

Queen's Harbour Master Plymouth
 Longroom House
 RM Barracks Stonehouse
 Stonehouse
 Plymouth
 PL1 3RT

QHM 532/7

25 February 2019

**NOTES OF THE PORT OF PLYMOUTH MARINE LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
 THURSDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2019
 CHARTER ROOM, GUILDHALL, PLYMOUTH**

Present	Representing	User Group
Mr C Necker	Queen's Harbour Master	TECF / Harbour Auth.
Mr N Trathen	Deputy Queen's Harbour Master	TECF / Harbour Auth.
Mr A Jones	MOD (QHM)	TECF / Harbour Auth.
Mrs K Curry	Natural Infrastructure Officer	TECF / PCC
Ms F Crouch	Natural Infrastructure Officer	TECF / PCC
Mr R Allan	Cattewater Deputy Harbour Master	Harbour Authority
PS. A Evans	MDP Marine Unit	Crime Abatement
Mr S Crayford	RNLI	Navigation and Rescue
Mr S Hannaford	RNLI	Navigation and Rescue
Ms K Butler	RNLI	Navigation and Rescue
Mr C Turner	HM Coastguard	Navigation and Rescue
Mr A Curd	MMO	Nature Conservation
Ms A Gall	Natural England	Nature Conservation
Mr R Price	Environment Agency	Nature Conservation
Ms C Smith	Devon Wildlife Trust / Wembury Marine Centre	Nature Conservation
Mr G Reed	Bere Ferrers Parish Council	Town & Parish Council
Mr M Goble	PCC Pier Master	Moorings
Mr K Banks	Millbrook Lake Mooring Assoc.	Moorings
Mr C Bush	Mayflower Marina	Marine Commerce
Mr L Lynch	Victoria Group	Marine Commerce
Mr N Webb	Sanders Stevens	Marine Commerce
Mr R Anderson	Plymouth Trawlers Assoc.	Marine Commerce
Mr A James	Plymouth University Marine Station	Research
Mrs M Hass	The SHIPs Project	Research
Mr J Lowther	Plymouth University	Research
Mr M Wood	RYA	Recreation & Tourism
Mr A Rye	Plymouth Federation of Sea Anglers	Recreation & Tourism

Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
1. Introduction	QHM welcomed everyone and thanked Plymouth City Council for hosting the meeting. QHM asked all present to introduce themselves.	
2. Apologies	Apologies for absence were received from: Capt. T Charlesworth (CHC), Mr P Bromley (Sutton Harbour Master), Mr P Wiseman (Mount Edgcumbe), Mr T Head (PPSA), Dr K Lathem (Calstock Parish Council), Mr D Curno (RYA), Mr P Scott (Cawsand Moorings)	

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3. Notes of the previous meeting	The notes of the previous meeting held on 11 October 2018 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.	
4. Matters arising	<p>4.6. Mr Crayford gave an overview of current RNLI work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hand-outs for this spring/summer safety campaign will be available at June meeting <p>Update 11/10/18: RNLI requested to bring a box to the next meeting (Feb 19) for PPMLC members to distribute prior to Easter 19 increase in leisure usage.</p> <p>Update 14/02/19: The RNLI provided some literature and briefed that further resources are available (see RNLI catalogue) and can be ordered from the local team.</p> <p><u>Complete</u></p>	
	<p>4.11e. Water User Guide: QHM outlined the utility of the Water Users guide and requested updates for future editions. Action on all to promote distribution and request more copies if required.</p> <p>Update 11/10/18: All members requested to re-advertise and request additional copies if required.</p> <p>Update 14/02/19: QHM outlined the importance of the Water Users Guide as a main contribution to the education of water users in Plymouth's rules/regulations, environmental and safety issues. He commended it to everyone and placed an action on PPMLC members to request copies and distribute within their areas of influence. Feedback on changes and proposed updates are requested by end Mar 19.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p>	All
	<p>4.6. Mrs Curry outlined the updated TORs with the inclusion of the recently introduced GDPR rules, there is also a distribution list for update. All to pass comment directly to NIO by 31 July 2018.</p> <p>Update 11/10/18: No comments received and therefore agreed. NIO to send to all members and publish on TECF website.</p> <p>Update 14/02/19: final TORs will be distributed with the minutes.</p> <p><u>Complete</u></p>	
	<p>7. Eco-Moorings: Work continues in Cawsand Bay led by the National Marine Aquarium (NMA). A new method of using a helical screw to replace the traditional block anchor was trialled in October/November. There have been a few issues with this new system that were promptly dealt with by the NMA. In light of these issues and the potential new works proposed in the application for LIFE funding (ReMEDIES) a meeting of stakeholders has been arranged in February to discuss next steps and ensure all parties are kept informed</p> <p><u>Ongoing</u></p>	
	<p>8. TECF website update. NIO requested that all members circulate the new web address (www.plymouth-mpa.uk) and update their representative websites with the new address. QHM reiterated the importance of information sharing amongst relevant authorities and the port user community</p>	

