


QHM/532/3

14 July 2011

**NOTES OF THE TAMAR ESTUARIES CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING  
 HELD AT 1015 ON THU 14 JULY 2011 IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM MO49  
 HM NAVAL BASE DEVONPORT**

<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Representing</u></b>
Commander C Necker Royal Navy	Chairman and Queen's Harbour Master (QHM)
Ms K Curry	Coastal Planning Coordinator (CPC)
Mr G Black	Natural England
Mrs P Hoskin	Cornwall Council
Mr P Whitby	Marine Management Organisation
Mrs C Newell	Environment Agency
Cllr Mrs J Dolan	Plymouth City Council
Mr M Sullivan	Associated British Ports Plymouth
Captain T Charlesworth	Cattewater Harbourmaster
Mr R Swinfen	Wembury Conservation Group
Cllr M Benson	West Devon Borough Council
Mrs M Luscombe	West Devon Borough Council
Mr S Cadman	Cornwall Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authorities
Ms J Simpson	Minute Secretary

<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Discussion and Decisions</u></b>	<b><u>Action</u></b>
1. Introduction	Cdr C Necker welcomed those present to the meeting and invited members to introduce themselves and identify their respective organisations.	
Presentation by Mr Simon Cadman from Cornwall IFCA	<p>Mr Cadman gave a presentation on the new Cornwall Inshore Fisheries &amp; Conservation Authorities (IFCA) which is attached at Annex A. Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 replaced the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966 and gave new powers to the IFCAs.</li> <li>• IFCA function for Plymouth Sound and the Tamar is now split between 2 bodies – Cornwall to the west and Devon and Severn to the East with the complicated boundary going down the Tamar and past the western edge of the Breakwater.</li> <li>• IFCAs are now responsible for the management of sea fish in the estuaries, EA responsible for salmonids and eels.</li> <li>• All previous Devon Sea Fisheries Committee byelaws still apply until they are reviewed by 2015.</li> <li>• Cross-warranting arrangements still need to be made between EA, IFCAs and MoD. Discussions will also need to take place with QHM.</li> <li>• Cornwall IFCA anticipates placing 2 officers with a boat in the east of the county.</li> <li>• Issues to be further investigated are levels of fishing, illegal netting and levels of bait digging and crab tiling.</li> </ul>	

2. Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence had been received from Lt Cdr R Smith (DQHM), Cllr P Sanders (DCC), Mr P McMahon (EH), Cllr G Trubody (CC), Cllr B Carson (SHDC), Cllr Mrs P Nichols (PCC), Mr L Birch (CC), Ms S Clark (D&SIFCA), Mr R Halliday (DoC) and Cllr B Hobbs (CC). Also Mr A Winder was unable to enter the Dockyard.	
3. Agree Notes of the last meeting.	The notes of the last meeting held on 10 March 2010 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.	
4. Matters Arising.	<p>Para 6.1. CPC reported that an email will be sent out shortly to all TECF members regarding an update on the extension for one year of the Memorandum of Understanding.</p> <p>Para 10. Cllr Dolan reported that there have been several complaints with regard to Plymouth City Council's proposals to increase mooring charges. Discussion followed on this and QHM suggested that the licence holders contacted Marine Services at PCC as they are the people who manage the moorings in question.</p> <p>Para 13b. QHM reported that the new website address has changed to <a href="http://www.mod.uk/qhm">www.mod.uk/qhm</a> He then asked for feedback on the website from the TECF members and the people they represent.</p>	CPC
5. Matters for Decision.	<p>5.1 <u>Adoption of Logo</u>. CPC reported that a competition was held to design a new logo for the Plymouth Sound and Tamar Estuaries European Marine Site. The competition attracted a good response and this is new the logo that was chosen. QHM thanked CPC for her hard work concerning the competition. More information is attached at Annex B. <b>Accepted</b></p> <p>5.2 <u>Tamar Estuaries Management Plan</u>. CPC reported that the first draft of the Management Plan is taking longer than anticipated therefore it was decided to send out the first draft at the end of September for TECF members to read through. It can then be discussed at the November meeting with the final plan being agreed at the March 2012 meeting.</p> <p>5.3 <u>Saving Seahorses</u>. CPC explained that the TECF has been asked to support a National Marine Aquarium project that will be focusing on improving the understanding and conservation of seahorses and seagrass beds, by contributing up to £5,000 and that CPC will sit on the management group. After lengthy discussion it was agreed that the TECF can afford to support this project and that in fact it sits within the TECF and CPC's remit. <b>Agreed</b></p>	 CPC
6. Changes to Maritime Licences	Mr Phil Whitby gave a presentation on the MMO – Licensing Works in the Marine Environment. The presentation is attached to the email.	
7. Coastal Planning Coordinators Report	<p>CPC's report is attached at Annex D, also:</p> <p><b>Financial Statement:</b> It was confirmed that Cattewater Harbour Commissioners contribution for 2011-12 is £8,270.24 and not the £7,270.24 shown on the papers. The income would also need to be adjusted.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Projects money needed to be split out to show what the £15,000 money would be spent on.</p>	

