Q1, in discussion with the Committee MPA Sub-Group, that this proposal needs further work. As a consequence the Irish Sea Front advice to Defra will be delayed to Q2 and JNCC may need to run an independent consultation in Q3. This work is additional to the work plan agreed at the start of the year.</p> <p>f) Milestone due in Q3.</p> <p>g) Milestone due in Q2.</p> <p>h) Milestone due in Q4.</p> <p>i) Milestone due in Q3.</p> <p>i) Milestone due in Q3.</p> <p>k) Milestone due in Q3.</p>		
<p><b>4.2</b> Provide technical advice on the UK contribution to an ecologically coherent network of well-managed MPAs in the north-east Atlantic.</p>	<p>a) With Natural Resources Wales, jointly provide scientific advice to Welsh Government on progress towards a MPA network in Welsh waters by end of January 2016 (Q4).</p> <p>b) On behalf of UK administrations, report to OSPAR on UK's progress towards meeting OSPAR network obligation, including progress with managing marine protected areas (Q2).</p> <p>c) Compile and publish online a catalogue of UK MPAs and then provide a MPA stock-take report to the UK administrations (Q4).</p>	<p>a) Milestone due in Q4. In Q1, JNCC met with Welsh Government and NRW to discuss and finalise the scope of the assessment. Welsh Government have approved the plan. Welsh Government have requested the work be delivered by the end of Q3. Preparatory work is underway and the main assessment is due to be undertaken during Q3.</p> <p>b) Milestone due in Q2.</p> <p>c) Milestone due in Q4.</p>	<b>GREEN</b>	<b>GREEN</b>

PPM description	Milestones by quarter	Cumulative summary of progress against milestones	PPM RAG status for current quarter	PPM outlook for remainder of the year
<b>Theme 5 Supporting sustainable management of the marine environment</b>				
<p><b>5.1</b> Advise on oil and gas, aggregates and marine renewables casework, and provide UK coordination and science leadership.</p>	<p>a) Respond fully to 95% of requests for advice on oil and gas operations within the consultation period (ongoing).</p> <p>b) Meet all agreed deadlines for advice on aggregate licence applications and monitoring reports (ongoing).</p> <p>c) Advise Marine Scotland on the Hywind offshore wind farm (Q2).</p> <p>d) Advise on post consent monitoring work for consented Scottish wind farms within the consultation period (ongoing).</p> <p>e) Complete a JNCC/SNH review of Scottish marine renewable energy casework roles (including consultation with stakeholders) and present options/recommendations to Joint Committee (Q4).</p> <p>f) Complete a review of Natural England-JNCC post-delegation working arrangements for marine renewable energy casework (Q2).</p> <p>g) Respond to the consultation on the English South Inshore and Offshore Marine Plans (Q2).</p> <p>h) Subject to the consultation schedule, respond to the consultation on the draft Welsh National Marine Plan (Q4).</p> <p>i) In consultation with the country nature conservation bodies, develop a suite of collaborative research projects that address high priority offshore industries issues (Q1).</p> <p>j) Deliver a stakeholder workshop on impacts of displacement from offshore wind farms on seabird populations (Q1).</p> <p>k) Review the JNCC seismic, explosive and pile-driving guidelines and identify changes required to update and improve them (Q3).</p>	<p>a) Milestone completed in Q1: 99% of responses on time.</p> <p>b) Milestone completed in Q1: 100% of responses on time.</p> <p>c) Milestone due in Q2.</p> <p>d) Milestone completed in Q1.</p> <p>e) Milestone due in Q4.</p> <p>f) Milestone due in Q2.</p> <p>g) Milestone due in Q2.</p> <p>h) Milestone due in Q4.</p> <p>i) Milestone not yet completed. Proposals developed but country conservation bodies not yet consulted. To be completed in Q2.</p> <p>j) Milestone completed in Q1.</p> <p>k) Milestone due in Q4.</p>	<p><b>AMBER</b></p>	<p><b>AMBER</b></p>
<p><b>5.2</b> Provide technical advice to support the management of offshore MPAs.</p>	<p>a) Provide Fisheries Options Papers to Defra and Marine Scotland for SACs and designated national marine protected areas in offshore waters (Q2).</p> <p>b) Complete technical evaluation of draft fisheries management proposals and provide advice to Defra and Marine Scotland on the risks to</p>	<p>a) Milestone due in Q2.</p> <p>b) Milestone due in Q4.</p>	<p><b>GREEN</b></p>	<p><b>GREEN</b></p>