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	<p>and asked all whether signposting of key websites (e.g QHM, TECF & RNLI) could be added to their own sites. <u>Action</u></p> <p>10. QHM Matters – Question regarding jet ski prosecutions. Matter is currently CPS awaiting decision. <u>Ongoing</u> PMN – CPS will not be proceeding with prosecutions for the 2 cases from last year due to level of evidence and procedural issues. Feedback will inform the preparation of future cases.</p>	All
	<p>12. Sutton Harbour Byelaws – General directions have been issued. Consultation on the Byelaws has been delayed. See Agenda Item 11. <u>Ongoing.</u></p>	
5. Presentations	<p><i>Conservancy in the Dockyard Port</i> Mr Jones gave his presentation on his work as the QHM Port Conservancy Officer. Mr Jones highlighted a request to all members to report any defects to Aids to Navigation or matters affecting navigation throughout the Port, either via Port Control or directly to him andrew.jones469@mod.gov.uk.</p>	
6. Plymouth Water Safety Update	<p>a. Mr Crayfould gave an overview of the present RNLI workstreams and presented the Plymouth RNLI coastal lifesaving plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current focus “to end preventable loss of life”, with focus on utilising vessels and lifeguards - Throughout the UK & Ireland deaths in 2018 were reduced from previous years however Mr Crayfould highlighted that 24 of the 26 deaths had occurred before the lifeboat had been launched; - The community life saving plans are being developed with a focus on safety education and early intervention. - Of the top 8 highest risks to life, 6 could be reduced through the proper use of a life jacket. - A 2018 survey found that in Plymouth 63% of children and 41% of adult were wearing a life jacket; - Over 200 life jacket tests found that that 25% of jackets tested would not have worked properly and 50% had defects. - Mr Crayfould promoted the RYA “SAFE TRX” app and asked members to promote, particularly via the PPSA. <u>Action</u> <p>b. Question regarding targeted presentations and signage. -The RNLI community team work at various marinas but not at slips. The RNLI and PCC Piermaster agreed to an action to see if improvements could be made at PCC slipways. <u>Action</u></p>	<p>All / DQHM</p> <p>RNLI / Mr Goble</p>

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	<p>c. NIO EMS offered the opportunity to present any information required in the TECF newsletter. <u>Action.</u></p> <p>d. Question regarding percentage of incidents over various activities. - Mr Crayford explained there is a weighting scheme to allow prioritisation and highlight areas at risk, there are some assumptions made (such as combining yachts and dinghies).</p> <p>e. Offer from CHC for RNLI personnel to join them on their Harbour Patrols <u>Action.</u></p> <p>f. Question regarding the diving kiosk and whether it will be returning for 2019? - Unknown at this time however it is known that many diving incidents are due to poor health. - RNLI will report back at Jun meeting <u>Action.</u></p>	<p>RNLI/NIO</p> <p>CHC / RNLI</p> <p>RNLI</p>
7. TECF matters	<p>NIO presented her report (attached at Annex A). 1.a) National Marine Park: QHM highlighted the work of TECF and PPMLC and supporting committees that already deliver much of the Marine Park vision. All members were encouraged to respond to initial engagement. Formal consultation will be promulgated when available. <u>Action</u></p> <p>1.c) Marine Planning: action on all members to respond to MMO engagement regarding the SW Plan. <u>Action</u></p> <p>2. EMS project - angling bins: Disposal methods still undergoing risk assessment due to sharp objects. NIO EMS and Mr Rye to discuss self-help options from within the angling fraternity. <u>Action</u></p> <p>Information panels: second phase now underway, NIO EMS will be in contact with stakeholders in the specific areas to obtain "focus" information. Action on all to respond to request for information and report any damage to existing panels. <u>Action</u></p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>NIO EMS / Mr Rye</p> <p>NIO EMS / All</p>
8. EMS matters	Ms Gall presented her report (attached at Annex B).	
9. QHM matters	<p>a. Water Safety & Incidents: There have been 22 whole port incidents logged since the last meeting (average for time of year): - 7 Near misses - 6 minor pollution events. - 5 contact (berthing) - 2 MOB. - 1 diving - 1 equipment</p>	