	<p><b>Finding Sanctuary:</b> The proposed MCZ for Smelt in the Tamar, Tavy and Lynher was noted as was the Whitsand Bay – Looe Bay MCZ and the proposed Reference site off the Yealm. There was some discussion on how the proposed MCZs will impact on operations and activities. KC explained that the conservation objectives had not been set and that the true impact would not be fully understood until then. Gavin Black confirmed that management measures would fall under 3 categories: a) do nothing; b) raise awareness; c) introduce measures. <b>Action: Clarify when the conservation objectives will be known.</b></p> <p><b>Education &amp; Public Awareness:</b> CPC gave a summary of the educational events focusing on the Tamar and Plymouth Sound, including Bioblitz, an event to record as much wildlife as possible over a 24 hour period being run by the Marine Biological Assoc. This year the event is at Mount Edgcombe on the 30 Sept – 1 Oct 2011. She also highlighted the success of the World Oceans Day.</p> <p><b>Planning &amp; Marine Licensing Issues:</b> CPC gave an update of proposals including Howards Quay marina, Baylys Slipway, the Landing craft proposals at Weston Mill. She also said that the Waste to Energy Plant application had now been submitted as had the MMO license for the Americas Cup Race Marina in Millbay.</p> <p><b>Rame Head Disposal Site:</b> CPC reported on the MMO's meeting held in May at Millbrook where the outcome was to establish a local group which would pursue the concerns raised and would operate under Chatham House Rules. The members of the group included QHM, Crown Estate, Plymouth Marine Science Partnership, Natural England, Cornwall IFCA, Cornwall Council, parish councils and local residents. QHM added that the group had met and that views were being aired.</p>	CPC
8. Nature Conservation.	<p>a. <u>SAC Matters.</u> Mr Gavin Black gave a report on SAC matters which is attached at Annex E. Items covered included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plymouth Sound to be monitored this year including extent of subtidal sandbanks, estuarine reef communities and kelp forests. Work to be carried out in collaboration with EA and the IFCAs.</li> <li>• NE will next need to deliver conservation advice to enable relevant authorities to implement measures.</li> <li>• NE also devising an integrated monitoring programme of all EMS sites.</li> </ul>	
9. Fisheries	<p>a. <u>Salmon Netting.</u> Mrs Clarissa Newell from the EA reported that there has been a buy out with regard to salmon netting and no one is allowed to use their nets until at least 2013. At that time the EA will then do an assessment and if the salmon stocks have sufficiently improved, then licences will be re-issued.</p> <p>b. <u>Smelt.</u> Mrs Newell reported that they are not being surveyed by the EA, but the MBA are considering a survey as the Tamar is the only known feeding ground for Smelt.</p> <p>c. <u>Allis Shad.</u> The numbers of Allis Shad has gone up and monitoring is continuing.</p> <p>d. Mrs Newell reported that in recent weeks the EA's Fishery Officers have successfully prosecuted some illegal fishermen who were caught laying illegal nets in the Tamar.</p> <p>e. Mrs Newell reported that South West Water have put up £28,000 to</p>	

	<p>clear up the problem of sewage in the river by the Embankment.</p> <p>f. The EA and South West Water are setting up an Urban Stream Project where they are trying to improve the water quality of local streams. The EA would like the public to report poor rivers so that they can improve the areas.</p>											
10. Matters brought forward from PPMLC.	a. QHM reported that there was nothing significant to report from the last PPMLC.											
11. Water Events	<p>DQHM reported that the Water Events Diary for 2011 can be found on QHM's website <a href="http://www.qhm.mod.uk/">http://www.qhm.mod.uk/</a> which includes all the regular yacht races that take place each year.</p> <p>Other events are:</p> <table> <tr> <td>P1 Superstock Power Boats</td> <td>– 15 – 17 July 2011</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Plymouth Regatta</td> <td>– 30 July 2011</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fastnet Finish</td> <td>– 16 August 2011</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Firework Competition</td> <td>– 16 – 17 August 2011</td> </tr> <tr> <td>America's Cup Event</td> <td>– 10 – 18 September 2011</td> </tr> </table>	P1 Superstock Power Boats	– 15 – 17 July 2011	Plymouth Regatta	– 30 July 2011	Fastnet Finish	– 16 August 2011	Firework Competition	– 16 – 17 August 2011	America's Cup Event	– 10 – 18 September 2011	
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12. Items for future meetings	There were no new items for the future.											
13. Any Other Business.	<p>a. Mrs Hoskin reported that the Cornwall Maritime Strategy is still ongoing and it is hoped that the TECF will be consulted in September.</p> <p>b. Captain Charlesworth reported that he has been approached by Yacht Haven Marina regarding dredging in their marina.</p> <p>c. There was discussion regarding North Corner and whether this should be closed off. <b>Action: Ask Mike Artherton.</b></p>	DQHM										
14. Dates of Next Meetings	<p>Dates of the forthcoming PPMLC and TECF meetings were published as follows:</p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th><u>PPMLC</u></th> <th><u>TECF</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1400 on 9 June 2011</td> <td>1000 on <b>14 July 2011</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1400 on 13 October 2011</td> <td>1000 on <b>10 November 2011</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1400 on 9 February 2012</td> <td>1000 on <b>8 March 2012</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>PPMLC</u>	<u>TECF</u>	1400 on 9 June 2011	1000 on <b>14 July 2011</b>	1400 on 13 October 2011	1000 on <b>10 November 2011</b>	1400 on 9 February 2012	1000 on <b>8 March 2012</b>			
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Distribution:

