

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

QHM 532/7

**NOTES OF THE PORT OF PLYMOUTH MARINE LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
 THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2020
 ASTOR ROOM, GUILDHALL, PLYMOUTH**

| Present | Representing | User Group |
|----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Mr C Necker | Queen's Harbour Master | TECF/Harbour Auth |
| Mr N Trathen | Queen's Harbour Master | TECF/Harbour Auth |
| Mr A Jones | Queen's Harbour Master | TECF/Harbour Auth |
| Mrs K Curry | Natural Infrastructure Officer | TECF / PCC |
| Miss F Crouch | Natural Infrastructure Officer | Council |
| Capt. T Charlesworth | Cattewater Harbour Master | Harbour Authority |
| Capt. R Allan | Cattewater Deputy Harbour Master | Harbour Authority |
| Mr C Hicks | Cattewater Commissioners | Harbour Authority |
| Ms S Walters | Mayflower 400 project | Council |
| Mr S Instance | RNLI | Navigation and Rescue |
| Ms C Smith | Devon Wildlife Trust / Wembury Marine Conservation Area | Nature Conservation |
| Mr C Turner | HM Coastguard | Navigation and Rescue |
| Mr A James | University of Plymouth | Research |
| Mr M Goble | PCC Pier Master | Moorings |
| Mr R Bint | Plymouth City Council | Council |
| Mr J Lowther | University of Plymouth | Research |
| Mr D Curno | Royal Yachting Association | Recreation & Tourism |
| Mr M Wood | Royal Yachting Association | Recreation & Tourism |
| Mr K Hamblin | Port of Plymouth Canoe Association | Recreation & Tourism |
| Ms L Clarkson | Devon Wild Swimmers | Recreation |

| Item | Discussion and Decisions | Action |
|-----------------|--|---------------|
| 1. Introduction | <p>QHM welcomed everyone and thanked Plymouth City Council for hosting the meeting.</p> <p>QHM asked all present to introduce themselves.</p> | |
| 2. Apologies | <p>Apologies for absence were received from: K Banks (Millbrook Mooring Assoc.), L Gallie (RNLI), A Gall (NE), C Bush (Mayflower Marina), A King (Mountbatten Centre), R Anderson (Plymouth Trawlers Assoc.), A Hurley (Plymouth Boat Trips), T Head (PPSA), B Dixon (Tamar Conservation Soc.), G Reed (Bere Ferrers PC), A Polglase (Calstock Parish Council), C Matthews (Duchy of Cornwall).</p> | |

| Item | Discussion and Decisions | Action |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| 3. Notes of the previous meeting | The notes of the previous meeting held on 10 October 2019 were accepted as a true record of the meeting. | |
| 4. Matters arising | <p>4.6b. PCC and RNLI to check all public access points and jetties to ensure all necessary signage and warnings are in place.</p> <p>Update 10/10/19: The PCC Pier Master has been checking all signs and is planning joint site visits with RNLI over the winter. QHM asked that PCO joins the Pier Master on his inspections.</p> <p>All present were asked to contact the Pier Master if they see inadequate signage.</p> <p>Update 13/02/20: Pier Master has undertaken a review and has updates ready to be printed. QHM thanked Mr Goble and asked for these to be sent to RNLI and PCO for review.</p> <p><u>Ongoing</u></p> | PCC/PCO/RNLI |
| | <p>4.6c. NIO EMS requested content for inclusion in the TECF newsletter.</p> <p>Update 13/02/20: An overview of the Port Order update was included in the Winter Newsletter. Focus for the Spring edition will be water safety information. QHM (Port Safety Officer (PSO)) and the RNLI undertook to provide content. Any additional articles should be forwarded to NIO group mailbox (coastal@plymouth.gov.uk).</p> <p><u>Action</u></p> | RNLI/NIO/ QHM PSO/All |
| | <p>4.6f. QHM to republish tailored safety information at local dive shops.</p> <p>Update 10/10/19: The information and posters will be reviewed and refreshed ready for issuing in Spring 20.</p> <p>Update 13/02/20: PSO to finalise poster – target date 1 Apr 20.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p> | QHM PSO |
| | <p>6.2. RNLI requested members identify any potential sites for additional lifejacket lockers. There are 8 lockers at Mayflower Marina. Elphinstone car park is a potential site, PCC are awaiting feedback from the RNLI.</p> <p>Update 13/02/20: There is an issue with the positioning of the locker's supporting frame at Elphinstone. Proposals for any additional locations are still being sought.</p> <p><u>Ongoing</u></p> | PCC/RNLI/All |
| | <p>6.3. PCC offered to signpost safety advice (i.e. RNLI) and other port information on Visit Plymouth website.</p> <p>10/10/19: No specific sign posting evident. PCC to investigate.</p> <p>Update 13/02/20: Text has been drafted and is undergoing internal publishing checks. A demonstration will be made at next meeting.</p> <p><u>Ongoing</u></p> | NIO |
| | 6.4. RNLI life jacket loan scheme. | All |

| Item | Discussion and Decisions | Action |
|------------------|--|--------|
| | <p>Update 13/02/20: A campaign will be run this summer promoting Plymouth as a “Life Jacket Friendly City”. Support and equipment have been supplied by Helly Hansen. Buoyancy aids are being distributed for organisations to give as gifts or prizes. A loan scheme is being trialled which intends to increase the use of life jackets in Plymouth (currently low), initially targeting anglers and kayakers. An interim trial of 8 jackets has had limited success. TECF members are requested to provide any assistance or ideas for the scheme.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p> | |
| | <p>8.2d Marine litter. NIO has sought clarification from the relevant departments in PCC. If marine litter is in a public area there no reason why PCC won't pick it up. The Council are adding specific information on their website and encouraging initiatives such as beach cleans. NIO will send out the link.</p> <p>Update 13/02/20: Information is now available on PCC website: https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/greatbritishspringclean</p> <p><u>Complete</u></p> | |
| | <p>9.2.a - Angling Waste</p> <p>Update 13/02/20: Two bins are now in position and in use; an emptying route has been established although still posing an issue. Four additional bins are ready to be installed with sites identified.</p> <p><u>Complete</u></p> | NIO |
| | <p>9.2.b - Information Panels</p> <p>Covered under Ag.8: Phase 3 underway, locations identified. Design being refined, specific local information will be checked with relevant representatives.</p> <p><u>Ongoing</u></p> | NIO |
| | <p>11.3 Dockyard Port Order</p> <p>The DPPO is undergoing parliamentary review and should complete due process in the next couple of months. A PLNTM, highlighting the changes, will be published just before the new order comes into force.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p> | DQHM |
| | <p>13.2 CHC Air Quality Strategy</p> <p>No specific comments were received on the published document. However, general feedback has been positive, both locally and national. Live monitoring will be ongoing to support the strategy.</p> <p><u>Complete</u></p> | |
| 5. Presentations | <p><u>Mayflower 400 Makers Volunteers: How you can get involved</u></p> <p>Ms Walters give her presentation outlining the main events supporting the Mayflower 400 celebrations.</p> | All |

