

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

QHM 532/3

5 December 2006

Notes of the Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum meeting held at 10.15am on Thursday 9 November 2006 in HM Naval Base Devonport conference room

<u>Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Commander I Hugo Royal Navy	Chairman and Queen's Harbour Master (QHM)
Lt Cdr N Trathen	Deputy Queen's Harbour Master (DQHM), Secretary
Mr A Winder Cllr A Hosking	Devon County Council (DCC)
Ms F McNie	Cornwall County Council (CCC)
Cllr Mrs S Murray	Caradon District Council (CDC)
Mr R Swinfen	Wembury Conservation Group (WCG)
Mr T Andrews	Associated British Ports (ABP)
Captain T Charlesworth	Cattewater Harbour Commissioners (CHC)
Ms M Nightingale	Coastal Officer (CO) Plymouth city Council (PCC)
Miss J Perry Cllr R Pike	West Devon Borough Council (WDBC)
Mr C Davis Miss L Heape	Natural England (NE)
Ms R Teverson	Tamar Valley AONB (TVAONB)
Mr R Toogood	South Devon AONB (SDAONB)
Mr K Bower	Devon Sea Fisheries Committee (DSFC)
Mrs S Last	Minute Secretary

<u>Item</u>	<u>Discussion and Decisions</u>	<u>Action</u>
1. Intro- duction.	1. Cdr Hugo welcomed those present to the meeting. He invited members to introduce themselves and identify their respective organisations.	
2. Apologies for Absence.	1. Apologies for absence had been received from, Mrs McNair, NE Mr Whitby, DEFRA, Mr Runnalls, CDC, Ms Lewis, EA and Cllr Wheeler (PCC).	
3. Notes of	1. The notes of the previous meeting held on 13 July 2006 were	

Previous Meeting.	accepted.	
4. Matters Arising.	<p><u>1. Co-ordination and Information.</u></p> <p>1.1. <u>Management Plan and Annual Work Programme.</u> The Coastal Officer reported the successful launch of the Management Plan on 10 October amid a huge amount of positive media coverage. Cdr Hugo endorsed her report and agreed that the event had raised TECF profile considerably amongst the wider community with positive input already filtering through. The Plan presented funding bodies with an identifiable audit trail and a gauge for measuring progress.</p> <p>The Coastal Officer passed around the agreed 2-year programme of work and detailed the eleven specific items to be taken forward. Although funding options had been identified she would be grateful for further suggestions. All the ongoing projects would be monitored on a monthly basis in meetings between Cdr Hugo and Ms Nightingale and situation reports would be given at TECF meetings.</p> <p>Several of the items were discussed briefly and it was agreed that further comment or queries on individual projects should be passed to the Coastal Officer soonest but no later than Christmas.</p> <p>Cllr Murray urged caution and sensitivity when dealing with potentially controversial consultation issues. Experience had taught how misinformation and poor PR could become major factors. The demise of the Whitsand Bay No Take Zone proposal was a prime example.</p> <p>2.1. <u>Financial Statement and Funding.</u> The Financial Statement (copy attached) listed individual contributions for the forthcoming year. It was accepted that since authorities had been given greater visibility of estuarine management statutory requirements and the output of TECF, contributors had acknowledged the value for money provided by the Forum; indeed Cattewater Harbour Commission had increased their share in recognition of this. Nevertheless several anomalies still existed which would be taken outside this meeting.</p> <p>Mr Winder (DCC) wondered if it would be relevant to introduce the shelved Memorandum of Agreement. CO would retrieve the original draft document and circulate for consideration before the next meeting.</p> <p>3.1. <u>Consultation Documents (Marine Bill, Promoting ICZM in</u></p>	<p>QHM/CO</p> <p>All/CO</p> <p>CO/WDBC</p> <p>CO</p>

