

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

QHM/532/3

1 April 2020

NOTES OF THE TAMAR ESTUARIES CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING**HELD AT 1400 ON THU 12 MAR 2020****WARSPITE ROOM, COUNCIL HOUSE, PLYMOUTH**

<u>Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Mr C Necker	Queen's Harbour Master (Chairman)
Mrs K Curry	PCC and TECF Coordinator
Mr A Jones	QHM Port Conservancy Officer
Mr C Hicks	Cattewater Harbour Commissioners
Mr M Reynolds	ABP
Ms A Gall	Natural England
Ms S Wordley	MMO
Mr A Curd	MMO
Mr O Thomas	Devon & Severn IFCA
Mr P Naylor	Wembury Marine Conservation Area Advisory Group
Ms F Stacey	Tamar Catchment Partnership
Mr C Suckling	Plymouth City Council
Mr J McCarty	Plymouth City Council
Ms K Pritchard	Devon County Council
Mr S Hipsey	West Devon Borough Council

<u>Item</u>	<u>Discussion and Decisions</u>	<u>Action</u>
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: N Trathen (DQHM), A Nolan (MoD Environmental Protection), R Price (EA), R Allen (CHC), T Charlesworth (CHC), R Baker (CCC), M Preston (DIO), S Otway (DIO), P Sanders (DCC), C Matthews (Duchy), S Cadman (Cornwall IFCA), P Buchan (PCC), G Wheeler (PCC), V Darwall (Tamar Valley AONB)	

3. Agree Notes of the last meeting.	The notes of the last meeting held on 14 Nov 19 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.	
4. Matters Arising.	<p>4.4.20.1 <u>TECF Newsletter</u>: All TECF Members requested to provide TECF Newsletter content and to promote its distribution.</p> <p>Articles should be 100-150 words and include an image. Any contributions should be forwarded to NIO.</p> <p><u>Update Mar 20</u>: The next edition will be produced in Spring 2020. QHM will contribute an update on the Dockyard Port of Plymouth Order and a note on safety advice. QHM noted that the Aug 19 and Jan 20 newsletters have not been uploaded to the TECF website. Action on NIO to add latest editions of the newsletters.</p> <p><u>Ongoing</u></p>	NIO / All
	<p>4.4.8a. <u>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>Update Mar 20</u>: A new project officer has been appointed to lead on this. The results of the removal trial are being analysed; there are some initial results that indicate the possibility of encroachment into seagrass beds. Uses for the removed shells are being explored.</p> <p>QHM reiterated that TECF (and PPMLC members) may be able to provide assistance to either the project data gathering or in response to the continued spread; he asked NE to disseminate any information or make any request for assistance through TECF.</p> <p>NE stated that the final report of the trial will aim to provide more detailed guidance on required future action.</p> <p>Members requested that NE provided some guidance to assist in identifying invasive features.</p> <p><u>Ongoing</u></p>	NE
	<p>4.4.8b. <u>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.</p> <p><u>Update Nov 19</u>: Data is currently being collected, an update will be provided at the next meeting. QHM</p>	

	<p>requested that D&S and Cornwall IFCA work together to provide a coordinated response.</p> <p><u>Update Mar 20</u>: A voluntary code of conduct has been developed to return certain species and imposition of a minimum and maximum length; there will be consultation with the fishing community prior to the season. Landings have been stable between 2017-19 and the fishery remains open. There is a ban on catching Rock Cook due to over exploitation.</p> <p>Question regarding parasite monitoring?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Whilst parasites are noted they are not part of the monitoring, experience shows there is no noticeable increase since the fishery opened. <p>Question regarding bycatch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All bycatch is required to be returned before landing. <p>Question regarding numbers of licences?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are 4 licences equalling approximately 120 pots 	
	<p><u>4.4.12.3a. 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><u>Update Nov 19</u>: 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>Update Mar 20</u>: No report available yet, details of Portsmouth University trial have been received.</p> <p>The project has been adopted as part of PCC “Preventing Plastic Pollution” outlined at Para 8.5</p> <p><u>Ongoing</u></p>	<p>NIO / Ms Buchan</p>