NBC, All Committee members

**Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009**

The Act fundamentally changed the way sea fish and the marine environment is to be managed. It abolished the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966 which the Sea Fisheries Committees worked under and created Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities and the Marine Management Organisation. New duties, responsibilities and powers were given to IFCAs and the MMO

**Boundary changed from SFC to IFCAs**

The boundary line between Cornwall IFCA and Devon and Severn IFCA is shifted a few miles to the east from that of the boundary which formerly existed from Rame Head between the Cornwall SFC and Devon SFC. Cornwall's eastern boundary and Devon & Severn's western boundary is now drawn from the western end of the Plymouth Sound breakwater. There is still a six mile IFCA district limit drawn around the Eddystone, but where the line from the breakwater extends south, it simply makes more of that area a part of the Cornwall IFCA district. From the breakwater a series of eight positions are charted through the Sound and up the Tamar as far as the A38 road bridge to divide that stretch of water between the IFCA districts. Upstream of the bridge, the IFCA boundary line runs along the County's statutory boundary line in the Tamar (mid-river), as far as the tidal limit.

**Management of fisheries**

Cornwall IFCA has taken on management of sea fish within its rivers and estuaries and the EA continue to manage salmonids and other freshwater fish species. The Cornwall SFC did not have these responsibilities as the EA were the SFCs for Cornish rivers, except for the Lynher and Tamar where Devon SFC were responsible for sea fish. The EA made a number of byelaws for the management of sea fish in the other rivers of Cornwall.

**Legacy byelaws**

All byelaws of the former SFCs and EA (in respect of sea fish) continue today, and apply to the area for which they were originally made. Therefore, for in the sea and within the Tamar and Lynher, byelaws made by Devon SFC in an area which now comes under the Cornwall IFCA are applied by Cornwall IFCA. All byelaws are currently being reviewed with a view to ensuring that they are still appropriate, whether harmonisation can be achieved between IFCA districts, or whether new byelaws should be made to fill any gaps in legislation. Deadline is 2015, but it is hoped to achieve the process by 2013. Cornwall IFCA has 63 byelaws under review with ex-DSFC and ex-EA byelaws in the mix.

**Cross warranting with partner organisations**

Prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 officers of the Cornwall SFC and Devon SFC were cross warranted to aid enforcement capability. EA officers and Devon SFC officers were also cross warranted. MoD Police were also warranted in respect of SDFC byelaws. No cross warranting has been established since IFCAs began, but work continues at national level to allow a common process for IFCA officers to be cross warranted with other IFCAs and with the EA. The MMO can empower IFCA officers to act as Marine Enforcement Officers and this is likely to occur so that national and EC legislation which does not ordinarily fall within the remit of IFCAs can be enforced on the MMOs behalf.

**Enforcement resources**

Cornwall IFCA has 9 officers and 1 support staff. Another 5 staff are likely to be employed soon in order to cope with the increased workload. One 27m patrol boat is based at Newlyn to cover 1350 square miles of sea. It has a 6.4m RIB on board which may be used independently. Another 6.8m RIB lives ashore on a trailer and may be towed to many suitable launching places for sea and river patrols. Inclusion of the rivers up to the tidal limits more than doubles the shoreline distance of the Cornwall IFCA to 684 miles and adds about 50 square miles of water to the former CSFC district. Illegal fishing in the major rivers of the Camel, Fowey, Tamar and Lynher will in many instances require a swift response to intercept the perpetrators in time to gather good evidence. Cornwall IFCA is considering the placing of 2 officers in the east of the county with vehicle and boat resources who could deal rapidly with local sea fishing incidents in rivers, ports, fish markets and businesses.

IFCAs will work closely with the MMO and EA on relevant fishing or marine environmental matters. Consideration of best value of public money and service will mean that IFCA and EA boats will sometimes be used between them in joint operations. They may also be shared with other organisations such as the Police or UK Border Agency when boats are patrolling in an area where they too have an interest. Close co-operation with Cornwall's harbour masters has been sought by Cornwall IFCA and it is hoped that suitable arrangements which aid enforcement capability can be achieved with QHM Plymouth.

Devon IFCA will work similarly: 7 officers and 1 support staff, possibly looking to employ a further 2 officers, one patrol boat with RIB, one RIB on trailer and one small boat for shellfish sampling.

### **Fisheries management in the Tamar (incl. Lynher and Tavy)**

Cornwall IFCA busy collating information as to what fisheries are exploited with their district; looking particularly at bass and grey mullet fishing since the EA have made us aware that people are targeting these species using nets which are illegally set or drifted. Crab tiling and bait digging sites are being observed so that the level of activity can be better understood and how it may impact habitats. Aware of Plymouth Sound & Estuaries European Marine Site, but no current concerns have been directly expressed. Rame Head spoil ground has been raised in recent months but not in terms of how it may affect this current site, rather the pSAC off Eddystone.

So for now, it is occasional patrols by RIB and ashore at places where boats are based. Familiarisation of fishing exploitation through what we see and also what we can learn through close working with partner organisations.

Out of hours duty officer system is nearing finalisation. The number to ring for Cornwall IFCA (24hrs) is 01736 336842.

Simon Cadman  
Senior Enforcement Officer  
Cornwall IFCA

**ANNEX B**

## Agenda Item 5.1 Adoption of Logo

**Recommendation**

That the favoured logo be adopted.

### **1. Summary**

1.1. Over 50 logos were received as part of the competition to design a new logo for the Plymouth Sound and Estuaries European Marine Site. The final logo now needs to be adopted.