	<p><u>England, EU Green Paper “Maritime Policy for the Union”</u>. TECF input into the Marine Bill and Promoting ICZM in England had been reflected in the final summaries.</p> <p>In reply to a query from Ms Teverson (TVAONB) regarding the timing of the Marine Bill it was generally accepted that the project was still not sufficiently mature to be included in the forthcoming Queen’s speech. Mr Winder (DCC) thought it was timely to co-ordinate the TECF contribution to the Flood Management Plan. The Coastal Officer would follow up.</p> <p>4.1. <u>Website</u>. After some teething problems the web site was now complete. It carried a wealth of information and all the TECF documentation in an easy to download format. The Coastal Officer encouraged members to make use of this quality resource.</p> <p><u>2. Waterfront and Marine Development</u></p> <p>2.1. <u>Millbay Inner Basin/Millbay Development Plan</u>. Plans for this large-scale development were now in the public domain and could be accessed on the PCC website. Mr Andrews (ABP) explained that the inner harbour project was progressing speedily with work scheduled to commence in 2007.</p> <p>2.2. <u>Sutton Channel Pontoons</u>. With the preferred bidder chosen it was now for the Duchy to approve work commencement.</p> <p>2.3. <u>Coastal Planning Study</u>. The much-praised document was already proving a good management aid for the PCC planners who were looking to co-ordinate a link with other local authorities with the eventual aim of adopting the guidance as a supplementary planning tool.</p> <p><u>3. Nature Conservation</u>.</p> <p>3.1. <u>SAC Matters</u>. Miss Heape (NE) began by congratulating the Coastal Officer on the Management Plan. She then gave her report (copy attached) and circulated photographs of the Seagrass monitoring within the SAC.</p> <p>3.2. <u>Cotehele Wetland Creation</u>. Lt Cdr Trathen said the NT were preparing their case for the forthcoming public enquiry.</p> <p><u>4. Navigation and Waterborne Public Transport</u>.</p> <p>4.1. <u>Revision of Dockyard Port of Plymouth Order</u>. The revision which included the removal of the Drake’s Island traffic lights and various other minor amendments, was with the legal department after</p>	<p>CO</p> <p>All</p>
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	<p>which it would be issued for consultation.</p> <p><u>5. Public Access, Recreation and Moorings.</u></p> <p>5.1. <u>Creating a Vision for Weir Quay.</u> A wide reaching investigation into the site. Ms Teverson explained that stakeholders were being contacted before taking forward to consultation. Lt Cdr Trathen said that he held a copy of the Plymouth Area Recreation Study which may be of some assistance and which he would pass to Ms Teverson. Cllr Pike pointed out the need for sensitivity in dealing with the many differing interests and the imperative not to alienate the local community.</p>	<p>QHM</p> <p>DQHM</p> <p>TVAONB</p>
5. Matters Brought Forward from PPMLC.	1. <u>PPMLC Review.</u> Cdr Hugo explained that he had initiated a review into the PPMLC so as to ensure that the non-stakeholder community sustained its activity levels and continued to provide a proactive conduit to TECF. The TORs had been circulated for comment and an update of the wider user group was underway. He would keep members informed of progress.	QHM
6. Significant Future Events.	<p>1. DQHM provided an update on events for 2007:</p> <p>28 May Gypsy Moth returns</p> <p>6-8 July UIM Class 1 World Offshore Championship – British Grand Prix</p> <p>22-27 July National Schools Sailing Asssoc. Dinghy Regatta</p> <p>27-31 July Plymouth Classic Boat Rally</p> <p>27 July – 5 August Port of Plymouth Regatta</p> <p>15 – 19 August Finish of Fastnet Race</p> <p>23 – 25 August National J’s Cup</p>	
7. Any Other Business.	<p>1. <u>Marine Skills Centre.</u> Captain Charlesworth notified the opening by a government minister of the new Marine Skills Centre at Devonport. The ceremony would take place at 1000 on 14 November.</p> <p>2. <u>Marine Heritage Site Exhibition.</u> Captain Charlesworth commended the exhibition to members. It was currently at Saltash Library and would move on to Tavistock.</p> <p>3. <u>Yacht Haven Quay Development.</u> Work was progressing at speed. There were some misgivings over the use of an industrial site for residential development.</p> <p>4. Sherford Village Sewage. There had been a proposal to discharge treated sewage into the Cattewater. Captain Charlesworth had passed details to his consultant’s findings to the developers.</p> <p>5. <u>World Heritage Site.</u> Cllr Pike (WDBC) drew attention to the</p>	

