

QHM/532/3

11 November 2010

**NOTES OF THE TAMAR ESTUARIES CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING
 HELD AT 1015 ON THU 11 NOVEMBER 2010 IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM NBHQ
 HM NAVAL BASE DEVONPORT**

<u>Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Commander S Layland Royal Navy	Chairman and Queen's Harbour Master (QHM)
Ms K Curry	Coastal Planning Coordinator (CPC)
Mr R Toogood	South Devon AONB
Mr P McMahan	English Heritage
Mrs R Teverson	Tamar Valley AONB
Mr P Whitby	Marine Management Organisation
Mr T Robbins	Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries & Conservation
Mr P Bromley	Sutton Harbour Company
Mrs J Thomasson	Environment Agency
Miss H Towers	Natural England
Cllr Mrs J Dolan	Plymouth City Council
Cllr P Sanders	Devon County Council
Lt Cdr R Smith	Deputy Queen's Harbour Master
Mr R Swinfen	Wembury Conservation Group
Mr M Sullivan	Associated British Ports Plymouth
Mrs P Hoskin	Cornwall Council
Mr G Trubody	Cornwall Council
Mr A Macpherson	Plymouth City Council
Mr L Birch	Cornwall Council (East))
Ms J Simpson	Minute Secretary

<u>Item</u>	<u>Discussion and Decisions</u>	<u>Action</u>
1. Introduction and Apologies for absence.	Cdr S Layland welcomed those present to the meeting and invited members to introduce themselves and identify their respective organisations.	
2. Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr B Carson (SHDC), Ms J Perry (WDBC), Cllr R Pike (WDBC), Cllr B Hobbs (CC), Mr A Winder (DCC) and Captain T Charlesworth (CHC).	
3. Agree Notes of the last meeting.	The notes of the last meeting held on 8 Jul 10 were accepted as a true record of the meeting with the exception of paragraph 17a which should read: Mr McMahan reported that he will be attending the next English Heritage meeting as <i>the TECF representative</i> and the date for the next PPMLC should read <i>17 February 2011</i> and not 10 February 2011.	
4. Matters Arising.	6. The TECF Strategy and Management Plan was discussed later in the meeting.	

	10c. <u>Fan Shells</u> . At the last meeting QHM asked if he could relax the local information allowing people to anchor in the vicinity of the fan shells as these are an endangered species. At the time Mr Black reported that Natural England are investigating where they are and as this information is still being collected the Local Notice will remain in effect until the situation has been reviewed.	
5. Presentation by Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority	Mr Tim Robbins gave a presentation on the new Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority and what it will mean for Plymouth Sound and the Tamar Estuaries. The presentation is attached.	
6. Future TECF Strategy and Management Plan from 2012.	<p>6.1 The TECF Strategy and Management Plan was discussed at the last meeting and it was agreed to explore funding options and to draw up a delivery plan that is compatible with the new emerging legislative framework, particularly relating to marine and terrestrial planning. QHM went on to explain that TECF should continue to develop the management plan to demonstrate that the group is maintaining its position of best practice and is offering member organisations effective compliance with statutory obligations and, for those that contribute financially, best value for money.</p> <p>6.2 The Tamar Estuaries Action Plan is attached. CPC reported that although the present Management and Actions plans are still in effect and will form a solid basis for their successors, they will take time to develop to ensure they addresses the recent legislative changes. The plan is therefore a working document which requires collaborative work between all the agencies around the table. Discussion followed on how best this can be achieved and CPC suggested an Officer Working Group as there are three areas that need to be covered: the Tamar Estuaries Water Recreation Management Plan; TECF Integrated Biodiversity Project and development of the Future TECF Management Plan.</p> <p>6.3 Management Plan Working Group. Prior to this meeting the following dates had been suggested for a meeting: Thu 2 Dec, Tue 7 Dec and Thu 9 Dec and QHM asked if people could let CPC know which date they would prefer by the end of the week.</p>	
7. Funding Working Group	Mr Macpherson reported that there had been two Funding Working Group meetings since the last TECF where they discussed the Memorandum of Understanding and how to secure funding to put the TECF on a sound financial keel for a three year period. Letters were sent out to all the funding partners to let them know that the TECF are still working on their behalf. CPC reported that due to the present economic climate, until the local authorities get clarity on their own budgets they will not be able to commit themselves to the TECF, but hoped that decisions will be made by March next year. Mr Whitby asked if the letters could be copied to the non-funding groups and CPC agreed to forward them on.	CPC
8. Coastal Planning Coordinators Report.	The CPC Report can be found at Annex A.	
9. Nature Conservation.	a. <u>SAC Matters</u> . Miss H Towers gave a report on SAC matters which is attached at Annex B.	

