

# TECF Annual Report 2004 to 2005



## 1: Coordination and information

### What we said we would do

- Promote information flow and co-ordination between organisations
- Ensure that existing and new management structures are harmonious
- Assist the decision making basis for statutory bodies and users
- Ensure the management plan is implemented and updated appropriately

### What we have achieved

#### *Internet, Newsletter, Water Events Diary, Small Craft Guide and Presentations*

The Forum has reviewed its web site (<http://www.tamar-estuaries.org.uk>), for design and content, and assessed options for improving management and maintenance of the site. The site has been widely acknowledged as an example of best practice in terms of design and content since it was first launched. A review of the site is timely for a number of reasons, to update the design and content, to reduce the annual maintenance costs and to improve accessibility. A number of new options were considered, and a presentation to TECF confirmed the new look and management for the site. The site is set to be re-launched in October 2004. The re-launched site shall have the flexibility to be continuously improved over time based on changing needs, monitoring and feedback.

Forum members resolved in 1998 that each member would use the existing newsletters and publications to disseminate information about the Forum's work, and this continues to be encouraged amongst all members. We would also like to extend our thanks once again to, the Tamar Valley AONB, for their continued support in featuring information on TECF projects and events in their newsletter.

The coastal officer has given presentations to a range of community, voluntary and interest groups. Many groups continue to be amazed at the diversity and wealth of the resource on their doorsteps. Links with other countries and awareness of the Forum are reflected in the continuous interest in the TECF's partnership dynamics, management plan and scientific research work.

As part of the review of the Tamar Estuary Management Plan (2006-2012), it may be appropriate to develop a Communication Strategy, to compliment and enhance TECF's aims and objectives. A review of communication goals and existing public awareness initiatives shall lead the way for this process.

By way of fulfilling the recognised need to improve public awareness and education efforts, TECF conceptualised and implemented Splash05 The Tamar Coastal Festival, the first of a series of annual education events, aimed at promoting understanding of all aspects of the Tamar Estuaries and local coastal areas. The event involved the collaborative efforts of 25 organisations representing scientific organisations, government organisations, trusts and other non-government organisations, artists groups and commercial companies, who organised a variety of individual activities over a two week period.

### *Ensuring management actions are complementary*

The Coastal Officer has concentrated considerable effort to liaison and participation in a range of management groups. In particular the Tamar Valley AONB Partnership and the South Devon AONB partnership, through the finalisation of the AONB management plans in early 2004, the South West Coast Path Forum in the interest of maintenance and improvement of Plymouth's Waterfront Walkway, the Wembury Marine Centre and Voluntary Marine Conservation Area, and, the Yealm Estuary Forum through the coordination and review of the Yealm Estuary Management Plan. This liaison is essential to ensure that efforts are not duplicated and scant resources are applied in the most efficient means possible.

This year has seen input of coastal planning into the process of producing the Local Development Framework. The Forum's Coastal Officer has also taken responsibility for assessing management implications associated with The Water Framework Directive (WFD) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Policies relating to inter-tidal and sub-tidal development, marine sector employment, and a number of site-specific policies, continue to be the main areas of focus/ interest for coastal planning. Further information from Maeve Nightingale, Coastal Officer, on Tel: (01752) 304339 Email: [coastal@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:coastal@plymouth.gov.uk)

### *Information about the Estuary*

The Forum has continued to collect and add references to its on-line data information systems. Forum members and other interests have directly benefited from the use of existing data and information without the need to commission further research or investigation. In partnership with the National Marine Biological Library, management of the Tamar Estuary and Catchment bibliographic reference databases are soon to be further improved through more regular updating and access to digitised documents previously unavailable.

The Forum has continued to develop its Geographic Information System (GIS) and has contributed data sets to a number of members. Initiatives to collaborate and link GIS systems to improve management potential continue with the Tamar Valley AONB partnership.

### *Implement and update Tamar Estuary Management Plan as appropriate*

In accordance with management requirements, an annual review of the Tamar Estuary Management Plan (2001-2006) took place in March 2004. The findings of the review revealed that a majority of the objectives set out in the management plan have been successfully implemented according to schedule. The remaining work to be completed under the existing plan relates to the cumulative effect study and the development of supplementary guidance to ensure that shore side development occurs in a sustainable manner, including guidance on producing appropriate assessments.

