

# PPMLC

Feb 2024

## TECF Update

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### 1. General

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#### 1.1. Cawsands parish council

On the 10<sup>th</sup> October representatives from KHM, TECF, the Recreation Mitigation and Management Scheme, National Marine Park, Environment Agency's and Mt Edgecombe presented their work to Cawsands parish council.

#### 1.2. Letters of support

TECF provided letters of support to the following funding bids:

##### 1.2.1. National Marine Park Horizons project

TECF provided a letter of support to PCC help the project secure the funding bid to the Heritage Lottery to unlock the delivery phase funding.

##### 1.2.2. PhD application for Sound of the Sharks project

TECF have supported this PhD studentship application which is looking to develop understanding of the elasmobranchs within the Plymouth Sound and Estuaries which are key targets of recreational angling users of the area through an acoustic Telemetry array. In addition, the array will help identify interactions between resident and migratory species, and their prey, as well as revealing hotspots and essential habitat associations which could contribute to identification of areas needing more focused management.

The application was successful in the first round. The project will now be advertised for candidates against four other projects. The single best candidate project match will be successfully taken forward. Projects can be found here; <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/study/research-degrees/postgraduate-research-studentships/phd-studentship-with-marine-research-plymouth-four-available-topics>

##### 1.2.3. Natural Flood Management Program - Source to Sound Eoi

TECF provided a letter of support to Westcountry Rivers Trust for their project looking to reduce the impact of flood water on the MPA through a number of Natural Flood Management Measures around Cawsands and Kingsands and Milbrook Area.



## 2. Recreation

### 2.1. Plymouth Sound and Estuaries MPA (EMS) Recreation Mitigation and Management Scheme (MRMMS) ([MRMMS, plymouth-mpa.uk](https://www.plymouth-mpa.uk))

The Plymouth Sound and Estuaries (PSE) MPA (previously EMS) Recreation Mitigation and Management Scheme (section 7.79 in the Joint Local plan) is complemented by an externally funded projects: Recreation ReMEDIES. This previously included Preventing Plastic Pollution Project (PPP) – this project funding has ended but legacy work will be picked up by the MRMMS moving forward.

#### 2.1.1. Mitigation and Management Scheme general

- Steering Group of officers made up of Natural England (NE), Plymouth City Council (PCC), South Hams District Council (SHDC), West Devon Borough Council (WDDC) and Cornwall Council (CC)
  - An invitation to join the group was extended to South Devon Natural Landscape and accepted.
  - The Steering group is supported by TECF and SDNL (nee SDAONB) as the parties responsible for the management of the MPA area.
  - Next meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024
- GIS Platform
 

The purpose of this provision is to:

  - Provide a more cohesive interactive mapping resource to be hosted on the MPA/TECF Website.
  - Provide context in a geographical sense to water users – e.g. where the sensitive habitats are in relation to certain activities, signposting to where certain projects/work is being done, what it is and links to more information etc.
  - Utilising Arc storymaps and dashboard functions to better visualise and communicate information, allowing better navigation of the site to relevant articles/areas/resources.
  - MRMMS officer will be writing a brief for this work, if there are any particular things that you would want to see on an interactive map, or that you feel would be particularly helpful – please feedback comments directly at PPMLC or through [coastal@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:coastal@plymouth.gov.uk).

#### 2.1.2. Funding Mechanism for MRMMS

- The funding mechanism is outlined in the [Developer Contributions Evidence Base 2022](#). More explanation can be found in the [PSWD JLP Supplementary Planning Document](#).
- Funded by Section106 and Community Infrastructure Levies (CIL) on developments planned within the areas as defined in the MRMMS report (link in the title and figure below). This also includes tourist developments (e.g. hotels) and any increased pressures from recreational activity.
- These 'developer contributions' are paid to local authorities (PCC, CC, and SD & WH District Councils).
- Upon the commencement of planned developments the funds paid to the LAs are centralised and paid to PCC (who host the MRMMS officer) This

is then ringfenced for use to deliver the MRMMS across the whole PSE MPA and is intended to be delivered in perpetuity (80 years).

