Queen's Harbour Master Plymouth
Longroom House
RM Barracks Stonehouse
Stonehouse
Plymouth
PL1 3RT

QHM 532/7 17 February 2011

NOTES OF THE PORT OF PLYMOUTH MARINE LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2011 IN THE MO49 CONFERENCE ROOM

Present	Representing	User Group
Cdr C Necker	Queen's Harbour Master - Chairman	MOD
Mrs K Curry	Coastal Planning Co-ordinator	Plymouth City Council
Mr G Baker	Plymouth Marine Laboratory	Scientific Research
Lt Cdr R Smith	Deputy Queen's Harbour Master	MOD
Mr C Turner	Tamar Protection Society	Landscape Conservation
Mr R Halliday	Duchy of Cornwall	Fundus Owner
Cllr M Benson	Bere Ferrers Parish Council	Parish Councils
Mr A Hutchings	Maker with Rame Parish Council	Parish Councils
Mr P Patterson	British Marine Federation - SW	Marine Commerce
Mr G Skinner	Maritime Plymouth	Marine Commerce
Mr C Moyse	Treasurer PPSA	Recreation
Mr D Curno	RYA	Recreation
Ms J Simpson	Minute Secretary	MOD

Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
1. Introduction.	a Cdr C Necker welcomed those present to his first meeting as QHM and asked individuals to introduce themselves and to identify their parent organisation.	
2. Apologies for Absence.	a. Apologies for absence had been received from Mr P Wiseman (Michelmore Hughes), Mr M Kester (PCB), (PPSA), Mr J Hepburn (MP), Mr C Bush (Mayflower Marina), Mr J Tuvey (ABSAC Plymouth), Mr G Black (NE) and Capt T Charlesworth (CHC).	
3. Notes of the previous meeting.	The notes of the previous meeting held on 14 October 2010 were accepted with the exception of Para 5.11b which should read: Blagdon's Meadow is a County Wildlife Site, due its notable native flora speices and is managed as a wildflower meadow. It is not that classed as an SSSI.	
5. Matters arising.	Para 5.11i. DQHM reported that in March the Plymouth Waterways leaflet will be re-distributed to the local Dive Shops, Chandlers and other places where divers fill up their air tanks. The staff there will then be asked to remind divers that they should contact Longroom Port Control (LRPC) before they go diving. This will give the LRPC the opportunity to pass on relevant information regarding shipping movements to the divers and the divers will be able to inform LRPC their exact diving area. Para 7b. CPC reported that Katherine O'Connor from the Environmental Health Department will be attending the next PPMLC to give an update on her work and to discuss the New Water	

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	Pollution Plan, which was proposed following the break down of the Water Treatment Plant in Prince Rock last August. Para 7c. QHM reported that pollution management was mentioned at the last TECF meeting and CPC confirmed that the letter sent to South West Water, Environment Agnecy and Environmental Health will raise awareness of the water issues. Para 11d. Mr Paterson reported that the website he was using for tidal data is now working properly and QHM mentioned that the new QHM website, once it is up and running will have access to tidal data as well.	
6. SAC Matters.	In Mr Black's absence, CPC gave the Natural England reporte, which is attached at Annex A.	
7. TECF Matters.	CPC'S report is attached at Annex B.	
8. Dockyard Port Marine Safety	a. Review of the Port Order. QHM reported that the Plymouth Port Order is being reviewed to bring commonality between the Plymouth, Portsmouth and Clyde Dockyard Port Orders. The first draft has been seen by the MOD Legal experts and the review is expected to take about a year to process. b. QHM Website. Funding has now been secured for a non-MoD hosted independent website. This site will be easier to access and will allow links to other environmental web sites, which will make the sharing of information much simpler. c. Dockyard Port Marine Safety Policy. The next audit will be in April and following this the MOD will be fully compliant.	
9. Dredging	a. The MMO are still in the process of producing their review of disposal at the Rame Head Disposal Site and the report is due at the end of February 2011. b. DQHM reported that the Cattewater are currently dredging using a clam shell crane. c. Queen Ann's Battery have a licence from the MMO to do some dredging to increase the depths of some of their berths. d. The MOD, subject to our contractor being issued a new licence plan to have a dredging campaign from 15 – 17 March 2011.	
10. Estuary Work Projects	a. The Royal Albert Bridge refurbishment has been delayed. b Brittany Ferries have started their spring timetable, which is one ferry in and one out each day, which will increase to 3 a day once the summer season starts.	
11. Any Other Business.	a. Mr Baker mentioned that the Plymouth Marine Laboratory are thinking of carrying out a BioBlitz in the Plymouth area to raise public awareness. A BioBlitz is a 24 hour nature recording exercise by marine and terrestrial experts to take records of wildlife above and below the water. b. Mr Halliday mentioned that the Duchy of Cornwall are doing a shoreline survey to detect any encroachments on the Duchy	

