West coast of Scotland stakeholder workshop, 29 May 2018

Summary report

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PERICLES is a trans-national research project designed to address issues that affect Europe's coastal and maritime cultural heritage in the face of increasing environmental, political and societal changes. Better recognition of maritime cultural heritage can bring opportunities for community empowerment and sustainable development by linking what is special about Scottish natural landscapes with what is special about its coastal culture. At the same time, we can find ways to better understand and address the common challenges that we face right across Europe. The following is a summary of stakeholders' views elicited during interviews and a workshop held in Oban in May 2018.

1. Overview of stakeholder engagement to date

One of the core pillars of the PERICLES project is deliberative and participatory governance. Participation is essential in governing cultural heritage (CH) and landscapes to ensure the integration of diverse knowledge, values and perspectives, ensure recognition of all salient risks, to avoid or reduce conflict and to find synergies between different interests so improving the quality of decisions.

This summary is based on engagement with 21 stakeholders through interviews and a follow-up workshop.

Table 1: *List of stakeholders who participated in the interviews, workshop or both*

Organisation
Scottish Creel Fishermen's Organisation
Scottish Fishermen's Federation
Scottish White Fish Producers Organisation
Ullapool Harbour Trust
Hebridean Whale & Dolphin Trust
Organic Seaharvest
Marine Harvest
Scottish West Coast Langoustine Co-operative
Scottish Crofting Federation
WiSe - accredited Wildlife Safe Operators
Visit Scotland
Historic Environment Scotland
Scottish Islands Federation
Argyll and Bute council
Clyde Marine Planning Partnership
Scottish Natural Heritage
Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Marine Conservation Society
Scottish Community Alliance
Marine Scotland Science

The interviews elicited many different stakeholder interests in cultural heritage in the study region which were linked to the participant's role, but which were not necessarily restricted by it. A key interest in coastal and maritime cultural heritage (CMCH) among all stakeholder groups was the connection people have with the sea and surrounding environment. Additionally, all stakeholders had a common interest in the unique traditions, (hi)stories and landscapes that give the west coast of Scotland (WCOS) its rich CMCH. A summary of the interests identified to date is given in Table 2.

Table 2: Stakeholder interests in CMCH in the WCOS

Interests
Academic
Attracting local employment
Changing demographics
Climate change impacts
Compliance and regulation
Connection with the sea
Crofting
Effects of CMCH on the international market
Employment
Environmental management
Historical buildings
Impacts of changing CMCH
Impacts on the fishing industry
Maritime history
Natural heritage
New culture
Protecting communities
Protecting wrecks
Protecting the marine environment
Sustainable economic development
Strong and resilient communities
Tourism
Transport
Unique traditions, (hi)stories and landscapes
Use of the marine environment
Value of the WCOS
Wrecks

2. Cultural Heritage in the west of Scotland

A narrative of the rich CMCH present in the WCOS was supported by a strong stakeholder interest in its unique traditions, (hi)stories and landscapes. The WCOS can be considered as having high biocultural diversity, where the link between nature and culture is particularly exemplified through the strong connection people have with the sea. The cultural heritage of the WCOS was discussed during the workshop and common themes that emerged were: fisheries heritage; food and drink; history, tradition and knowledge; natural heritage; places; transport and navigation; and modern culture.

Modern culture and the notion of changing culture was a core theme that arose during the workshop. Participants differentiated between traditional and modern culture whilst also providing some specific examples of observed changes in culture. For example,

there has been a welcomed positive, generational change in supporting Gaelic and traditional music. However, more controversial topics included the positive and negative ramifications of changing traditional industries due to economic drivers.