	<p><u>4.7. 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>Update Mar 20: A TECF Officers meeting is required before 30 April.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p>	NIO/All
	<p><u>4.9. 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> <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>Update Mar 20:</u> A workshop was held in Jan '20 to discuss the proposed way forward, the project now has a new lead officer. Progress is reported under Para 7 to Annex A and will be reported on in future meetings as part of TECF Officer's report.</p> <p><u>Complete.</u></p>	NIO
	<p><u>4.17b. 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>Update Mar 20:</u> The Code of Conduct is not just regarding hand gathering, rather all types of activity. The draft has been circulated to and received comment from NE and IFCA's. The main comments were regarding it being a very large document; this is being addressed with signposting and best practice guidance. The draft will be shared as soon as possible.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p>	WAG

	<p><u>4.17c. Scaffold poles at West Hoe:</u> The poles reported by Cattewater HM are still there, NIO to chase removal.</p> <p><u>Update Mar 20:</u> the poles have now been removed. PCC have advised that future concerns of this nature can be reported via the PCC website.</p> <p><u>Complete</u></p> <p><u>7. PS&TE Recreation Mitigation Strategy</u></p> <p>The action on all TECF members to review and comment on the PS&TE Recreation Mitigation Strategy. Comment byb QHM and other members reported by NIO and contained in theTECF Officer’s report.</p> <p><u>Complete</u></p> <p><u>9.1.2 Awareness of SW Marine Plans</u></p> <p>The action on NIO to distribute invites for the SW Marine Plan training session was completed and an update on the Marine Plans was provided in a presntation by Mr Curd; further information can be found at Para 5 below.</p> <p><u>Complete</u></p> <p><u>9.5d. Angling Waste Bins</u></p> <p>Following the successful siting of the initial two angling waste bins, an action was placed on TECF members to recommend siting positions for the next four bins. Following recommendations, the new bins have been placed at either end of M/B B/W, Devil’s Pt and Cornwall Beach/North Corner.</p> <p><u>Complete.</u></p>	
Presentations		
<p>5. South West Inshore and Offshore Draft Marine Plans – Consultation & Update</p>	<p>Mr Curd gave his presentation which included an overview of the project. Mr Curd also reiterated the offer of individual presentations to organisations if required.</p> <p>Consultation will close on 6th April.</p> <p>Mr Curd also demonstrated the new Explore Marine Plans digital site which is available at: https://explore-marine-plans.marineservices.org.uk/</p> <p>Question regarding how long it takes to complete the consultation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It depends how many of the policies you are commenting on and how much you want to say. <p>Question regarding marine plan coverage / scope?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marine only including estuaries. <p>Question regarding comments, will they be made available?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DEFRA make the ultimate decision (particularly on contentious issues), each iteration doesn’t directly 	

	<p>show the comments made but are updated accordingly, a report on the consultation will be available in due course.</p> <p>QHM stated his thanks to the MMO regarding the comprehensive consultation opportunities.</p>	
6. Tamar Catchment Based Approach	<p>Ms Stacey gave her presentation which outlined the Westcountry Rivers Trust and Tamar Catchment Partnership's role.</p> <p>The primary driver was to fulfil the Water Framework Direct objectives i.e. water quality, however it has developed to be far broader. Primarily designed to bring together stakeholders and target projects.</p> <p>The partnership includes 56 water bodies.</p> <p>A consultation on the challenges and choices of the Tamar is currently underway (ending 24 April) and is available: https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/environment-and-business/challenges-and-choices/</p> <p>Further information on the partnership can be found: http://my-tamar.org/</p>	
Matters for Information and Action		
7. National Marine Park	<p>Mr McCarty gave a presentation on the current work surrounding the National Marine Park project.</p> <p>An application for a Lottery Horizons Fund grant (£12.1M) had been submitted and PCC have been informed they are through to the final 12 applicants.</p> <p>Mr McCarty restated that the marine park concept was intended not to introduce any additional designations and recognised the work of TECF and reiterated that the desire was to continue this and promote the social and economic angle.</p> <p>New consultants have been appointed (Third Life Economics) and Dickon Howell (ex. MMO chief scientific advisor).</p> <p>Three workshops are planned for 2020, provisional timeline is: Late April, June and Sept, a report will be completed by November pending completion of the workshops.</p> <p>Question regarding workshop output being fed into the funding application?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, where possible, however the timeline is tight to get the application prepared. <p>Question regarding the previous consultants and whether information / reporting gathered already will be utilised?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, any data has been passed to the new consultants. 	