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	shoreline and are working with TECF on this. c. Mr Halliday reported that he was interviewed by Cornwall Council with regard to the pontoon arrangement in Millbrook that has been built without planning permission. Cornwall Council are pursuing enforcement action on the marina developer. d Cllr Benson mentioned two incidents at Weir Quay involving landing craft. In the first incident a boat was damaged and in the second the slipway was damaged. QHM reported that he had been informed at the time of the slipway incident and he thought it had been repaired. Cllr Benson said that some repairs had been carried out, but he wasn't sure whether this was adequate longer term. He will inspect them again and report back to QHM if he feels that the repairs have not been done properly. DQHM said that the incident should not happen again, as the Captain in charge of the Royal Marines course is aware that Weir Quay is not to be used in the future by the Royal Marines Landing Craft. e. DQHM reported that the Yealmouth Navigator has now been salvaged by the Cattewater Harbour Master. f. Mr Hutchings reported that the Parish Council have received some complaints about the noise from Pier Cellars in Penlee, which is the training centre for the Royal Navy trainees. DQHM offered to forward any complaints to HMS RALEIGH. g. Mr Patterson mentioned that Mr Will Blagdon will be representing the British Marine Industries from the next meeting. **Action: Mr Patterson to forward details to Julie Simpson.** h. Mr Skinner reported that the Yacht Harbours Association have awarded Yacht Haven and Queen Ann's Battery the Highest Award for Quality and Service. i. DQHM reported that the Water Events Diary for 2011 can be found on QHM's website www.qhmplymouth.org.uk. which includes all the regular yacht races that take place each year. Other events are: OCRDA Powerboat Racing – 7 – 8 May 11 Sail and Powerboat weekend at QAB – 7 – 8 May 11 Fastnet Finish – 16 August 2011 Firework Competition – 16 – 17 August 2011	P Patterson
12. Dates of Next Meetings	Dates of the forthcoming PPMLC and TECF meetings were published as follows: **PPMLC** TECF 1400 on **9 June 2011** 1015 on 10 March 2011 1400 on **13 October 2011** 1015 on 14 July 2011 1400 on **9 February 2012** 1015 on 10 November 2011	

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Distribution:

NBC, All Committee members

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ANNEX A

Natural England report to Port of Plymouth Marine Liaison Committee Meeting 17th February 2011

SAC Matters

- NE are planning survey work to assess the condition of the subtidal sandbanks feature in the SAC. We'll be working with EA to carry out a wide programme of grab sampling through the Sound and up the Tamar in early spring.
- In addition there may be some diving and drop video survey work to assess some of the kelp forest communities and estuarine bedrock and boulders.

Other SACs

- Final conservation objectives for the Prawle Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone Reefs cSAC have been produced and will be consulted on in the near future.
- MCA and Cefas have been carrying out extensive acoustic surveys of the Prawle Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone Reefs cSAC on behalf of NE to establish exactly where the different types of reef occur between Plymouth and Prawle Point. The survey will be finished by the end of March.

