

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

QHM/532/3

9 December 2019

**NOTES OF THE TAMAR ESTUARIES CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING****HELD AT 1015 ON THU 14 NOV 2019****WARSPITE ROOM, COUNCIL HOUSE, PLYMOUTH**

| <b><u>Present</u></b> | <b><u>Representing</u></b>                      |
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| 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   |
| Mr P Bromley          | Sutton Harbour                                  |
| Ms A Gall             | Natural England                                 |
| Mr P Gilliland        | MMO   |
| Mr A Curd             | MMO   |
| Mr R Price            | Environment Agency                              |
| Mr O Thomas           | Devon & Severn IFCA                             |
| Ms V Darwall          | Tamar Valley AONB                               |
| Mr P Naylor           | Wembury Marine Conservation Area Advisory Group |
| Ms P Buchan           | Plymouth City Council                           |
| Mr G Wheeler          | Plymouth City Council                           |
| Mr L Gibson           | Plymouth City Council                           |
| Mr J McCarty          | Plymouth City Council                           |
| Mr R Pearce           | Plymouth City Council                           |
| Ms R Baker            | Cornwall Council                                |
| Ms K Pritchard        | Devon County Council                            |
| Mr S Hipsey           | West Devon Borough Council                      |
| Mr A Nolan            | MoD Environmental Protection                    |
| Ms A Yunnie           | Plymouth Marine Laboratory (Applications)       |
| Capt. S Booth         | MoD   |
| Lt Cdr. J Melvin      | MoD   |

| <u>Item</u>                         | <u>Discussion and Decisions</u>   | <u>Action</u>   |
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| 1. Welcome and Introductions        | <p>Chairman welcomed everyone to the TECF Meeting and gave all present an opportunity to introduce themselves.</p> <p>Chairman introduced Capt Booth, MoD's designated person who was observing the meeting. He then gave an overview of the Port Marine Safety Code and highlighted how TECF fulfils the requirement of collaborative working with respect to environmental protection.</p>  |                 |
| 2. Apologies for Absence            | <p>Apologies for absence had been received from:</p> <p>S Cadman (Cornwall IFCA), C Matthews (Duchy of Cornwall), S Wordley (MMO), S Otway (DIO), S Curtin (D&amp;S IFCA), R English (SD AONB), F Crouch (PCC), T Vance (PML)</p>   |                 |
| 3. Agree Notes of the last meeting. | <p>The notes of the last meeting held on 18 Jul 19 were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Except for one amendment to the wording of Agenda Item 5.</p>   |                 |
| 4. Matters Arising.                 | <p><u>4.20.1 TECF Newsletter:</u> All TECF Members received a request from NIO for TECF Newsletter content and to promote its distribution.</p> <p>Articles should be 100-150 words and an include image. Any contributions should be forwarded to Fiona Crouch.</p> <p><u>Update Nov 19:</u> The next edition will be produced in Spring 2020 with an update on the Dockyard Port of Plymouth Order and QHMs annual safety advice. Additional proposed contributions could be forwarded to NIO(EMS).</p> <p><u>Ongoing</u></p> | NIO<br>EMS/DQHM |
|                                     | <p><u>4.8a. INNS Pacific Oysters:</u> NE to provide further advice – What would NE like TECF to do to help?</p> <p><u>Update Jul 19:</u> NE outlined that the problem is rapidly spreading and would affect the condition of the SAC. Removal trial results awaited from Fowey. TECF members are requested to support and promote NE advice on the removal of Pacific Oysters</p> <p><u>Update Nov 19:</u> No specific advice available yet, NE will provide this once available.</p> <p><u>Ongoing</u></p>                     | NE              |
|                                     | <p><u>4.8b. Wrasse Potting:</u> Is this seen as a growing/high risk through the annual survey? Wrasse potting is an IFCA project. A limited number of commercial operators have licences and their impact is being monitored. Request for update from IFCA's.</p> <p><u>Update Nov 19:</u> Data is currently being collected, an update will be provided at the next meeting. QHM requested that D&amp;S and Cornwall IFCA's work together to provide a coordinated response.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p>                          | IFCA's          |