PPM description	Milestones by quarter	Cumulative summary of progress against milestones	PPM RAG status for current quarter	PPM outlook for remainder of the year
	<p>achievement of the sites' Conservation Objectives (Q4).</p> <p>c) Provide site information to enable Defra and Marine Scotland to draft formal applications to the European Commission for fisheries management measures for offshore SACs (Q3).</p> <p>d) Provide site information to enable Defra and Marine Scotland to draft formal applications to the European Commission for fisheries management measures for designated national marine protected areas in offshore waters (Q4).</p> <p>e) Publish generic advice on the JNCC website to fulfil our legal obligation towards public authorities for offshore MPAs (Q1).</p> <p>f) Publish site-specific conservation advice through site information centres for priority sites in offshore waters (Q4).</p>	<p>c) Milestone due in Q3.</p> <p>d) Milestone due in Q4.</p> <p>e) Milestone completed in Q1. Fisheries management guidance now available on the JNCC website.</p> <p>f) Milestone due in Q4. Relies on milestones a) and b) above.</p>		
<b>Theme 6 Organisational management and development</b>				
<p><b>6.1</b> Provide and continue to improve the cost-effectiveness of core services to UK and devolved governments and manage an evolutionary change in strategy.</p>	<p>a) Complete restructuring to align senior management and staff capacity with upcoming challenges and opportunities and increase integration of marine and terrestrial work (Q4).</p> <p>b) Develop strategies necessary to deliver functions and business objectives set out in JNCC's new corporate strategy, including stakeholder engagement, business development and funding, and HR development (Q4).</p> <p>c) Deliver a revised version of the JNCC website to reflect and promote the refreshed strategy of the organisation (Q4).</p>	<p>a) Milestone due in Q4.</p> <p>b) Milestone due in Q4.</p> <p>c) Milestone due in Q4.</p>	<p><b>GREEN</b></p>	<p><b>GREEN</b></p>

## Annex 1b. Proposed changes to PPM milestones

PPM no	PPM description	Proposed changes to milestones
3.2	Provide technical advice on international biodiversity and ecosystems (including Overseas Territories).	Milestone b to be moved from Q1 to Q2.  The meeting date of the CITES Animals Committee has been changed.

Annex 2a. Financial summary by programme Q1

<b>RED</b>	(highest of) 21-100% variance or more than £30k between forecast and budget
<b>AMBER</b>	(highest of) 6-20% variance or £10k - £30k between forecast and budget
<b>GREEN</b>	(highest of) 1-5% variance or less than £10k between forecast and budget or underspend reported

Programme			Reserved	UK coordination	Defra Marine	Governance & Corporate Services	Total Grant in Aid	Percentage variance between GIA forecast and original budget	Income	RAG for each programme based on variance of GIA forecast compared to original GIA budget (Programme costs only)
			£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	
<b>Theme 1. Biodiversity Evidence</b>										
Surveillance and Monitoring	Original Full Year Budget	Programme	0	1,085	0	0	1,085		2	
		Salaries	0	316	0	0	316		9	
	Forecast	Programme	0	1,088	0	0	1,088		2	
		Salaries	0	322	0	0	322		9	
	Variance between Forecast and Original Budget	Programme	0	3	0	0	3	0%	0	<b>G</b>
		Salaries	0	7	0	0	7	2.1%	0	
Total		0	10	0	0	10	0.7%	0		
Access to Information	Original Full Year Budget	Programme	0	40	10	206	256		15	
		Salaries	19	355	0	235	609		20	
	Forecast	Programme	0	41	9	206	256		15	
		Salaries	18	386	0	229	633		0	
	Variance between Forecast and Original Budget	Programme	0	1	-1	0	0	0.0%	0	<b>G</b>
		Salaries	-1	31	0	-6	24	3.9%	-20	
Total		-1	31	-1	-6	24	3%	-20		
Marine Monitoring	Original Full Year Budget	Programme	0	228	31	0	259		0	
		Salaries	0	435	28	0	463		36	
	Forecast	Programme	0	216	43	0	259		0	
		Salaries	0	516	42	0	557		36	
	Variance between Forecast and Original Budget	Programme	0	-11	11	0	0	0.0%	0	<b>G</b>
		Salaries	0	80	14	0	94	20%	0	
Total		0	69	25	0	94	13%	0		
Marine Evidence	Original Full Year Budget	Programme	0	72	264	0	336		30	
		Salaries	0	364	390	0	753		36	
	Forecast	Programme	0	72	299	0	371		30	
		Salaries	0	373	408	0	781		36	
	Variance between Forecast and Original Budget	Programme	0	0	35	0	35	10.3%	0	<b>R</b>
		Salaries	0	10	19	0	28	3.7%	0	
Total		0	9	53	0	63	5.8%	0		