### **2. The Process**

2.1. Additional funding for the prize, on top of the £500 agreed by TECF, was also received from the University of Plymouth, the National Marine Aquarium and the Marine Biological Association. This resulted in the final prize pot rising to £1,100 and enabled 3 categories to be run.

2.2. A brief was therefore produced and circulated widely, a press release was issued and cultural newsletters ran the event throughout the southwest.

2.3. 3 categories were set:

- 16s and under,
- Students on any design/art related course
- Anyone else.

2.4. Over 50 entries were received from 30 different people (a maximum of 3 designs from any one person), 6 from art/design students and the rest in the open category.

### **3. The Selection**

3.1. The end of the competition period coincided with the World Oceans Day Event held in the WOD tent in the City Centre. The logos were put on display, and both guests at the evening civic reception and the public during the day were invited to vote for their favourite.

3.2. Similarly votes were collected at the June meeting of the PPMCL and at two events attended by marine scientists and managers; once at the Devon Estuary Officers meeting and once at the Seahorse event held at the Aquarium.

3.3. This voting process proved useful as it showed clearly which logos proved most popular. However it did tend to split the votes for those designers which had more than one entry.

3.4. A judging panel was convened consisting of TECF (2 people), Marine Institute, National Marine Aquarium and Marine Biological Association. The top ten were then selected using the overall ranking, and the judging panel selected their favourite from these. It proved extremely difficult to pick one image, but in the end the judges did come to an agreement.

### **4. The Winners**

4.1. Sadly no entries were received from anyone in the younger category. The winners of the other two are shown as follows:

4.2. Art / Design Students: Callum Bradley from Plymouth. This was selected as it featured something clearly associated with Plymouth and showed depicted the range of uses very clearly. It would also reproduce well. He was selected as the overall winner and will receive a £1000 prize.



4.3. Others Winner The favoured logo was David Myring from Bristol who will receive a £100 prize.



## 5. The Prize Giving

5.1. Prize giving will be arranged shortly, with a photo opportunity around the presentation of the cheques. Final details still to be confirmed.

### **Recommendation**

That the favoured logo be adopted.

**ANNEX C**

**Agenda Item 5.3  
Saving Seahorses  
Briefing Paper**

**Recommendation**

- That TECF support this initiative and continue to work with the NMA in devising the project.
- That TECF contributes up to £5,000 to the project and that the TECF Coastal Planning Coordinator sits on the management group.

**1. Introduction**

1.1. The National Marine Aquarium is proposing a collaborative project that focuses on improving the understanding and conservation of seahorses and seagrass beds. The project aims to bring together the main applied research projects, to fill in the gaps where more research is needed and to apply the knowledge to four project areas in the South West, one of which being Plymouth Sound and Tamar Estuaries.

**2. Background**

2.1. There are two seahorses native to UK waters, both of which are likely to be found in Plymouth Sound. The short-snouted seahorse *Hippocampus hippocampus*, and the long-snouted or spiny seahorse *Hippocampus guttulatus*. However, they are exceptionally difficult to spot with their excellent camouflage.

2.2. They have long been associated with seagrass beds and given the number of beds within Plymouth Sound it is likely that they are present but more information is needed.

**3. The Task**

3.1. The Saving Seahorses Project will establish a unique partnership that harnesses the knowledge of the key institutions that have an understanding of seahorses and seagrass and apply it to five pilot areas in the South West,. The result will be better understanding of seahorses and seagrass, improvements to their management at the five locations and a full public involvement, information and education programme.

**4. The Partners**

4.1. The proposed partners will consist of:

- National Marine Aquarium (lead body)
- British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA)
- Devon Wildlife Trust
- Marine Biological Assoc
- South Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- TECF
- The Seahorse Trust
- Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust
- University of Plymouth Marine Institute

## 5. The Project Elements

5.1. **Phase 1:** Secure development funding to work up bid in more detail.

5.2. **Phase 2:** Saving Seahorse Project

## 6. Phase 1

6.1. Funding to be secured to carefully design the scientific and interpretation programme section of Phase 2. Likely to be through HLF and possibly Knowledge Transfer Proposal

## 7. Phase 2

7.1. **In-situ detailed study** – 3 year study to survey Plymouth Sound to include ROV video survey, detailed surveys of suitable sites using scientists, student divers and volunteers, tag and release programme,

7.2. **In-situ data gathering:** Gather data from four other sites and also collect data on seahorses from members of BIAZA Aquarium working group.

7.3. **Public engagement:** programme of activity to raise awareness through the National Marine Aquarium (NMA) but also at other national zoos.

7.4. **Learning programme:** programme of education programmes delivered through the NMA with possible management measures for the TECF area.

7.5. **Participation and volunteering:** the project will deliver a mechanism for involving the public and volunteers in data gathering.

## 8. Funding & Management

8.1. Funding is to be secured through Heritage Lottery Fund as well as possibly from other bodies. Otherwise it will be through support in kind wherever possible plus some funding from partners.

8.2. Provided that outputs relating to the management of seagrass beds in Plymouth Sound are delivered, then TECF could contribute up to £1,000 from project funding budget for Phase 1 and £4,000 for Phase 2, subject to TECF approval.