10. Navigation and Waterborne Public Transport	QHM reported that the Dockyard Port of Plymouth Order will be reviewed shortly. There will be a consultation process attached to it, but it is largely about the management of navigation in the dockyard port, removing out dated information and including the changes that have occurred since the last Order was published. Discussion followed on what this entailed.	
11. Public Access, Recreation and Moorings	Cllr Trubody reported that a new public access is being built in Garrett Street in Cawsand, which is being funded by Cornwall Council and should hopefully be finished by the end of the year. CPC asked whether the appropriate licences had been applied for and Mrs Hoskin agreed to look into this.	Mrs Hoskin
12. Matters brought forward from PPMLC.	<p>a. QHM reported that there was nothing significant to report from the last PPMLC apart from the fact that a review of the membership had been conducted and Mr Charles Bush has been invited to attend to represent the marinas in the Plymouth area. Discussion followed on other agencies that could be included.</p> <p>b. Cllr. Benson mentioned that there is a lot of plastic waste washing up at Weir Quay. QHM commented that waste is covered in the Management Plan and that the forthcoming review will consider whether any further action is appropriate..</p>	
13. Items for future meetings	QHM asked people to let CPC know if they would like to include items in the next meetings agenda.	
14. Any Other Business.	<p>a. Mrs Teverson reported that they had secured some interim funding for work to do with climate change at Parish level.</p> <p>b. Mrs Teverson reported that there are plans for a new community club and sailing school at Weir Quay. This is still at the consultation stage.</p> <p>c. Mr Whitby reported that the Chief Executive and Chairman of the Board for the MMO have been replaced but anticipates no significant effect for TECF.</p> <p>d. Cllr Sanders reported that he has assisted the Weir Quay project with some historical issues and confirmed that it is still under consultation.</p> <p>e. DQHM mentioned that he has spotted an article in the Tavy Times that 20 sensors have been placed in the River Tamar and he wondered what impact they would have on navigation. Mrs Thomasson agreed to look into this.</p> <p>f. Mrs Hoskin reported that Cornwall Council are in the process of developing a Maritime Strategy and they would welcome input from the TECF.</p> <p>g. Cllr Trubody reported that the Shoreline Management Plan has now been completed. He mentioned that there was little information on the Breakwater; QHM clarified that the Breakwater is a necessary construction for naval (and commercial) operations in Plymouth and that MoD meets the costs of maintenance.</p>	Mrs Thomasson

<p>15. Dates of Next Meetings</p>	<p>Dates of the forthcoming PPMLC and TECF meetings were published as follows:</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="363 255 467 286"><u>PPMLC</u></th> <th data-bbox="799 255 879 286"><u>TECF</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="363 322 708 353">1400 on 17 February 2011</td> <td data-bbox="799 322 1114 353">1015 on 10 March 2011</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="363 356 655 387">1400 on 9 June 2011</td> <td data-bbox="799 356 1091 387">1015 on 14 July 2011</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="363 389 697 421">1400 on 13 October 2011</td> <td data-bbox="799 389 1177 421">1015 on 10 November 2011</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Cdr Layland pointed out that the next PPMLC will be one week later than previously advertised, as he will be leaving the QHM department before the next meeting and his relief will be joining on 7 February 2011. He then thanked everyone for all their support over the three years that he has been the Chair of the TECF and wished everyone the best with developing the new Management Plan.</p>	<u>PPMLC</u>	<u>TECF</u>	1400 on 17 February 2011	1015 on 10 March 2011	1400 on 9 June 2011	1015 on 14 July 2011	1400 on 13 October 2011	1015 on 10 November 2011	
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Distribution:

