



## PURPOSE & TERMS OF REFERENCE

The purpose of the Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries EMS Relevant Authorities Group is to develop and implement a management scheme: so as to secure, in relation to the site, compliance with the requirements of the European Union Habitats Directive<sup>1</sup> and delivery of the conservation objectives for the site; which, whilst recognising that decision making remains the responsibility of the individual relevant authorities, provides a means to assist these authorities in making decisions appropriate to the conservation requirements of the site; and which has the widest possible public understanding, agreement and ownership.

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 1 The Relevant Authorities Group is established in accordance with Government guidance<sup>2</sup>.
- 2 The membership of the Group will comprise all of the Relevant Authorities, as defined in the Habitats Regulations<sup>3</sup>, for the Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries European Marine Site.<sup>4</sup>
- 3 The Group will establish and implement a management scheme for the Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries EMS as provided for in Regulation 34 of the Habitats Regulations and as outlined in Government guidance. The Group will publish and disseminate a management scheme document and will review and revise it as appropriate.
- 4 The roles of Chair and secretariat of the group will be undertaken by agreement to assist the activities of the Group.
- 5 The Group will have no authority over any of the functions, duties or responsibilities of the member Relevant Authorities. Each of the Relevant Authorities is jointly and equally empowered to establish a management scheme in partnership with the others.
- 6 The Group will ensure that there is wide participation in developing sectoral and public endorsement and ownership of the management scheme by:
  - maintaining and facilitating a liaison forum and maintaining liaison with other relevant groups and fora;
  - liaison and consultation with competent authorities who are not also relevant authorities;
  - publication of appropriate information on the development and implementation of the management scheme.
- 7 The Group may:
  - establish such working groups as will contribute to the development of the management scheme; and/or
  - undertake such projects as are considered conducive to the development of the management scheme.
- 8 The Group will keep these Terms of Reference under review.

*Reviewed and revisions confirmed 4 October 2006; reconfirmed 20 November 2007*

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<sup>1</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

<sup>2</sup> European Marine Sites in England & Wales. A Guide to the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 and to the Preparation and Application of Management Schemes. DETR/Welsh Office. ISBN 1 85112 087 4

<sup>3</sup> The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 (SI No 2716). The meaning of 'relevant authority' is defined in Regulation 5.

<sup>4</sup> The relevant authorities for the Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries EMS are: Carmarthenshire County Council, City and County of Swansea, Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency Wales, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, Pembrokeshire County Council, Saundersfoot Harbour Commissioners, South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee, Trinity House.