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|  | <p><u>4.12.3a. Marine Litter:</u> A “sea bin” will be installed in QAB marina and monitored by Plymouth University. It is hoped that if it is effective more can be installed. NIO(EMS) asked for assistance in identifying locations; QHM suggested PPMLC members should be consulted for information.</p> <p><u>Update Jul 19:</u> the trial was initially successful however ongoing maintenance is high with large volume of small plastic “nurdles” collected. An update will be provided at the November meeting.</p> <p>Babcock are looking to trial a sea bin within a non-tidal basin.</p> <p>Update Nov 19: A sea bin was installed within HMNB Devonport (3 Basin); this filled very quickly with marine life and very little litter.</p> <p>Two trials have not been successful; operators are prompted to be proactive with collecting rubbish. A full report will be available next meeting. Ms Buchan highlighted that Portsmouth University have been completing similar trials and have been faced with the same issues, however they have made progress. NIO is to contact the University to discuss further and determine if collaborative progress can be made.</p> <p><u>Ongoing</u></p> | NIO / Ms Buchan |
|  | <p><u>6. Beach Rangers:</u> Details of 2019 programme had been promulgated. It was intended to include future events information in the TECF newsletters.</p> <p><u>Complete.</u></p>   |                 |
|  | <p><u>7. TECF management plan extension:</u> The management plan was endorsed by the forum and agreed that the extension would be made available electronically.</p> <p>Update Nov 19: The plan has now been published. The next 5-year plan will be developed in 2020 following a TECF Officers meeting. NIO to arrange an Officers meeting before the next full TECF meeting.</p> <p>All members are requested to promote and signpost the update.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p>   | NIO/All         |
|  | <p><u>8. National Marine Park:</u> Following Ms Deeney’s presentation at the July TECF meeting and the subsequent launch event, PCC are now moving to the assessment phase of the project.</p> <p>An update is available at Para 6.</p>   |                 |
|  | <p><u>9. Advanced Mooring Systems:</u> TECF members supported the proposal that TECF Officers will review the scope of the project and value of the funding request reporting back to TECF members at the next meeting.</p>   |                 |

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|  | <p><u>Update Nov 19:</u> Changes to the project scope and outputs had been suggested and passed back to the proposer. TECF will continue to fund the monitoring of the existing moorings. This will sustain engagement with the project and provide evidence to inform the larger ReMEDIES project for which NE are the lead.</p> <p><u>Ongoing.</u></p>  | NIO |
|  | <p><u>17b. Wembury marine conservation area:</u> Hand gathering. A code of conduct is being developed and focuses on expectations within the area to cover all activities. Chairman highlighted that PPMLC will need to be involved to gain “buy-in”.</p> <p>WAG to provide draft code once finalised.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p>   | WAG |
|  | <p><u>17c. Scaffold poles at West Hoe:</u> The poles reported by Cattewater HM are still there, NIO to chase removal.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p>  | NIO |
| <b>Presentations</b>                         |   |     |
| 5. Removing Micro plastics with Mussel Power | <p>Ms Yunnie gave her presentation on the proposed research / feasibility study (1 year) to utilise Mussels to remove micro plastics from the watercourse.</p> <p><u>Questions</u></p> <p>Where in the water column would they be placed and what type of mussel would be used (i.e. local or INNS)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The project aims to answer these questions; the proposal will be to utilise local mussels however there may be some ability to consider INNS in the future.</li> </ul> <p>There may be knock on effects to the overall ecosystem e.g. food removal!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Part of the process will be to engage with stakeholders and model the effect. A scientific approach will be used throughout.</li> </ul> <p>Has consideration for the mussel’s health been considered?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The outcome will depend on how the mussel process the plastic i.e. via waste or retained in body.</li> </ul> <p>What will be required from the local authorities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regulation, permitting and licencing</li> </ul> <p>Are there any examples of this type of work elsewhere?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not on a large scale</li> </ul> |     |
| <b>Matters for Information and Action</b>    |   |     |
| 6. National Marine Park                      | Mr McCarty gave a presentation (available at Annex A) on the current work surrounding the National Marine Park project.   |     |

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|   | <p>PCC are currently undertaking a feasibility study building on the initial engagement/meetings with many organisations/stakeholders. Stakeholder workshops will be held early in 2020. Consultation on the final proposal will follow.</p> <p>PCC will be utilising lessons learned from the National Park review (Glover report) and building on and expanding (into areas outside environmental management) on the best practice work of TECF – assurance given that the NMP concept is not aimed at taking over this work.</p> <p>An expression of interest for a Lottery Horizons Fund grant had been submitted and feedback was awaited.</p> <p><u>Questions</u></p> <p>Are PCC learning from other international designations?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Yes, the conference held in early 2019 heard from international delegates on this matter, the difficulties and challenges they encountered have been considered.</li> <li>- It was pointed out by QHM that international designation is backed by legislation. PCC confirmed that the NMP designation will not seek such legislation.</li> </ul> <p>Will stakeholder engagement include the public also highlighting interdisciplinary matters, e.g. not just maritime?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Yes, NMP team working with Plymouth Culture to identify a broad spectrum of stakeholders.</li> </ul> <p>What plans are there to engage with the wider catchment and how are they being identified?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The wider catchment will be consulted and will be identified via forums such as TECF and ANOB.</li> </ul> <p>Are Dialogue Matters still involved in the consultation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No, they have withdrawn from the project.</li> </ul> |     |
| 7. PS&TE Recreation Mitigation Strategy | <p>NIO presented the PCC Recreation Mitigation and Management Scheme which is available at Annex B.</p> <p>TECF members are requested to review and comment on the scheme.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p>  | All |