Planning for the new cycle of the Tamar Estuary Management Plan (2006-2012) is underway, with initial sub-sectoral group consultations having been completed in July 2005. The revised plan will build on achievements of the 2001-2006 plan and provide a framework for the ongoing delivery of projects and programmes for the next six years. The plan shall continue to serve to integrate the management requirements of the estuary as a whole, central to this being the protection of the interests of the SAC site. The 2006-2012 plan is likely to be influenced and to influence the Local Development Frameworks, the Water Framework Directive and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) obligations, and require an appropriate consultation process. The final plan shall be completed and ready for adoption in July 2006.

Further Information may be sought from Maeve Nightingale, Coastal Officer, on Tel: (01752 304339) Email: [coastal@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:coastal@plymouth.gov.uk)



## 2: Public access to the water

### What we said we would do

- Defend and publicise existing public access points
- Encourage improved maintenance of public access
- Develop supplementary planning guidance to ensure environmental compatibility

### What we have achieved

#### *General*

The Coastal Management Best Value Review looked in considerable detail at the management of slipways by Plymouth City Council, and recommendations of this continue to be discussed through the management review process. This work has been supplemented by the very detailed condition survey by City Council Engineers in 2001, which continues to provide guidance for prioritising allocation of funds for upgrading and improvement of key slipways within the City.

#### *The defence of public access*

Site-specific issues surrounding public access points are of continual interest and require continual involvement from coastal planning. Of particular note are the implications with regard the declining state of repair of the Mayflower steps and Phoenix Wharf access points in the Barbican. These development issues continue to raise concern, highlighting the need for substantial investment and good management strategies to be properly resolved. Discussion on the possible Barbican Landing Stage project continues to provide an ideal forum for discussing and resolving many of the common issues linked to management and maintenance of key public access points throughout Plymouth.

#### *Development of supplementary planning guidance for new access points*

Development of supplementary planning guidance for new access points has not taken place as scheduled in the management plan. However the need for developing a coordinated approach to design and the maintenance of environmental standards for access points as a whole has been clearly identified as an integral part of a successful water transportation system.

### 3: Commerce

#### What we said we would do

- Encourage a diverse and prosperous marine related industrial base
- Defend waterfront sites for waterfront uses

#### What we have achieved

*Assist in the development of strategies and programmes to support the maritime sector*

The South West Regional Development Agency, Plymouth City Council jointly commissioned Marine Sector Development Strategy. The strategy was finished early 2002 and sets out a framework for key areas of growth and development in several aspects of the sector. The Forum took a lead on one action in this strategy – the water transportation feasibility study. This study was finalised in March 2004, contributing significantly towards the development of a water transportation network for Plymouth. The final report is available on the TECF and Plymouth City Council websites.

Further information may be sought from Carl Budden, Principal Regeneration Manager, South West Regional Development Agency Tel: (01752) 234821. Email: [carl.budden@southwestrda.org.uk](mailto:carl.budden@southwestrda.org.uk).

An additional water transportation study initiated by Caradon County Council in late 2003, provides additional information for the development of a comprehensive strategy for water transportation within the Plymouth area. This study specifically investigates the possibilities for a commuter service between Saltash and points within Plymouth. The final report is expected to be available in late 2004.

Further information from Ms. Sarah Prattent, Regeneration Officer, Caradon District Council Tel: (01579) 341045. Email: [sjpratte@caradon.gov.uk](mailto:sjpratte@caradon.gov.uk)

The 'Plymouth Gateways' project continues to investigate transport, land use and the potential for port development and the improvement of Plymouth's industrial maritime sector, with strong links forged through the key development partnerships.

Further information from Phil Rosindale (01752) 307704.

Maritime Plymouth continues to develop itself as the key focal group for promoting the maritime industry and associated interests in the Plymouth City-region. A reporting mechanism to PPMLC members continues to be invaluable to raising awareness of the various work going on in this area.