| Item | Discussion and Decisions | Action |
|---------------------------------|---|--------|
| | <p>Details can be found here: https://www.mayflower400uk.org/</p> <p>Question regarding deconfliction with other events?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The WED will be updated as events are added, all are requested to provide information to DQHM. <p><u>Action</u></p> <p>Question regarding the vessels involved in the Spirit of Adventure project?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Walters presented a video featuring the Spirit of Adventure project providing sailing experiences for the youth of Plymouth and highlighted the crowdfunding page: https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/spirit-of-adventure <p><u>Management of Asbestos in the marine environment around Mount Batten</u></p> <p>Mr Bint gave his presentation regarding the closure of Mount Batten beach due to waste asbestos being discovered.</p> <p>There was a health risk from the fibres, particularly when they were dry. One and a half tonnes of material have been removed.</p> <p>Collected/found material has reduced but does still appear to be reappearing; PCC are unsure of the source.</p> <p>Any suggestions on how best to visually delineate between clean and potentially contaminated areas on the beach would be welcomed.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p> <p>Question regarding impact to marine life particularly intertidal birds?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No evidence that they are adversely affected but some studies have shown asbestos to be present in the food chain. | All |
| 6. Plymouth Water Safety Update | <p>Mr Instance gave an update.</p> <p>2020 RNLI strategy is to “design out drowning” with the focus on at risk areas. Plymouth is one such area with analysis indicating the 3rd highest number of fatalities of all 79 districts. Diving and commercial fishing continue to be high risk activities, which specific campaigns and targeted advertising will seek to address.</p> <p>Mr Instance informed that the diving kiosk will be in place for the 2020 season. QHM highlighted the benefits that a preventative patrol vessel could provide. Unfortunately, the vessel used by the RNLI has been placed out of service and will not be replaced. Discussions are underway to whether one of the lifeboats can be used in its place.</p> | |

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|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 7. National Marine Planning Update | <p>The SW Inshore and Offshore plans have been published for consultation with a deadline for comments of 6 Apr 20. Further information is available on their website: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/south-west-marine-plan</p> | |
| 8. TECF matters | <p>NIO officers presented their report which is attached at Annex A. Specific actions were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NMP – Consultants are being contracted to facilitate stakeholder workshops planned for the Spring. <u>Action</u> 2. Guide for small craft – The water users’ leaflet is being updated for reprinting in April. Any proposed changes should be forwarded to NIO ASAP. <u>Action</u> | <p>PCC</p> <p>All</p> |
| 9. European Marine Site Matters | <p>No representative from Natural England was present. A written report is attached at Annex B.</p> | |
| 10. River Catchment Matters | <p>No representative from the Environment Agency was present.</p> | |
| 11. QHM matters | <p><u>Water safety and incidents.</u> QHM provided information on incidents for the last 4 months, which stood at 31. Of these 12 were near-misses with several being due to a lack of awareness of rules and regs:</p> <p>19 incidents including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 pollution (minor spills) - 4 contact - 4 MOB - 2 adrift vessels - 2 fires - 1 sinking (on mooring) <p><u>Dredging.</u> Dredging of the Naval Base berths has just been completed. Further work with plough/back-hoe dredging of some small craft berths is expected later in the year.</p> <p>Dredging of the main berth at Yonderberry Jetty associated with the Thanckes development is expected to be completed in late February. Further works on the inner berth pocket expected to be completed by Apr 20.</p> <p>CHC added that the grab dredger “Manin” will be completing works throughout late February and March, weather permitting.</p> | |

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|----------------------------|--|--|
| 12. Water events | <p>The Water Events Diary for 2020 is available on the QHM website (www.royalnavy.mod.uk/qhm/plymouth/leisure-users/events-diary):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 8-10 May: Mayflower Ocean Festival - 10 May OSTAR/2STAR start - 13-14 Jun: PPSA Dinghy Regatta - 4 Jul: Cattewater Gig Regatta - 10-12 Jul: PPSA Yacht Regatta - 12 Jul: Drakes Island Swim - 25-31 Jul: NSSA National Youth Regatta - 9 Aug: Chestnut Breakwater Swim - Aug: National Fireworks - 12-13 Sep: National Water Ski Racing - 18-22 Sep: Mayflower 2020 including the Military Muster - 10-11 Oct: Laser qualifiers <p>PMN – many events including Mayflower Ocean Festival and OSTAR have been postponed/cancelled due to COVID-19.</p> | |
| 13. Any other business | <p>a. Devon and Severn IFCA are currently consulting on a hand gathering byelaw – details available here: https://www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk/Consultation</p> <p>b. Issues/tension have become apparent between recreational fisherman and trawlers where it is alleged that the trawlers are purposely passing close by Fishers Nose to “cut” the recreational fishermen’s lines. NIO EMS to put both party representatives in contact. <u>Action</u></p> <p>c. Devon Wildlife Trust – Five biosecurity signs are available for members to install at suitable locations such as slipways. QHM thanked Ms Smith and Mr Goble and DQHM took for action to determine the most suitable locations. <u>Action</u></p> | <p>NIO EMS</p> <p>DQHM / Mr Goble</p> |
| | <p>d. Devon Wild Swimmers would like to open discussions regarding extending the swimming area. QHM explained that he regularly reviews the recreational areas within the port and asked PCO to discuss the matter with Ms Clarkson to determine whether this was possible and/or practicable. <u>Action</u></p> | PCO |
| 14. Future Speakers | TBC | |
| 15. Dates of next meetings | Dates of the forthcoming PPMLC and TECF meetings were published as follows: | |
| | <p><u>PPMLC</u> 1400 on 11 June 20 1400 on 8 October 20 1400 on 11 Feb 21</p> | <p><u>TECF</u> 1015 on 12 March 20 1015 on 9 July 20 1015 on Thu 12 Nov 20</p> |