	<p>Question regarding public engagement and how attendance will be promoted?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attendance at public engagement events is key for the social element of the proposal, selective representation will be paramount. So far, all events have been successful. 	
8. TECF Officers report	<p>NIO presented her report which is at Error! Reference source not found.A.</p> <p>3.2 Finance: there have been some queries over the CPI percentage, NIO will review and correct going forward.</p> <p>5. Preventing Plastic Pollution:</p> <p>Question regarding whether the prevention aspect will be through deterrent or enforcement?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work will primarily be focused on identifying pathways / sources, the follow-on actions will be established come later. 	
9. Natural England Officers Report	<p>Mrs Gall presented Natural England's update which is at Error! Reference source not found.B.</p> <p>Mrs Gall outlined the seagrass restoration project, QHM offered to issue a PLNTM to advise mariners if required.</p>	NE
10. Environment Agency Update	<p>No EA representative present, however Mr Price sent a written update which is at Annex C.</p> <p>Any questions can be sent directly to Mr Price.</p>	
11. MMO Update	<p><u>a. Marine Planning</u></p> <p>The SW Marine plan has now been issued for consultation with a deadline for comments of 6 April 2020.</p> <p><u>b. Marine applications</u></p> <p>Ongoing Thanckes project has been delayed.</p>	
12. Matters brought forward from PPMLC	<p>PCO outlined the presentation received from Ms Walters of the Mayflower 400 Project and the request for crowdfunding, detail available:</p> <p>https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/spirit-of-adventure</p>	
13. 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 Regatta (10 May OSTAR start) • June: Armed Forces Day • 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 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12-13 Sep: National Water Ski Racing • 18-22 Sep: Mayflower 2020 Inc. Military Muster • 10-11 Oct: Laser qualifiers 			
14. Items for future meetings	Nil			
15. Any other business	<p><u>D & S IFCA</u></p> <p><u>Hand gathering byelaw</u> is currently under review prior to public consultation</p> <p>Some <u>byelaw exemptions</u> have been removed due to the conditions being deemed vague; this has led to some being rejected. Those in question are under review by DEFRA.</p>			
16. Dates of Next Meetings	<p>Dates of the forthcoming PPMLC and TECF meetings were published as follows:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><u>PPMLC</u></p> <p>1400 on 11 Jun 20</p> <p>1400 on 15 Oct 20</p> <p>1400 on 11 Feb 21</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><u>TECF</u></p> <p><u>1015 on 9 July 20</u></p> <p>1015 on 12 Nov 20</p> <p>1015 on 11 Mar 21</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><u>PPMLC</u></p> <p>1400 on 11 Jun 20</p> <p>1400 on 15 Oct 20</p> <p>1400 on 11 Feb 21</p>	<p><u>TECF</u></p> <p><u>1015 on 9 July 20</u></p> <p>1015 on 12 Nov 20</p> <p>1015 on 11 Mar 21</p>	
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Distribution: NBC, All Committee members

Annex A**TECF SERVICE: OFFICERS' REPORT**

Agenda Item 8: Item for Information

I. MARINE PLANNING

- 1.1. 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>
- 1.2. In January, TECF hosted a briefing session on the Marine Plan which was well attended by TECF members and local authority staff. A summary prepared by the Natural Infrastructure Officer is appended to this report.

2. HIGHLY PROTECTED MARINE AREAS – CALL FOR EVIDENCE

- 2.1. 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.

3. FINANCE

- 3.1. The following table represents the funding for what is left of the current financial year, along with the contribution that will be sought for 2020/21 based on the CPI of 2.75%. This may be adjusted following advice from PCC Finance.