- This scheme is intended to help deliver coordinated and effective mitigation over the whole designated area, with the contributions funding and officer, resources, materials, and projects that will;
  - raise awareness and encourage behavioural change of visitors to the PSE MPA,
  - implement projects to better manage visitors and provide secure habitats,
  - implement improved management systems and monitoring.
- This is done in collaboration with stakeholders and user groups and all expenditure agreed upon by the steering group.
- Further explanation can be found in section 6.7 and 7 in the full MRMMS report.



Figure 1: Plymouth Sound and Estuaries European Marine Site

### 2.1.3. Recreation ReMEDIES

- Another community blue-green meeting with KHM, EA, PSNMP, TECF, MRMMS and ReMEDIES presented at a community blue-green meeting in Cawsand (13<sup>th</sup> December)
- Cawsand interpretation panel is currently with the designers but delayed as awaiting a decision on AMS top buoy colour allowing easier identification.
- Recreational Impact Survey ([footprint-ecology.co.uk](http://footprint-ecology.co.uk)):
  - Desk study completed.



- All of the data collection has been completed with the exception of a handful of individual interviews with key stakeholders that are currently being carried out.
- Over 400 responses were gathered by the online survey and the two workshops held in January were attended by a total of 44 people.
- The information is being analysed and compiled into a report. should be publicly available in early spring.
- For further updates on the project please refer to the attached Natural England update.

#### 2.1.4. Rewilding the Foreshore

The MRMMS will match fund part of the Rewilding the Foreshore project with a focus on concrete areas across PCC's waterfront. This will initially look at urban concrete areas focusing on recreational access points.

For further information please see section 7. Projects (7.1) in this report.

## 3. Invasive Non-Native Species

### 3.1. Tamar Estuaries Non-Native Species Guide

The Tamar Estuaries Non-Native Species Guide has been updated by Chris Wood at the Marine Biological Association (Appendix A). This is an updated appendix to the [Tamar Estuaries Biosecurity Plan](#) and will inform the revision of the Plan itself.

**Key points** from the guide:

- New arrivals include purple fan worm and barnacle *Amphibalanus cirratus*, neither found on natural shores yet.
- Spread on natural shores; Pacific oysters, Red-ripple bryozoan. Oyster do have impact, changing shore structure, affecting use of shore, health risk – cuts etc.

### 3.2. Natural England's (NE) Biosecurity Plan Review

We participated in NE's review of Biosecurity Plans. Find the full report here; [NECR477 Audit review and prioritisation for marine invasive non-native species biosecurity planning in England](#)

The project audited and reviewed all available marine biosecurity plans in England. The aim was to review plans effectiveness, address gaps in knowledge, inform future priorities for future biosecurity planning and ultimately have effective marine biosecurity plans for all high risk MPA's in England.

**The headline results:**

Reviewed 31 marine biosecurity plans in England, more plans located on the south coast, particularly South West. Common messages from interviews with plan owners:

- There is a lack of support for development and management of plans
- There is a lack of stakeholder interest
- There is a lack of dedicated staff to put time to biosecurity planning
- INNS expertise is needed to develop and manage plans
- There is a lack of clarity around responsible parties and enforcement
- There is a lack of legal obligation



- Support for and interest in plans diminish significantly over time
- There is concern that plans are a box-ticking exercise
- There is concern over new and emerging pathways
- A top-down approach for biosecurity planning is needed

Lessons from international plans;

- High scoring plans are backed by legislative frameworks;
- High scoring plans have full support (e.g. funding, staffing, training) from government bodies; and
- High scoring plans lay out responsible parties.