PPMLC Thurs 13 February 2020

8. TECF Matters: by Natural Infrastructure Officers

1. Strategic Planning (Kaja Curry)

a) Proposal for National Marine Park

Plymouth City Council is due to appoint the consultants to undertake the next steps which will be the co-design of the proposals in more detail through a series of workshops that will bring the key stakeholders together along with the shaping of a management plan, identification of a funding package and governance arrangements and confirmation of how the existing management arrangements sit within any proposals.

The first workshop will be in March with the others following just as soon as the purdah imposed by the local elections allows.

In addition, Plymouth City Council has recently submitted an expression of interest to the National Lottery Heritage Fund's Horizon Awards Programme for a £9m project focusing on the National Marine Park, which has been followed up with a presentation to their board in London. If successful, the Council will be invited to submit a full outline bid later in the year, which if then successful will enable them to fully develop the project over the following 12 months.

b) Marine Plan Consultation

The Marine Management Organisation has now commenced its consultation on the South West Inshore and Offshore Marine Plans with a deadline for comments of 6 April 2020. Further information is available from the MMO website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/south-west-marine-plan>

A summary prepared by the Natural Infrastructure Officer is appended to this report.

c) Highly Protected Marine Areas – Call for evidence

The Highly Protected Marine Area Review, undertaken by the Government, was collecting evidence in the latter half of 2019, and it was expected for the review to be completed by the end of 2019. However, further news is still awaited.

2) Recreational Impacts arising from development 2019 onwards

- a) The Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan requires us to address the impacts arising from the increased recreational

pressure on the Plymouth Sound and Estuaries Special Area of Conservation and on the Tamar Estuaries Special Protection Area. The mechanism is to be through a single mitigation strategy for addressing the indirect recreational impacts to be agreed with Plymouth City Council, South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council and with Cornwall Council and that a mechanism for securing the funding through planning obligations will be set out and agreed in a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

- b) A Recreation Mitigation and Management Scheme for marine recreation has now been drafted in full consultation with Natural England which has now informed the SPD for the Joint Local Plan authorities which has been out for consultation. Cornwall Council will also be likely to adopt it as their mechanism for managing recreational impacts.
- c) The Recreation Mitigation and Management Scheme sets out the list of measures which are required for a period of 80 years as required by law. This will address the increased recreational impacts arising from all development within 12.3km of the European Marine Site boundary and identifies that the total costs for this can be translated to an average levy of £371 per dwelling.
- d) Once agreed, then the amount will be levied across all local authorities with developments coming forward within the 12.3km zone of influence.
- e) The Recreation Mitigation and Management Scheme is available to download from the Plymouth-MPA website at this address: <http://www.plymouth-mpa.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Recreation-and-Management-Scheme.pdf>

3) Mayflower 400 Update

The organisers of Mayflower 400 are now seeking to recruit Volunteers called 'Mayflower Makers. To keep informed of all that is happening with Mayflower 400 please see the website:

<https://www.mayflower400uk.org/>

4) Water Users Leaflet

Work is being undertaken to update the leaflet for 2020 with print and circulation ahead of the busy late spring season.






5) EMS Managing Recreational Impacts Project RECREATIONAL MANAGEMENT (Fiona Crouch)

- a) **Advanced Mooring Systems (AMS) Project:** A workshop was held at the NMA on the 30th January to discuss progress to date and how we can move forward with the installation of AMS within sensitive habitats.
- b) The workshop was organised by the RYA as part of the ReMEDIES Project and followed on from the 2019 workshop held in Havant. As well as speakers working on AMS and sensitive habitats in the UK, thanks to virtual technology speakers joined us from the USA whilst delegates engaged online.
- c) The overall impression from delegates is that we are moving forward, and interest is growing in the idea of using AMS rather than the traditional mooring systems. Funding from EU Life and the partners in ReMEDIES will facilitate the trialling of several AMS's designs plus educate recreational users and change behaviours to help conserve sensitive habitats i.e. seagrass and maerl beds.

- d) The Recreational Impacts Officer and Natural England attended a meeting with the Yealm Harbour Master in January to discuss the moorings in the Yealm and possible options for AMS installation. The estuary poses many challenges for the present system being trialled i.e. the helical screw and Stirling riser. There was more interest and support in raising awareness of the seagrass beds in the Yealm and encouraging recreational users to avoid anchoring in areas such as Cellar's Cove.
- e) **Recreational angling:** The trial of the two angling waste bins at Elphinstone car park and West Hoe Pier has been a success i.e. they are being used and have not been vandalised. There are some issues with people putting items other than fishing tackle in the bins and the contents can be compacted making it difficult to empty them. We are working to find solutions.
- f) A further 4 angling waste bins will shortly be installed at Devils Point, either end of Mount Batten Breakwater and Cornwall Beach, Devonport (Devonport Pontoon Fishing on Google maps). There will also be several fishing interpretation boards erected at popular sites this year.
- g) **Shared GIS System:** After several internal discussions and working with Seascope Analytics Ltd who are interested in developing a Blue Portal Plymouth we are moving forward with this task. The aims of the GIS System are: 'To produce an interactive web-based platform of digital information on the marine and coastal natural of the Plymouth Sound and Tamar Estuaries MPA that will address priority needs of the Mitigating Recreational Impacts Project'. Depending on costs, the system could contain a private area for TECF members if that is deemed an appropriate use of public funding.
- h) A project brief has been put together ready to go out for tender. Presently stuck in the PCC procurement system.