NBC, All Committee members

Coastal Planning Coordinator Briefing for TECF

11 Nov 2010

8.1 Matters Arising and Plan Delivery

a. Local Transport Plans (LTP)

Cornwall Council is currently drafting input into their LTP and it is hoped that there will be common ground between Cornwall's and Plymouth's LTP with regards to water transportation.

Cornwall Council have therefore produced a first draft of a desktop study that:

- Reviews current planning policy;
- Reviews existing water transport services;
- Reviews of previous water transport services, investigating the reason for their demise;
- Reviews the studies that have previously been undertaken into potential passenger water transport services on the Tamar linking Cornwall with Plymouth;
- A brief analysis of Census Data to understand movement patterns.

This will form the evidence base on which Cornwall will then shape their water transport priorities in partnership with Plymouth City Council.

Plymouth City Council Local Transport Plan is currently out for consultation. Responses can be submitted via PCC's website

<http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/transportandstreets/policyandplanning/ltp/ltp2011-2026/ltp2011-2026consultation.htm> . Consultation closes on the 14 January 2011.

b. Marine Management Organisation

The marine plan areas have been announced, and we will fall within the SW inshore area. The MMO has also announced that the first two plans to be undertaken will be both the Inshore and Offshore areas from Flanborough Head to Felixstowe on the East Coast of England. Work will start in 2011.

c. Plan Delivery

As we enter the final year of the current TECF Management Plan, actions will be focussed on delivering the outstanding items, securing funding for after April 2011, getting a new Management Plan in place for April 2012 and finding a way of delivering some of the more difficult larger projects at a time when funding is less widely available.

8.2 Coordination and Information

a. Financial Statement and Funding

Category	Budget	Actual to date	Projected year end
Salaries & on-costs	50,093	26,998	47,993

Employers Liability Insurance	117	102	102
Training	530	30	530
Printing & Stationery	109	246	250
Travel & Subs	783	0	783
Projects	7,000	3,302	7,015
Total Exp	58,632	30,678	56,673
Income			
Brought forward	-21,526	-21,526	-21,526
Misc income	0	-135	-135
Partners' core contributions	-53,151	-51,601*	-51,601
Partners additional contributions	-1,500	0	-1,500
Total Income	-76,177	-73,262	-74,762
Contingency / Surplus to be carried forward / allocated	-17,545		-18,089

* Partners' core contributions for 2010/11 have been held at 2009/10 levels so income is reduced.

Additional contributions have been carried forward from Environment Agency and Natural England for the production of the two information leaflets. Further income to come from QHM and Cattewater.

8.3 Waterfront and Marine Development

a. *Developments and Licensing matters*

The next meeting of the Marine Developments Group is 10am Thursday 18th November. Here is a summary of progress on recent developments and licensing matters:

- Baileys Slipway the appellant is currently appealing against the enforcement actions to have the slipway removed.
- The planning application for Howards Quay Marina is currently being considered. Key issues relate to compensation for loss of BAP priority habitat and reducing the increased recreational pressures on the European Marine Site. There are however difficulties in identifying compensatory habitat and this may result in further work being done through Natural England.
- Weston Mill Lake Incinerator: Preliminary work still ongoing.
- Weston Mill Lake; MOD Project: preliminary work still ongoing with landing craft project.
- Jupiter Point – the proposal to move Brecon and put in new pontoons has now been scaled right back.
- Spaniards Inn: housing development in car park and jetty.
- Cornwall Council are currently consulting on their validation list for planning applications. TECF will be making representations for them to include marine issues in the process. Details are available from <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=22558>

b. New Environmental Impact Assessment Guidance

Under a European Union Directive, applications for developments above a certain size require an Environmental Impact Assessment. The size threshold is described under Schedule 2 of the Regulations and includes for example any marina larger than 1 hectare and many port related works. This has led to the situation where larger developments have been parceled up into smaller packages which fall below the threshold for a full EIA, even though the development as a whole would be above the threshold requiring an EIA. Following a recent judgment in the High Court and European Court of Justice, for proposals that seek to extend or change existing development then the thresholds in Schedule 2 will now apply to the development as a whole once modified and not just to the change or extension.

