

Queen's Harbour Master Plymouth

Longroom House
RM Barracks
Stonehouse
Plymouth PL1 3RT

QHM/532/3

27 November 2018

NOTES OF THE TAMAR ESTUARIES CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING

HELD AT 1015 ON THU 8 NOV 2018

WARSPITE ROOM, COUNCIL HOUSE, PLYMOUTH

<u>Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Mr C Necker	Queen's Harbour Master (Chairman)
Mr N Trathen	Deputy Queen's Harbour Master
Mrs K Curry	PCC and TECF Coordinator
Mr A Jones	QHM Port Conservancy Officer
Capt. T Charlesworth	Cattewater Harbour Commissioners
Mr R Allen	Cattewater Harbour Commissioners
Mr M Reynolds	ABP
Ms A Gall	Natural England
Mr A Curd	MMO
Ms S Wordley	MMO
Mr R Price	Environment Agency
Ms V Darwall	Tamar Valley AONB
Mr K Hiscock	Wembury Marine Conservation Area Advisory Group
Ms K Deeney	Plymouth City Council
Ms F Crouch	Plymouth City Council
Mr M Goble	PCC Piermaster
Ms A Pickstone	PCC Historic Environment
Ms P Buchan	Plymouth City Council
Mr G Wheeler	Plymouth City Council
Ms R Baker	Cornwall Council
Ms K Pritchard	Devon CC

Mr N Jury	West Devon Borough Council
Mr P Dudley	Cornwall Archaeological Unit
Mr B Hughes	DIO
Mr H Calder-Potts	Volker Stevin

Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
1. Welcome and Introductions	Chairman welcomed everyone to the TECF Meeting and gave all present an opportunity to introduce themselves.	
2. Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence had been received from: R English (South Devon AONB), K Stephenson (D&S IFCA), C Matthews (Duchy), C Woodall (Tamar Valley AONB), S Cadman (CIFCA), Cllr P Saunders (DCC), R Sekula (South Hams and West Devon Borough Council)	
3. Agree Notes of the last meeting.	The notes of the last meeting held on 12 Jul 18 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.	
4. Matters Arising.	<p>4.5. <u>Biosecurity Plan</u>. A final plan is to be published with a follow up meeting required with TECF members: The chairman notes that TECF fully support this work and will look to continue to assist with its progress; a further meeting should be held before the next TECF.</p> <p>UPDATE JUL 2018: Final draft agreed and signed off by TOFF, awaiting press release via PCC. A workshop will be held at the end of the year to discuss progress. DQHM raised the recent initiative by the Wildlife Trust looking to explore SW Biosecurity plans (workshop being held 14 Aug 2018) – PCO to attend, NE not yet involved.</p> <p>UPDATE Nov 2018: PCO and NIO attended workshop.</p> <p>Complete: Further information contained in TECF officers report.</p>	
	<p>9a. <u>DEFRA 25 Year Plan</u>: Action on NIO to add update from NE regarding 25 year plan and how the actions will be delivered to the agenda for July 18 TECF – See NE Report.</p> <p>Action on NE to review how the TECF Management Plan aligns to the 25 Year Plan and make suggestions for additions.</p> <p>UPDATE Jul 2018: Will be completed as part of TECF Management plan review.</p> <p>UPDATE Nov 2018: Update provided and new actions issued under Agenda item 9 and contained in Para 9.</p>	

