

**Queen's Harbour Master's Office**  
 Longroom  
 RM Barracks  
 Stonehouse

QHM/532/3

12 December 2007

**NOTES OF THE TAMAR ESTUARIES CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING HELD AT 1015 ON THURSDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2007 IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM HM NAVAL BASE DEVONPORT**

<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Representing</u></b>
Commander I Hugo Royal Navy	Chairman and Queen's Harbour Master (QHM)
Dr J Salvatore	Plymouth City Council (PCC & <i>representing</i> EH)
Mr A Winder	Devon County Council (DCC Coastal Officer)
Cllr A Hosking	Devon County Council (VC TVAONB WO)
Miss P Hoskin	Cornwall County Council (CCC)
Ms J Perry	West Devon Borough Council (WDBC)
Cllr R T Pike	
Mr R Runnalls	Caradon District Council (CDC)
Cllr P Beaumont	
Mr R Toogood	South Devon A.O.N.B. / SHDC
Mr R Swinfen	Wembury Conservation Group (WCG)
Ms K Curry	Coastal Officer (CO)
Captain T Charlesworth	Cattewater Harbour Commissioners (CHC)
Captain T Andrews	Associated British Ports (ABP)
Mr J Yunnie	Environment Agency (EA)
Mrs J Thomasson	
Mr K Bower	Devon Sea Fisheries
Miss S Clarke	
Mr G Black	Natural England (NE)
Mr C Davis	
Lt Cdr N Trathen	DQHM
Mrs S Carmichael	Minute Secretary

<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Discussion and Decisions</u></b>	<b><u>Action</u></b>
1. Introduction.	1. Cdr Hugo welcomed those present to the meeting. He invited members to introduce themselves and identify their respective organisations. He introduced Mrs Kaja Curry – the new Coastal Officer, who had been selected, with ease, from good applicants. Kaja brings excellent qualities to the role with adherence to time lines, meaning this group will have to work harder! He stated that Kaja is well placed to make something happen to satisfy the management plan put in place by Maeve Nightingale before she vacated the post.	

2. Apologies for Absence.	1. Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Preston - CCC, Cllr Jordan & Cllr Leaves – PCC, M Palmer – PCC, M Tyler – NE, P Whitby - DEFRA, Cllr G Fielden – SHDC, K Carter – SHDC, T Sellman – Tamar Valley AONB,	
3. Notes of Previous Meeting.	1. With the exception of <i>4d) Mr A Winder “no objection in principle; not actually signed up to it”</i> the notes of the previous meeting held on 12 July 2007 were accepted.	
4. Matters Arising.	<p>1. <b><u>Co-ordination and Information.</u></b></p> <p>Cdr. Hugo remarked that despite the obvious gap between Maeve leaving and Kaja’s appointment, coordination and information had kept a reasonable momentum but with some inevitable slippage.</p> <p>a. <u>Management Plan and Annual Work Programme.</u> CO advised that 3 months’ slippage on work programme inherited. Quite clear about key areas of work. CO asked that forum members provide their priority items from Management Plan so that Work Plan for 2008 can be finalised by next meeting</p> <p>b. <u>Financial Statement and Funding.</u> CO enquired whether all had received invoices from her predecessor in July and hoped that they had all paid. Ms Perry said she would check if payment had gone through as there had been changes in the office. CO stated that she would like next year’s invoices to go out earlier in the year and asked if there were any issues. Mr Winder stated that he would be happy to be invoiced earlier in the year.</p> <p>c. <u>Memorandum of Agreement.</u> CO noted that her predecessor had circulated MOU but that there had been no progress on execution. QHM suggested suitable alteration to wording may encourage those with reservations on content &amp; obligations arising. Mr Swinfen stated that he would like to approve a final document and suggested re-submittal for comments/approval. Before next meeting, CO will re-circulate final MOU. Mr Winder agreed and stated that feedback be promptly returned to CO (well in advance of next meeting) so that this subject can move on. <u>All to read please.</u></p> <p>d. <u>Marine and Coastal Policy Developments – Marine Bill, Improving Coastal Access</u></p> <p>(i) Marine Bill: Chris Davis of NE advised that responses to white paper were posted on the DEFRA website. It appeared that there is a broad range of support for the Marine Bill from virtually all sides. In Queen’s Speech a draft bill would be put to Parliament next year around March / April. (CD noted that could be anything from Feb – Sept!). Once written, out for consultation. Key stage next spring. C.D. stated it was</p>	<p>ALL/CO</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>ALL/CO</p>