	<p>impressive photographic display at Paddington Station (Platform 8).</p> <p>6. <u>HMS RALEIGH Training Vessel</u>. Lt Cdr Trathen explained that the seamanship training vessel currently used by HMS RALEIGH would shortly be replaced by BRECON, a de-comissioned mine warfare vessel. The 15 metre increase in length would necessitate a minor mooring adjustment.</p>									
9. Future Meeting Dates.	<p>1. Dates for future TECF and PPMLC meetings as follows:</p> <table> <tr> <td><u>PPMLC</u></td> <td><u>TECF</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>15 February 07</td> <td>15 march 07</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14 June 07</td> <td>12 July 07</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11 October 07</td> <td>15 November 07</td> </tr> </table>	<u>PPMLC</u>	<u>TECF</u>	15 February 07	15 march 07	14 June 07	12 July 07	11 October 07	15 November 07	
<u>PPMLC</u>	<u>TECF</u>									
15 February 07	15 march 07									
14 June 07	12 July 07									
11 October 07	15 November 07									

**TECF Core
Funding Budget
Current
Nov-06**

	2006/07	Nov 06 Update
Expenditure		
EMP - Employee Expenditure		
1001 - APT&C Salaries Basic	33,009.00	
1002 - APT&C Salaries NI	3,300.00	
1003 - APT&C Salaries Superannuation	6,600.00	
2801 - Advertising	0.00	
2809 - Accident Fund Contributions	36.00	
Coastal Officer Salary, NI, Pension Costs	42,945.00	
OE - Other Expenditure		
4301 - Rail Fares	100.00	
4306 - Casual User Allowances	500.00	
5301 - Printing	500.00	
5410 - Computer Consumables	500.00	
5501 - Travelling & Subsistence	300.00	
Total Operational Budget to cover Travel & Subsistence costs , Prinitng, Consumables etc	1,900.00	

TOTAL EXPENDITURE 44,845.00

INCOME

Partnership Core Funding Contributions

Ministry of Defence	2,000.00	paid
Plymouth City Council	6,000.00	paid
Devon County Council	5,000.00	paid
Cornwall County Council	6,000.00	paid
Caradon District Council	2,500.00	paid
West Devon	3,000.00	paid
South Hams DC	2,000.00	confirmed
Natural England	6,000.00	paid
Environment Agency	4,000.00	confirmed
South West Water Ltd	3,500.00	waiting payment
Associated British Ports	1,500.00	paid
Cattewater Harbour Commision	6,000.00	paid
Sutton Harbour Company	1,000.00	paid
Devon Sea Fisheries	0.00	
DEFRA	0.00	

TOTAL INCOME 48,500.00

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TOTAL EXPENDITURE 44,845.00 46,193.00 47,578.71

INCOME			
Partnership Core Funding Contributions			
Ministry of Defence	2,000.00	2,060.00	2,121.80
Plymouth City Council	6,000.00	6,180.00	6,365.40
Devon County Council	6,000.00	6,180.00	6,365.40
Cornwall County Council	6,000.00	6,180.00	6,365.40
Caradon District Council	3,000.00	3,090.00	3,182.70
West Devon	3,000.00	3,090.00	3,182.70
South Hams DC	3,000.00	3,090.00	3,182.70
Natural England	6,000.00	6,180.00	6,365.40
Environment Agency	4,000.00	4,120.00	4,243.60
South West Water Ltd	3,500.00	3,605.00	3,713.15
Associated British Ports	1,500.00	1,545.00	1,591.35
Cattewater Harbour Commision	6,000.00	6,180.00	6,365.40
Sutton Harbour Company	1,000.00	1,030.00	1,060.90
Devon Sea Fisheries	0.00	0.00	0.00
DEFRA	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	51,000.00	52,530.00	54,105.90
Contingency / Project priming R&D budget	6,155.00	6,337.00	6,527.19

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) matters

1) Monitoring – Seagrass monitoring pilot

The main aim of this project was to trial aerial photography as an approach to monitoring the extent and distribution of seagrass beds in Plymouth SAC. Aerial photography was acquired in mid June after waiting around for the right weather conditions to coincide with the low tide needed to see the seagrass. The information shown about the beds from the images was groundtruthed during the summer using drop down video. Drakes island and Cellar Cove (Yealm) could be seen very clearly and Cawsand, some of the Jennycliff beds and Firestone bay to a lesser extent. A report will be available in March 2007.