6) COMMUNICATIONS (Fiona Crouch)

- a) **Newsletter:** The quarterly e-newsletter was distributed in January with articles on: ReMEDIES, Angling Waste Bins, New Dockyard Port of Plymouth Order, Ocean Literacy for Sail Trainers, MMO Consultation, Devon Climate Emergency and QHM New year Notifications. The next edition will be circulated in April and will be a special edition on water safety to coincide with Easter break and the anticipated increase in recreational activities. We welcome articles concerning water safety around the Plymouth Sound and Tamar Estuaries MPA. Articles should be between 100 – 150 words with a couple of images. Please send articles to coastal@plymouth.gov.uk.
- b) **Website:** Updated when required. There are links to the minutes from both the PPMLC and TECF meeting minutes on the [website/management](#).
- c) **Information Panels:** A third phase of panels is in development that will include the replacement of signs at: Weir Quay, Calstock, Brunel Green, Saltash Passage South and Commercial Wharf.
- d) **Presentation:** Saltash Sailing club, 31st October 2019. Approximately 50 people attended. Subjects covered included: Introduction to the MPA, management, seagrass meadows, non-native species and the National Marine Park.
- e) **Social Media** – Regular tweets are sent via the @TamarEstuaries twitter account. The number of followers has risen again to 610.
- f) Below is an example of some of the Tweets and their reach in January.

| Tweets | Top Tweets | Tweets and replies | Promoted | Impressions | Engagements | Engagement rate |
|---|---|--|----------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
|  | Tamar Estuaries @TamarEstuaries · Jan 29 | We are working alongside @plymouthcc in this exciting new project to help protect habitats within the #plymouthMPA #BritainsOceanCity twitter.com/NaturalEngland... | | 1,209 | 14 | 1.2% |
|  | Tamar Estuaries @TamarEstuaries · Jan 20 | Interesting morning session @plymuni #plymResFest. Before the afternoon session starts had to share the lunchtime view, in the sun! #loveplymouth #Britainsoceanicity pic.twitter.com/DKsXLx9Uyt | | 286 | 7 | 2.4% |
|  | Tamar Estuaries @TamarEstuaries · Jan 20 | Excellent presentation by @Dr_Sian_Rees from @plymuni on marine conservation, management and policy. New approaches are required to effectively manage our seas for all #plymres pic.twitter.com/7TMUWhHt79 | | 1,258 | 55 | 4.4% |
|  | Tamar Estuaries @TamarEstuaries · Jan 20 | Lovely view from the @PlymUni Rolle building over to the Tamar. Looking forward to an interesting day of talks and discussion on "Biodiversity at a Crossroads" #plymres #SDGs pic.twitter.com/FFv233Fuh2 | | 1,499 | 21 | 1.4% |
|  | Tamar Estuaries @TamarEstuaries · Jan 14 | Have your say on the new South West #marineplans. Deadline 6th April 2020. twitter.com/The_MM0/status... | | 304 | 1 | 0.3% |

7) ReMEDIES Project

The LIFE funded EU ReMEDIES project has now been given the green light and work is starting. Plymouth one of the pilot areas and there will be a programme to test various advanced moorings as part of this as well as testing whether seagrass can be planted as part of a restoration project.

Progress on the project will be reported at regular intervals to both PPMLC and TECF.

8) Preventing Plastic Pollution



Preventing Plastic Pollution is a €13million project consisting of 18 partners from England and France. Its purpose is to develop and test a science-based approach to help local and national governments, businesses, NGOs as well as the public to effectively invest in and implement innovative solutions to the

plastic waste crisis, focusing on preventing plastic from reaching the sea. As part of this it will develop a catchment-based approach by identifying the main sources of plastic pathways in the marine environment.

This project lead is Queen Mary University in London and other English and French partners include academic and scientific institutions, Non-Governmental Organisations such as West Country Rivers Trust, Statutory bodies such as Environment Agency and local authorities including Plymouth City Council and Brest Metropole. The project delivery period is for 3 years.

The project will fund PCC to install marine plastic collection devices to plastic from marine hot spot sites, deliver 30 community beach cleans and beach outreach programme in 6 waterfront communities, removing angling debris from hot spots through underwater dive cleans, much more.

9) DEVELOPMENTS

Pier Masters Office, Phoenix Wharf, Madeira Road (19/01338/FUL): Conversion of existing building into a restaurant with outdoor seating. **Agreed.**

Saltram Point, Saltram, Plymouth. (19/01571/FUL): Full planning permission for siting a mobile catering unit on cleared land at Saltram Point. **Application withdrawn.**

Seawings, 101 Lawrence Road, nr Mountbatten Pier. (19/01663/FUL):
Demolition of existing building and erection of new building comprising of 8 flats and commercial unit. **Decision awaited.**

RNLI Millbay, Custom House Lane, Plymouth (20/00015/FUL):
Two storey extension, new observation level on existing tower and internal alterations.
Pending consideration.

Turnchapel Wharf, Barton Road, Plymouth. (19/01810/FUL):
Demolition of unit and construction of new unit. **Pending consideration.**

Devonport Dockyard, Plymouth. (19/01904/FUL);
Demolition of existing structures and the upgrading of dockside facilities. **Pending decision.**

End.

Kaja Curry (kaja.curry@plymouth.gov.uk) & Fiona Crouch (fiona.crouch@plymouth.gov.uk)
Natural Infrastructure Officers

APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF DRAFT MARINE PLAN.

DRAFT SOUTH WEST INSHORE AND SOUTH WEST OFFSHORE MARINE PLAN

Summary of document published for consultation

I. PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

- I.1. This document has been prepared for the members of TECF in order to inform them of the contents of the Draft South West Marine Plan which has been published for consultation with a deadline for comments to be received by **6 April 2020**.
- I.2. Full details of the Draft South West Marine Plan and its associated documents are available on the website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/south-west-marine-plan>
- I.3. The consultation itself is available here: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/mmo/draft-south-west-inshore-and-offshore-marine-plans/>
- I.4. The pdf of the South West Inshore and South West Offshore Marine Plan is available here: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/857299/DRAFT_SW_Marine_Plan.pdf
- I.5. The supporting Technical Annex is available here: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/857300/DRAFT_SW_Tech_Annex.pdf

The Technical Annex is a 300-page document which describes the marine planning process and how the Plan evolved, describes the key terms used and provides further information on to support the draft policies in terms of the underlying evidence along with further information on where and how they will be applied. Maps are provided where relevant. It is important for the Technical Annex to be read alongside the Draft Marine Plan.