#### *Defence of Waterfront Sites*

There is an ongoing need to defend waterfront sites for maritime uses and pressure is growing on these areas. The Coastal Officer has also had significant input into site and area development briefs including Millbay, Elphinstone/Commercial Wharf, Sutton Harbour and Yacht Havens. Plymouth City Council maintains its specific Marine Employment Policy in the development of the Local Development Framework.

Further Information from Maeve Nightingale, Coastal Officer, on Tel: (01752 304339) Email: [coastal@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:coastal@plymouth.gov.uk)



## 4: Waterfront and marine development and coastal protection

### What we said we would do

- Assist in the provision of advice
- Ensure the integrity of the European Marine Site and areas of high landscape value
- Ensure coastal protection measures are developed within wider strategies and appropriate opportunities to enhance the natural environment are fully exploited.

### What we have achieved

#### *Provide advice and guidance*

The Coastal Officer has commented on 45 planning applications and consents relating to both counties and all district and unitary authorities. The requirements of the Food and Environment Protection Act (1985) Licences and Coast Protection Act (1949) Licences continue to be one of the key areas of awareness raising. Project officers and managers from the private and public sectors, as well as private landowners and developers seek coastal planning advice on a regular basis. Further Information may be sought from Maeve Nightingale, Coastal Officer, on Tel: (01752) 304339 Email: [coastal@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:coastal@plymouth.gov.uk)

#### *Ensure the integrity of the European Marine Site is not compromised by inappropriate development*

In accordance with the Forum's management commitments for assessing cumulative effect of development in the intertidal and sub-tidal habitats and providing appropriate guidance for assessing proposed developments, English Nature and the Environment Agency have provided funding and a full project proposal has been drafted in preparation for going out to tender to relevant consultants. The project will seek to initiate discussions with local authorities to ensure coherence in planning over intertidal land, identify potential policies for inclusion in local development structures, produce estuary wide supplementary planning guidance for intertidal developments, and together with the appropriate statutory bodies, consider the merits of developing standard policies in relation to the impacts of cumulative development and small scale reclamation. Based on the 2004 review of the Tamar Estuary Management Plan, the project on cumulative effect has been identified as key priority for the successful completion of the 2001-2006 management plan.

#### *Ensure that the character and quality of the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) are not compromised by inappropriate sporadic development*

The Tamar Valley AONB and South Devon management plans were finalised in early 2004 with the support of the Forum. On behalf of TECF the Coastal Officer is actively participating in discussions for policy development with regards to the initial AONB management concerns, including issues associated with climate change, urbanisation and development within the rural/ urban fringe.

#### *Further understand natural processes in the estuary and contribute towards opportunities for 'soft-engineering' or managed retreat*

The National Trust has been preparing for the second submission of their proposal for a 15 hectare managed retreat on land near Cotehele. The National Trust, commissioned a number of pertinent scientific studies to Plymouth Marine Laboratories to address each concern arising from the initial application process. With the full support of TECF and its individual

Constituent Members, and a lengthy public awareness campaign, the application is in a good position to succeed.

## **5: Marine litter**

### **What we said we would do**

- Implement a programme of action to tackle marine litter

### **What we have achieved**

#### *A co-ordinated campaign of beach cleans*

The Forum completed its 2004 beach clean in July and supported a sub-aqua clean up of the discarded fishing line at Devils Point in September. Both events were extremely successful attracting over 500 volunteers in all. ABP, DML and Sutton Harbour Company sponsored the beach clean event and support was achieved by a wide range of organisations including community groups, district councils, wildlife trusts and many, many more. Over 10 tonnes of litter was collected through the beach clean event and 60 kilos of discarded fishing line during the sub-aqua clean. There is now considerable ownership of this problem and the fantastic response to the events will lead to more and a wider consideration of other approach to minimise waste on our in our seas and on our shores.

## **6: Marine related crime, speeding limits and enforcement of non-fisheries related byelaws.**

### **What we said we would do**

- Continue to promote existing crime prevention initiatives.
- Promote a wide understanding of the Dockyard of Plymouth Port Order and relevant byelaws.