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| 8. ReMIDIES Project                 | <p>Ms Gall outlined the current ReMEDIES project which started in July 2019 and runs through to 2023 with a total funding of €2.9 million.</p> <p>Part of the project will look at the viability re-seeding historic areas of seagrass.</p> <p><u>Questions</u><br/>How will areas be selected?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultants will be appointed and models of suitable areas established.</li> </ul> <p>Who is leading the project?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NE are leading, a job advertisement for a dedicated project officer is currently live.</li> </ul> <p>Is anything else being considered outside of recreation impacts?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Yes, water quality initially, a workshop will be held to identify what else can be done.</li> </ul> |                       |
| 9. TECF Officers report             | <p>NIO presented her report which is at Annex C.</p> <p>1.2 In order to raise awareness of the SW Marine plans and their consideration when reviewing planning applications, Plymouth City Council / TECF will be hosting a training session to demonstrate its use <u>2pm –4pm on Thursday 16 January in Ballard House</u>. The event will be open to TECF members and Plymouth City Council planners. Invites will be sent out shortly.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p> <p>5d. Members were requested to assist NIO EMS to identify sites where further angling waste bins can be installed.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p>   | <p>NIO</p> <p>All</p> |
| 10. Natural England Officers Report | <p>Mrs Gall presented Natural England's update which is at Annex D.</p>  |                       |
| 11. Coastal Access                  | <p>Mr Pearce gave an overview of the proposed coastal path through Plymouth.</p> <p>DEFRA are tasked, under the Marine and Coastal Access Act to create a coastal trail around the UK at the closest physical route to the coast, balancing land owner concerns and public access on foot.</p> <p>The Plymouth to Kingswear plan is nearing completion with a report due 14 Jan '20 with an 8-week consultation to follow (<a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-coast-path-overview-of-progress">www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-coast-path-overview-of-progress</a>).</p> <p>As this will introduce new rights of access, the act will be court tested against current land owner rights.</p> <p><u>Question</u><br/>Will an HRA be required for bird life</p>                                   |                       |

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|  | - Yes, NE SPA colleagues will be consulted  |     |
| 12. Environment Agency Update          | <p>Mr Price gave a brief update on current EA projects:</p> <p>Classification for the EA catchment data explorer will be available Jan 2020.</p> <p>EA 25-year programme commits to carbon neutral by 2050.</p> <p>Environmental land management scheme will look to incentivise farmers in the upper Tamar with a subsidy to promote better environmental management.</p>  |     |
| 13. MMO Update                         | <p><u>a. Marine Planning</u></p> <p>Marine Plan for South West has been submitted to DEFRA and will be available for consultation in early 2020. An implementation meeting will be held 16<sup>th</sup> Jan – details to follow (see 9.1.2 above).</p> <p><u>b. Marine applications</u></p> <p>Ongoing Thanckes project has been delayed with drilling expected Nov/Dec 2019. An inspection is planned for Dec.</p>   |     |
| 14. Matters brought forward from PPMLC | Nil   |     |
| 15. Water Events                       | <p>The 2020 Water Events Diary (WED) can be found on the QHM website (<a href="http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/ghm/plymouth/leisure-users/events-diary">www.royalnavy.mod.uk/ghm/plymouth/leisure-users/events-diary</a>)</p> <p>DQHM highlighted the Mayflower 400 events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Illuminate End Nov '19</li> <li>- Ocean Festival inc. TRANSAT May '20</li> <li>- Military muster Sept '20</li> </ul>                             |     |
| 16. Items for future meetings          | <p>Ms Buchan offered to present on her PhD project on Marine Citizenship.</p> <p>Further suggestions to NIO</p> <p><u>Action</u></p>  | All |
| 17. Any other business                 | <p>a. Tamar Valley AONB reported that the Hogweed project has been funded through 2020.</p> <p>Various Tamar projects are under development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Land management</li> <li>- Water quality</li> <li>- Flood prevention</li> <li>- Community projects</li> <li>- Coastal path</li> </ul> <p>b. CHC advised that conditions detailed in the dredging licence were being reviewed as they are becoming increasingly onerous.</p> |     |

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|                            | c. Cornwall council reported that plans for a jetty at Torpoint were being finalised and would be available for consultation early 2020 aiming for completion of works by Sept 2020.                                       |  |
|                            | d. IFCA advised that enforcement patrols had been stepped up with a positive impact on illegal netting.<br><br>e. Further monitoring of Alis Shad was being undertaken.  |  |
|                            | <u>Decision regarding date / time of next meeting</u><br><br>Due to availability of meeting rooms it was agreed that the next meeting would be held in the afternoon on <b>Thursady 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 1400</b> |  |
| 18. Dates of Next Meetings | Dates of the forthcoming PPMLC and TECF meetings were published as follows:<br><br><b><u>PPMLC</u></b><br><b>1400 on 13 Feb 20</b><br><b>1400 on 11 Jun 20</b><br><b>1400 on 15 Oct 20</b>                                 |  |
|                            | <b><u>TECF</u></b><br><b>1400 on 12 Mar 20</b><br><b>1015 on 16 July 20</b><br><b>1015 on 12 Nov 20</b>  |  |

Distribution: NBC, All Committee members

## **Annex A**

NMP update forwarded separately

## **Annex B**



Recreation Mitigation  
Strategy

## **Annex C**



NIO report

## **Annex D**



NE Report