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	<p>b. QHM safety media release will be published to coincide with the start of the school summer holidays to compliment that of the RNLI whose focus starts at Easter/early May.</p> <p>c. Dredging: DQHM informed those present the MOD now have a 10yr dredge and dispose licence with the first campaign under this licence scheduled for w/c 4 Mar.</p>	
10. Water events	<p>a. The 2019 Water Events Diary (WED) can be found on the QHM website (www.qhm.mod.uk/plymouth/)</p> <p>DQHM requested any additions for the 2019 WED.</p> <p>b. DQHM also highlighted the designated areas for Autonomous trials within The Port, these areas are used for coordination purposes and will not be designated for exclusive use.</p>	
11. Sutton Harbour Port Users Group	<p>Apologies received from Mr Bromley. DQHM gave an update:</p> <p>General directions have now been issued. The byelaws are currently with the lawyers for finalisation with the aim to be sent out for formal consultation by the end of February 2019. All requested to respond.</p> <p><u>Action</u> PMN – Consultation on the Byelaws has been delayed.</p>	All
12. Any other business	<p>a. Mr Price gave an update from the Environment Agency EA has secured £150k funding which will be matched with £192k to move the following (Plymouth Estuaries) projects forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Habitat creation and improvement inc. weirs - Sustainable sediment management on the Tavy - Salmon recruitment study: multi agency working group looking at differences between water bodies - SEAFISH – a dynamic contamination assessment specifically for shell fisheries - Pollution incident tracing - Intertidal project at Cotehele <p>b. Mr Price also informed the group that the planning application for Calstock works has been submitted and stakeholder engagement went well.</p> <p>c. EA will also be supporting the Tamar Valley AONB management plan.</p> <p>d. Bere Ferris - The neighbourhood plan has been accepted The Weir Quay “Hub Club” is now in use and Mr Reed invited all to visit and utilise as necessary</p> <p>e. Devon Wildlife Trust - SW regional biosecurity plan has now been published and can be found here: (http://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?pageid=632)</p>	

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	f. Ms Smith also highlighted that the current management of Pacific oysters has the potential for negative public perception and needs to be managed accordingly.		
14. Dates of next meetings	Dates of the forthcoming PPMLC and TECF meetings were published as follows:		
	<u>PPMLC</u> 1400 on 13 Jun 19 1400 on 10 Oct 19 1400 on 13 Feb 20	<u>TECF</u> 1015 on 14 Mar 19 1015 on 18 July 19 1015 on 12 Mar 20	

Distribution:

NBC, All Committee members

PPMLC Thurs 14 February 2019

7. TECF Matters: by Natural Infrastructure Officer

1) Strategic Planning

a) Proposal for National Marine Park

Following an event held at the National Marine Aquarium in December, Plymouth City Council has now officially started work to develop plans for Plymouth Sound to be designated the UK's first National Marine Park, after securing £75,000 national funding to move the project forward.

Councillor Sue Dann, Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene made the announcement following the news that the Marine Management Organisation has agreed to provide EU funding of £75,000 towards the first phase of the project.

As part of this, the Council will:

- Officially lead the project to develop and designate the National Marine Park, working with local partners and stakeholders.
- start a programme of engagement with the local community groups, businesses and stakeholders to help shape the marine park
- work with Government departments to ensure the National Marine Park has national recognition
- continue to seek external funding for the project

PCC's current engagement window runs from 15 January to 26 February and is looking to get people's views on the proposals, and how we can deliver the maximum benefits for people, wildlife and business.

The main aims of a National Marine Park are to:

- Encourage the community to understand, enjoy, value and care for the marine and coastal environment
- strengthen existing marine conservation objectives and involve the local community in this
- establish a world leading demonstration centre for a range of marine technologies including marine autonomous systems
- ensure those from disadvantaged backgrounds are able to enjoy the same opportunities to access the marine environment as others
- improve and enhance sustainable tourism, commercial fishing, recreation, shipping and marine services

- improve community health and wellbeing by increasing access for recreation

The Council has been working closely with a range of national and local partners including University of Plymouth, the National Marine Aquarium, and the Blue Marine Foundation, to move the plans for a National Marine Park forward.

From now until 26 February you can have your say on the plans to declare Plymouth the UK's first National Marine Park.