Recommendation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• That TECF support this initiative and continue to work with the NMA in devising the project.</li><li>• That TECF contributes up to £5,000 to the project</li><li>• That the TECF Coastal Planning Coordinator sits on the management group.</li></ul>

**ANNEX D****TAMAR ESTUARIES CONSULTATIVE FORUM**

c/o DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT  
 Plymouth City Council  
 Fl 08, Civic Centre  
 Plymouth  
 PL1 2AA

Tel: (01752) 304339

Fax: (01752) 304231

Email: kaja.curry@plymouth.gov.uk

**TECF Thurs 14 July 2011**

## **7. TECF Matters: Report of TECF Coastal Planning Co-ordinator**

**1. Coordination of Management Framework for Tamar Estuaries**

- **Devon Maritime Forum** are looking to produce a single document detailing the marine assets for Devon which will include an assessment of marine ecosystems. Jim Masters of the Devon Maritime Forum is coordinating the work and is hoping to develop the project as part of a wider European Interreg bid.
- **Cornwall Local Development Framework:** TECF submitted detailed comments to the Cornwall LDF in order to ensure that coastal and marine issues are fully represented.

**2. Financial Statement and Funding****2010-11**

Funding has been secured for this current year. We have less than anticipated so will need to eat into the reserves in order to pay for the core costs.

%	Income	Plan 2011/12	Confirmed
13.0	Natural England	(7,270.24)	(7,000.00)
4.0	Ministry of Defence, QHM	(2,237.00)	(2,237.00)
3.0	Associated British Ports	(1,677.75)	(1,677.75)
13.0	Cattewater Harbour Commission	(7,270.24)	(7,270.24)
2.0	Sutton Harbour Company	(1,118.50)	(1,118.50)
13.0	Plymouth City Council	(7,270.24)	(7,270.24)
13.0	Devon County Council	(7,270.24)	(4,000.00)
19.5	Cornwall Council	(10,905.36)	(7,000.00)
6.5	West Devon Borough Council	(3,635.12)	(3,635.12)
6.5	South Hams District Council	(3,635.12)	(3,635.00)
6.5	South West Water Ltd	(3,635.12)	(3,635.12)
0.0	Environment Agency	0.00	
0.0	Devon & Severn IFCA	0.00	
0.0	MMO	0.00	
0.0	English Heritage	0.00	
	Duchy of Cornwall	0.00	(3,500.00)
<b>100.0</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(55,925)</b>	<b>(51,979)</b>
	Income (less PCC contribution)	(48,655)	
	<b>PCC Net Budget</b>	<b>7,270</b>	
	<b>Shortfall:</b>		<b>-3,946</b>

## 2.1 Core funding: invoices will shortly be issued to all funding partners.

<i>Statement</i>	<i>2010-11</i>		<i>2011-12</i>
<b>Category</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual to year end</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Salaries & on-costs	47,407	46,693	48,063
Employers Liability Insurance	102	102	109
Training	0	276	0
Travel & Subs	761	409	784
Projects	4,879	4,953	15,000
<b>Total Exp</b>	<b>53,149</b>	<b>52,433</b>	<b>63,956</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Brought forward from previous year	-21,526	-21,526	-23,007
Partners' core contributions	-53,656	-52,433	-51,979
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-75,182</b>	<b>-73,959</b>	<b>-74,986</b>
<b>Surplus to be carried forward to 2011-12</b>	<b>-22,033</b>	<b>-23,007</b>	<b>-11,030</b>

### 3. Marine and Coastal Access Act 2011

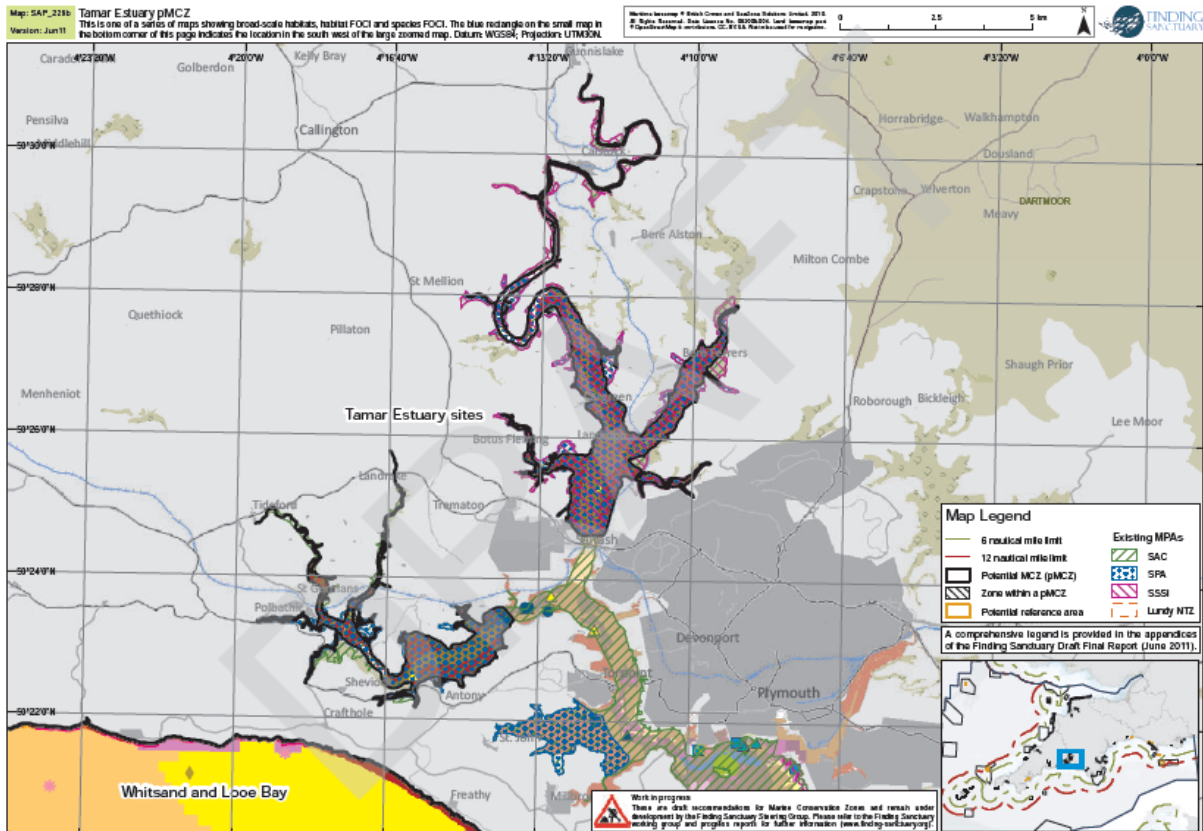
The Marine Management Organisation's marine licensing arrangements came into force at the beginning of April 2011. This has resulted in some considerable changes, so if anyone is thinking of carrying out a marine development then it is recommended that early discussions are held with the MMO in order to fully understand the implications. New powers include fines and legal action for failing to comply with the new regulations. Also all pontoons now require a license, even temporary ones in harbour authority areas, and moorings are exempt when they are otherwise consented by a harbour authority.