	<p>9b. <u>Wembury Reef Video</u>: Action on NIO - NE film of Wembury Reefs to be added to agenda for July TECF meeting. UPDATE Jul 2018: NE advised that the filming had been completed and the video was undergoing final edit. It was hoped to be able to show the film at the next meeting. UPDATE Nov 2018: Video viewed during meeting (http://www.plymouth-mpa.uk/home/about/gallery/#) The Chairman encouraged all TECF members to promote the video to as wide an audience as possible to help improve understanding of the Plymouth Sound and Tamar Estuaries Marine Protected Area.</p>	All
	<p>5a. <u>Cawsand Trial and Eco-moorings</u>: Report to be made available to TECF members This trial was discussed in detail under Item 10 and information contained in Para 10.</p>	
	<p>6a. <u>Delivery of Extension of TECF Management Plan</u> Mrs Curry briefed the outline delivery plan clarifying that the aim was not a complete rewrite of the existing plan, rather producing an addendum to capture any significant changes or new objectives/projects to extend the plan to 2021. All members were requested to review the existing plan and feed back any changes/ additional objectives to NIO by the end of September. NIO to review and update Delivery Plan timeline. UPDATE Nov 2018: No feedback received, action covered under Agenda item 9.</p>	
	<p>7. <u>National marine Park</u>: Update and report back Next stage is a meeting between the relevant local authorities to consider options for the scope and boundaries of any NMP. Action – Ms Buchan (PCC) to follow up Item covered further under Agenda item 11 and minuted under the corresponding paragraph.</p>	
	<p>8. <u>TECF officers report</u>: QHM outlined the importance of completing the annual survey, particularly as a method of demonstrating compliance against the Tamar Estuaries Management Plan. NIO currently missing 3 responses (emails have been sent), those involved are requested to respond before 30 Nov. <u>Action</u></p>	NIO/Appropriate members
	<p>9a. <u>EcoMoorings</u>: There has been confusion over the interface between eco-mooring project and helical screw trial. The co-ordination of the various projects is to be discussed</p>	

	<p>out of committee. PCO requested to be included on all correspondence.</p> <p><u>Complete</u> – Item covered in Agenda item 10.</p>	
	<p>15.a. Dr Otway requested information regarding the “Tamar Banks Project” and USAR commitment for dredge spoil.</p> <p><u>Complete</u> – EA have undertaken to keep Dr Otway informed of future opportunities.</p>	

Presentations		
<p>5. Update on the South Cornwall Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment</p>	<p>Mr Dudley gave his presentation outlining:</p> <p>The project will support shoreline management plans for local authorities.</p> <p>There are 823 sites within the TECF area; the evidence base is good and held predominantly as Historic Environment Records and available through Heritage Gateway (http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk), however PCC data currently not available.</p> <p>Final Report will be made available via Heritage Gateway.</p> <p>There is a stakeholder event on 21 November 2018, contact Peter.dudley@cau.org.uk for information.</p> <p>Question: regarding Mine data, are records of type and vulnerability available? Could this data be used for MMO Licencing matters?</p> <p>Answer: Yes, the report will indicate where the data is available.</p> <p>Question: Does the EA have access to data relating to mine outflow etc.?</p> <p>Answer: Yes, EA has specific data regarding mine outflow. However, the report may indicate additional sources of information.</p> <p>Question: Why is the PCC data not available on Heritage gateway?</p> <p>Answer: PPC use a different database so it is unable to be displayed on the website. Queries can be discussed with Alex Pickstone of the PCC Historic Environment team.</p> <p>Question: Why are there so many sites in the TECF area?</p> <p>Answer: Historically heavily used area and many are wrecks.</p> <p>Question: Are there any advisories within the report that will recommend new/additional designations within the TECF Area?</p>	

	<p>Answer: There may be a couple of new sites recommended for designation.</p>	
<p>6. Yonderberry Jetty Replacement Project</p>	<p>Mr Calder-Potts gave his presentation:</p> <p>The project has been subject to full EIA in support of MMO licencing.</p> <p>The current piling operations are due to be completed by end March 2019, capital dredging to be completed early 2019.</p> <p>Question: There are houses within the 250m “buffer zone” will the upgrades give additional safeguarding to residents?</p> <p>Answer: This is a matter for the local planning authorities</p> <p>Question: Can the EA be given access to the sampling data obtained during the MMO Licence application?</p> <p>Answer: Yes via MMO. PCO to provide EA with DIO contact details.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p> <p>Question: Will the dredge spoil be disposed at the new Plymouth Deep disposal site?</p> <p>Answer: Yes, as per MMO licence any spoil suitable for disposal at sea will go to the new site, any contaminated spoil will be disposed to landfill. All dredging projects are duty bound by the waste framework directive to identify any suitable projects for USAR were feasible.</p> <p>Question: Will the old jetty be disposed of through Victoria Wharf?</p> <p>Answer: Possibly, the exact methodology has yet to be finalised. The jetty will be cut into sections so could go via sea.</p>	<p>PCO</p>
<p>Matters for Agreement</p>		
<p>7. Finances for 2019/20</p>	<p>QHM outlined the importance of TECF and the local authorities obligation to contribute to the estuary management.</p> <p>QHM proposed that rather than hold contributions at the current level with likely large increase in a number of years, a small increase year on year would be more manageable. Discussion was held and this proposal was accepted by a majority</p> <p>A 2.5% increase was accepted. NIO to provide revised finance contribution list.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p>	<p>NIO</p>
<p>Matters for Information and Action</p>		
<p>8. Annual survey 2016-2017</p>	<p>NIO is awaiting responses from 3 organisations, email reminders have been sent.</p>	