2. DRAFT MARINE PLAN SUMMARY

| | Name | Summary / Comment |
|--|----------------------|--|
| I. South West Inshore and Offshore Marine Plan. 56 pages. | | |
| I.1 | Overall aims | Covers waters from River Severn to River Dart and sets local context for national policies. |
| I.2 | Background and Intro | <p>Marine Plan (MP) is required under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. Need to read the Marine Plan alongside the Technical Annex (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/857300/DRAFT_SW_Tech_Annex.pdf). The MP aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable efficient use of space highlighting opportunities for co-existence where appropriate; • Clarifies where co-existence is not appropriate or where activities should be avoided; • Enables communication and negotiation where co-existence is an option; • Gives greater certainty around current activity through real time data through the Explore Marine Plans digital service; • Safeguards areas of future resource potential; • Allows flexibility where evidence is limited; • Supports development by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sets out requirements that apply irrespective of location; |

| | | |
|---|------------------------------|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identifies attributes which would support the proposed development; ○ Provides context for when IROPI are considered; ○ Identifies other relevant legislation and guidance; ○ Reiterates importance of other relevant regulation and assessment. <p>Key features of the area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hinkley Point C will create 25,000 jobs and provide 3.2GW of reliable low carbon power; ● 11.6 Mt of freight transported through the major ports in 2015; ● 13,000 and 12,000 tonnes of fish landed in Plymouth and Newlyn during 2015; ● Largest Naval base in Western Europe and home to the Royal Navy; ● 20 of the 53 protected wreck sites in England; ● 809km designated Heritage Coast; ● 43 Designated Marine Protected Areas. |
| 1.3 | The Plan Areas | <p>Gives a brief summary of both the inshore and offshore Marine Plan areas, with key statistics for a broad range of features.</p> <p><i>No mention of Natural Capital – it might help if this chapter is framed in terms of Natural Capital.</i></p> |
| 1.4 | Legal & Policy Context | <p>Describes the context within which the SWMP has been prepared, particularly with respect to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 ● Marine Policy Statement ● High Level Marine Objectives ● National Planning Policy Framework ● National Policy Statements ● South Marine Plan ● Welsh National Marine Plan ● Duty to cooperate ● National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 ● EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive ● EU Integrated Maritime Policy <p>It describes how new legislation could result in amendments to the Marine Plan and that there is a statutory reporting cycle for the MP of no less than three years.</p> <p><i>No mention of the Environment Bill – this should probably be reflected within the Marine Plan.</i></p> |
| 1.5 | Overview of plan development | <p>Describes the Marine Plan production process as being interactive and involving all stakeholders.</p> |
| 2. Vision, objectives and policies | | |
| 2.1 | Vision | <p>This sets the vision until 2041 – with sustainable development especially around maritime economy, society, environment and governance. Looks to support fishing, tourism, port development, harbour regeneration with growth and employment, whilst supporting emerging energy. It recognises increased sustainable access, management of coast and estuaries to increase resilience to climate change and supporting defence. Lastly focuses on ecosystem approach and working across borders.</p> |
| 2.2 | Objectives | <p>These are the same as the High Level Marine Objectives as set out in the Marine Policy Statement .</p> |

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|--|---|--|--|---|
| | | <p>There are 13 objectives which briefly are as follows:</p> <p>Achieving a sustainable marine economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide infrastructure • Use resources to maximise sustainable activity • Marine businesses take long-term strategic decisions • Marine businesses respect environmental limits and social responsibility. <p>Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People appreciate the diversity of the marine environment & act responsibly. • Use of marine environment benefits society providing range of services. • Marine resources are safe to use. • Marine environment plays a part in mitigating climate change. • Equitable access to those who want use and access to marine and coastal resources and assets. • Marine environment will recognise and integrate with defence priorities. <p>Living within environmental limits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity is protected, conserved and, where appropriate, recovered; loss halted. • Healthy marine & coastal habitats occur and can support resilient healthy biological communities • Oceans support viable populations of rare, vulnerable and valued species. | | |
| 2.3 | Policies | <p>There are 61 policies which are summarised in Appendix I. Policies are divided into 29 topics as follows:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure • Co-existence • Aggregates • Aquaculture • Cables • Dredging and disposal • Oil and gas • Ports, harbours and shipping • Renewables • Heritage assets • Seascape and landscape • Fisheries • Employment • Climate change • Air quality </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine litter • Water quality • Access • Tourism and recreation • Social benefits • Defence • Marine protected areas • Biodiversity • Net gain and natural capital • Invasive non-native species • Disturbance • Underwater noise • Cumulative effects • Cross-border co-operation </td> </tr> </table> <p>For most topics, the policy allows the development provided that it does not impact on the topic in question, and where they will have significant adverse impact on the topic then the mitigation hierarchy generally applies which is that the proposal must demonstrate that it will (a) avoid; (b) minimise; (c) mitigate and for some topics (d) where this is not possible then state the case for proceeding. Further information on the how the Draft Policies and how they will be implemented, including definitions, explanations and maps, are provided in the Draft Technical Annex.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure • Co-existence • Aggregates • Aquaculture • Cables • Dredging and disposal • Oil and gas • Ports, harbours and shipping • Renewables • Heritage assets • Seascape and landscape • Fisheries • Employment • Climate change • Air quality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine litter • Water quality • Access • Tourism and recreation • Social benefits • Defence • Marine protected areas • Biodiversity • Net gain and natural capital • Invasive non-native species • Disturbance • Underwater noise • Cumulative effects • Cross-border co-operation |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure • Co-existence • Aggregates • Aquaculture • Cables • Dredging and disposal • Oil and gas • Ports, harbours and shipping • Renewables • Heritage assets • Seascape and landscape • Fisheries • Employment • Climate change • Air quality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine litter • Water quality • Access • Tourism and recreation • Social benefits • Defence • Marine protected areas • Biodiversity • Net gain and natural capital • Invasive non-native species • Disturbance • Underwater noise • Cumulative effects • Cross-border co-operation | | | |
| 3. Using & Implementing the SW Marine Plan | | | | |