Programme			Reserved	UK coordination	Defra Marine	Governance & Corporate Services	Total Grant in Aid	Percentage variance between GIA forecast and original budget	Income	RAG for each programme based on variance of GIA forecast compared to original GIA budget (Programme costs only)
			£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	
<b>Theme 2. Shared UK approaches to nature conservation</b>										
Biodiversity Information and Advice	Original Full Year Budget	Programme	6	90	0	0	96		0	
		Salaries	54	465	0	0	519		5	
	Forecast	Programme	6	86	0	0	93		0	
		Salaries	52	470	0	0	523		0	
	Variance between Forecast and Original Budget	Programme	0	-4	0	0	-4	3.6%	0	<b>G</b>
		Salaries	-2	6	0	0	3	0.6%	-5	
Total		-2	2	0	0	0	0.0%	-5		
Marine Ecosystem Assessment and Advice	Original Full Year Budget	Programme	34	68	0	0	102		14	
		Salaries	286	138	0	0	424		87	
	Forecast	Programme	33	68	0	0	102		14	
		Salaries	296	146	0	0	442		87	
	Variance between Forecast and Original Budget	Programme	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0	<b>G</b>
		Salaries	10	8	0	0	18	4.2%	0	
Total		9	9	0	0	18	3.4%	0		

Programme			Reserved	UK coordination	Defra Marine	Governance & Corporate Services	Total Grant in Aid	Percentage variance between GIA forecast and original budget	Income	RAG for each programme based on variance of GIA forecast compared to original GIA budget (Programme costs only)
			£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	
<b>Theme 3. EU and international advice</b>										
European Intelligence and Advice	Original Full Year Budget	Programme	1	22	3	0	25		44	
		Salaries	19	221	25	0	266		8	
	Forecast	Programme	1	22	3	0	25		44	
		Salaries	18	190	0	0	209		8	
	Variance between Forecast and Original Budget	Programme	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0	<b>G</b>
		Salaries	-1	-31	-25	0	-57	21.4%	0	
Total		-1	-31	-25	0	-57	19.6%	0		
Global Advice and Overseas Territories	Original Full Year Budget	Programme	106	0	0	0	106		9	
		Salaries	203	3	16	0	222		122	
	Forecast	Programme	106	0	0	0	106		9	
		Salaries	159	3	17	0	179		122	
	Variance between Forecast and Original Budget	Programme	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0	<b>G</b>
		Salaries	-44	0	1	0	-43	19.4%	0	
Total		-44	0	1	0	-43	13.1%	0		
<b>Theme 4. Identification and provision of information on marine protected areas</b>										
Marine Protected Areas	Original Full Year Budget	Programme	0	12	59	0	71		0	
		Salaries	7	102	676	0	785		0	
	Forecast	Programme	0	12	62	0	73		0	
		Salaries	7	99	634	0	740		0	
	Variance between Forecast and Original Budget	Programme	0	0	3	0	3	3.7%	0	<b>G</b>
		Salaries	0	-4	-41	0	-45	5.8%	0	
Total		0	-4	-39	0	-43	5.0%	0		
Marine Species Advice	Original Full Year Budget	Programme	4	0	105	0	109		0	
		Salaries	40	130	126	0	295		0	
	Forecast	Programme	4	0	105	0	109		0	
		Salaries	46	94	119	0	260		0	
	Variance between Forecast and Original Budget	Programme	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0	<b>G</b>
		Salaries	6	-35	-6	0	-36	12.0%	0	
Total		6	-35	-6	0	-36	8.8%	0		

Programme			Reserved	UK coordination	Defra Marine	Governance & Corporate Services	Total Grant in Aid	Percentage variance between GIA forecast and original budget	Income	RAG for each programme based on variance of GIA forecast compared to original GIA budget (Programme costs only)
			£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	
<b>Theme 5. Supporting sustainable management of the marine environment</b>										
Offshore Industries Advice	Original Full Year Budget	Programme	0	49	6	0	55		2	
		Salaries	19	148	260	13	440		68	
	Forecast	Programme	0	49	13	0	62		2	
		Salaries	31	163	283	14	491		68	
	Variance between Forecast and Original Budget	Programme	0	0	7	0	7	11.8%	0	<b>A</b>
		Salaries	13	15	23	1	52	11.8%	0	
Total		13	15	30	1	58	11.8%	0		
<b>Theme 6. Organisational management and development</b>										
Governance and Corporate Services	Original Full Year Budget	Programme	0	0	0	772	772		5	
		Salaries	66	73	127	1,233	1,499		0	
	Forecast	Programme	0	0	0	772	772		5	
		Salaries	36	71	124	1,242	1,473		0	
	Variance between Forecast and Original Budget	Programme	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0	<b>G</b>
		Salaries	-31	-2	-2	9	-26	1.7%	0	
Total		-31	-2	-2	9	-26	1.1%	0		