<p>9. Management Plan: Identification of issues for the next two years</p>	<p>NIO and QHM briefed the outline delivery plan clarifying that the aim was not a complete rewrite of the existing plan, rather producing an addendum to capture any significant changes or new objectives/projects to extend the plan to 2021 following the Government Brexit outcome.</p> <p>NIO requested to include anything from the DEFRA 25yr plan <u>Action</u></p> <p>All competent authorities requested to review plan and contribute by 1 Dec <u>Action</u></p>	<p>NIO / NE</p> <p>All</p>
<p>10. Eco-moorings project</p>	<p>NIO presented the current eco-moorings projects/trial being undertaken within Plymouth.</p> <p>Question regarding the rationale for a potential change in name from “eco-moorings to advanced mooring”</p> <p>Answer: There was a perception that some people may be put off by “green” credentials of the design.</p> <p>QHM requested that any reports or evidence concerning impacts or other trials be sent to NIO for distribution to TECF and PPMLC members.</p> <p>Mr Hiscock provided the following: https://www.marlin.ac.uk/assets/pdf/14267_ME6003_MBA_Report.pdf</p>	
<p>11. National marine Park Update</p>	<p>Ms Deeney gave an update on the current status of the proposal to create a National Marine Park in Plymouth.</p> <p>The initiative is being championed by Luke Pollard MP who is in discussions with various stakeholders to establish what a marine park should be.</p> <p>Next steps are for Luke’s team to provide a prospectus/white paper outlining the concept which can be passed to PCC to take forward.</p> <p>Local authorities met in September and are awaiting the prospectus to start work and set up a working group.</p> <p>PCC have made a bid to MMO for funding for a specific project to develop and implement the concept (decision expected late Nov).</p> <p>Question: An area of concern/confusion is that an NMP will introduce another layer of management or designation this needs to be clear from the outset.</p> <p>Answer: There is little desire to introduce any new environmental designations and a NMP is primarily seen as a means of improving understanding, engagement and management of the marine assets.</p> <p>Question: Will there be any enforcement involved, ie. fishing?</p> <p>Answer: Unknown at this stage but unlikely.</p>	

	Comment from MMO: The proposed prospectus and white papers will are likely to support the bid for funding.	
12. TECF officers report	NIO presented her report which is given in Annex A. x. EMS CIL Project – video: (http://www.plymouth-mpa.uk/home/about/gallery/#)	
13. Nature conservation	Mrs Gall presented Natural England’s update which is given in Annex B.	
14. MMO Update	Mr Curd reported that the South Marine Plan had now been adopted. The SW Marine Plan is still in development, the next engagement opportunity is expected in Feb 19. Capt. Charleworth raised that the Marine and Coastal Access Act is being reviewed, inc. exemptions, consultation is on MMO website. Current licencing consultations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanckes MLA/2015/00215/2 – Piling proceeding as planned. Capital dredge of the outer pockets and disposal begins Wk commencing 03/12/18. This work is due to be inspected this week providing weather is fine. The EA asked about the results of the sediment samples and these results are available via the public register. • Drakes Island – work complete, no issues. • Fort Bovisand – A Stop notice was issued 4 May 18 concerning debris on the foreshore adjacent to the slipway. A Marine licence investigation was swiftly conducted and completed by Jun 18. The associated issues were resolved in conjunction with Fort Bovisand Developments. • Fort Bovisand Development Company have just applied for a marine licence MLA/2018/00227 - Fort Bovisand Cliff Stabilisation. 	
15. IFCA Update	No IFCA representation.	
16. Devon Maritime Forum and Marine Plan Engagement	The forum is being reinvigorated. Action on all to comment on any improvements that can be introduced. <u>Action</u> The annual conference is being planned in Saunton Sands in Febuary (deconfliction with MMO Marine Plans workshops needed).	All
17. Matter brought forward from PPMLC	DQHM gave an overview of the stats presented regarding water safety: New inshore lifeboat now in service (Atlantic 85).	