Casework

- See Coastal Planning Co-ordinator's

Hugh Tyler - 0300 060 0318, hugh.tyler@naturalengland.org.uk (Cornwall and SSSIs lead)
Helena Towers– 0300 0602972, helena.towers@naturalengland.org.uk (Devon)
Louisa Knights – 0300 0600229, Louisa.knights@naturalengland.org.uk (SAC lead)

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ANNEX B

TAMAR ESTUARIES CONSULTATIVE FORUM
c/o DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT
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PPMLC 17th February 2011

Report of TECF Coastal Planning Co-ordinator
Port of Plymouth Marine Liaison Committee
February 2011

1. Coordination of Management Framework for Tamar Estuaries

- **Core funding:** Core funding is now secure for TECF to operate from 1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012. This means that work can now go ahead to update the Tamar Estuaries Management Plan for the period 2012 – 18 and to collect data on recreational activity in order to help shape the management plan.

- **Marine and Coastal Access Act:** The Marine Management Organisation have announced that East Inshore and East Offshore will be the first two marine areas in the marine planning process. It is expected that each marine plan area will take two years to complete and will involve significant local consultation. No decision has been yet been made on which areas will follow.

- **Sea Fisheries Management:** As of 1st April 2011, sea fisheries management in the Tamar and Plymouth Sound will be shared between two new organisations: Cornwall Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority on the west side and Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority on the east side. Targets for their first year will include:
  - Publish an annual plan with the authority's main objectives and priorities for the coming year.
  - Identify and evaluate key issues likely to impact on the sustainable management of the marine environment.
  - Assess the impacts of different management methods and monitor effectiveness of different mechanisms.
  - All existing byelaws to be reviewed by 2015.
  - Develop stakeholder engagement and communication strategy.

- **Cornwall Council** have drafted a Marine Strategy which sets out a single vision for the inshore marine area whilst integrating maritime issues into spatial planning. The Consultation period ended in December. We are waiting to hear what the next steps will be.

2. Tamar Estuaries Management Plan 2012 – 18

The current Tamar Estuaries Management Plan runs out at the end of March 2012 and will therefore needs to be reviewed and rewritten during this coming year.

The plan is important as it is legally required in order to protect the designated European Marine Site and it sets out how the competent authorities will achieve this protection and it underpins the work of TECF.

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3. Finding Sanctuary

Finding Sanctuary are nearing the end of their process to recommend a network of Marine Conservation Zones for the South West. With final deadlines looming, they are keen to get final feedback on what is currently being proposed regarding the designation of Marine Conservation Zones.

There are 3 questions which need addressing:

i. **Reference Sites**

As part of this they wish to identify 'Reference Sites' or 'Control Sites' in which activity can be restricted. They are suggesting some sites as shown on the map (http://system.newzapp.co.uk/EditSite/Customers/7684/nz-docs/IWG_referenceareas_map.pdf). You will see that they are not proposing any reference sites in our area. However, they are looking for comments or alternative suggestions **by the 21st February.**

What they are asking: "Do we wish to make any comments on the reference sites in general?"

Issues to consider: Since reference sites would need to have human activity strictly controlled in them, it would not be appropriate to designate reference sites within Plymouth Sound and Tamar Estuaries, given its importance for recreation, commerce and defence activities. A population of 400,000 in the catchment means that the area is extremely important to a large number and range of users, and it may therefore be better to identify any reference sites away for such a hub of activity.

ii. Designation of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs)

Plymouth Sound and Tamar Estuaries is already both a SAC and SPA so is already protected. There are currently no proposals for any additional MCZs in our area. The nearest one to us is Whitsand Bay to Looe, which is well clear of the Rame Head Disposal Site. Any comments about this network configuration need to be back to Devon Maritime Forum **by early March.**

What they are asking: "Do we want to comment further on these proposals?"

Issues to consider: Seems sensible not to have MCZ within the European Marine Site given that the main features of conservation interest are covered under the EMS designation, so not clear that having a further designation would add anything. Nearest MZC is Whitsand Bay but this would not impact on ability to continue to use dredge disposal site at Rame Head.

iii. Estuaries

Finding Sanctuary are keen to examine whether certain estuaries should be designated as MCZs given their importance for biodiversity generally. Again, they are after comments by 21st February.

What they are asking: "Which estuaries should be considered?"