3.2. Forecast contributions from TECF Funding partners

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
ORGANISATION	(+2.75% CPI)	(+2.75% CPI)	(+2.75% CPI)
CPI Rate:	2.75		
Harbour Authorities			
Ministry of Defence, QHM	3,083	3,167	3,254
Associated British Ports	2,055	2,112	2,170
Cattewater Harbour Commission	9,248	9,502	9,763
Sutton Harbour Commission	2,055	2,112	2,170
Harbour Authorities Subtotal	16,440	16,892	17,357
Local Authorities			
Plymouth City Council	10,275	10,558	10,848
Devon County Council	2,055	2,112	2,170
Cornwall Council	2,055	2,112	2,170
West Devon Borough Council	4,624	4,751	4,882
South Hams District Council	4,624	4,751	4,882
Subtotal	23,633	24,282	24,950

Other			
Natural England	1,500 ¹	1,056	1,085
Duchy of Cornwall	4,495	4,619	4,746
Environment Agency			
Devon & Severn IFCA			
Cornwall IFCA			
Marine Management Organisation			
Historic England			
Other total	5,995	5,675	5,831
Grand Total	46,069	46,849	48,138

¹ Natural England contributed £1,500 towards core costs, and a further £2,984 towards equipment for estuary clean up and surveys.

4. JOINT LOCAL PLAN & EMS RECREATION MITIGATION

- 4.1. The Plymouth Sound and Estuaries EMS Recreation Mitigation and Management Scheme was published in November and incorporated into the Supplementary Planning Document for Plymouth, South Hams and West Devon Councils. The consultation has now closed and once all of the comments have been considered, then the Councils will be looking to adopt the SDP later in the summer. Once this is adopted, then the new charging rate will be applied which will enable us to move into Phase 2 of the Mitigation Scheme. Mitigation Scheme is available on the Plymouth-MPA website at <http://www.plymouth-mpa.uk/home/managing-the-mpa/documents/>.
- 4.2. TECF will oversee the delivery and will receive reports on progress once it commences.

5. PREVENTING PLASTIC POLLUTION PROJECT

- 5.1. As previously reported, the PPP Project has now been signed off and work is commencing. It will focus on removing plastic from tidal waters and preventing it from entering in the first place. Work will include partnering with Plymouth University, West Country Rivers Trust, Environment Agency as well as 13 other partners in England and France to deliver 7 targeted pilot projects of which Plymouth and the Tamar is one. The work will focus on delivering a catchment based approach and will be delivered over 3 years at a cost of €13million spread across all seven areas.
- 5.2. The project will focus on four key work streams:
- **Understanding plastic pollution from source to sea:** working in pilot areas to understand plastic pollution in terms of where it comes from, the different types of pollution and assessing ecological impacts. The work will then feed into developing a risk based plastic pollution model which can be applied elsewhere.
 - **Reducing and removing the legacy of plastic pollution;** testing interventions to reduce the flow of plastics in catchments, reducing and removing plastics from beaches, rivers and waterways, as well as from communities, agriculture and industry.

- **Enabling Transformational change** – from first use to end of life, using the catchment based approach to transform plastic use in business, retail, tourism, leisure, schools and communities.
- **Communications:** including social media, website and the development of a resource hub.

5.3. This project links closely with TECF in the following key ways:

- 5.3.1. It will help to deliver the Management Plan by tackling marine litter and pollution;
- 5.3.2. It also links to the work around changing behaviours particularly with regards to anglers and angling waste, and also waste from recreational sailing activities.
- 5.3.3. It will engage with waterside communities to encourage them to engage more with the marine environment;
- 5.3.4. It will raise awareness about the marine environment generally and how to protect it.
- 5.3.5. 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.
- 5.3.6. The Recreational Impacts project will provide support in kind. There will be a dedicated post (Natural Infrastructure Officer (Plastics) for the duration of the project and work will be undertaken with the Events Team to reduce the potential for pollution from events.
- 5.3.7. Further presentations will be provided during the course of the project.

6. SWIMMING PLATFORMS

- 6.1. Working with the Economic Development Team, swimming platforms are once again being investigated for East Hoe; proposals are being examined for two platforms to be placed within the swimming areas at least for the bathing season and possibly just a little longer.