### 4. Landscape & Biodiversity Conservation

#### 4.1 Finding Sanctuary and Marine Conservation Zones

On the 1st June Finding Sanctuary submitted their Draft Final Recommendations to the national Science Advisory Panel. The full report describes the full network of recommended MCZs including 3 which are relevant to the TECF area; one for parts of the Tamar Estuaries, one for Whitsand and Looe Bay and a reference site for the mouth of the Yealm. The next site to the east is Erme Estuary. The 583 page full report from Finding Sanctuary can be found here at <http://www.finding-sanctuary.org/page/news/420>

**Tamar Estuaries MCZ:** Parts of the Tamar Estuary have been proposed as a Marine Conservation Zone. The features which are to be conserved are intertidal biogenic reefs, intertidal coarse sediment, blue mussel bed (including intertidal beds on mixed and sandy sediments, and the specific named species of the Native oyster, Smelt and the European Eel. The other notable features of the Estuaries are already protected through its European Marine Site designation.



<http://www.finding-sanctuary.org/page/news/420>

The proposed MCZ consists of the upper Tamar and the Lynher estuaries up to mean high water. The document stresses that the fundamental assumption about human activities within MCZs is that activities can continue (under current licensing regimes where applicable), as long as they do not prevent the conservation objectives from being achieved. Whilst not yet written, for each feature the conservation objective is likely to be "recover to reference condition".

**Whitsand and Looe Bays MCZ** will cover a very large area and the document proposes assumptions to activities which include:

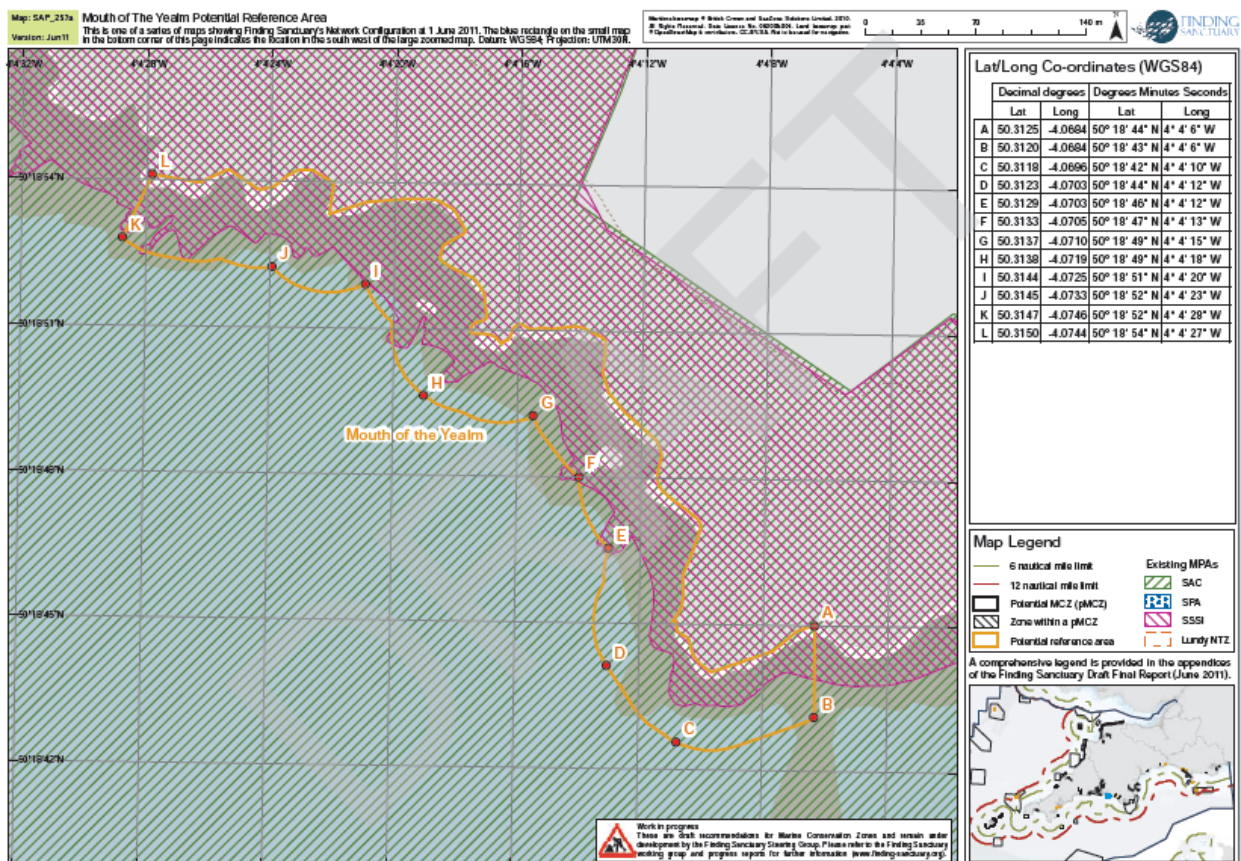
- Bottom-towed fishing gear
- Static fishing gear, ring netting and handlining
- recreational angling
- Cables & renewable energy
- Tourism and recreation including sub aqua diving
- Maintenance dredging
- Anchoring of small vessels
- Anchoring of large vessels (except in emergencies)
- Passage of ships
- Aggregate extraction and bioprospecting
- Dumping and disposal will not be allowed - the report mentions a closed disposal site off Rame Head but fails to mention the existing site. The report also says that reopening this site would not be compatible with the assumptions and that local group feedback has raised concerns that the 'Rame Head dump site' could reduce visibility of the pMCZ.
- Sewage disposal, industrial and agricultural liquid discharges (with management / mitigation)
- Aquaculture

