

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

QHM 532/7

24 October 2018

**NOTES OF THE PORT OF PLYMOUTH MARINE LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
 THURSDAY 11 OCTOBER 2018
 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.
Mr P Bromley	Sutton Harbour	Marine Commerce / Harbour Auth.
Mrs K Curry	Natural Infrastructure Officer	TECF / Council
PS. A Evans	MDP Marine Unit	Crime Abatement
PC. G Hawkins	D&C Police	Crime Abatement
Mr S Hannaford	RNLI	Navigation and Rescue
Mr C Turner	HM Coastguard	Navigation and Rescue
Mr N Lawes	HM Coastguard	Navigation and Rescue
Mr M Wood	RYA	Recreation & Tourism
Mr D Curno	RYA	Recreation & Tourism
Ms A Gall	Natural England	Nature Conservation
Mr R Price	Environment Agency	Nature Conservation
Mr E Parr Ferris	Devon Wildlife Trust	Nature Conservation
Mr G Reed	Bere Ferrers Parish Council	Town & Parish Council
Mr J Wilton	Maker and Rame Parish Council	Town & Parish Council
Mr K Banks	Millbrook Lake Mooring Assoc.	Moorings
Mr R Anderson	Plymouth Trawlers Assoc.	Marine Commerce
Mr J Lowther	Plymouth University	Research
Mr J Roe	Plymouth Federation of Sea Anglers	Recreation & Tourism
Mr T Head	Port of Plymouth Sailing Assoc.	Recreation & Tourism

Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
1. Introduction	<p>QHM welcomed everyone and thanked Plymouth City Council for hosting the meeting.</p> <p>Recognising that the source of anti social behaviour afloat can have its origins on shore, QHM introduced PC Glenn Hawkins from Devon & Cornwall Police who is part of the neighbourhood policing team assisting with crime abatement.</p> <p>QHM asked all present to introduce themselves.</p>	
2. Apologies	<p>Apologies for absence were received from: Capt. T Charlesworth (CHC), Mr R Allen (CHC), Mr N Webb (Commercial Operations), Dr K Lathem (Calstock Parish Council), Ms C Smith (Devon Wildlife Trust).</p>	

Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
3. Notes of the previous meeting	The notes of the previous meeting held on 14 June 2018 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.	
4. Matters arising	<p>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>Mr Hannaford unable to attend meeting, all members were requested to contact RNLI directly if hand-outs are required.</p> <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><u>Action</u></p>	All/RNLI
	<p>6a. At QHM's request the RNLI undertook to make an asset available for education during programmed events e.g. National Firework Championships.</p> <p>RNLI confirmed that the Coastal Safety Advice Boat (including an on-board safety team) has been booked for both evenings of the National Firework Championship. RNLI to report back to next PPMLC on its utility.</p> <p>Update 11/10/18: Good feedback from those who came into contact with the RNLI safety boat including QHM team and public. RNLI spoke with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 17 Kayakers - 13 Yachts - 1 Jet Ski - 2 Swimmers <p>Main issues discussed regarded vessels having no lights and the use of life jackets (a number were checked and 5 found to have failed).</p> <p>QHM highlighted the importance of education on the water as an essential tool to improve safety. The safety boat has been booked for the 2019 event.</p> <p><u>Complete</u></p>	
	<p>11e. Water User Guide: QHM outlined the utility of the Water Users guide and requested updates for future editions.</p> <p>Action on all to promote distribution and request more copies if required.</p> <p>Update 14/06/18: Promote and distribute, please contact Ms Siddons if more copies are required.</p> <p>Update 11/10/18: All members requested to readvertise and request additional copies if required.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p>	All
	<p>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><u>Action</u></p>	NIO
	<p>9a. Information panels: The first panels will be installed during the first week of July 18. Ms Siddons will provide a full list of locations that will be updated.</p>	

Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
	<p>Update 11/10/18: Matter covered in TECF officers report at Para 2c on Page B-2.. <u>Complete</u></p>	
	<p>12a. <u>Speeding</u> - Mr Reed highlighted that numerous vessels have been seen speeding in the vicinity of Weir Quay and feels that the speed limit signs are too small. QHM advised that any reports of speeding should be made directly to the relevant control station so that MDP marine unit can attend in a timely manner. It was also highlighted that QHM/TECF publish and distribute Small Craft User Guides which should be made available. Action on PCO to provide contact details to Mr Reed. 11/10/18 QHM reminded members of the importance of timely reporting and that contact details can be found in the Water Users Leaflet. <u>Complete</u></p>	
<p>5. Presentations</p>	<p>a. Marine Heritage and the Law – do you know how to stay within the law?</p> <p>Mr Lowther gave his presentation outlining the legal framework around marine heritage and wreck designation.</p> <p>Question from Mr Head – Who can the public report suspected misdemeanours to? Answer – In Plymouth QHM / Longroom Port Control in the first instance who will pass on the correct authority.</p> <p>Question from Mrs Curry – Where can more information be found? Answer – Historic England website: (www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/protected-wreck-sites/) & Ships project website: (http://www.promare.co.uk/ships/)</p>	
<p>6. Plymouth Water Safety Update</p>	<p>a. Mr Hannaford gave an overview of the present RNLI workstreams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New inshore lifeboat now in service (Atlantic 85) - RNLI have completed 140 callouts so far this year this in contrasts to 2017 where 143 callouts were completed for the entire year. The cause for the increase in launches is unknown, however, the favourable weather may be a factor - Community projects and education continue to be delivered. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visited 17 schools and youth projects - Completed 7 roadshows - Held 3 life jacket clinics where 200 life jackets were checked, 10 failed, 20 were fixed - Diver kiosk at Mount Batten successful <p>The Plymouth Lifesaving and Community Safety Plan will be focusing on lifejacket use; this will be presented at next PPMLC. <u>Action</u></p> <p>Planned work includes lifejacket lockers at Kingsand, Cawsand and Plymouth Yacht Haven.</p>	<p>RNLI / NIO</p>

Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
	<p>Question from Mr Reed – How far up the Tamar do the RNLI respond and how long would it take? For example, Weir Quay?</p> <p>Answer – Yes the RNLI would respond to an incident at Weir Quay and would like take around 30mins. MDP Marine Unit added that if life is in danger that would be a priority response from them and they could attend in approximately 10 mins.</p>	
7. Eco Moorings Project	<p>NIO presented on the current Eco Moorings projects with the DYPoP. (see Annex A)</p> <p>Cawsand Bay is a popular area for anchoring and moorings, at present the seagrass area data is out-of-date and the specifics not known, suggestions for visitors moorings, signage to improve awareness and cordoned area have all been proposed.</p> <p>Question from QHM – What is the aim of the ReMEDIES project and mooring proposal? Answer – Unknown at this point however the use of multiple sites offers better data.</p> <p>Comment from Mr Curnow – There are concerns that anchoring and mooring are confused; data from other areas shows that anchoring is not as devastating as some reports suggest and that futher long-term study into the impacts would be desirable. Whilst moorings are more easily studied specific evidence is limited. Additionally, visitor moorings have been seen to have a detrimental effect in other areas. Finally water turbidity is an important factor in the health of the seagrass beds and needs to be included in any study.</p> <p>Results and suggestions can be taken forward to the LIFE ReMEDIES funding bid, NIO actioned to set up a working group. <u>Action</u></p>	NIO
8. TECF matters	<p>NIO presented her report (attached at Annex B).</p> <p>a. The new website is now online - www.plymouth-mpa.uk Members were requested to update any links on their own sites to signpost to the new TECF site. <u>Action</u></p>	All
9. EMS matters	Ms Gall presented her report (attached at Annex C).	
10. QHM matters	<p>a. Water Safety & Incidents: There have been 28 incidents logged since the last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 minor pollution events. - 3 MOB. - 7 Non compliance / Rules of the Road Incidents/Near Misses. - 2 prosecutions of jet skis are currently being pursued. <p>Eight vessels have been picked up adrift since 1 Sept 2018.</p>	

Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
	<p>QHM asked all members to remind water users they represent to ensure their vessels' moorings are regularly inspected and bridles and mooring lines are fit for purpose. Please report issues with moorings directly to the mooring association, any issues with navigation (hazards, buoys or lights) please report to QHM.</p> <p>QHM also highlighted the MAIB Safety Digest reports with useful information for all port users (including commercial , leisure and fishing): https://www.gov.uk/maib-reports</p> <p>b. Dredging: DQHM outlined that a recent dredge campaign had been completed (Aug 2018) with the next expected early 2019. A 10 year MMO licence is currently in application.</p>	
11. Water events	<p>The 2018 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>	
12. Sutton Harbour Port Users Group	<p>Mr Bromley outlined the current position of the harbour directions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two consultation responses were received; PCC objection regarding fuelling has been withdrawn. <p>The directions will now be widely publicised.</p> <p>The harbour byelaws will be sent to all members before sending to the DfT (end Oct) with a view to enacting by the end of the year.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p>	Mr Bromley
13. Any other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Future speakers: A request for proposals for future speakers – HM coastguard volunteered. b. Mr Price gave an update from the Environment Agency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pollution reporting number is 0800 807060 - Calstock consultation regarding river banks modification is underway with the next meeting due 20 Oct, a planning application is being prepared for submission by Jan 2019 with a view for works to be undertaken in the summer. - The current planning cycle for future works include many projects on the Tamar - River Basin Planning: Working Together Consultation: Share your views: In our first consultation of the process to review and update our River Basin Management Plans by clicking on this <u>LINK</u>. Consultation closes on Saturday 22nd December 2018. 	
14. Dates of next meetings	Dates of the forthcoming PPMLC and TECF meetings were published as follows:	

Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action								
	<p data-bbox="416 85 1214 181">PLEASE NOTE: CONTRAY TO THAT PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED THE DATE OF NEXT PPMLC MEETING IS 14 FEBRUARY 2019.</p> <table data-bbox="416 219 1102 360"> <tr> <td data-bbox="416 219 783 255"><u>PPMLC</u></td> <td data-bbox="847 219 1102 255"><u>TECF</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="416 255 783 291">1400 on 14 Feb 19</td> <td data-bbox="847 255 1102 291">1015 on 8 Nov 18</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="416 291 783 327">1400 on 13 Jun 19</td> <td data-bbox="847 291 1102 327">1015 on 14 Mar 19</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="416 327 783 360">1400 on 10 Oct 19</td> <td data-bbox="847 327 1102 360">1015 on 11 July 19</td> </tr> </table>	<u>PPMLC</u>	<u>TECF</u>	1400 on 14 Feb 19	1015 on 8 Nov 18	1400 on 13 Jun 19	1015 on 14 Mar 19	1400 on 10 Oct 19	1015 on 11 July 19	
<u>PPMLC</u>	<u>TECF</u>									
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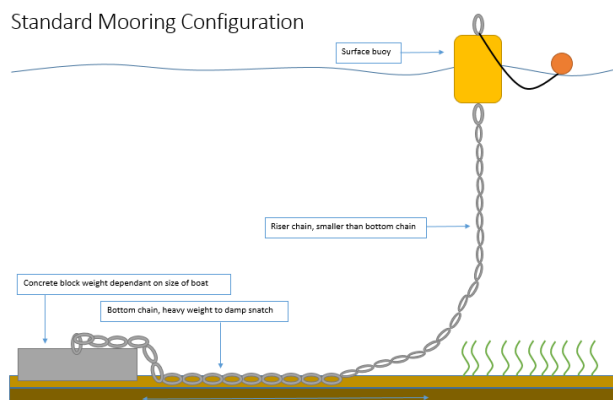
Distribution:

NBC, All Committee members

Agenda Item 7 Matter for information: Summary of Eco-Moorings Projects in the Plymouth Sound and Estuaries Marine Protected Area