	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> most complex bill (after terrorism) ever launched by government. Treasury concerned about cost &amp; devolution issues.</p> <p>(ii) <u>Improving Coastal Access</u>. DEFRA had produced a paper on improving coastal access which was currently out for consultation. Aim is to achieve public access to a coastal corridor around the country, similar to the CROW legislation. Dependant on the response to consultation it is likely that a draft white paper would be produced.</p> <p>.</p> <p>CO noted existence of Water Based Recreation Study sponsored by RDA - suggesting possible zoning of water sports in the region (inland &amp; coastal) Relevant members unaware of this initiative – no consultation in Devon &amp; Cornwall as far as we know - to be followed up.</p> <p><b>2. <u>Waterfront and Marine Development</u></b></p> <p>a. <u>Coastal Planning SPD</u>.</p> <p>CO noted that P Ford / M Palmer (PCC) unable to attend today to explain relationship between this document &amp; Local Development Framework. PCC progressing LDF business at pace, somewhat ahead of adjacent L.A.'s. The benefit of these LAs adopting a similar SPD within individual LDFs was agreed. This was best taken forward through a workshop of local planning officers. CCC offered to facilitate. Cdr. Hugo suggested that workshops should be held in January 2008.</p> <p>CO advised that PCC had produced a draft Planning Obligation &amp; Affordable Housing SPD which predicted a 25% population growth in the Plymouth travel to work area. It noted that there would be a potential impact and additional pressures on the European Marine Site through increased recreational use. The document proposed a tariff of approx. £35/new house being allocated to projects to assess/manage the increased use and minimise impact on the SAC. The consultation period for this SPD runs from November 9 to Dec 21<sup>st</sup>. Members were encouraged to respond supporting the proposal.</p> <p>b. <u>Millbay Inner Basin</u>. Tim Andrews (ABP) advised on the status of the inner harbour development. Contractors had been (separately) appointed to provide a lifting sill to control water level into harbour and commence Princess Yachts development work. A licence had been granted for a temporary facility within the inner basin to accommodate the fishing vessels displaced from Sutton Harbour during gate replacement works.</p> <p>b. <u>Barbican Landing Stage</u>. Legal process progressing alongside planning detail. Contractors aiming for spring completion.</p>	<p>PH (CCC)/ CO</p> <p>All</p>
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	<p>3. <b><u>Nature Conservation.</u></b></p> <p>Chris Davies introduced Gavin Black who had joined the NE team &amp; replaced Laura Heape. GB would be leading for NE in this group in future, with CD moving up within the NE team</p> <p>a. <b><u>SAC Matters</u></b> - NE report attached.</p> <p>Jess Thomasson (EA) advised that funding had been received this year for eliminating knotweed and the area had been given a good ‘blitz’ to try and prevent any seeding. Working on it again next year – information leaflets distributed</p> <p>b. <b><u>Marine Protected Areas Project.</u></b> C Davis stated his intention to bring CO and GB up to speed and GB to report back at next meeting.</p> <p>Mr Bower (Devon Sea Fish) spoke re. exclusion of mobile fishing gear within SAC. Trying to meet with fishermen but 6 attempts had failed. Legislation inevitable but would rather proceed on a mutually cooperative basis.</p> <p>4. <b><u>Navigation and Waterborne Public Transport.</u></b></p> <p>a. <b><u>Revision of the Dockyard Port of Plymouth Order.</u></b> Consultation should start in December (see previous meeting minute). No increase in powers – revisions reflect, inter alia, changes in security, speed limits, &amp; removal of visual signal station.</p> <p>b. <b><u>Dredging Protocols for the Tamar Estuaries.</u></b> CO advised that draft protocol brief has been written but needed checking with DEFRA to ensure that it meets all requirements. Once the brief had been finalised funding sources would need to be identified - estimated cost of work £20k/£30k.</p> <p>c. <b><u>Anthony Passage Management &amp; Access.</u></b> DQHM advised that access from the shore at Anthony Passage was via private land so no inherent right to land on foreshore existed. Waters themselves not private, but permission to lay moorings on the fundus in the hands of a private operator by way of a licence from Anthony Estates (Fundus Owners) Operators are, therefore, operating within their rights.</p>	<p>NE</p> <p>QHM</p> <p>CO</p>
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	<p><b>5. <u>Public Access, Recreation and Moorings.</u></b></p> <p>a. <u>Weir Quay Development Plan.</u> This matter was discussed with input from Cllr Hoskings, Miss Perry &amp; others. The CO requested inclusion in the working party. Consultation on the matters involved would be taking place in Dec. Ms J Thomasson expressed concerns about health of salt marsh in this area and the rate that it is eroding away. EA was meeting with a local landowner to investigate the viability of monitoring.</p> <p>b. <u>Managing the Interests of the Upper Estuary.</u> QHM advised that he was unable to attend a meeting last month but would receive the minutes and report back accordingly.</p> <p>6. <u>Marine Archaeology.</u> Dr. John Salvatore (PCC Archaeologist) introduced himself &amp; stated that he had worked for English Heritage for 8 years. Dr Salvatore read out a statement which Chris Pater of English Heritage had forwarded to him for this meeting. Copy appended to these minutes. Dr Salvatore advised that PCC welcome this statement from EH. Bringing marine archaeology into line with land archaeology very much welcome. Certainly helpful if the marine practice was in line with the land based practice</p>	<p>EA/CO</p> <p>QHM</p>
<p><i>Chris Davis of NE and A Winder of DCC made their apologies and left the meeting at this point.</i></p>		
<p>5. Matters Brought Forward from PPMLC.</p>	<p>1. <u>Designated Diving Areas.</u> DQHM stated that it was intended to remove the designated diving areas off Ravenness Point and the Breakwater Fort as they were no longer exclusively used and diving routinely takes place in many areas within the Port. The area off Fort Bovisand would be retained.</p>	<p>DQ</p>
<p>6. Significant Future Events.</p>	<p>1. DQHM provided an update on events for 2008:</p> <p>11 May                      Transat. Based at Sutton Harbour/QAB.  21-22 June                Round Britain Power Boat Race (overnight stop)  27 July/3 Aug            PPSA Regatta/Classic Boat Rally</p>	