- Crab tiling / bait digging(with mitigation/management)
- Seaweed harvesting
- beach replenishment (with mitigation / management)

**Mouth of the Yealm Reference Site:** is proposed as a Reference Site for high energy intertidal rock, intertidal coarse sediments, moderate energy intertidal rock, estuarine rocky habitats and seagrass beds. However none of these are large enough to meet the minimum variable size guidelines (5km).

The report seems to recognize that this proposed reference site is not ideal, and the potential for including the intertidal features into other reference sites is being investigated.

The key issue about reference sites is that all human activity should be restricted.



**Next Steps:** There will be a full public consultation which is likely to take place over late 2011 or early 2012, before the final proposals are implemented in Spring 2012.

## 5. Education & Awareness

**Blue Sound:** Work is continuing to engage young people with their local marine environment through Blue Sound. The Project Officer, Bex House, has put together a programme of events, training courses and schools sessions over the summer. The website has also gone live which will feature a guide to the Plymouth Sound and Tamar Estuaries Special Area of Conservation and panels are due to go up on both the Torpoint and Cremyll Ferry. Further details from [rebhou@mba.ac.uk](mailto:rebhou@mba.ac.uk) or from the website [www.bluesound.org](http://www.bluesound.org)

**Bioblitz:** Following past successful Bioblitz events (24 hour+ biodiversity survey) at Wembury in 2009 and Mothecombe in 2010, the Marine Biological Association is running a Bioblitz at Mount Edgcumbe Country Park, near Plymouth on the 30th

Sept – 1st October 2011 (a Friday and Saturday). They are seeking involvement from all interested parties. TECF will be present.

**Pottery Quay Clean Up:** In April a community beach clean took place at Pottery Quay, just north of where the Torpoint ferry comes in. This was a terrific community event run by West Country Housing Association. A whole lorry full of rubbish was pulled out of the area by local people as well as a community service team, there was a bbq and Blue Sound ran the interpretive events for the youngsters.

**Plymouth Wildlife Trail:** a new leaflet has been produced as part of the Plymouth Summer Festival. The leaflet features a trail around the city centre and the Waterfront and is aimed particularly at families. For the first time it includes information on the European Marine Site.

**World Oceans Day:** Plymouth City Council joined forces with the Plymouth Marine Sciences Partnership to celebrate World Oceans Day in a showcase event on the Piazza. The event celebrated the city's leading role in marine research and showed people what they can do to help protect the oceans. TECF had a stand and used the opportunity to show the logo competition and invite comments.

## 6. Planning & Marine Licensing Issues

6.1 Current planning and marine planning matters include the following:

- a). **Howards Quay Marina:** There are still issues regarding the blast zone, in the meantime the operator is seeking a certificate of lawfulness for some of the current activities.
- b). **Baylys Slipway** – the appellant has **lost** his appeal against the enforcement actions. The Inspector cited unacceptable impacts on the character and appearance of the area as well as unacceptable impacts on intertidal and subtidal land. This represents a significant success for protecting intertidal habitats.
- c). **Weston Mill: Landing Craft** – The planning application for a new landing craft facility in Weston Mill Lake has been **granted**. The work includes buildings, marina, slipways and dredging.
- d). **Waste to Energy Plant:** The planning application has now been received for the waste to energy plant at the top of Weston Mill Lake.
- e). **Royal William Yard:** new walkway to go round one of the buildings and installation of pedestrian access through from Devils Point – this has been **granted**.
- f). **Southdown Marina:** no news on this item.
- g). **Tamar and Tavy Viaducts:** Network Rail have submitted an application for a marine license in order to repair the viaducts and railway embankments.
- h). **S106 agreements:** Negotiations are progressing well to secure contributions to managing the increased recreational pressures on the European Marine Site both Sherford and Plymstock Quarry developments. Unfortunately, no funding is finally received until work actually starts on site.