7. EMS MANAGING RECREATIONAL IMPACTS PROJECT

RECREATIONAL MANAGEMENT

- 7.1. **Staff Changes:** After 18 months, Fiona Crouch has moved onto take on the role of Project Manager for the EU Life ReMEDIES project. She will be sorely missed but we look forward to continuing to work with her on this exciting project. We will be recruiting for a new post very soon.
- 7.2. **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.
- 7.3. 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.
- 7.4. 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.

- 7.5. 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.
- 7.6. **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.
- 7.7. 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 a number of fishing interpretation boards erected at popular sites this year.
- 7.8. **Shared GIS System:** After a number of internal discussions and working with Seascape 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.
- 7.9. A project brief has been put together ready to go out for tender. Presently stuck in the PCC procurement system.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

(by Fiona Crouch)

- 8.1. **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.
- 8.2. **Website:** Updated when required. There are links to the minutes from both the PPMLC and TECF meeting minutes on the [website/management](#).
- 8.3. **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.
- 8.4. **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.
- 8.5. **Social Media** – Regular tweets are sent via the @TamarEstuaries twitter account. The number of followers has risen again to 610.
- 8.6. 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 #Britainsoceancity 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%

1) ReMEDIES Project

- 8.7. 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.
- 8.8. Progress on the project will be reported at regular intervals to both PPMLC and TECF.

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.**

Drakes Island

Variation to consent already granted. **Pending decision.**

End.

Kaja Curry and Fiona Crouch

Natural Infrastructure Officer, Plymouth City Council.

APPENDIX I: SUMMARY OF DRAFT MARINE PLAN.**DRAFT SOUTH WEST INSHORE AND
SOUTH WEST OFFSHORE MARINE PLAN**

Summary of MMO's document published for consultation

I0. PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

- 10.1. 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**.
- 10.2. 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>
- 10.3. The consultation itself is available here: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/mmo/draft-south-west-inshore-and-offshore-marine-plans/>
- 10.4. 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
- 10.5. 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.

I I. DRAFT MARINE PLAN SUMMARY

	Name	Summary / Comment
I. South West Inshore and Offshore Marine Plan. 56 pages.		
1.1	Overall aims	Covers waters from River Severn to River Dart and sets local context for national policies.
1.2	Background and Intro	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: <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;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; ○ 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	Describes the Marine Plan production process as being interactive and involving all stakeholders.
2. Vision, objectives and policies		
2.1	Vision	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.
2.2	Objectives	<p>These are the same as the High Level Marine Objectives as set out in the Marine Policy Statement .</p> <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 as a whole 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 are able to 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure • Co-existence • Aggregates • Aquaculture • Cables • Dredging and disposal • Oil and gas • Ports, harbours and shipping • Marine litter • Water quality • Access • Tourism and recreation • Social benefits • Defence • Marine protected areas • Biodiversity

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewables • Heritage assets • Seascape and landscape • Fisheries • Employment • Climate change • Air quality <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.</p> <p>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"> • 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 also 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 eg 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 giving consideration to 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 a number of 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	<p>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.</p>
3.6	Proposal development & design	<p>SWMP assists in the development and design including location.</p>
3.7	Proposal submission and determination	<p>Details what is required when proposals are submitted and how public authorities should undertake their decision making.</p>
3.8	Further material and guidance	<p>Sets out additional plan-making material which may be useful:</p> <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	<p>Little information is provided here other than a title and reference to an Annex of Indicators but no hyperlinks are provided.</p> <p><i>Is there information or hyperlinks missing here?</i></p>
4.2	Reporting	<p>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.</p>

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 applies.
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 applies.
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 applies.
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 applies.
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 applies.
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 applies.
SW-MPA-3	Boundary changes should be considered where statutory advice states that a 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 invasives 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.

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Annex B**Natural England Update****TECF Meeting 12th March 2020**

The LIFE Recreation ReMEDIES project, managed by a partnership of organisations including TECF (through PCC) 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.

Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC is one of two sites that have been selected for seagrass restoration; seagrass will be planted to create new meadows within the site. Areas selected for this will be chosen based on modelling currently being undertaken by Exeter University and the work will be carried out by the Ocean Conservation Trust. A subtidal clean-up of old mooring blocks and debris is being planned for the seagrass bed in Cawsand Bay.