| | | |
|-----|--|--|
| 3.1 | Specific plan policy considerations | <p>The marine plan policies affect consents such as plan-based permitting, as well as byelaws, uses, management measures and other activities and in the review of existing activities, authorisations or measures. The approach to the ‘mitigation hierarchy’ is described where the steps must be met in the order given and that the fourth step is only available for some more flexible policies. Cumulative effects are described.</p> <p><i>But no description is provided of in-combination effects.</i></p> |
| 3.2 | Public authorities | <p>All ‘public authorities’ are responsible for applying the South West Marine Plan to both consents that they authorise and to the way in which they carry out their functions.</p> <p>The Marine Plan and the Marine Policy Statement constitute material considerations as far as planning consents are concerned. However, it is not a development plan under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and as such local plans may be more relevant consideration than the marine plan in certain decision-making activities e.g. housing.</p> <p>It goes onto describe the other legislation that decisions must also be compliant with such as EIA Regs, Infrastructure Planning Regs etc. as well as legislation underpinning the marine protected areas.</p> <p>Mention is made of the Coastal Concordat as a way of working together across the regulatory bodies.</p> |
| 3.3 | Using the plan | <p>Public authorities: should apply the SWMP to decisions they take whilst considering the scale, complexity and impact of the proposal.</p> <p>Developers are encouraged to make use of the SWMP whilst drawing up their proposals.</p> <p>All are encouraged to use the ‘Explore Marine Plans’ digital service in proposal development and design.</p> <p>Decision making should be based on pre-application discussions and consultation; proposal development and design and formal submission and determination by the public authority.</p> |
| 3.4 | Explore Marine Plans – digital service | <p>This digital service enables users to view other marine activities, interests and marine licenses; identify appropriate parties to discuss proposals with; identify where the proposal contributes to economic, social, and environmental considerations within the SWMP and to use the policy checking tool to see all those relevant to any area and its adjacent waters.</p> <p>Table 3 in the SWMP splits up the policies according to which type they are as follows (colour coded has been added by the author):</p> |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies relevant to all proposals and apply across the whole area, setting out considerations and points to be aware of. |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definitive policies which show clear preference for certain activities in certain locations. These preclude other activities or require them to be compatible. |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies which support existing use of the marine area – they require proposals to work through several steps to reduce impacts on existing activities to manage conflicts. |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies that safeguard areas for future development by certain sectors. |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies which directly support certain sectors, support diversification, skills enhancement or employment across all activities. |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies which support preferred methods and approaches including best practice |

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| 3.5 | Pre-application | Early engagement between all parties is encouraged in order to provide certainty and support efficient decision-making, especially in larger more complex cases. Use should be made of all the documents available including the SWMP, its Technical Annex and the Marine Policy Statement. |
| 3.6 | Proposal development & design | SWMP assists in the development and design including location. |
| 3.7 | Proposal submission and determination | Details what is required when proposals are submitted and how public authorities should undertake their decision making. |
| 3.8 | Further material and guidance | Sets out additional plan-making material which may be useful: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine planning issues and evidence database; • Evidence reports; • Core development documents – a chronological list of relevant documents; • Assessments (Sustainability Appraisal and HRA). |
| 4. Monitoring, review and reporting | | |
| 4.1 | Approach | Little information is provided here other than a title and reference to an Annex of Indicators, but no hyperlinks are provided. <i>Is there information or hyperlinks missing here?</i> |
| 4.2 | Reporting | Reports to Parliament are required on the effects of policies in the marine plan and the effectiveness of the policies in securing the objectives. This must be done at least every 3 years with more thorough reviews done every 6 years. |

APPENDIX I: TABLE OF POLICIES (for explanation of the colours see section 3.4 above)

| Policy Code | Description |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| INFRASTRUCTURE | |
| SW-INF-1 | Supports appropriate land-based infrastructure which facilitates marine activity and vice versa. |
| CO-EXISTENCE | |
| SW-CO-1 | Supports optimisation of use and co-location . If not possible then must demonstrate that they abide by the mitigation hierarchy of avoid / minimise / mitigate / state case for proceeding. This crops up in many other policies and from now will be referred to as the 'mitigation hierarchy'. |
| AGGREGATES | |
| SW-AGG-1 | Licenses will not be granted in areas which have a license for aggregate extraction , unless the proposal is compatible with the extraction. |
| SW-AGG-2 | As above but applies to those with an Exploration or Option Agreement with The Crown Estate. |
| SW-AGG-3 | For proposals in areas with high potential for aggregate resources , then mitigation hierarchy applies. |
| AQUACULTURE | |
| SW-AQ-1 | Proposals must demonstrate compatibility with aquaculture within existing or potential strategic areas for this activity. Where not possible, then mitigation hierarchy applies. |
| SW-AQ-2 | Proposals for aquaculture infrastructure for this activity will be supported. |
| CABLES | |
| SW-CAB-1 | The burial of cables is preferred. Where not possible then protection measures need to be included, and where not possible, then the case for proceeding needs to be made. |
| SW-CAB-2 | Proposals must be compatible with protecting landfall sites and future landfall opportunities. Where this is not possible then mitigation hierarchy applies. |
| SW-CAB-3 | Proposals close to existing cables must demonstrate compatibility with continuing functioning of cables. |
| DREDGING & DISPOSAL | |
| SW-DD-1 | In areas of authorised dredging , proposals must be compatible with the dredging activity. |
| SW-DD-2 | Proposals must not impact on licensed disposal sites . Where this is not possible then the mitigation hierarchy applies. |
| SW-DD-3 | Proposals for dredge disposal must demonstrate that they have been assessed against the waste hierarchy. Where new disposal sites are needed, proposals must follow best practice and guidance. |
| OIL & GAS | |
| SW-OG-1 | Licenses will not be granted in areas which have a license for oil & gas , unless the proposal is compatible with the oil & gas activity. |
| SW-OG-2 | As above but applies to those with areas with a high potential for oil and gas extraction . |
| PORTS, HARBOURS & SHIPPING | |
| SW-PS-1 | Proposals must be compatible with current and future port and harbour activities . Where this is not possible, then the mitigation hierarchy applies. |
| SW-PS-2 | Proposals that affect navigation near IMO routes will not be permitted unless there are exceptional circumstances. |
| SW-PS-3 | As above but where the proposals affect high density or strategically important shipping routes or passenger services. |
| SW-PS-4 | Proposals that promote or facilitate shipping as alternative to land transport will be supported. |