- i). **America's Cup Race Marina:** PCC has submitted an application to the MMO for a marine license to place pontoons in the Inner Basin at Millbay for the duration of the America's Cup.

## **7. Rame Head Disposal Site Meeting**

The Marine Management Organisation have completed their review of the Rame Head disposal site. Prof Micheal Elliot of the University of Hull carried out the work and came to the conclusion that based on the current scientific evidence "*there is little economic or environmental justification for moving the disposal site further offshore, into deeper water, or for considering other onshore disposal options*". He went onto say that "*if the material being dredged did have an economic value and use, then this should be considered but this is unlikely because of its nature. This would also have environmental consequences*". <sup>1</sup>(Elliot & Mazik, 2011. pp81)

The work was endorsed by Dr Mel Austen, the Chief Scientific Advisor to the MMO Board who is based in the Plymouth Marine Laboratories. She went onto say that the conclusions drawn from the review from the analysis of the evidence in these studies and reports appear to be sound and sensible, that any observed elevations in silt and contaminants in the area could as likely derive from natural current-induced flows of material and that there is little or no evidence of sustained ecological impacts. She also endorsed the view that there is no evidence to suggest that more recent litter drives from current or recent dredge material disposal practices.<sup>2</sup>

The Marine Management Organisation called a meeting in Millbrook which was held late in the afternoon on Friday 20th May. The meeting was to discuss, with local stakeholders, the findings of the report and talk about the next steps.

The meeting was well attended there was plenty of opportunities for the MMO to hear directly from local residents

The meeting agreed to create a local group to pursue the concerns raised and the MMO have stated that they will continue to work with those who volunteered to join the group to help it establish itself.

Edward Shaw, Parish Councillor for Rame and Maker, offered to Chair the first meeting of the group and the MMO will be contacting the following people and organisations whom it was agreed at the last meeting would be invited, to confirm arrangements:

Queens Harbour Master and Commercial Harbour Masters (users of the disposal site)

Crown Estate

Plymouth Marine Science Partnership

Natural England

Cornwall Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Cornwall Council

Parish Council

Along with members of the local community who volunteered to join the group:

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<sup>1</sup> Elliot, M. and Mazik, K. 2011. *Rame Head Environmental Impact Study: Review of Evidence*; Report to Marine Management Organisation. Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Studies, University of Hull. [http://marinemanagement.org.uk/licensing/public\\_register/cases/ramehead.htm](http://marinemanagement.org.uk/licensing/public_register/cases/ramehead.htm)

<sup>2</sup> Marine Management Organisation, 2011. *Evidence Summary: Rame Head Disposal Site Review*. MMO. [http://marinemanagement.org.uk/licensing/public\\_register/cases/documents/ramehead/evidence\\_summary.pdf](http://marinemanagement.org.uk/licensing/public_register/cases/documents/ramehead/evidence_summary.pdf)

Dave Peake  
Julie Elworthy  
Tony Steenhagen  
Councillor Brian Hobbs

It was also agreed that other organisations such as the Environment Agency and the MMO would be invited to advise the group as appropriate. The Rame Head pages of the MMO's website will be kept updated with the latest information.

([http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/licensing/public\\_register/cases/ramehead.htm](http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/licensing/public_register/cases/ramehead.htm))

The terms of reference are to be agreed at the first meeting but it is anticipated that it will operate under Chatham House Rules.

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

**Natural England report to  
Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum  
Committee Meeting 14 July 2011**



**SAC Matters**

- Plymouth Sound EMS is a priority for monitoring this year as part of 6 yearly monitoring cycle. Features to be monitored are:
  - Subtidal sandbanks
  - Estuaries reef communities
  - Kelp forests
- NE and EA carried out grab sampling work in April to assess the condition of the subtidal sandbanks feature in the SAC and to carry out regular Water Framework Directive monitoring.
- Samples are now with the labs to carry out Practice Size Analysis (PSA) and infaunal identification.
- In addition there will be a drop video survey work to assess some of the kelp forest communities and estuarine bedrock and boulders in late summer. It is hoped this will be in collaboration with the Devon and Severn IFCA.

**Current NE national priorities**

- Substantial completion of the designated Marine Protected Areas network in English waters. This relates to the new SACs and Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) e.g. the proposed Tamar MCZ and Outer Yealm intertidal reference area.
- Deliver conservation advice to enable relevant authorities to implement MPA management measures
- Deliver an integrated monitoring programme of all European Marine Sites and plan baseline monitoring of MCZs
- Work with fishing industry and fisheries managers e.g. MMO and Devon & Severn IFCA, to protect and enhance the marine environment
- Promote sustainable use and management of the marine environment through engagement with relevant bodies e.g. TECF

**Casework**

- See CPC's report.

Gavin Black – 0300 0602424, [gavin.black@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:gavin.black@naturalengland.org.uk) (Devon and SAC lead)

Hugh Tyler - 0300 060 0318, [hugh.tyler@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:hugh.tyler@naturalengland.org.uk) (Cornwall and SSSIs lead)