7. Any Other Business.	<p>1. <u>Unitary Authority in Cornwall</u> P. Hoskin stated that CCC were moving towards a Unitary Authority. May have a new attendee in this meeting. Higher levels of staff management may be affected. Lot of opportunities but disruptions anticipated initially.</p> <p>2. <u>Conrad Humphries 'Blue'</u>. P Hoskin introduced this environmental initiative and asked whether TECF want to identify with it. DQ said that a website link may be the way forward. CO to investigate</p>	CO								
8. Proposed Date/Time of next meetings	<p>1. Dates for future TECF and PPMLC meetings as follows:</p> <table data-bbox="342 663 1268 806"> <tr> <td data-bbox="342 663 456 695"><u>PPMLC</u></td> <td data-bbox="1019 663 1101 695"><u>TECF</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="342 699 570 730">14 February 2008</td> <td data-bbox="1019 699 1211 730">13 March 2008</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="342 735 513 766">12 June 2008</td> <td data-bbox="1019 735 1187 766">17 July 2008</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="342 770 557 802">16 October 2008</td> <td data-bbox="1019 770 1263 802">13 November 2008</td> </tr> </table>	<u>PPMLC</u>	<u>TECF</u>	14 February 2008	13 March 2008	12 June 2008	17 July 2008	16 October 2008	13 November 2008	
<u>PPMLC</u>	<u>TECF</u>									
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12 June 2008	17 July 2008									
16 October 2008	13 November 2008									

Enclosures:

1. NE brief.
2. Briefing from English Heritage.

**Natural England report to Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum  
Meeting 15 November 2007**

**Casework -**

Jupiter Point Slipway – Objection has been resolved.

Navy Maintenance Dredging Programme 07-09 – NE considers no likely significant effect on the SAC / SPA. However protocol should be developed over the next 18 months as a matter of priority and will be required to inform next maintenance dredging application.