| RENEWABLES | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| SW-REN-1 | Supports renewable energy proposals. |
| SW-REN-2 | Licenses will not be granted in areas which have a lease or agreement for renewables , unless the proposal is compatible with the renewables activity. |
| SW-WIND-1 | Supports proposals for offshore wind in identified areas. |
| HERITAGE ASSETS | |
| SW-HER-1 | Proposals that conserve or enhance heritage assets will be supported. Where this is not possible then the mitigation hierarchy applies. |
| SEASCAPE & LANDSCAPE | |
| SW-SCP-1 | Proposals that have a significant adverse impact on seascape and landscape must demonstrate that they have applied the mitigation hierarchy. Proposals demonstrate that they have considered the seascape and landscapes. |
| FISHERIES | |
| SW-FISH-1 | Proposals that support sustainable fishing will be supported. |
| SW-FISH-2 | Proposals that enhance access for fishing activities will be supported. Where this is not possible then the mitigation hierarchy applies. |
| SW-FISH-3 | Proposals that enhance fish habitat will be supported. Where this is not possible then the mitigation hierarchy applies, although this time there is no clause that says significant adverse effects may be acceptable in certain circumstances. |
| EMPLOYMENT | |
| SW-EMP-1 | Proposals that result in net increase to marine employment will be supported, especially where certain criteria are met involving deprived areas, supporting local skills; diversifying opportunities and implementing new technologies. |
| CLIMATE CHANGE | |
| SW-CC-1 | Proposals that enhance habitats which provide flood defence or carbon sequestration will be supported. Where this is not possible then the mitigation hierarchy applies but this time compensation is required as a last resort where required in current legislation and policy. |
| SW-CC-2 | Proposals must demonstrate that they are resilient to the impacts of climate change for the lifetime of the project. |
| SW-CC-3 | Proposals likely to have significant impact on coastal change should not be supported. Proposals that may have a significant adverse impact on climate change adaptation in adjacent plan areas must demonstrate the first three stages of the mitigation hierarchy (avoid/minimise/mitigate). |
| AIR QUALITY | |
| SW-AIR-1 | Proposals must assess impact on air quality . Where proposals will result in additional air pollution, they must demonstrate the first three stages of the mitigation hierarchy. |
| MARINE LITTER | |
| SW-ML-1 | Public authorities must make adequate provision for measures to reduce and prevent marine litter and should aspire to remove marine litter within their jurisdiction. |
| SW-ML-2 | Supports proposals to facilitate waste re-use, recycling or reduction of marine litter . Where this is not possible, then first three stages of mitigation hierarchy apply. |
| WATER QUALITY | |
| SW-WQ-1 | Proposals that enhance and restore water quality will be supported. Where this is not possible then the first three stages of the mitigation hierarchy apply. |
| ACCESS | |
| SW-ACC-1 | Proposals that enhance inclusive public access and tourism and recreation activities now and, in the future, will be supported. Where this cannot be supported then the first three stages of the mitigation hierarchy apply. |

| TOURISM & RECREATION | |
|---|---|
| SW-TR-1 | Proposals that promote or facilitate sustainable tourism and recreation will be supported. Where this is not possible then the first three stages of the mitigation hierarchy apply. |
| SOCIAL BENEFITS | |
| SW-SOC-1 | Proposals are encouraged to consider and enhance public knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of the marine environment as part of the proposal design. |
| DEFENCE | |
| SW-DEF-1 | Proposals in or affecting MoD areas should only be authorised with MoD agreement. |
| MARINE PROTECTED AREAS | |
| SW-MPA-1 | Proposals that support the objectives of MPAs and the ecological coherence of the MPA network will be supported. Where proposals may have an adverse impact then the first three stages of the mitigation hierarchy apply. |
| SW-MPA-2 | Proposals that enhance a MPA's ability to adapt to climate change or enhance its resilience will be supported. For proposals that may have an adverse impact on this matter then the first three stages of the mitigation hierarchy apply. |
| SW-MPA-3 | Boundary changes should be considered where statutory advice states that an MPA is deteriorating or that features are moving or changing due to climate change. |
| SW-MPA-4 | Proposals that impact on geodiversity must apply the first three stages of the mitigation hierarchy. |
| BIODIVERSITY | |
| SW-BIO-1 | Proposals that enhance the distribution of priority habitats and species will be supported. Where this is not possible then proposals must demonstrate that they will avoid / minimise / mitigate / compensate (in that order). |
| SW-BIO-2 | Proposals that enhance or facilitate native species or habitat adaptation or connectivity or native species migration will be supported. Proposals that may cause significant adverse impacts on these will need to demonstrate that they will avoid / minimise / mitigate/ compensate (in that order). |
| SW-BIO-3 | Proposals that deliver environmental net gain for coastal habitats will be supported. Proposals must take account of space required for coastal habitats must demonstrate that they avoid / minimise / mitigate / compensate for net habitat loss and delivering environmental net gain (in that order). |
| SW-HAB-1 | Proposals that incorporate measures to conserve deep sea habitats will be supported. Proposals that may impact adversely must demonstrate that they will avoid / minimise / mitigate adverse impacts (in that order). |
| NET GAIN & NATURAL CAPITAL | |
| SW-NG-1 | Proposals should deliver environmental net gain for marine or coastal natural capital assets and services. Proposals that may have a significant adverse impact on this must demonstrate that they will avoid / minimise / mitigate / compensate (in that order). |
| INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES (INNS) | |
| SW-INNS-1 | Proposals that reduce the risk of introduction and/or spread of invasive non-native species should be supported. Proposals must put in place measures to avoid or minimise adverse impacts relating to this when moving equipment, boats or livestock or introducing structures. |
| SW-INNS-2 | Public authorities with functions to manage activities that could introduce, transport or spread INNS should implement appropriate measures to avoid or minimise this. |
| DISTURBANCE | |