The different perspectives and ideas of what constitutes CMCH in the WCOS, are summarised in Figure 1.
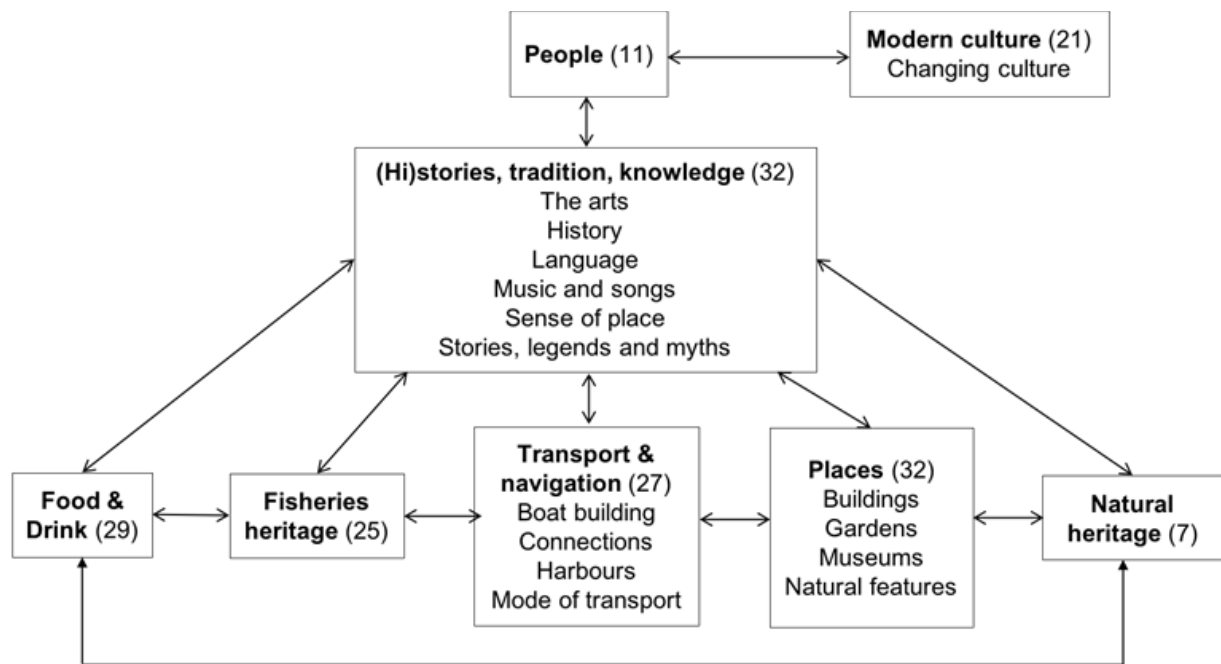

Figure 1: Types of CMCH identified by during the workshop. Core themes are in bold text. Sub-themes are listed below core themes. Arrows represent connections between types of CMCH. Numbers in brackets indicate the number of references associated with a core theme.

3. Management of CH

During the interviews, participants were asked whether they thought CMCH was being sufficiently managed in the WCOS. 54 % of stakeholders expressed a concern that CMCH is not being sufficiently managed in the WCOS, 31 % were unsure about current management and 15 % thought CMCH is sufficiently managed as there is no evidence of mismanagement. Nonetheless, all stakeholders provided suggestions for how management could be improved. Management concerns identified during the interviews covered economic, environmental, social and policy issues but the issues mentioned most were economic and policy related (Table 3).

Table 3: *Management concerns raised by stakeholders during interviews. Type = type of management concern, where Ec = economic, En = environmental, P = policy and S = social. Refs = number of stakeholders referring to this concern.*

Management concerns	Type	Refs
Lack of resources and funding	Ec	8
Changing demographics	S	6
Lack of understanding of CMCH, its management and how management sectors interact	P	6
Pollution	En	4
Climate change	En	3
Allocation of resources	Ec, P	2
Changing consumer behaviours	Ec, S	2
Charismatic species	En	2
Devolution of the management of the Crown Estate	P	2
Gaps in infrastructure and services	Ec	2
Inaccessibility of CMCH in the WCOS	Ec, S	2
Insufficient acknowledgement of the importance of CMCH in the WCOS	P	2
Policies do not consider non-monetary benefits of CMCH	P	2
Unequal distribution of resources between rural and urban areas	Ec	2
Changing animal migration patterns	En	1
Getting marine planning wrong	P	1
Increasing pressures from cruises	Ec, S	1
Lack of fisheries policy specific to the WCOS	P	1
Lack of local power	S, P	1
Lack of responsibility taken to protect CMCH	P	1
Lack of sufficient monitoring	P	1
Lack of willingness for real cooperation between stakeholders	P	1
Locals not exposed to all the different types of CMCH	S	1
Marginalised communities are undervalued	S	1
Marine Protected Areas	En	1
Ministers do not live in the areas they are responsible for	P	1
Reactive management approach instead of proactive	P	1
Removal of 3 nautical mile limit	P	1
Sea lice	En	1
Slow process of giving back to the local communities	S	1