Tinside Health and Safety Works - Tinside Foreshore, Plymouth – Plymouth CC wish to concrete in an existing pool on health and safety ground. NE have requested that the pool is return to inter tidal habitat.

HMS Raleigh – replenishment at sea training facility. All concerns have been resolved.

**Eel grass mapping -**

Mapping eelgrass beds within Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC was completed in 2006 and reported in 2007. The work was completed by a partnership headed by Seascope consultants

Trialled use of aerial photography as a cost effective method of assessing extent, distribution and spatial configuration of eelgrass beds.

Most significant areas of dense eelgrass beds were, in descending order of size:

- Cellars Cove (Yealm) – 2.32ha
- Cawsand – 2.31ha
- Drakes Island – 2.16ha
- Red Cove North Shore – 0.76ha
- Red Cove South Shore – 0.46ha
- Jennycliff North – 0.46ha
- Jennycliff South – 0.22ha
- Firestone Bay was not looked at closely (poor image) but had no dense areas

Measured features include: total area, core area , Landscape Shape Index (indicates fragmentation), Contrast Weighted Edge Density (indicates complexity and possibly, susceptibility to damage). Method used (aerial photography, image processing with ground truthing) proved a means of monitoring changes in eelgrass beds. The survey provides a baseline, aerial photography should be repeated at same time of year under similar weather and sea conditions within the next monitoring round. Report recommends that other environmental variables be measured to study natural effects e.g. nutrient conc<sup>n</sup>s, light, temp, salinity, wind exposure (REI = relative exposure index).

The impacts of anchoring and mooring are visible at Cellar's Cove and Drake's Island. Yealm management partnership should investigate ways to resolve issues at Cellar's Cove. TECF should investigate ways of managing anchoring within the Drake's Island.

## **Tamar Invasives Project –**

All Hogweed from A30 to Calstock has been sprayed this year. NE will continue below Calstock in 2008/09.

Hugh Tyler - 01872 245051, [hugh.tyler@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:hugh.tyler@naturalengland.org.uk) (Cornwall)

Gavin Black – 01392 889786, [gavin.black@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:gavin.black@naturalengland.org.uk) (Devon and SAC lead)

**Briefing from English Heritage for TECF Meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> November 2007**  
(from Chris Pater – English Heritage via John Salvatore PCC Development)

John,

**Subject: Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum (meeting on 15 November)**

Thank you for offering to represent our interests at the Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum on 15<sup>th</sup> November (at 10:15, HM Naval Base, Devonport).

From the items on the agenda (received in the post, dated 30<sup>th</sup> October) we offer the following comment:

1. marine and coastal policy developments – marine bill: we are pleased to see its inclusion in this session of Parliament and we have a proactive programme of engagement with Defra to ensure appropriate attention is given to the marine historic environment in the reform of licensing, introduction of planning and in other conservation initiatives
2. waterfront and marine development – we are aware of the recent briefing provided at recent Marine Consents Liaison Group meeting regarding the new Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007 that entered into force in June. We note that these regulations apply to projects for which approval is sought under FEPA, CPA or local powers and supersede Part II of the Harbour Works (EIA) Regulations 1999; Part III which relate largely to Harbour Empowerment and Revision Orders remains in force. We therefore encourage developers to contact us to enable early discussion on how any Environmental Statement as required by the new regulations will address the maritime historic environment.
3. nature conservation – we maintain an active programme of engagement regarding ‘marine protected areas’ and how such areas may also assist in the management of the marine historic environment and in turn how presently designated wreck sites can contribute to the sum of marine protected areas.
4. navigation – we are also aware that in this session of Parliament that a draft bill ‘Marine Navigation and Port Safety’ is to be worked on that will also implement the International Wreck Removal Convention and we will work with the key players in the preparation of this bill to capture any relevant historic environment provisions.
5. marine archaeology – this session of Parliament also includes the Heritage Protection Review Bill which does set about to radically reform the system of designating ‘marine historic assets’ to capture other interests as not presently provided for under the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973. We are happy to provide more information to TECF regarding the marine elements of this bill on request. We will also look to continue to provide our contribution to TECF business through you, but we have noted the dates of the meetings next year and I hope to be able to attend in person on one occasion.

Regards,  
Chris

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