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| SW-DIST-1 | Proposals that may have a significant adverse impact on highly mobile species through disturbance or displacement must demonstrate that they will avoid / minimise / mitigate (in that order). |
| UNDERWATER NOISE | |
| SW-UWN-1 | Proposals that generate impulsive sound must contribute data to the UK Marine Noise Registry as per any agreed requirements. Public authorities must take account of targets under the Marine Strategy. |
| SW-UWN-2 | Proposals that result in impulsive or non-impulsive noise must demonstrate that they will avoid / minimise / mitigate for impacts on highly mobile species / state the case for proceeding (in that order). |
| CUMMULATIVE EFFECTS | |
| SW-CE-1 | Proposals that may have adverse cumulative effects with other proposals must demonstrate that they will avoid / minimise / mitigate for cumulative and / or in-combination effects (in that order). |
| CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION | |
| SW-CBC-1 | Proposals must consider cross-border impacts through the lifetime of the proposed activity. Proposals that impact on other marine plan or terrestrial areas must demonstrate that the relevant authorities have been consulted and responses considered. |

End.

Prepared by

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Port of Plymouth Marine Liaison Committee

Natural England Update – February 2020

Highly Protected Marine Areas

Following the general election, Ministers confirmed that the HPMA review should proceed and the review panel is continuing its work. This includes holding several stakeholder roundtables covering the main sectors, to gather further information to add to the evidence submitted through the call for evidence. It is now expected that the Review report will be published in the spring of 2020.

The following links (dated June 2019) provide further information about the HPMA Review Panel:

Terms of reference:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/highly-protected-marine-areas-hpmas-review-2019/highly-protected-marine-areas-review-terms-of-reference>

Panel membership:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/highly-protected-marine-areas-review-panel-confirmed>

Conservation Advice

We undertake a rolling programme of producing and revising conservation advice for marine protected areas. The draft conservation advice for the following sites will be published on 25th March 2020. There will be a 12-week invitation to comment opportunity prior to the packages being formalised in September 2020.

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Western Channel and Celtic Sea | Isles of Scilly SPA |
| | Runnel Stone MCZ |
| | Helford Estuary MCZ |

Where to find marine conservation advice packages:

Packages are accessed via the [main collection page](#) on gov.uk. The collection page lists 5 sea regions, each of which lists the updated advice packages available for that area, in alphabetical order. It should be clear which packages are draft and which are formal. Clicking on a package will take you directly to the package on the Designated Sites System.

The [interactive index map](#) can be used to navigate or search for a specific MPA using the zoom tools or search bar. Click on the map features for pop-up information and links to the package components on the Designated Sites System and feature maps on MAGIC.

Please note that only sites with (updated) advice packages available on the DSS are listed on the [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) collection pages. However, all Marine Protected Areas are listed on the DSS and can be searched for using the [site search](#). Where an existing advice package exists, there will be a link from the DSS.

Monitoring

2019/2020 projects underway in Cornwall (including Plymouth) are:

- Whitsand & Looe Bay MCZ intertidal baseline survey – awaiting final report and deliverables.
- Plymouth reef dive survey (year 3 of sentinel site monitoring) – awaiting report, year 2 report available on request. This survey will be repeated in 2020.
- Plymouth SAC Allis shad survey – awaiting report.
- Tamar smelt survey – tagging due to be undertaken this month with CEFAS and EA to track smelt movements at spawning site.

There will be seagrass surveys conducted in 2020/21 for Plymouth SAC and Fal & Helford SAC as part of the ReMEDIES project (see below).

LIFE Recreation ReMEDIES project

The LIFE Recreation ReMEDIES project, managed by a partnership of organisations led by Natural England, has received £2.5 million funding. The project will protect seagrass meadows threatened by anchoring, mooring and launching of recreational boats, as well as trampling from walkers and bait collectors. The project will provide environmentally friendly moorings (advanced mooring systems), locally-developed voluntary codes of conduct, targeted training and habitat restoration, in five sites across southern England including Plymouth Sound & Estuaries, and Fal & Helford SACs.

The scheme has been awarded £1.5 million from the EU's LIFE fund and is the result of more than 12 months of working together with several partner organisations including the Ocean Conservation Trust, Marine Conservation Society, Royal Yachting Association and Plymouth City Council. The other £1 million will be match funded from Natural England and the other partner organisations.

The project, running from July 2019 to October 2023, was publicly launched at a project workshop at the National Marine Aquarium in Plymouth on 30 January.

The programme will directly train nearly 2,000 recreational users, helping to:

- collect seed and replant seagrass (a first for England at this scale);
- inspire better care of the seagrass beds by recreational boat users;
- roll-out solutions including advanced mooring systems that are less damaging for delicate underwater habitats.

The techniques and evidence drawn from Recreation ReMEDIES will be evaluated to measure the conservation benefit and assess how it could be repeated across Europe.

Condition Assessment

We are currently working out capacity and capability for the next FY, so are unable to update on any future condition assessments planned at present.

Fisheries

Natural England staff continue to work closely with Cornwall IFCA, as they continue their assessments of Fishing in MPAs, focussing on MCZ sites.

Sangeeta McNair is the NE representative on Cornwall IFCA. As of November 2019, Sangeeta is also the NE rep. for Devon & Severn IFCA.

Pacific oysters – EMFF Pacific oysters project

Adele Morgan became the new EMFF project officer back in November 2019. The project is coming to the end of its 2-year trial (June 2020) and volunteer groups from around Cornwall and Devon are focusing on the continuation of surveys and management around the coast. Alternative uses for Pacific oysters are currently being investigated and include the use of crushed oyster shell as a soil conditioner.

A trial removal of a Pacific oyster reef in St Just on the Roseland is currently being organised and we are liaising with local stakeholders to ensure this trial is as effective as possible.

The data from the surveys will soon be analysed and put into ArcGIS maps to compare the density of Pacific oysters around Cornwall and Devon and to show the effectiveness of culling methods for population control. The data and maps will be presented in the final report, which will be submitted to the MMO by the end of May 2020.

Casework

We continue to be consultees to MMO licence applications and Council Planning applications, providing environmental advice on developments. The volume of applications is currently fairly high, though no cases have been identified of significant concern under NE's remit.

Angela Gall, Marine Lead Adviser (part time, Tuesday to Thursday)

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