Issues to consider: Again, given the designations that already exist for the Plymouth Sound and Estuaries, the key features and species are already well protected so there would be no additionality of further designations. And again, given the importance of the Estuaries and Sound as an economic driver and commercial and social resource, it may be inappropriate to introduce further restrictions.

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4. Landscape & Biodiversity Conservation

- **Seagrass Monitoring :** Natural England have now received the findings from the Seagrass monitoring exercise carried out in 2009. Four Seagrass beds were included in the survey; Cawsand Bay, Drake's Island, Cellars Cove and Red Cove. This survey looked the health of the beds and found no signs of nutrient enrichment at any of the sites and that there were no definite signs of the wasting disease which is affecting Seagrass beds on the Isles of Scilly.

5. Recreation Management

- **Plymouth Waterways – a guide for small craft:** This leaflet is for dissemination through chandlers, marinas, sailing clubs, and harbour offices. Please help with dissemination if at all possible.
- **Recreational Survey:** An electronic questionnaire has gone out to 60 recreational clubs with an interest in the TECF area. Of these 21 have responded giving a response rate of 33% which is considered good. Whilst early days, the survey is already giving some really helpful data which will do much to help quantify any changes in recreational behaviour when compared with previous surveys. Key points are as follows:
    - 57% of clubs say they have either grown a little or significantly over the last five years.
    - Activities take place all year round but with a concentration over the summer months.
    - The areas most heavily used by clubs are the Plym, Outer Estuary, Sheltered bay, open coast and to a lesser extent Weir Quay.
    - Yachts and sailing boats account for most of the water craft.
    - Awareness of the marine designations (Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation) was only 50%.
    - Few clubs provide any special information on reducing impact on the environment.
    - 94% thought that the waters of Plymouth Sound and the Estuaries should be managed to ensure a range of activities can take place.
    - Looking ahead, 68% expected their club membership to grow.

6. Education & Awareness

- **Blue Sound:** This initiative to connect young people from the most deprived communities in Plymouth with their local marine environment is really gaining steam. The project is run by the Marine Biological Association in partnership with many other organisations and with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Further information is available from Rebecca House, the project officer. A full programme of events has just been published which includes:
  Over the coming months there are seashore safaris, beach cleans and fishing workshops. Young people will be invited to help put together a Sound Snorkel Guide and take part in jellyfish and Seagrass surveys. Further details from rebhou@mba.ac.uk
- **Coast Path Booklet:** Work is due to start this summer on revamping the guide to the South West Coast Path where it comes through the Plymouth Sound and Tamar Estuaries area. This will update a booklet which was last produced over 7 years ago. The new production will include a much stronger emphasis on the marine environment and ferry links whilst still retaining other points of general interest.

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7. Planning & Marine Licensing Issues

- Current planning and marine planning applications include the following:
  - **Turnchapel:** Preapplication discussions are currently taking place for a housing development in the old Quarry site at Turnchapel.
  - **Howards Quay Marina:** the developers have yet to submit a full planning application, but it is understood that they are expected to submit soon.
  - **Baylys Slipway** – the appellant is currently appealing against the enforcement actions. The Inspector has postponed his visit until April.
  - **Weston Mill Lake** – applications are expected soon for two unrelated developments in Weston Mill Lake. Preapplication discussions are continuing for both the incinerator and the Ministry of Defence works which include a jetty, pontoons and dredging.
  - **Royal William Yard:** new walkway to go round one of the buildings. Also proposals to install pedestrian access through from Devils Point.
  - **Spaniards Inn, Cargreen:** The proposals, which included a pontoon and holiday accommodation has been refused.
  - **Southdown Marina**: matters ongoing regarding unlicensed marina.
  - **Cornwall Council** are currently consulting on the Local Development Framework, and in particular their 'Core Strategy Options Paper' and their Area Based Discussions Paper. These documents are important as they start to shape the way in which development will take place in Cornwall over the next 6 years. Further information can be found at http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=22887 .

8. Water Transportation / Recreation

Local Transport Plans for both Plymouth and Cornwall are both out for consultation, and both contain sufficient in order to improve water transport.

Mrs Kaja Curry
Coastal Planning Co-ordinator
Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum
February 2011

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