The Government also recommends that planning authorities record all negative screening opinions.

c. Environmental Offsetting & Compensatory Landbanking – first steps

The Tamar Estuaries Management Plan calls for the assessment of in-combinaion and / or cumulative effects (particularly in respect to small scale land reclaim developments). As part of this data is needed on all developments since 2000 with an assessment on the amount of habitat lost. As part of this work Matt Sarson, an intern currently working with TECF until February 2011, will need to collect the data from the licensing bodies. To this end data will be needed from all planning authorities and the Marine Management Organisation in order that an assessment of the various developments can be undertaken. It is hoped that assistance will be forthcoming.

8.4 Public Awareness

a. Blue Sound

This initiative is now well under way working to connect more people with the marine environment of Plymouth Sound and Estuaries with a focus on deprived communities. The project is led by the Marine Biological Association and has employed Rebecca House as the project officer.

A full programme of events has just been published which includes:

A range of activities for 11 – 19 year olds, which includes fortnightly / monthly sessions, mostly early evening sessions held on Wednesdays at the Stonehouse Youth Project. Sessions include setting up the website and Facebook, creating a snorkel guide, sustainable angling sessions and related films. In the summer events will focus on undertaking snorkel safaris and surveys working up to a celebration event to be held at the Museum.

A range of activities for 20 – 25 year olds, similar to those for the younger age group but focused on slightly older group. The group will also undertake beach cleans, and some practical experiments on water quality. Events take place either in The Zone on Union Street or at the MBA on Citadel Hill. Further details from rebhou@mba.ac.uk.

Blue Sound is a key partner in delivering the Fisheries leaflet, community clear up events and is also looking into working with young diver groups to involve them in monitoring the eelgrass beds.

b. Fisheries Leaflet

A leaflet that brings together all the various fishing legislation in the Plymouth Sound and Tamar Estuaries is currently being drafted. Comments have been received and 2nd draft is to be completed before Christmas, with a final document to be done by February.

c. Presentations

Presentations have been provided to the University of Plymouth.

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ANNEX B

Natural England report to Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum Committee Meeting 14th October 2010



SAC Matters

- Prawle Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone is now a cSAC and was submitted to EC on 20th August 2010.
- Prawle Point to Start Point area to be reconsulted on (formal consultation started on 20th August, and will end on 12th Nov).
- Conservation measures have not yet been defined, but activities that do not damage the reef are unlikely to be restricted.
- Anticipate that there will be one management group / scheme for the whole of this cSAC (which should also include the Prawle Point to Start Point pSAC once designated).

Casework

- See Coastal Planning Co-ordinator's summary of recent casework, proposed developments NE have been consulted on include:
 - Howards Quay – resubmitted planning application, pending decision.
 - Covehead – no objection to latest application, waiting for habitat report.
 - Kingfisher Quay – very satisfied with outcome so far with regards to mitigation. MMO licences completed, going through final stages of planning permission.
 - DLCCP – EIA expected very soon.
 - Southdown marina – MMO and Cornwall Council pursuing prosecution/enforcement. NE supporting.
 - Native oyster dredging – Tamar to be removed from directive and Lynher boundary to be changed.

Monitoring

- Contract for intertidal survey of Lynher Estuary awarded to Ecospan. Survey has been carried out, awaiting report.
- Contract to be awarded for survey of Tamar and Tavy.
- Intertidal survey of upper Yealm intertidal mudflats carried out by NE staff in May 2010. Rocky shore survey of mouth of Yealm in July 2010 Condition deemed favourable. Data available by end of 2010.

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