1. Background

- 1.1. Subtidal seagrass beds are a sub-feature of 'Large Shallow Inlets and Bays', 'Estuaries' and 'Sandbanks which are slightly covered with water at all times' within the Plymouth Sound & Estuaries Special Area of Conservation. Following a change in the condition assessment by Natural England in April 2018, the condition of subtidal seagrass beds within the site is now 'unfavourable' and so we have a commitment to meet our conservation objective - 'restore to favourable condition'.
- 1.2. Griffiths et al. (2017) conducted a risk assessment of 173 sites in England and Wales and highlighted Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC as one of the SACs most at risk from anchoring and mooring pressures. They ranked the site 9th out of 173 for exposure to anchoring, with seagrass beds in the area considered 'at high risk based on the worst case abrasion/disturbance pressure'.
- 1.3. Traditional moorings comprise a sinker block on the substrate, with a heavy chain and riser chain leading up to a surface marker buoy (see image below © Community Seagrass Initiative). The heavy chain is in contact with the seabed which causes scour around the sinker block as the chain moves as a result of drag from the marker buoy due to wind, tide and currents. This can prevent the colonisation of seagrass and cause damage to existing habitat.



2. The Projects

- 2.1. In response to the requirement for management action, as well as the recent research which identifies anchoring and mooring as one of the keys pressures on the feature, several mooring/ecomoorings trials are in place, or in development. The aim is to identify effective management options that may facilitate the recovery of subtidal seagrass beds affected by anchoring and mooring activity in the area.
- 2.2. Currently, three projects are in Cawsand, with partners:
 - Sterling ecomoorings trial – Community Seagrass Initiative
 - Helical screw mooring trial – Natural England & Tradewind Marine
 - LIFE Recreational ReMEDIES – Natural England & supporting partners
- 2.3. Each project is a logical progression from the previous and together they form a nationally important contribution to reducing the impacts from mooring on protected seagrass beds.

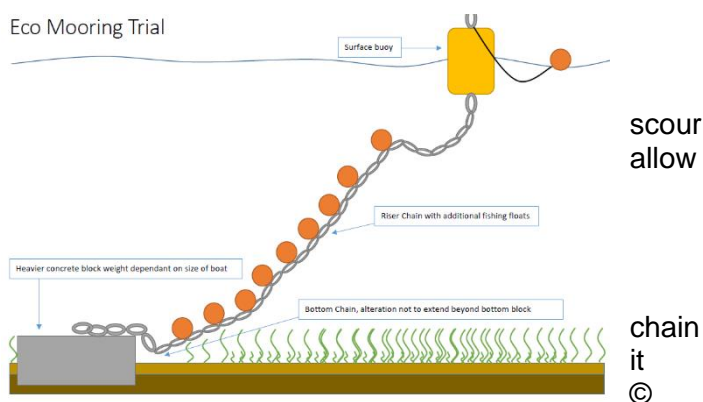
3. Sterling Ecomooring Trial

Contact: Mark Parry, National Marine Aquarium/Community Seagrass Initiative
mark.parry@national-aquarium.co.uk, 01752 275 204

TECF funding contribution: £5,000

Project Overview:

3.1. Mark Parry, Lead at the Community Seagrass Initiative (CSI), developed the Stirling eco-mooring, which aims to reduce or eliminate from mooring chains & risers, to seagrass plants to colonise therefore reducing the fragmentation of the bed. The trial configuration involved the attachment of plastic floats onto the to lift it off the seabed and to make neutrally buoyant (see image right CSI).



3.2. One Sterling eco-mooring was installed in Cawsand Bay in August 2016, replacing an existing private mooring. There were some issues with this first configuration and improvements have been made as a result.

3.3. Overall summation suggests Sterling ecomooring can be effective, but futher work is needed to improve longevity of the materials used and to prove the capacity of the mooring in terms of load and drag.

3.4. The CSI project, previously funded by HLF, is now only in operation 1 day per week (of Mark Parry's time).

4. Helical screw mooring trial

Contact: Angela Gall, Natural England

Other partners/stakeholders: Chris Pollard – Tradewind Marine, QHM, CSI, mooring owners.

EMS funding contribution: £400 (TBC – for surface marker buoys)

Project Overview:

4.1. Natural England have funded the replacement of two existing moorings in Cawsand with Helical Screw moorings that aim to limit the footprint of moorings on the seabed by removing the need for a sinker block.