Non-cash budget adjustments	0			
SCANS III (not budgeted)			200	
Unallocated budget (programme costs)	0	25	0	50
Unallocated budget (salaries)	28	0	39	8

**Annex 2b. Summary financial position**

		Reserved	UK coordination	Defra Marine	Governance & Corporate Services	Total Grant in Aid	Percentage variance GIA forecast compared to budget	Income	RAG based on variance of forecast GIA compared to GIA budget (%)
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	
Original Full Year Budget	Programme	151	1,689	678	1,028	3,545		121	
	Salaries	742	2,749	1,686	1,488	6,665		391	
	Total	893	4,438	2,364	2,516	10,211			
Forecast	Programme	151	1,653	732	978	3,514		121	
	Salaries	665	2,834	1,627	1,485	6,610		325	
	Total	815	4,487	2,360	2,463	10,124			
Variance between Forecast and Full Year Budget	Programme	0	-36	54	-50	-31	-0.9%	0	<b>G</b>
	Salaries	-78	84	-58	-4	-55	-0.8%	-66	<b>G</b>
	Total	-78	49	-4	-53	-86	-0.8%	-66	<b>G</b>
Grant in Aid Receivable		893	4,438	2,364	2,516	10,211			
Total variance as a percentage of Grant in Aid Receivable (%)		-8.7%	1.1%	-0.2%	-2.1%				

**Annex 3. Significant risks register**

Risk no	Significant risks	Risk score			Action planned by management	Progress against planned management action	Effect of management action and other factors on this risk	Q1 Other comments (including any change to planned management action or other factors affecting this risk)
		Residual likelihood	Residual impact	Residual score				
2	Insufficient funding to maintain and extend the utility of JNCC as a cost-effective mechanism for collaborative delivery	5	4	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise awareness within government of the cost-effectiveness of JNCC in delivering their priorities</li> <li>Undertake dialogue with government sponsors, country conservation bodies and other public bodies to identify strategic priorities and associated funding</li> <li>Pursue selected non-GIA funding opportunities, building on the strategy review</li> <li>More strongly integrate marine and non-marine elements of JNCC in order to share best practice and improve value for money</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation underway for review of JNCC and the Spending Review.</li> <li>Recruitment of a Business Development Manager has been initiated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Too early to assess effect of management action.</li> </ul>	
4	Multiple changes to JNCC's stakeholders (budget pressures, changes in role)	5	4	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with a wider range of stakeholders to manage relationships, and identify opportunities and risks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing programme of stakeholder engagement, prioritising government administrations and country conservation bodies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk is being managed effectively at present.</li> </ul>	
1	Inability to align with changing government priorities and institutional arrangements sufficiently quickly (UK and devolved administrations)	4	4	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake early and proactive engagement with government administrations and country conservation bodies to identify priorities</li> <li>Work with the inter-agency Chief Scientists Group to identify important new and emerging issues</li> <li>Take a more flexible approach to resource allocation and planning to enable JNCC to respond to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing programme of stakeholder engagement, prioritising government administrations and country conservation bodies.</li> <li>Modest changes made to align with new Defra priorities and initiatives following General</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk is being managed effectively at present.</li> </ul>	

Risk no	Significant risks	Risk score			Action planned by management	Progress against planned management action	Effect of management action and other factors on this risk	Q1 Other comments (including any change to planned management action or other factors affecting this risk)
		Residual likelihood	Residual impact	Residual score				
					changing requirements.	Election.		
5	Insufficient capacity and/or expertise at middle and senior management levels to deal with the challenges of an increasingly complex operating environment	4	4	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide training and development to equip managers for future challenges (including strategy implementation), and develop junior managers</li> <li>Implement a second phase of structural reorganisation to align structures with JNCC's developing strategy</li> <li>Put in place streamlined management and administrative processes to increase efficiency</li> <li>Implement business partnering to provide managers with better information and advice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corporate training programme currently under development.</li> <li>Most proposed streamlining changes have been made. The focus is now on embedding these new ways of working.</li> <li>Business partnering is at varying stages of maturity but has been rolled out by all corporate services teams. Preparation is being made for business partnering in relation to business development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notable improvements in salaries management resulting from business partnering.</li> <li>Effect of streamlining will be reviewed in late autumn.</li> </ul>	
6	A high rate of staff turnover	4	4	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve recruitment procedures to prevent excessive internal staff movements</li> <li>Undertake a staff satisfaction survey to identify possible actions to improve staff morale</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New recruitment procedures are now in place.</li> <li>Staff survey planned for late autumn.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Too early to measure effectiveness of recruitment procedures.</li> </ul>	
3	Ineffective strategic positioning	3	5	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete the strategy review and start to implement</li> <li>Engage with JNCC's main funders and stakeholders to secure active support for the new strategic direction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategy discussion document nearly finalised. It will then be used as a basis for seeking stakeholder views.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Too early to assess effect of management action.</li> </ul>	
7	Inadequate use of evidence to underpin JNCC's advice to government	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement an action plan to address the recommendations from the internal audit of scientific evidence, and make other improvements to JNCC's</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action plan is being implemented.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk is being managed effectively at present.</li> </ul>	

