



**VALMAS Kick Off Meeting Minutes**

**1030-1630, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

**Plymouth Marine Laboratory and Online**

**Agenda**

- 1000 – 1030 *Arrivals and coffee*
- 1030 – 1045 Welcome and introduction to VALMAS (Beaumont)
- 1045 – 1055 The INSITE programme (van Rein, Roberts)
- 1055 – 1105 WP1: Synthesis and integration of the MAS research & evidence landscape (Lead McKinley, deputy Palmer)
- 1105 – 1115 WP2: A Natural Capital and pluralistic values framework (Lead Saunders, deputy Watson)
- 1115 – 1125 WP3: Multiscale impact modelling and future scenarios to assess comprehensive impacts of MAS across scales (Lead Lessin, deputy James)
- 1125 – 1135 WP4: Filling evidence gaps with new analysis, observations and field data (Lead Hastings; deputy von Hellfeld)
- 1135 - 1145 WP5: Assessing shared and social values to enable a just transition across and within sectors (Lead Kenter; deputy Dickie/Papa)
- 1145 – 1155 WP6: Co-development of Decision Support Tools (DST) (Lead Szostek, deputy Laverick)
- 1155 – 1200 *Comfort break*
- 1200 – 1300 Interactive Session 1: Governance mapping
- 1300 – 1340 *Lunch*
- 1340 – 1455 Interactive Session 2: Stakeholder mapping
- 1455 – 1510 *Coffee*
- 1510 – 1625 Interactive Session 3: Evidence mapping

1625 – 1630 Wrap up and next steps

1630 External meeting close

**Meeting Minutes:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
14	1030 – 1045	<b>Welcome and introduction to VALMAS</b>
15	1045 – 1055	<b>Presentation on the INSITE programme</b>
16	1055 – 1105	<b>WP1: Synthesis and integration of the MAS research &amp; evidence landscape</b>  Presentation given by Emma McKinley.  Patrizio Mariani (Danish Technical University) shared that the European Marine Board delivered a report 2 years ago on European Offshore Renewable Energy. This may contain information useful to the WP1 scoping exercise.  Peter Oliver (Chevron) shared IPIECA has just published a Marine Net Gain Literature Review which will be of relevance to WP1 (Marine net positive impact concepts and approaches).
17	1105 – 1115	<b>WP2: A Natural Capital and pluralistic values framework</b>  Presentation by Justine Saunders.  Martin Lilley (DEFRA) commented that it is important when developing the WP2 glossary that the work under the Marine Natural Capital programme aligns with definitions in VALMAS. Links:  <a href="https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/marine-natural-capital-approaches-in-the-uk/">https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/marine-natural-capital-approaches-in-the-uk/</a> and <a href="https://www.dassh.ac.uk/ncag/transcript#glossary">https://www.dassh.ac.uk/ncag/transcript#glossary</a>
18	1115 – 1125	<b>WP3: Multiscale impact modelling and future scenarios to assess comprehensive impacts of MAS across scales</b>  Presentation by Gennadi Lessin.  Peter Oliver (Chevron) noted the modelling looks great. He also asked whether VALMAS would be considering inputs from other models too, as he is currently doing some work on a model for fish populations.  Martin Lilley (DEFRA) mentioned the UK Cetacean Stranding Investigation Programme (CSIP) (at Zoological Society London) is finding increasing mercury trends in mammals, so a marine mammal or human end point could be worth investigating. Rebecca von Hellfield confirmed that is the current plan. VALMAS intends to use marine mammals as ecosystem and human health sentinels, collaborating with SMASS (Scottish sibling of CSIP), though inclusion of CSIP would be good.
19	1125 – 1135	<b>WP4: Filling evidence gaps with new analysis, observations and field data</b>

		Presentation by Astley Hastings. No comments made.
20	1135 - 1145	<b>WP5: Assessing shared and social values to enable a just transition across and within sectors</b>
		<p>Presentation by Jasper Kenter.</p> <p>Gurpreet Padda (MMO) commented that environmental justice (procedural, distributive and recognition (including capabilities)) is a great area to explore. Access and capabilities as justice requires further unpacking, as well as asking questions such as who accesses opportunities, entitlement and rights, and who benefits from that and subsequent conflicts that may arise. This must not to be confused with distributive justice. Jasper confirmed capabilities are an important way of framing in considering just transition.</p>
21	1145 – 1155	<b>WP6: Co-development of Decision Support Tools (DST)</b>
		Presentation by Claire Szostek and Tom Mansfield. No comments made.
22	1200 – 1300	<b>Interactive Session 1: Governance mapping</b>
		Interactive session completed. Session notes produced separately by Session Lead.
23	1340 – 1455	<b>Interactive Session 2: Stakeholder mapping</b>
		Interactive session completed. Session notes produced separately by Session Lead
24	1510 – 1625	<b>Interactive Session 3: Evidence mapping</b>
		Interactive session completed. Session notes produced separately by Session Lead
25	1625 – 1630	<b>Wrap up and next steps</b>
26	1630	<b>Meeting close</b>