Other actions within this site will be awareness work for the recreational boating community, led by the RYA and a programme of in depth outreach work with 5 schools in the area, led by the

Ocean Conservation Trust. Seasearch will be carrying out dives to help with monitoring and Natural England will lead the monitoring of the condition of seagrass beds and the effectiveness of Advanced Mooring Systems. It is hoped that a number of moorings within seagrass beds in the site can be changed to Advanced Mooring Systems to reduce the pressure on the beds. TECF has committed to undertaking surveys of recreational boating within the site, to help understanding the levels of pressure on the site and to monitor the impact of the project. TECF will carry out some of the wider awareness and stakeholder engagement actions. We will also be working with the Yealm Estuary Management Group to help improve awareness of seagrass beds and to relieve some of the pressure on the seagrass in the Yealm.

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 a number of 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>

Monitoring

2019/2020 projects underway are:

- 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 at the moment with CEFAS and EA to track smelt movements at spawning site. Issues with weather and flow conditions.
- Whitsand & Looe Bay MCZ intertidal baseline survey – awaiting final report and deliverables.

Conservation Advice

We undertake a rolling programme of producing and revising conservation advice for marine protected areas, adding new evidence from monitoring work and other sources. 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](#) 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 this will be linked to from the DSS.

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 and Devon & Severn IFCA.

Pacific oysters – EMFF Pacific oysters project

Adele Morgan became the new EMFF project officer 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 has recently been undertaken and we are liaising with local stakeholders to ensure this trial is as effective as possible.

The data from the surveys is being 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.

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Annex C

Environment Agency
Environment Programme Update
TECF Meeting 12th March 2020

ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME 2019/20 TO 2020/21

During 2019/20, we have used £52,000 from the Water Environment Improvement Fund for multi-year partnership projects within the Tamar Catchment. This has attracted over 250% match funding from our partners. Of this funding £42,000 relates to projects in Water Framework Directive (WFD) water body the Tamar Estuary. This funding does not include contribution in kind from the Environment Agency Staff in delivering these projects.

Subject to Defra settlement and successful project progress, we have secured an allocation of £129,000 for multi-year partnership projects within the Tamar Catchment during 2020/21. Of this funding £79,000 is allocated to projects in the Tamar Estuary.

Tamar Plymouth Focus Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intertidal Habitat Creation Schemes at Calstock, Cotehele and South Hooe • Tamar Invasive Plant Project • Tamara Landscape Partnership – Land Management Group • Plym Integrated Catchment Improvements • Wembury Bay Misconnections
Upper Tamar Focus Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamar Upper Waterbody Improvements • Upper Tamar Working Group • Catchment Sensitive Farming Event
Tamar other Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamar Beaver Management Group • Farming for Nature Project • Dartmoor Natural Flood Management – Peter Tavy Catchment • Fishery Improvements

TAMAR PLYMOUTH FOCUS AREA

The following three partnership projects will provide habitat to compensate for that being lost within the Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC as a result of maintenance of Environment Agency flood defences and coastal squeeze.

Calstock Flood Defence and Habitat Creation Project: involves setting back the flood banks at Calstock and creating up to 12Ha of transitional reed bed habitat. Planning Permission and all other consents for this work have now been received and we are now in construction phase. Construction commenced in September 2019 but due exceptional weather our contractors have had to move off site. Work is due to recommence in late spring when ground conditions are likely to be more suitable. This work will be divided into two phases. The land phase will see the creation of the wetland and new flood embankments. The estuary phase will see the creation of the breach in the existing flood embankment. We expect the work to be completed by the end of 2021. The site will then be monitored. Our partner Tamar Community Trust are leading on the installation of the footbridge and the future maintenance of the existing footpath.

Cotehele Intertidal Habitat Improvements: We are working in partnership with the National Trust and Natural England to create up to 2Ha of transitional reed bed habitat. National Trust are leading this project and are currently preparing a planning application and a request for screening under the Environment Impact Assessment regulations. We have recently undertaken local community engagement in which the project has received positive support. We plan to commence construction later this year and complete the project by Autumn 2021.