Tell PCC what Plymouth Sound means to you via our website here:

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/plymouthsoundnationalmarinepark>

You can watch a short video about why Plymouth should be the UK's first National Marine Park here: <https://youtu.be/8ssVHaBrqKM>

b) Plymouth & South West Devon Joint Local Plan

The Examination in Public of the Plymouth and and SW Devon Joint Local Plan was completed in Spring 2019 and the additional information requested by the Inspectors as been submitted. The authorities are currently awaiting the inspectors' response and are optimistic that adoption will still take place in Spring 2019.

c) Marine Planning

The MMO have just completed their round of workshops as part of their engagement on the South West Marine Plan. Engagement on Iteration Three remains open through their online pages until 29th March where it is possible to see and comment on all drafted policies. The system enables participants to begin their response, save it, and complete it later.

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/mmo/sw-mp-iteration-3-online-engagement/>

The MMO are working towards the following timetable in order to achieve the adoption fo the Inshore and Offshore South West Marine Plan.

21 Jan – 29 March 19 Online engagement

April – Aug 19 Policy amendment

Aug – Sep 19 Internal Plan drafting

Sept – Oct 19 Draft Plans Consultation preparation

Nov 19 – Feb 20 Draft Plan Consultation Period

2) EMS Managing Recreational Impacts Project

In October 2018 Fiona Crouch was employed as Beth Siddons replacement. During the past 3+ months she has been familiarising herself with the project objectives and her role within the PCC Natural Infrastructure team. Progress has been made on a number of the objectives, outlined below.

RECREATIONAL MANAGEMENT

Biosecurity Plan: A presentation at the Port of Plymouth Sailing Association (PPSA) Annual General in November focused on alerting the sailing community of the Plan and the need to vigilante. As a result of the PPSA presentation Plym Yacht Club requested a presentation on the MPA and non-native species. Forty people attended the presentation on the 5th February.

Work on the monitoring of non-native species is being undertaken at Wembury and the Yealm. There have been a number of discussions with those involved including the authors of the Biosecurity Plan on how we can have a coordinating approach when organising workshops to avoid duplication to make the best use of volunteers.

Eco-mooring Project: Work continues in Cawsand Bay led by the National Marine Aquarium (NMA). A new method of using a helical screw to replace the traditional block anchor were trialled in October/November. There have been a few issues with this new system that were promptly dealt with by the NMA. In light of these issues and the potential new works proposed in the application for LIFE funding (ReMEDIES) a meeting of has been arranged in February to discuss next steps and ensure all parties are kept informed

Recreational angling: Options for installing the angling bins continue to be pursued at the locations reported in October. The main issue is who will empty the bins.

COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter: To accompany the new website and branding, the second e-newsletter was sent out in January. Newsletters will now be produced three times a year. Please send any content to coastal@plymouth.gov.uk.

Website: Update of the website continues with new pages being installed all the time. And also, a new coastal and blue section is being added to the PCC website.

Information Panels: Following the successful installation of the first phase of panels at five locations in Plymouth, work is now underway to tackle the second phase which will include Calstock, Weir Quay, Saltash Pier/Old Ferry, Brunel Green Slipway, Ferry House/Saltash Passage, QAB and Elphinstone

and Mountbatten Slipway. In addition, an information panel is also to be installed at Ernesettle aimed at visitors on the new path.

Storm damage has been reported to the Oreston panel, and this is currently being remedied.

3) ReMEDIES Eco-Moorings Project

TECF / Plymouth City Council has been part of a bid, coordinated by Natural England, for European LIFE funding. The project is called ReMEDIES (Reducing and Mitigating Erosion and Disturbance Impacts affecting the Seabed) and is for a total of €2.9k. If successful the project will secure 60% of the total costs as grant funding with the remaining coming from partners which include Natural England, National Marine Aquarium, RYA and Plymouth City Council.

In addition to Plymouth Sound, the project will also involve work in the Isles of Scilly, Fal and Helford, Solent and Essex and will look to find ways to improve the management of moorings in order to avoid impacts on sensitive parts of the Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC, with particular focus on seagrass.

The project objectives are to:

- Protect from and reduce recreational pressures on seagrass beds;
- Demonstrate large scale successful restoration and management techniques across all of the SACs across the five project areas;
- Promote awareness and inspire better care of the Annex 1 habitats by recreational users and other stakeholders.

We will hear over the coming months whether we have been successful in securing funding to deliver this four year project.

4) Water User Leaflets

The Water Users Leaflets will shortly be reprinted for the summer season. Please notify coastal@plymouth.gov.uk of any changes needed **before end March 2019**.