Current Status:

4.2. Chris Pollard, at Tradewind Marine (Calstock Boatyard), has installed the moorings. Chris is also a lecturer at University of Plymouth and will be supporting the survey and monitoring of the mooring solution and its impact on the surrounding seagrass bed. It is expected that this will become a student research project.

5. LIFE - Recreation ReMEDIES: Reducing and Mitigating Erosion and Disturbance Impacts affecting the Seabed

Lead body: Natural England national team.

Other partners: National Marine Aquarium, Swansea University, Royal Yachting Association, Marine Conservation Society, boating industry.

Project Overview:

- 5.1. The LIFE programme is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action. Natural England are leading a partnership to submit a bid for £2.6m of LIFE funding to "implement best practice techniques in ways which are sustainable and guarantee the long term resilience [of seagrass beds] to other pressures such as climate change and disease."
- 5.2. Five SACs are included in the project of which one is Plymouth Sound and Estuaries.

Current Status:

- 5.3. The LFE Concept Note was submitted by Natural England on behalf of the partners, in June 2018 and a response is expected in October 2018.

The invitation to full application is likely to run from October to end of January and NE will make a decision about whether to progress to full application based on the feedback received to the concept note.

6. Project Considerations

- 6.1. All eco-mooring projects have a responsibility to ensure that they are delivered in a structured and systematic manner in order that there is minimum disruption to mooring holders and managers, that they offer secure moorings to boat owners, that have a positive contribution to safety and navigation and that they are fully monitored.
- 6.2. Consistency of survey, monitoring and reporting approaches is necessary to enable a consistent and compatible review of the successes the different trials. Without it, evidencing long-term mooring strategies and justifying the wider rollout of ecomoorings solutions will be challenging.
- 6.3. It is important that the relevant stakeholders are engaged at the start of each new project – particularly the QHM team who have ultimate authority over mooring and anchoring within the Port of Plymouth.
- 6.4. Cawsand Bay offers a testing area for trialling the effectiveness of new ecomoorings arrangements. However this is only possible through the support and involvement of the Rame Head Gig Club who act as the license holders for the moorings here.
- 6.5. The findings of each project will be made public and shared both locally and nationally in order to provide a positive contribution to our understanding of delivering ecomoorings within the Plymouth Sound and Estuaries Marine Protected Area.

End.

PPMLC Thurs 11 October 2018

8. TECF Matters: by Natural Infrastructure Officer

1. Strategic Planning

a. 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. The Authorities are currently waiting to hear from the Inspectors as to whether they can consult on the proposed major modifications arising from the Examination. If so, then consultation on these major modifications only will commence towards the end of this year with adoption due to take place in Spring 2019.

b. Proposal for National Marine Park

Both Luke Pollard MP and Tudor Evans, Leader of Plymouth City Council, are committed to establishing the waters of Plymouth Sound and beyond as a National Marine Park.

Options are being investigated to fund some feasibility work to identify how such a Park could operate, who would need to be involved and what it could achieve. It is hoped that subject to funding, then work could commence by the end of the year.

c. Marine Planning

No further reports have been received on how the marine plan is developing. We are expecting the next iteration shortly from the Marine Management Organisation.

2. EMS Managing Recreational Impacts Project

In 2016, Plymouth City Council agreed the Business Case to deliver Phase 1 of the Plymouth Sound and Tamar Estuaries European Marine site Managing Recreational Impacts Programme . Plymouth City Council is required to deliver this as part of the Habitat Regulations Assessment of the Core Strategy. The project is run by Plymouth City Council but managed through TECF.

The project is a three year project to deliver a baseline monitoring, assessment, education and awareness programme for those marine recreation activities known to potentially impact on the designated features of the Plymouth Sound and Tamar Estuaries European Marine Site.

Beth Siddons was recruited as the EMS Recreation Officer and started in April 2017. During her 15 months in post she has managed to achieve a significant amount of the work programme. And we now await the arrival of her replacement in the next week or so.