In addition, different management perspectives were identified through a q-methodology activity held during the workshop. Participants were asked to place statements representing economic, environmental and social concerns in a grid based on the importance they assigned to each statement relative to the others. This allowed us to divide the stakeholder participants across different interests in three groups that each had a different perspective on management.

Perspective 1 – Growing communities and local exploitation

Perspective 1, defined by the responses of four participants, was the most common perspective among stakeholders. Perspective 1 viewed addressing population changes as important to protect CMCH; depopulation was perceived to be the most pressing management concern and protecting CMCH was thought to be important for keeping youth in the area. Importance was placed on local exploitation and addressing subsequent economic management concerns. Perspective 1 balanced the social issues related to demographic challenges in coastal communities in the WCOS and the economic concerns associated with local CMCH exploitation. On the other hand, perspective 1 ranked environmental management concerns, except for climate change, as being least important.

Perspective 2 – Driving the economy

Perspective 2 was defined by two participants and was driven by economic management priorities relating to local exploitation, whilst acknowledging the potential opportunities and threats of globalisation. Economic management concerns were similar to perspective 1, though perspective 2 wished to tap into the possibility of increasing the way urban communities in Scotland exploit the west coast to help support the local economy. While maintaining clear economic priorities, perspective 2 also appreciated the importance of climate change as a global issue. Otherwise, perspective 2 did not rank environmental management concerns as important. Social management concerns were also ranked with low levels of importance although, providing local communities with greater awareness of, ownership over and pride in their CH were viewed as important.

Perspective 3 – Supporting local communities

Perspective 3 was also defined by the answers from two participants and is distinguished from the other two perspectives due to the importance of protecting environmental resources to support local livelihoods, businesses and local recreation. Priority is placed on local environmental management concerns instead of global concerns like climate change.

4. Threats and management concerns

During the workshop, participants were asked to select the most important threats of all those (more than 50) discussed and the results are shown in Table 4. The most agreed upon threats to CMCH were climate change and demographic challenges in rural areas. However, while it was widely acknowledged that people are central to CMCH, depopulation concerns did vary among stakeholders because of the uncertain relationship between CMCH and depopulation. Demographic changes pose serious risks to CMCH through loss of knowledge, traditions and skills as people move away. However, stakeholders were uncertain that protecting CMCH is important for keeping youth in the area as there are other reasons encouraging or forcing people to move away. So, while people are important to CMCH and CH is important for a sense of place and community identity, CH itself was not considered an important factor in keeping people in an area by most stakeholders.

Table 4: The six most important threats to CMCH in the WCOS identified by stakeholders during activity 1. Ec = economic, En = environmental, and S = social.

Threat	Type of threat	Brief description
Climate change	En	Climate change affects infrastructure, species and sites, which can have knock-on effects on CMCH. The uncertainty of how climate change will affect CMCH, the rate of change and the magnitude of these effects are risks.
Depopulation	S	People are moving away from rural areas making communities less resilient. Depopulation is facilitating the loss of traditions, knowledge and skills, especially among the young generation.
Diversity	-	CMCH threats depend on the type of heritage. Understanding these different threats will be challenging due to the diversity of CMCH in the WCOS.
Loss of knowledge	S	The WCOS has a rich history of traditions, skills and creativity based on the marine environment. However, as coastal communities change, this knowledge risks being lost.
Economic change	Ec	The economy underpins jobs which sustain people and their CMCH. The future lack of EU funding will cause a significant withdrawal of cash that was previously important in supporting coastal communities. Changes in the economy are a risk to present CMCH.
Tourism	Ec	Tourism pressure is increasing but there is often a lack of necessary infrastructure. Sustainable tourism development needs to be established to protect the resilience of local communities and their CMCH in the WCOS.