	<p>RNLI have completed 140 callouts so far this year this in contrasts to 2017 where 143 callouts were completed for the entire year; the detailed cause of the increase is unknown. However, the favourable weather may be a factor.</p> <p>Community projects continue to be busy: 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> <p>The Plymouth Lifesaving and Community Safety Plan will be focusing on lifejacket use; this will be presented at next PPMLC. Planned work includes installing lifejacket lockers at Kingsand, Cawsand and Plymouth Yacht Haven.</p>	
18. Water Events	<p>The 2018 Water Events Diary (WED) can be found on the QHM website (www.royalnavy.mod.uk/qhm/plymouth/leisure-users/events-diary)</p> <p>The 2019 Diary will go live in Jan 19. DQ request information on any events planned for 2019.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p>	All
19. Items for future meetings	<p>Mr Hiscock suggested an updated presentation from the MBA beach Rangers initiative.</p> <p><u>Action</u> NIO to investigate</p>	NIO
20. Any other business	<p>1. Ms Crouch requested content for the reinvigorated TECF newsletter. <u>Action</u></p> <p>2. Tamar Valley AONB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HLF funding has been approved (£180,000) to provide the delivery phase and 12 proposed projects over next 18 month • A bid for the delivery phase is underway to take forward for next 7yrs. • The AONB management plan is currently out for consultation (http://www.tamarvalley.org.uk/management-plan-review-and-public-consultation/) • For those planning on responding to the DEFRA's national Glover Review survey, we wish to draw TECF members attention to Question 23; <p><i>"The review has been asked to consider how designated landscapes work with other Designations such as National Trails, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), National Nature Reserves (NNRs) and Special Protected Areas (SPAs). Do you have any thoughts on how these relationships work and whether they could be improved?"</i></p> <p>To respond to DEFRA's national Glover Review (https://consult.defra.gov.uk/land-use/landscapes-review-call-for-evidence/)</p>	All

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Woodall will be taking a 1 year break from her position <p>3. EA:</p> <p>Mr Price gave an overview of the current EA work streams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £11.5 million spending requested for projects within the catchment • 3 new projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishstock monitoring upstream Support of farmers with run-off projects South West Water upstream thinking • Calstock Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project progressing well; Planning permission application due to be submitted in Jan 19. Plan is to improve water quality under the water framework directive from “moderate” to “good” status. • Sponsoring Surfers Against Sewage beach clean; currently 34,000 tonnes of rubbish removed. <p>Contractor has completed the climate change modelling project and passed results to EA.</p>			
21. Dates of Next Meetings	<p>Dates of the forthcoming PPMLC and TECF meetings were published as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="406 1205 1241 1339"> <tr> <td data-bbox="406 1205 885 1339"> <u>PPMLC</u> 1400 on 14 Feb 19 1400 on 13 Jun 19 </td> <td data-bbox="885 1205 1241 1339"> <u>TECF</u> 1015 on 14 Mar 19 1015 on 18 Jul 19 </td> </tr> </table>	<u>PPMLC</u> 1400 on 14 Feb 19 1400 on 13 Jun 19	<u>TECF</u> 1015 on 14 Mar 19 1015 on 18 Jul 19	
<u>PPMLC</u> 1400 on 14 Feb 19 1400 on 13 Jun 19	<u>TECF</u> 1015 on 14 Mar 19 1015 on 18 Jul 19			

Distribution: NBC, All Committee members

Annex A

Agenda Item 12 Natural Infrastructure Officer's TECF Report Item for Information

1. Staff Changes

Beth Siddons left in August for pastures new and was replaced by Fiona Crouch who has many years experience of working in marine interpretation and management most recently at the Marine Biological Association.

2. 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.

3. Finance and Priorities

a. *TECF Income 2018/19*

ORGANISATION	2018/19
Harbour Authorities	
Ministry of Defence, QHM	3,000
Associated British Ports	2,000

Cattewater Harbour Commission	9,000
Sutton Harbour Commission	2,000
Harbour Authorities Subtotal	16,000
Local Authorities	
Plymouth City Council	10,000
Devon County Council	2,000
Cornwall Council	2,000
West Devon Borough Council	4,500
South Hams District Council	4,500
Subtotal	23,000
Other	
Natural England	1,000
Duchy of Cornwall	4,375
Environment Agency	
Devon & Severn IFCA	
Cornwall IFCA	
Marine Management Organisation	
English Heritage	
Other total	5,375
Grand Total	44,375