Risk no	Significant risks	Risk score			Action planned by management	Progress against planned management action	Effect of management action and other factors on this risk	Q1 Other comments (including any change to planned management action or other factors affecting this risk)
		Residual likelihood	Residual impact	Residual score				
					evidence quality assurance policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to engage with key partners (government, statutory agencies, NGOs) involved in evidence collection and management</li> </ul>			

**Annex 4. HR data for quarter 1 2015/16**

	<b>As at 30 September 2014</b>	<b>As at 31 December 2014</b>	<b>As at 31 March 2015</b>	<b>As at 30 June 2015</b>
Complement (full-time equivalent)	166.8	173.6	169.7	163.5
Vacancies (% of complement)	6.9	3.7	7.6	9.0
Turnover over rolling 12-month period (%)	8.5	8.2	12.6	12.7



## Annex 5. Other reporting

### 1. Health and safety

- 1.1. Key points from an annual review of health and safety are as follows:
- i. a new Health and Safety Advisor has been appointed in Aberdeen. The JNCC Health and Safety Manager visited Aberdeen to discuss policies/procedures and induction processes to ensure a consistent approach across both offices;
  - ii. there were three minor incidents and five near misses, including one near miss on a survey vessel that did not affect JNCC staff but was recorded for learning purposes;
  - iii. there was regular circulation of first aid information, checks of first aid kits, and review of training needs and provision.
  - iv. fire drills took place bi-annually with no issues in Peterborough and feedback on improvements needed in Aberdeen;
  - v. five-year fixed wire testing took place which identified some potentially serious faults which are currently being rectified. Appliance PAT testing identified one faulty cable;
  - vi. all risk assessments (including DSE, home working DSE, pregnancy and contractual) were up to date and all third party risk assessments were approved before any work commenced.

### 2. Evidence Quality Assurance (EQA)

- 2.1. The level of corporate risk to JNCC from evidence quality is assessed as very low at the end of quarter 1. Improvements to reporting have increased the compliance rate. Some work is still required to achieve full compliance and communication of EQA practice; the latter is necessary to ensure transparency and avoid unnecessary challenge.
- 2.2. The compliance rate for reporting on EQA actions was 90% of projects. Six projects out of an expected 52 from the EQA actions inventory had no reports, but reports were received for five projects not in the inventory.
- 2.3. Of the 51 projects with reports, just two had no risk assessments, whilst seven had no documentation of EQA decisions. One project with no documentation was reported as high risk, two had no risk assessments, and all others were of low risk. Directors will follow up the projects which are yet to complete the EQA process.

### 3. Environmental performance

- 3.1. There have been no recorded breaches of environmental regulations in Q1. In June, JNCC disposed of 102 electronic items weighing a total of 694 kg. Disposal was WEEE compliant, for recycling or reuse. There was no financial cost to JNCC. JNCC maintains a 100% recycle/reuse rate for our electronic equipment.

3.2. This is the first disposal of electronic equipment from the Peterborough office since June 2012. Aberdeen office last disposed of electronic equipment in December 2014.

**4. Equality and diversity**

4.1. There have been no recorded breaches of the equality and diversity policy in quarter 1.

**5. Fraud, presumptive fraud, significant losses, fruitless payments and special payments**

5.1. No instances of fraud or presumptive fraud have been detected during the quarter. There were three fruitless payments totalling £670. One related to a missed flight, one to a duplicate hotel booking and one to a flight booked for the wrong dates. Further detail around these fruitless payments has been provided to EMB who have taken appropriate action to ensure that these instances do not happen again.

**6. Data security**

6.1. There have been no recorded breaches of data security during quarter 1.