### **What we have achieved**

Reported crime in the estuaries was slightly lower when compared to 2002/2003. The MoD Marine Police Unit (MPU) continues to provide a considerable service to civilian water users in addition to their principle duty of security of the Naval Base. Liaison between all the law enforcement agencies with responsibilities within the estuaries has been maintained throughout the year. The introduction of the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS Code) has provided a focus on monitoring the international movement of vessels and will strengthen links within the Maritime Intelligence Community.

A review of speed limits within the estuaries is currently being conducted by QHM.

A recent increase of the MPU resources, in September, by thirty percent, is expected to enhance security levels and the afloat presence within the Port even further.

Further Information from Inspector John Pritchard, MoD Marine Police Unit Tel: (01752) 553875

## **7: Moorings**

### **What we said we would do**

- Assist in the provision of adequate numbers of moorings without detriment to the features of the cSAC

### **What we have achieved**

#### *Management of moorings*

The management of has been the subject of some scrutiny under the Plymouth City Council Coastal Management Best Value Review. Dialogue and debate on these issues continues between the Defence Estates Organisation, Duchy of Cornwall and Plymouth City Council on the future of city managed moorings. Concerns with regard to management of moorings continue to be raised through the Port of Plymouth Marine Liaison Committee and individual members of the public. Further information on moorings: Lt Cdr Neil Trathen, Deputy Queen's Harbour Master Tel: (01752) 836485. Email: trathenn@a.dii.mod.uk

## **8: Maritime tourism and recreation**

### **What we said we would do**

- Assist in the provision of environmentally sustainable tourism opportunities to provide enjoyment, learning opportunities and economic benefits

### **What we have achieved**

Although management objectives related to maritime tourism and recreation, as set out in by the management plan only extends to the middle of 2003, coordination efforts within this field of management continue.

*Participate in discussions aimed at promoting environmentally sustainable maritime tourism and recreation opportunities*

Through collective efforts, TECF has contributed to project planning discussions in a number of areas, including, the Scylla project, Sea Britain 2005, Frog Tours Amphibious Tours, and promotion of Maritime Events in Plymouth in general, including Navy Days, Power Boat Races and the Trans-Atlantic Yachting Race.

The steering committee for the Port of Plymouth Area Recreation Study was reconvened in order to decide on the future need for the study. It was agreed that the study has reached an end point with regard to the original objectives, but that information on the changing patterns in recreational use of the estuary and sound continues to be important for management decision-making and minimising conflicts on the water.

## 9: Fisheries

### What we said we would do

- Continue to promote fishing regulations
- Continue to investigate the extent of crab tiling activity and contribute to regional work on this management issue.

### What we have achieved

#### *Promote fishing regulations*

Information on fisheries regulations have been disseminated in response to specific requests. Key information on fisheries is also accessible on the Forum's website.

The Tamar, Tavy, Lynher, Net Limitation Order (NLO) came into effect in 2004 and is proving to be perhaps one of the most significant management measures ever for improving protecting and enhancing fisheries stocks in the area. The implication of the order is a total ban on netting from the estuaries, a measure taken specifically to improve salmonid and bass stocks and to protect unique species such as the Allis Shad from falling victim to bycatch. The Allis Shad is one of the species for which the SAC is designated. This order was made possible through the Environment Agency with the support of English Nature and DEFRA.

#### *Investigate the extent of crab tiling activity*

The Devon Crab Tile Survey was produced by DBRC for English Nature in April 2004. The Devon Sea Fisheries Committee has been co-ordinating this work and the work of the Devon Area Crab Tiling Management Forum. Further information from Tim Robbins, Devon Sea Fisheries Committee Tel: (10803) 854648 [Email: Dsfc@aol.com](mailto:Dsfc@aol.com)

In response to the findings of the survey Crab Tiling Code of Conduct leaflets are to be produced for dissemination in local areas before the end of the year. Further information from Laura Heape, English Nature Tel:01392 889786 Email: [Laura.Heape@English-Nature.Org.uk](mailto:Laura.Heape@English-Nature.Org.uk)

#### *New Initiatives linked to Fisheries Management*

'Finding Sanctuary' has been launched by an English Nature lead partnership. The project aims to enhance and maintain marine biodiversity whilst improving the sustainability of local fish stocks and assisting maritime business by developing a network of representative spatial closures in the inshore waters of the southwest. The project will be achieved through working with local communities and is due to be piloted initially in Cornwall and later be expanded into various parts of Devon. It is hoped that in conjunction with the output from the Investinfish SW workshop, which investigates all potential types of area-based management options, that these projects shall compliment the recommendations outlined in the Government report Net Benefits A sustainable and profitable future for UK fishing and the consultation document Review of Marine Fisheries and Environmental Enforcement.