South Hooe Habitat Creation: We are working with the landowner, Natural England and the Tamar Valley AONB to create up to 19Ha of additional inter-tidal saltmarsh, mudflat and brackish habitat. We are currently seeking planning permission. A request for a screening and scoping opinion under the Environment Impact Assessment regulations has been submitted to the Local Planning Authority. We are planning to complete this work by Autumn 2021.

Tamar Invasive Plant Management Programme: We have worked closely with Tamar Valley AONB and their partners to secure Defra Water Environment Grant (WEG) funding to continue the control of Giant Hogweed in the catchment. In its first year the project has successfully completed treatment of Giant Hogweed on sections of the River Tamar between Polson Bridge and Calstock and the River Lyd. Further treatment is planned in these areas during 2020. A local consultant has been engaged to collate, assess and report on the extent and density of the Hogweed and the efficiency and effectiveness of the methodology used.

Tamar Landscape Partnership: We are an active project partner working with Tamar Valley AONB on both the Steering and Land Management Groups. We have recently secured multi-year Water Environment Improvement Funding (WEIF) that will contribute up to £70,000 match funding towards the delivery of interventions to help improve water quality on the Lower Tamar, Lyhner and Tavy Water Framework Directive water bodies. We are aiming to improve up to 10km and 50Ha of water environment. The project is in its development phase with a final bid to the National Heritage Lottery Fund for the delivery phase due to be submitted during Summer 2020..

Plym Integrated Catchment Improvements: We have recently completed an assessment of the impact of heavy modification of the Tory and Long Brooks in the Plym Catchment. Part of this assessment included recommending interventions to improve the quality of the water environment and help flood risk management. An estimate was also made of the potential Natural Capital and ecosystems services of the life of the interventions. During 2020/21 we plan to work with our partners and stakeholders to review the interventions and develop a shorter list of interventions that we can then model their impact the river system. We would be happy to present an overview of this work at a future TECF meeting.

Wembury Bay Misconnections Investigation: At the end of 2018/2019, we reported that we had secured some additional funding to complete misconnection investigations and monitor water quality on the stream that enters the designated Bathing Water at Wembury. Misconnections are where foul sewers from properties have been wrongly connected to surface water drains. Pollution from these surface water drains can then contribute to poor quality water environment including Bathing Waters. Our investigation identified a number of properties with misconnections and some of these have now been resolved by the property owners. We will continue to work with local stakeholders until all misconnections are resolved. In addition we have been working with the Wembury Beach Liaison Group and Parish Council to help promote good behaviours around misconnections and to limit sewer blockages. We are also working with the National Trust to investigate the feasibility of sustainable long term solutions to manage water quality on the stream at Wembury Bay.

Pollution Incidents: The Tamar Catchment has been affected by significant rainfall events since Autumn 2019. We have responded to a number of pollution incidents over this period in both focus areas and elsewhere in the Tamar Catchment. To ensure the correct environmental outcome, we are unable to provide specific details as our investigations are ongoing however when they are concluded we will provide an update to TECF. If you suspect or see an environmental incident please call our [24 hour pollution hotline on 0800 80 70 60](tel:0800807060).

UPPER TAMAR FOCUS AREA

Upper Tamar Waterbody Improvements: There are currently 7 Water Framework Directive water bodies that are not meeting Good Ecological Status standards with 2 of those water bodies at poor. We are working in partnership with Westcountry Rivers Trust to undertake ecological investigations and targeted water quality sampling. This data will then be used to inform what future interventions should be considered. The output from the investigations is expected to be delivered during Summer 2020.

Upper Tamar Working Group: We have established a cross departmental group to improve targeting of enforcement, advice and support for landowners in those water bodies that are failing Water Framework Directive. The group currently comprises Environment Agency, Natural England, West Country Rivers Trust and Devon Wildlife Trust. We have seen investment increase in some key locations to ensure compliance with existing regulations and the new Farming Rules for Water (2018). We are extending the group to also consider the role of natural processes in the management of river flows in the Upper Tamar and their impact lower down in the catchment.