5) Angling Debris at Cove Head

Conversations are ongoing relating to alleged angling debris off Cove Head moorings, just north of Torpoint. Options are being explored to verify the extent of the problem.

6) Developments

Drakes Island: Whilst planning consent has been granted, negotiations are still ongoing regarding variations to the planning conditions.

Sugar Quay, Sutton Harbour (18/01245/FUL) Erection of a 20 storey (plus basement) mixed use development comprising basement car parking, 170 residential apartments, ground floor and mezzanine commercial space (and associated landscaping, public realm & infrastructure works. Granted with conditions

Vauxhall Quay Boardwalk with commercial units, Sutton Harbour (18/00901/FUL): This planning application was originally granted in 2015, but it has now lapsed resulting in this resubmission. The MMO license for the marine element was finally granted in December 2017. Decision still awaited.

Bostons Boatyard (17/02074/FUL): This is an application for the redevelopment of the old boatyard site and slipway into a development of 16 dwellings. And it will include works to the old unacceptable slipway which consists of the rubble-filled barges. Granted with conditions.

Clyde Quay (18/00996/FUL): Temporary car park on Clyde Quay until multi-storey is built. Granted.

Kaja Curry & Fiona Crouch
Natural Infrastructure Officers

Natural England Update

PPMLC Meeting 14th February 2019

Priority issues in the European Marine Site

Our work in this area has been prioritised largely based on our Condition Assessment of the Special Area of Conservation. It is now possible to view the detailed results of the Condition Assessment online alongside our Conservation Advice. This is regularly updated as new evidence comes forward.

With partners we have recently been working on some of the issues that are causing parts of the site to be considered in 'unfavourable condition':

- Volunteer engagement within our funded project on Pacific oysters is being led by South Devon AoNB in the Yealm and other estuaries in South Devon and Cornwall Wildlife Trust in Cornwall. There have been a number of events held so far and in April the Marine Biological Association is running a training session in identification on other Invasive Non Native Species that may be associated with Pacific oysters. This will help to increase monitoring of these species which is in line with the Tamar Estuaries Biosecurity Plan
- A full bid has now been submitted to the EU LIFE fund for a national project called **Reducing and Mitigating Erosion and Disturbance Impacts affecting the Seabed ReMEDIES**. Natural England are the lead partner for this project, with other project partners the RYA, the National Marine Aquarium, TECF and the Marine Conservation Society. The project aims to improve the condition of seagrass within 5 Special Areas of Conservation including Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC. If funded, the project should commence in July 2019.
- We are working with the Environment Agency and South West Water to identify and deliver improvements to Allis shad migration from the Tamar estuary into the freshwater river. The fish pass proposed for the main weir at Gunnislake is likely to be a vertical slot pass that will be suitable for Allis shad and smelt. It will also allow migratory salmonid passage to be maintained and an eel passage measure will be included.
- Tamar intertidal habitat creation – with the Environment Agency, the National Trust and private landowners we are progressing with developing projects to create intertidal saltmarsh and mudflat habitat at South Hooe on the Devon bank of the Tamar estuary and at Cotehele Quay. We have also engaged with the Environment Agency on the Calstock Flood Defence and Habitat Creation Project which proposes to create 4ha of reedbed habitat.

Plymouth EMS and Tamar Estuary Sites MCZ Monitoring

Intertidal habitat mapping – This 'biotope survey' of all the intertidal areas of the SAC was carried out by Ecospan Environmental Ltd in 2017. This will update our existing habitat maps and the data will be available through the MAGIC mapping website

<http://www.magic.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx>. The report and maps will be published soon. They include evidence which supports the findings of our condition assessments, useful maps of certain Invasive Non Native Species.

Subtidal reef survey – This survey focused on the deeper (circalittoral) areas of reef within the SAC and was carried out by Natural England's monitoring team in 2017 and repeated in 2018 to allow for comparison. A report is being produced.

Subtidal seagrass – The subtidal seagrass in the SAC was monitored this summer by a combination of diving (Natural England) and drop down video (this aspect led by the

Environment Agency). We revisited the sites monitored in 2012 to allow comparisons and did a detailed survey of the seagrass beds beneath the moorings in Cawsand Bay. A report is due before the Spring.

Environmental DNA study of migratory fish – This was carried out at three locations in the Tamar estuary in the winter to assess the effectiveness of the technique. A draft report is currently being finalised.

Bids for 2019/2020 projects have been submitted for consideration for internal funding, and results should be known by the start of the 2019/20 FY.

Once published, reports can be accessed here <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/> or you can request them via me.

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