For further information contact Chris Davis, English Nature Tel. 01392 889774  
[Chris.Davis@English-Nature.Org.uk](mailto:Chris.Davis@English-Nature.Org.uk)

## 10: Nature conservation

### What we said we would do

- Develop and ensure effective management of the cSAC/ SPA
- Continue to maintain and update biological databases, and identify additional research and monitoring requirements
- Work towards better understanding of the ecological requirements of key habitats and species (2003)
- Raise the profile and understanding of local wildlife and geology, their designation and international importance
- Promote new and existing codes of conduct
- Work towards a scientific assessment of disturbance to resident and over-wintering birds and other wildlife
- Promote habitat enhancement and/ or restoration projects
- Ensure key habitats and species that are identified within the biodiversity action plans (BAPs) are protected and sustainably managed.

### What we have achieved

#### *Effective management of the cSAC/SPA*

This year has seen continued advances in cSAC management at a local level with the completion of a number of surveys and the emergence of a comprehensive monitoring programme for the estuary. The final report for the 'biotype' survey completed in 2002-2003 is nearing completion and has been complemented by a sub-tidal survey of reefs, one of the key features.

The annual European Marine Site (EMS) workshop was held in Plymouth this year, providing the opportunity for the team to share details about managing the Plymouth Sound and Estuaries Site. Further information from Chris Davis, Marine Conservation Officer Tel: (01392) 889774 Email: [chris.davis@english-nature.org.uk](mailto:chris.davis@english-nature.org.uk)

#### *Maintain and update biological databases, and identify additional research and monitoring requirements*

TECF continues to maintain biological databases as part of its key contributions to the coordination and management of the Tamar Estuary.

A desk study to assess the impact of maintenance dredging activity on the Tamar Estuary was completed in the first part of 2004 by Plymouth Marine Applications, meeting objectives to facilitate scientific assessment of the sedimentary budget, contaminated sediments and the trends within the estuarine complex. The study provides guidance and a long-term view as to how environmental impacts and economic costs can be minimised and managed, a sound basis upon which to develop a dredging protocol, a sustainable strategy for maintenance dredging. The study has also served to reaffirm concerns with regard to specific sediment toxicity issues. The study serves as yet another example of how the Ministry of Defence takes seriously its role in managing the interests of the port without jeopardising the interests of the environment.

In relation to the requirements for reporting on compliance of the European Marine Sites, as required by the Habitats Directive, both English Nature and the Environment Agency are taking actions within their respective capacities and areas of responsibility. In addition to this



and building on existing systems for surveying and monitoring, initial discussions for developing an integrated monitoring and research programme for the Tamar Estuaries complex have been initiated.

Relying strongly on local partnership and co-operation, the proposed programme is hoped to further streamline its approach to long-term monitoring and reporting for management of the Tamar Estuary complex, inform scientific research agendas and encourage delivery in a cost effective and co-ordinated manner. The programme should serve to support reporting requirements of the Habitats Directive, but will also enable an assessment of management effectiveness overall, through the development of appropriate management indicators. The programme should function to systematically alert us of new concerns and new management requirements, and provide a mechanism for centralising reporting of applicable research. Funding from the Environment Agency has been identified to continue the development of the monitoring/ research programme.

Recommendations from the Nature Conservation Review (1998), the Audit of Coastal Change (1999), the Site Characterisation Report (2003) and the recent Desk Study Assessment of the Impact of Dredging Activity on the Tamar Estuary (2004), have contributed significantly to assessing the state of the local environment to date, highlighting management concerns and identifying new research agendas. In addition to formal studies, information relevant to compliance with Habitats Directive continues to be regularly exchanged at TECF and PPMLC meetings.