Invoice requests will be sent out in the next month or so.

b. Priorities 2018-19

1. Stabilise funding for the future.
2. Tamar Estuaries Management Plan
3. Support the exploration of feasibility of creating a National Marine Park.
4. Continue to host TECF, PPMLC and TOFF meetings.
5. Complete the Recreation Mitigation Plan and secure funding through an adopted Supplementary Planning Document.
6. Deliver the CIL EMS Project for 2016-2019
7. Implement the Biosecurity Plan for the Tamar Estuaries.
8. Carry out an Annual Survey of Relevant Authorities and use the findings to inform management practices and develop an annual boat survey of users.
10. Raise the profile of the work of TECF and the importance of the waters of Plymouth Sound and the Tamar Estuaries.

4. Joint Local Plan & EMS Recreational Mitigation

c. Joint Local Plan

The public consultation on the Major Modifications has started and is available through the Council website at

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/plymouthandsouthwestdevonjointlocalplan/plymouthandsouthwestdevonjointlocalplanmodificationsconsultation>

The consultation closes on 3 December and this is likely to be the last opportunity to input into the Plan.

d. EMS Recreational Mitigation

Work is still ongoing to confirm the Recreation Mitigation Strategy for the Marine Protected Area in response to the development arising from the Joint Local Plan. This is due to be completed by the end of the year when members will be consulted.

5. Annual Survey

The Annual Survey was recirculated as we are still waiting for two of the eleven respondees. We will need responses within two weeks.

6. 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 minimized. The Plan is available on the website at <http://www.plymouth-mpa.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/180613-Tamar-Estuaries-Marine-Biosecurity-Plan.pdf>

7. Water quality

The Bathing Water Quality warning emails from the Environment Agency started on 1st May and will run until 30th September. There were seven short term pollution warnings of which six related to heavy rain and one related to a sewage pollution incident. Warnings were tweeted when received by @TamarEstuaries.

8. National Marine Park

Luke Pollard is due to launch his Prospectus for a National Marine Park in December with further work to take place in new year. This will include the establishment of a 'Shadow Board' to help shape any new structures.

9. Water Users Leaflet

A reprint of the ever popular water users leaflet means that new stocks are now available if you need them.

10. Developments

Current planning and marine planning matters include the following.

PLYMOUTH

- **17/02074/FUL Bostons Boat Yard Baylys Road Plymouth PL9 7NQ =** Redevelop site by erection of 15 dwellings and associated roads, footways, garages, parking and landscaping (demolition of existing boatyard buildings) and works to rebuild existing slipway. Decision Awaited
- **17/02323/FUL Harbour Arch Quay Sutton Harbour Plymouth PL4 0HN =** Erection of nine-storey building comprising 14 residential units and ground floor commercial unit for use as a shop (Class A1), or financial and professional services (Class A2), or a restaurant or cafe (Class A3), or a crèche/day nursery (Class D1), cycle and refuse storage facilities and associated works. Information awaited
- **17/02068/S73 Drakes Island Plymouth =** Removal of condition 8 (long term Egret monitoring) from application 17/00336/FUL. Further information awaited.
- **17/02324/FUL Land At Harbour Arch Quay Sutton Harbour Plymouth PL4 0HN =** Resurfacing of existing hard surface area. **Application withdrawn.**
- 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.
- Clyde Quay (18/00996/FUL): Temporary car park on Clyde Quay until multi-storey is built.
- Fort Bovisand: Application for road improvements across the foreshore. Information available from South Hams District Council.

11. EMS CIL Managing Recreational Impacts Programme

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.

d) 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.

e) 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.

f) 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.



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Nov 2018

Annex B

Natural England Update

TECF Meeting 8th November 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 two moorings installed. We have been working with the National Marine Aquarium on adding a further eco-friendly moorings which also use the helical screw anchors.
- We have just heard that our EU LIFE ReMEDIES (Reducing and Mitigating Erosion and Disturbance Impacts Effecting the Seabed) funding bid for work on subtidal seagrass in this area and 4 other Marine Protected Areas has got through to the next round of funding. The full proposal needs to be submitted in January. We need to work with TECF and other partners over the next few weeks to develop the full proposal. We will need to organise a meeting in Plymouth very soon to talk about site specific objectives.

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.

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