A recurring theme was the need to develop a sustainable tourism industry that ensures the necessary infrastructure is in place before the industry strives to grow. Stakeholders agreed that capitalising on cultural tourism in a sustainable manner has potential to support CMCH, whilst also supporting local economies and thus retaining people. However, for tourism to be a successful solution rather than a burden on coastal communities, it needs to be managed well.

Communities dependent on fishing may become vulnerable if their cultural identity is challenged. However, fisher's groups involved in this study did not perceive aquaculture, marine renewable energy or other blue growth developments as important threats. Instead, they were seen as potential opportunities and as an emerging new CMCH of the WCOS. Throughout the study stakeholders often questioned whether aquaculture and marine renewables should be perceived as

threats or opportunities. Climate change was considered a significant threat to fisheries as it has the potential to change this sector and at a faster pace than the sector can adapt to.

Lack of community engagement and leadership devolved locally was another common concern expressed by all stakeholders and a strong consensus was expressed that greater community leadership, ownership and engagement is necessary to preserve the CMCH throughout the WCOS successfully. However, participants were unsure about how much leadership communities are willing and able to take because of the lack of available resources and funding.

Primary policy concerns related to the uncertainty of Brexit and potential loss of funds although participants differed in the relative importance of these potential threats. Stakeholders were also apprehensive about whether CMCH is sufficiently integrated across sectors during current planning and policy decisions and suggested increasing the overlap between terrestrial and marine planning, as the current overlap might be too narrow to address CMCH.

A recurring theme while discussing threats to CMCH was the idea that the rate of change is particularly concerning, not necessarily the change itself. CMCH is constantly evolving as it is inherently dynamic; therefore, change does not have to be negative. However, the rate of economic, environmental and social change can be too rapid for systems to adapt.

Participants in the interviews and workshop also made many management suggestions for protecting CMCH, summarised in Table 5. It is interesting to note the opposing views on certain issues, such as policy about second homes, whereby it can be seen as a threat linked to the depopulation of rural areas or as an economic incentive beneficial to the west coast of Scotland.

Table 5: Management opportunities suggested by stakeholders

Threat	Management suggestions and opportunities to address threats
Aquaculture	Improve spatial planning by including more effective consultation. Increase stakeholder engagement to understand local impacts. Support the fishing sector.
Climate change	Decide protection policies based on risk assessments. Identify what can and cannot be protected. Study what assets are mainly at risk.
Depopulation	Base urban planning decisions on local communities' exigencies. Change housing policies to reduce second homes. Provide better digital infrastructure. Put mechanisms in place to deliver ecosystem services to society. Support local ownership and community empowerment. Use sustainable tourism to generate incomes.

Economic change	Attract people to the WCOS to have second homes. Capitalise on local food and drink. Encourage product development and diversification based on the sea. Help tourism, entrepreneurial activities and other business opportunities grow. Develop modest growth at a community scale.
Environmental impacts	Improve risk assessments and environmental impact assessments. Monitor environmental impacts more regularly. Protect natural heritage, including wildlife. Support areas where nature can thrive.
Lack of local involvement	Create opportunities for local communities to be champions. Encourage greater ownership and community involvement in planning. Improve local consultation and research for policies and planning. Increase devolution of policy-making. Support local leadership and local talent.
Loss of knowledge	Celebrate CMCH through music festivals and events. Create more schools specific to traditional music/art/dance. Facilitate Gaelic traditional music and skill transfer and/or experience. Encourage knowledge transfer. Improve education. Protect cultural identities. Protect the Gaelic language.
Tourism	Attract urban communities to rural areas. Build better infrastructure. Charge for viewpoints to support maintenance costs. Expose unexploited CMCH. Generate a responsible and sustainable tourism industry. Improve CMCH access to locals. Interpret and present CMCH to provide immersive and enjoyable experiences. Study the carrying capacity of a place and restrict tourists accordingly. Understand how much CMCH you need for it to become an experience.