#### *Promote understanding of wildlife and geological features*

In partnership with local organisations, a coastal educational fair is currently being planned for TECF's 2005 annual event. The educational event is a celebration of the estuary and hopes to inspire people to get in touch with the estuary. An integral feature of the event is the promotion of the estuary's wildlife and geological features.

#### *Promotion of new and existing codes of conduct*

In collaboration with English Nature, and based on the findings of the 2004 Crab Tiling Survey, TECF is promoting the Crab Tiling Code of Conduct in the Plymouth Sound and Estuary. These guidelines shall contribute to the protection of important mudflat habitat features of the cSAC.

#### *Towards a scientific assessment of disturbance to resident and over-wintering birds and other wildlife*

Recent availability of the 2001-2004 WeBS data from the British Ornithology Trust has meant that monitoring of changes within resident and over-wintering birds within the estuary can continue. Professor John Widdows of Plymouth Marine Laboratories (PML) continues this work initiated through the dredging study.

#### *Promoting habitat enhancement and/ or restoration projects*

Participation in discussions/ workshops related to the developing field of managed realignment and wetland habitat creation, are considered of key importance to TECF's work and the management of the estuary, not least for its direct relevance to adaptive/ mitigative management of issues related to climate change, an area of management of increasing priority. As a way of asserting support for this type of management TECF and individual Constituent Members are backing the National Trust's re-application for the managed retreat at Cotehele.

## **11: Oil spill contingency planning**

### **What we said we would do**

- Continue a programme of development and testing of oil spill response

### **What we have achieved**

#### *Conduct oil spill exercises and test contingency arrangements*

Training and testing of oil spill arrangements continue as a rolling programme of work with relevant partners, including an exercise on Shore Response Centre (SRC) and English Nature hosted events on Environmental Decision Making in Oil Spill Response. Other emergency planning exercises that have taken place include the ChevronTexaco COMAH emergency planning exercise and the development of an Emergency Plan for Millbay Docks and the Defence Munitions Centre at Ernesettle have also taken place with participation from various members.

Further information for Lt Cdr Neil Trathen, Deputy Queen's Harbour Master Tel: (012752 836485 Email: trathenn@a.dii.mod.uk

## **12: Landscape conservation and land based recreation**

### **What we said we would do**

- Manage and where possible, improve the South West Coast Path

### **What we have achieved**

#### *Managing the South West Coast Path*

The Coastal Officer retains responsibility for the Plymouth City Council's section of the South West Coast Path. This entails undertaking annual maintenance of the path and dealing with a wide range of issues. The South West Cost Path was formally granted National Trail status was by the Secretary of State to the Countryside Agency for in 2002/2003, and as such Plymouth section of the route is protected and enjoys annual maintenance funding from the Countryside Agency.

## 13: Water quality

### What we said we would do

- Seek the best water quality standards for the estuaries

### What we have achieved

#### *Improvements in water quality*

The Marine Biological Association and Plymouth Marine Laboratories on behalf of the Environment Agency and English Nature produced 'The Plymouth Sound and Estuaries Site Characterisation Report'. This report outlines key water quality issues and features of the estuaries and provides a focus for future efforts to manage pollution issues.

Further information from Jess Thomasson, Environment Agency Tel: (01208) 265139 [jess.thomasson@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:jess.thomasson@environment-agency.gov.uk)

The Environment Agency is currently reviewing its own consents under the Habitats Regulations in consultation with English Nature. This review is ongoing. Stage 3, the Appropriate Assessment is expected to be completed by March 2006 and shall inform the Environment Agency which consents are having an adverse effect on the integrity of the site. Stage 4, the Options Appraisal is expected to be completed by March 2008. The review process will provide an overview of issues related to water quality and a basis for developing among other things targeted actions in response to the issue of diffuse pollution. For further information

Jess Thomasson, Environment Agency Tel: (01208) 265139 [jess.thomasson@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:jess.thomasson@environment-agency.gov.uk)

## **14: Maritime historic environment**

### **What we said we would do**

- To understand better the character, extent and importance of the maritime historic environment particularly within the shoreline zones
- To address long-term management of the maritime historic environment
- To improve public understanding, awareness and enjoyment of the historic environment

#### *To address long-term management of the maritime historic environment*

The Forums Coastal Officer has participated in the consultative process to comment on the 'Protecting our Marine Historic Environment: Making the System Work Better (2004)' a paper produced by the Department of Culture Media and Sport. Through this forum TECF is able to network with local and SW regional stakeholders to develop the interests of protecting and promoting Plymouth's maritime archaeological heritage.