**Attendees List:****Project VALMAS Team:**

Emma McKinley	Cardiff University	Tom Fabian	NOC
Megan Squire	University of Aberdeen	Kieran Tierney	University of Glasgow
Gennadi Lessin	PML	Kate Gormley	University of Aberdeen
Paul Causon	NIRAS	Crystal Chan	EFTEC
Thomas Mansfield	PML	Mike Heath	University of Strathclyde
Ian Dickie	EFTEC	Tiziana Papa	EFTEC
Justine Saunders	SCANIS	Molly James	PML
Claire Szostek	PML	Matthew Palmer	PML
Nicola Beaumont	NOC	Andrew Edwards Jones	PML
Ana Queiros	PML	Dan Clewly	PML
Anne-Michelle Slater	University of Aberdeen	Liz Talbot	PML
Jack Laverick	University of Strathclyde	Gennadi Lessin	PML
Mohammad Khan	PML	Jacob Bentley	Natural England
Astley Hastings	University of Aberdeen	Jasper Kenter	University of Aberdeen
Rebecca Von Hellfeld	University of Aberdeen	Mike Bedington	Akvaplan-niva
Sevrine Sailley	PML	Muchamad Al Azhar	PML
Steve Watson	PML	Mark Collar	EFTEC
Betheny Wills	DEFRA	Terry Ric Hansen	EFTEC

**Project VALMAS Critical Friends:**

Aisling Lannin	MMO	Peter Oliver	Chevron
Alexa Wrede	AWI	Richard Neilson	The National Decommissioning Centre
Andrew Brownlow	University of Glasgow	Rob Gross	UK Energy Research Centre
Andrew Gill	AIMS	Ruth Parker	CEFAS
Carol Barbone	CNRL	Simon Cheeseman	ORE Catapult
Toby Rider	CNRL	Tavis Potts	University of Aberdeen
Caroline Whalley	ORE Catapult	Umberto Binetti	RWE
Darren Koppel	AIMS	Ceri Morris	NRW
David Solarna	CMRE	Suzanna Jackson	NRW

David Tudor	Coastal Futures	Miranda Willis	MMO
David Jarrad	Shellfish Association of Great Britain	Sian Rees	University of Plymouth
Deborah Greaves	Supergen Offshore Renewable Energy Hub	Anaëlle Lemasson	University of Plymouth
Elena Balestri	Scottish Fishermen's Federation	Tom Hill	MEW
Belen Gonzalez-Gaya	Plentzia Marine Station - University of the Basque Country	Rebecca Walker	DESNZ
Emma Wootton	Shellfish Association of Great Britain	Megan Nicholas	Welsh Government
Gabriella Gilkes	TCE	Paula Daghish	JNCC
Rosie Kelly	TCE	Callum Hobbs	DEFRA
Axel Laval	TCE	Chris McCabe	DEFRA
Fara Courtney	Outer Harbour Consulting	Fiona Fletcher	DEFRA
Helen Elphick	RWE	Victoria Metheringham	DEFRA
Jasmin Manning	NatureScot	Christina Platt	Wildlife Trusts
Kirsten Dyer	ORE Catapult	Christine Maggs	Independent
Krishna Das	University of Liege	Gurpreet Padda	MMO
Lisa Walls	Harbour Energy	Daryl Burdon	University of Plymouth
Lotta Nummelin	OX2	Clemency White	DEFRA
Manuel Soto	Plentzia Marine Station - University of the Basque Country	Paula Duffy	University of Aberdeen
Mike Cohen	NFFO	Joe Ferris	ECAP Consultancy Group
Nerea Garcia Valesco	Plentzia Marine Station - University of the Basque Country	Thomas Mesher	PML
Patrizio Mariani	Danish Technical University	Joana Nunes	PML
Peter Barham	SUDG	Pete Smith	University of Aberdeen
Philip Boulcott	Scottish Government		