2) Casework

Millbay area:

Mixed development at Millbay outer basin – planning application includes houses, yacht and boat moorings, cruise liner mooring berth and visitors terminal, business use. No likely significant effect on the SAC.

Pre- consultation proposal to amend previous plans to redevelop Millbay Marina. No likely significant effect on the SAC.

Devonport area:

MOD have consulted Natural England on building a slipway for landing craft just outside Weston Mill Lake and dredging out intertidal mudflat. Although this appears to fall just outside the SAC NE have advised that this could potentially affect the SAC due to contamination issues and the cumulative impact of intertidal/subtidal habitat removal.

Consultation from Westminster Dredging Co Ltd over the dredging campaign for next year which covers the docks, Western Mill lake and areas in the main channel. No AA was advised for these works with the view that a maintenance dredging protocol will be developed in due course to help inform judgements on AA. NE and EA have advised that works near the channel are undertaken during the winter months only to minimise impacts on marine habitats and species and migrating salmonids. EA have requested that the sediment is tested for contaminants.

NE have just received the Area Action Plans for Devonport, Millbay and Stonehouse Areas, part of the Plymouth Local Development Framework (LDF).

Other areas:

Royal William Yard – NE consulted over a small amount of water injection dredging within the dockyard. This falls outside any FEPA license. NE and EA have advised that this should be carried out over the winter months.

Mayflower marina – planning application for extension of the hard standing. To be built out over the intertidal mudflat and to be used for part car parking

part boat maintenance/storage. Not likely to have any impact on the SAC but NE views this as a shortfall in the planning system to allow extension over the estuary when a location directly on the waterfront doesn't appear to be essential.

Construction of 20 buildings at Millbrook -No objection with EA conditions on drainage in place.

Proposed new dwelling, Cargreen - We are awaiting details of a proposal that is either adjacent to or partially falls within the SSSI/SAC.

Pineapple Farm, Kingsmill -We have been consulted by a landscape architect who is working with the engineers on the design of the new retaining wall for this property.

Cremyll oil depot site - We were originally consulted on this application in 2004 when and it was advised that an appropriate assessment would be required. We have now had contact from the agent for the developers who wish to consult with us over the points we raised.

HMS Raleigh - Construction of personnel blocks. No objections. Potential species issues raised.

Cotehele managed realignment. - Planning application regarding engineering works to breach bank and create new defences to allow flooding of agricultural land to create wetlands. We are awaiting a date for this to go to Public Inquiry. It is unlikely to be before the new year.

3) Invasive management

The last major area of rhododendron was cut and treated in Sheviok Wood on the Lynher during winter 2005/6. A follow spray of the small amount of regrowth has taken place this summer and the result is excellent with very little regrowth anticipated next year.

Tamar Valley Invasives group continue their work programme with giant hogweed treatment from the A30 down to Calstock complete for this year.

Other

There are indications that crab tiling activity has recently extended further up the Tamar on the Cornwall side with activity now upstream of Cargreen. This is being monitored.

Discussions are to be held to develop a code of conduct for scientific and educational use of the Wembury area.

3) Beginning of Natural England

Natural England has been formed by bringing together English Nature (EN), the landscape, access and recreation elements of the Countryside Agency (CA) and the environmental land management functions of the Rural Development Service (RDS). The new organisation started business on the 2nd October.

The SW region has been restructured into three areas, this has resulted in a new Cornwall, Devon and Isles of Scilly Area. The area has been split into seven teams (2 Government, 1 Communities and 4 Land and Sea Management). Responsibilities and job descriptions have not yet been organised until this has happened contacts will remain the same -

Laura Heape and Chris Davis – Devon and the marine site. [chris.davis / laura.heape@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:chris.davis@naturalengland.org.uk) / 01392 889770.

Sangetta Taylor and Carol Williams – Cornwall down to Low Water Mark. [sangetta.taylor / carol.williams@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:sangetta.taylor@naturalengland.org.uk) / 01872 262550.