Catchment Sensitive Farming Event: We are working in partnership with Natural England, Westcountry Rivers Trust and Devon Wildlife Trust to deliver a second workshop in the Upper Tamar Catchment. Presentations on ammonia, current and future environment schemes, water quality, related environmental regulations and plastic waste will be followed by a visit to a local farm and Water Framework Directive water body to discuss best practice and future opportunities for improvements.

OTHER TAMAR AREAS

Tamar Catchment Partnership: The Tamar Catchment Partnership convened in December to celebrate that past 7 years of the Catchment Based Approach to delivering improvements to the quality of the water environment. Over 41 people representing 23 organisations attended and contributed to the future direction of the partnership. The partnership has since established a steering group of which TECF are a part together with Dartmoor National Trust, Westcountry Rivers Trust, Tamar Valley AONB and the Environment Agency. The next steering group meeting is scheduled for April 2020.

Tamar Challenges and Choices and Consultation: We worked with the Tamar Catchment Partnership host to deliver a River Basin Management Plan workshop to help gather and stimulate responses to the Environment Agency Challenges and Choices Consultation. Over 30 partners and stakeholders attended and contributed to discussion around the 27 questions posed by the consultation. The responses have been collated and are available on request. These will be submitted as a response representing the Tamar Catchment Partnership. We would strongly encourage members of TECF to also respond to the [consultation](#) which closes on 24th April 2020.

Tamar Beaver Management Group: We are aware that there is an expanding population of beavers in the Tamar catchment and in the absence of any clarity regarding their legal status and any financial support from government, as an interim, a Tamar Beaver Management Group of statutory organisations and NGOs is being initiated. This group is proposing to get a better

understanding of approximate distribution in the catchment and begin to make contact with landowners, farmers and fisheries. This will enable us to be better prepared for when DEFRA decide on the species' status and the funding mechanisms available. The EA does not licence or consent beaver releases however we have a role to play and are particularly interested in the evidence that shows beavers are one way in which we can deliver our commitment to work with natural processes to restore rivers and natural hydrological regimes".

Note: Currently beavers are termed as a 'formerly resident native species'. With the agreement of the DWT, Defra has taken the decision to extend the Devon River Otter beaver trial until the 31st August 2020, so that Natural England and the Department can make the necessary assessments of the trial reports and findings, recently submitted in the Trust's Science & Evidence Report. This, alongside the trial's Beaver Management Strategy Framework, will help to inform decisions on the future of the Devon animals and the status of beaver in England, including potential management and licensing approaches.

Farming for Nature Project: We have been working with Westcountry Rivers Trust, Sylva Foundation and the Tamar Water Stewardship Business Board to use the Naturebid auction platform to raise pledges to match fund interventions on riparian land in the Wolf, Lyd and Thrushel catchments. The project has generated up to £125,000 of landowner pledges over a 4 week period as well as carbon offset funding for 16,000 trees from a business stakeholder. This innovative work forms part of the Channel Payments for Ecosystem Services (CPES) Interreg project.

Devon and Cornwall Soils Alliance Workshops: We are working in partnership with Westcountry Rivers Trust to deliver a number of workshops aimed at Advisors to help deliver consistency and effective advice given to landowners and land managers about soil improvements. Funded by the Water Environment Grant fund, the project is now progressing to the next stages to conduct pilots across Devon and Cornwall. The pilot catchment for the Tamar Catchment is Caudworthy Water, where advisors will target and monitor the impact of advice on soil condition and the benefits to the water environment.

Dartmoor Natural Flood Management Pilot: is part of a national programme running between 2018 and 2021. We are working with Dartmoor National Park, Westcountry Rivers Trust, landowners and land managers to design and implement a range of interventions that contribute to both improve flood risk management and water quality. The pilot includes the headwater sections of the Peter Tavy catchment.

Fishery Improvements: We are working with landowners, South West Water, South West Lakes Trust and the Wild Trout Trust to improve fish easement and spawning grounds on Narrator Brook on the River Meavy near Burrator. A project piloting interventions to reduce sediment upstream of a fishery on the Tavy is also in progress. Both these small but important projects are funded from the Fishery Improvement Fund.

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