



SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: Marine Protected Area Management and Monitoring Project (MarPAMM) - Scottish Work

THEME:

Environment—Manage Marine Protected Areas & Species

FUNDING (ERDF + Match):

€5,989,216.11

MATCH FUNDERS:

Dept of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs NI and The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

LEAD PARTNER:

Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI)

PROJECT PARTNERS:

BirdWatch Ireland; Marine Scotland Science (MSS); Scottish Association of Marine Science (SAMS); Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH); Ulster University; and University College Cork

Start Date: 01/01/2018

End Date: 30/09/2022



www.mpa-management.eu



@MarPAMM_project

MarPAMM brings together 46 experts and a host of stakeholders from across Northern Ireland, western Scotland and the Border Region of Ireland to develop tools for managing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) within the INTERREG VA Programme region.

Engaging with Communities of the Outer Hebrides

Throughout 2019 and into early 2020, the project engaged with a number of community events throughout the Outer Hebrides. These events were designed to raise awareness of the project, build community relationships within the area, and provide a space to listen to views on the importance of the seas to islanders, and any perspectives on Marine Protected Areas management. Innovative engagement styles were piloted, including participation at the Hebridean International Film Festival, family-friendly activities run by local artists, information drop-in sessions, and school events.

Surveying the Seabed off Gigha and Kintyre, Argyll, Scotland

In September 2019, Argyll MPA Planning & Data Project Officer, Amie Williams, undertook a five-day drop-down video (DDV) survey around the waters off the Isle of Gigha and Kintyre. Amie contributes to the benthic habitat mapping effort of the project and coordinates the development of an MPA management plan for the Argyll marine region. The survey gathered biological records of seabed habitats near the shore around Gigha and selected areas off the Kintyre west coast. The DDV technique is one of the tools scientists use to survey seabed habitats. A camera is lowered to the seabed, whilst the on-board monitor allows observation in real time. The HD video footage is also recorded for more detailed analysis. Over the five days Amie surveyed 124 stations, gathering footage of a number of protected habitats and species, including: burrowed mud with seapens, horse mussel beds, northern seafans and maerl beds.



“Between Gigha and Cara Island we discover a previously unknown maerl bed. As the swell lessens, we continue up the west side of Gigha where we find another maerl bed that was previously unrecorded! In deeper waters (45-80 m), we come upon rocky substrates that support a diverse northern seafan and sponge community with an abundance of Devonshire cup corals and the soft coral dead man’s fingers. We also catch a fleeting glimpse of a colonial football sea squirt and a dogfish!”

Amie’s diary entry during the five-day survey