In February 2005 PPMLC invited Mr. Martin Read, a lecturer at Plymouth University to represent maritime archaeological interests on the advisory body. It has been over 6 years since this advisory position has been properly represented and very timely in that there have been a number of cases recently in which the consents process has failed to consider maritime historic features. It is apparent that the existing body of information on maritime historic features is not centralised and or accessible to those requiring the information. Collaboration in managing maritime historic interests in the Plymouth Sound and Estuaries area is likely to be better highlighted in the next management plan.

## **15: Navigation and waterborne public transport**

### **What we said we would do**

- Assist in the development of appropriate water borne public transport

#### *Water Transportation Feasibility Study*

Cornwall County Council, Countryside Agency, Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council, South West Regional Development Agency and the Tamar Valley Service collaborated to fund a project to investigate the potential for water transportation throughout the estuaries. Consultants Scott Wilson of Plymouth and Atlantic Consultants of Truro were appointed to run detailed investigations into the markets, infrastructure requirements and funding opportunities for potential services. The final report was produced in early 2004 after a long and extended period of consultation. The report provides useful background information for the development of a more comprehensive water transportation strategy, and includes information of past and present transportation initiatives, coverage of future demand for water services from tourism and recreation, and useful summaries of issues related to planning and transport policies and water transport landing points.

Caradon District Council has instigated a further related feasibility study, focusing on investigating the potential demand for a commuter ferry service from Saltash to areas within Plymouth. The final study is expected before the end of 2004, and is expected to support some of the recommendations outlined in the Scott Wilson report, and contributes to providing a

focused assessment of the shore-based infrastructure and service requirements, and an overview of the potential employment opportunities that could be generated.

Further information from Maeve Nightingale, Coastal Officer, on Tel: (01752) 304339 Email: [coastal@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:coastal@plymouth.gov.uk)

## 16: Water safety

### WHAT WE SAID WE WOULD DO

- Continue to provide for the safe use of the estuaries and their shoreline

### What we have achieved

#### Public Access Signage, Water Events Diary

The safety and information signage information boards established at thirty public access points in 2002 continue to be monitored and maintained. A new interpretation board is to be designed and constructed for Devils Point to raise awareness about the issues related to discarded fishing line and the importance of good practice in angling from the shore side in this area.

There are a number of other interested parties with signage boards around the estuary that are interested in collaborating in an audit/ review of all signage and collaboration in bringing all information boards up to date for content and design. It is hoped that this review and update of relevant boards can be completed in time for the 2006 summer season.

Further Information may be sought from Maeve Nightingale, Coastal Officer, on Tel: (01752) 304339 Email: [coastal@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:coastal@plymouth.gov.uk)

The annually produced Water Events Dairy has been available at [www.qhmplymouth.org.uk](http://www.qhmplymouth.org.uk) since 2003, and continues to be successful in providing an updated communication and promotion of key water events.

Further information for Lt Cdr Neil Trathen, Deputy Queen's Harbour Master Tel: (012752) 836485 Email: [trathenn@a.dii.mod.uk](mailto:trathenn@a.dii.mod.uk)



## Financial summary 2003 to 2004

### Expenditure (Staff Costs)

£34,333.00

- Coastal Officer (and on-costs)

### Income secured

#### Team Expenditure (Staff Costs)

£25,000.00

- TECF Contributions

#### Capital Funding

None

#### Project Funding Secured

£80,433.14

- Water Transportation Study (£17,250)
- Summer Beach Clean Sponsorship (£950)
- Cumulative Effect Study (£8,000)
- South West Coast Path Maintenance Grant (£1,718.14)
- Desktop Study of Dredging (£49,515)
- Integrated Monitoring and Research Programme development (£3,000)