

Agenda for the MERP-Defra Policy Meeting

Tuesday 23rd February 2016, Defra Offices, Room 809, London, 9.30am – 11:30am

1. Welcome and introductions (Caron Montgomery) 09.30 – 09.35am
2. The Marine Ecosystems Research Programme (MERP): better understanding connections to address evidence needs (Paul Somerfield) 09:35 – 09:50am
3. Overview of Defra policy needs and issues (Becca Lowe) 09:50am – 10:00am
4. Policy-relevant MERP outputs using specific examples (Cefas and consortium members - each presenter will have 2-3mins to introduce each example followed by 40mins discussion) 10:00am – 11:00am
 - a) Compiling and analysing UK marine data from plankton to large predators (Paul Somerfield/Michaela Schratzberger)
 - b) Trophic cascades in marine food webs and their role in determining environmental status (Axel Rossberg)
 - c) Modelling ecosystem impacts of fishing (Mike Heath)
 - d) Seabird hotspots and predation & effects of displacement from offshore wind farms (Francis Daunt)
 - e) Distribution of top predators in space and time (Francis Daunt)
 - f) The usefulness of GES indicators for ecosystem services assessments (Melanie Austen)
5. Next Steps for MERP (Jess Surma) 11:05am – 11:20am
6. Science to Policy Translation (Caron Montgomery) 11:20am – 11:30am

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