The project is now half way through the three year lifespan and this section summarises all that has been achieved to date.

a. Monitoring

Crab tiling and bait digging: A drone survey was commissioned with Cornwall IFCA, the level of activity was assessed as little / no change to bait-digging activities compared to previously. However the methodology was limited as it did not seek to identify new areas. Data is now in place for both sides of the Tamar.

b. Recreational boating

Biosecurity Plan: This has been completed and the Plan has been launched. The next step is to run workshops with sailing clubs and we will look to run these over

the winter. There will need to be a strong focus on ensuring measures are in place ahead of the Mayflower 400 celebrations next year in order to ensure that the risk of invasive species is minimised.

Eco-mooring Project: This 3-phased project is being delivered through the National Marine Aquarium with HLF funding, Natural England and others and is focussed on Cawsand Bay with the potential for other locations (this was covered in a separate report).

Recreational angling: Angling bins have been purchased and are waiting to be installed. Key sites to be targeted will include Mountbatten Pier, Devils Point and Fishers Nose.

c. Information and Promotion

New logo and website: A new website has been which also includes the new branding. This has moved away from aligning the branding too closely with specific designations of the site as it is felt that this is too restrictive and the designations are poorly understood by the public and user. Therefore you can see that it focuses instead on the 'marine protected area' along with the new branding. The website is accessible through www.plymouth-mpa.uk

Marine Protected Area Video: A new video has been produced with Natural England which highlights what the waters of Plymouth Sound and the Tamar Estuaries have to offer. This is available on Youtube and if can be provided to anyone who may want to show it to their members. It can be viewed here:

www.plymouth-mpa.uk

Interpretive Panels: New interpretive panels have been erected at a number of sites around Plymouth and the old rather tired ones have been removed. These are at Arnolds Point, Oreston, Saltash Passage North, Mutton Cove and Richmond Walk. Further panels are to be installed at over 20 other sites in Plymouth and further afield.

Plymouth Waterways: A guide for small craft

This popular publication has been reprinted. If anyone would like further copies please contact coastal@plymouth.gov.uk

4. Angling Debris in the Hamoaze

Reports have been received about angling debris getting entangled with moorings and acting as 'ghost nets' within the Hamoaze, causing a danger to fish and other marine wildlife.

6) Developments

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

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

7) Forward Plan for PPMLC Briefing Sessions

PPMLC	Proposed Speaker
1400 on 14 Feb 2019	Andy Rye and Jason Roe for Sea Anglers Andrew Jones for QHM.
1400 on 13 June 2019	

Kaja Curry
Natural Infrastructure Officer

Natural England Update

PPMLC Meeting 11th October 2018

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. 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':

- We are very excited that the film which started as a Natural England project has ended up being a joint effort with TECF and has received an excellent response. We are very keen to get it shown as widely as possible. Please spread the word that it is freely available for education and awareness.
- Our funded project on Pacific oysters is up and running. South Devon AoNB is leading on the delivery in the Yealm and other estuaries in South Devon. In Cornwall it is Cornwall Wildlife Trust working with volunteers to monitor and manage the Pacific oysters. Natural England's role is to coordinate, analyse the data and to look at other management tools for this invasive non-native species where it has the potential to impact native habitats and species.
- Our work with the local authorities on the new local plans and in particular on developing mitigation lists for potential increases in disturbance from recreation within Plymouth Sound and Estuaries Special Area of Conservation and the Tamar Complex Special Protection Area is continuing.
- Our trial of the 'helical screw anchoring system' for eco-friendly moorings in Cawsand Bay continues. We have been working with the National Marine Aquarium on adding further eco-friendly moorings. We are still awaiting the initial results of our partnership funding bid for work on subtidal seagrass in this area and other Marine Protected Areas.

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 draft report is currently being reviewed.

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 last year and repeated this year 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 revisit the sites monitored in 2012 to allow comparisons. A report is due in the winter.

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.

Once published, reports can be accessed here <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/> but they will be available on request prior to that.

Angela Gall, Marine Lead Adviser
Devon, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Team, Natural England, Polwhele, Truro. TR4 9AD
Landline: 0208 026 8159. Mobile: 07500 761201 Email: angela.gall@naturalengland.org.uk