Evaluation of the Tamar Estuaries Marine Biosecurity Plan:

- Plymouth was noted as a 'Hotspot in or near MPA's' but only with a medium risk of shipping intensity and already has a number of relevant biosecurity plan covering the area so is not being taken forward for further work.
- With the Fal and Helford SAC Recreational Boating Biosecurity Plan our plan scored highest in overall 'potential to be effective' (94%),
- But only scored 50% in the effectiveness. This was due to our additional information e.g stakeholder and events.
- **Scored highest in it's overall score** (85%, the two scores above combined).
- The report recognised a number of estuary forums including TECF and the Yealm management group as providing stakeholder groups to facilitate implementation of plans.
- The report recognises the benefits of biosecurity planning takeing a comprehensive area wide (i.e. MPA-wide or estuary-wide) approach across all pathways and species of concern. This is in line with the Tamar Estuaries Biosecurity plan being a site wide plan.

Take home messages for TECF;

- **Our Biosecurity Plan is good and we only need a light touch review.**
- **Delivery of the plan has been poor in recent years, (we identify this as resource due to staffing gaps and other priorities).**
- **TECF need to review how to be more effective in implementation and work with partners to identify options for sustainable implementation.**

## 4. Strategic Planning

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### 4.1. Tamar Estuaries Management Plan

TECF have been consulted on a first full draft of the Management Plan. Comments are being reviewed and changes incorporated before a second draft goes to public consultation in the spring.

With Jason Lowther's support, students from the University of Plymouth's Law Clinic have been engaged to provided environmental law expertise. They will be providing a review and developing infographics outlining MPA marine legislation.

Find out more about the Law clinic here; [University of Plymouth Law Clinic - University of Plymouth](#)



## 4.2. Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

[Sections 104 to 106](#) of the Environment Act 2021 requires lead Local Authorities to develop a LNRS that sets out their priorities for nature. Defra has published [regulations and guidance documents](#).

Marine is currently excluded from the statutory requirement, which only goes down to Mean Low Water. Intertidal habitats are included however, there is a recognition that authorities can do voluntary marine extensions. There is no guidance yet for marine or resources to complete this work.

Devon County Council are working with supporting authorities and stakeholders Both authorities will be developing a voluntary Marine Extensions to their LNRS. Devon's Marine LNRS will be lead by Devon Maritime Forum.

LNRS statutory guidance published: [here](#)

*“Para 42 states: Coastal local nature recovery strategies are required to follow the relevant local authorities’ boundaries. This usually means extending into the inter tidal zone as far as low water, but can be further around river estuaries. Coastal responsible authorities should consider how to factor in neighbouring marine areas and plans in their strategies. Linking local nature recovery strategies and marine spatial planning would help to identify land management changes that could benefit the estuarine or marine zone. For example, by improving the quality of water leaving river systems or managing coastal erosion risks.*

*Para 59 states: Responsible authorities should seek support for their priorities from across the public, private and voluntary sectors to encourage their support for delivering the strategy. To achieve this, the responsible authority should gather possible priorities from existing published plans and strategies, and from engaging directly with locally active organisations and individuals. Responsible authorities should first create a longlist of suggestions. They should then exclude any suggestions that are out of scope before narrowing down to select a shortlist of priorities that the responsible authorities consider critical for the strategy to address. Priorities can include where action within the strategy area could positively affect neighbouring areas. For example, coastal strategy areas could consider how they can benefit neighbouring marine areas.”*

### **Cornwall's LNRS**

Cornwall Council are working with stakeholders to develop their strategy. They were one of the national pilots, you can see their reports, including their roadmap for delivering a Marine Strategy on the link above.

**Cornwall are asking where you think nature should be recovered on their [Interactive Map](#)**

[grow-nature@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:grow-nature@cornwall.gov.uk)

### **Devon's LNRS**

Devon county Council are working with supporting authorities and stakeholders to deliver their strategy. Devon Maritime Forum will be leading on the Marine Extension.

**Devon is asking for your thoughts about how this strategy could benefit nature: [Devon's questionnaire](#)**

[LNRS@devon.gov.uk](mailto:LNRS@devon.gov.uk)



### 4.3. Tamar Catchment Partnership (TCP)

The partnership brings together people from across the Tamar Catchment to identify and facilitate better environmental outcomes for the rivers and estuaries in the catchment. TECF Coordinator attended the last meeting at Lifton Community Centre in January.



TECF and the MRMMS officer, amongst others, provided posters about the Management Plan and Marine Recreation Mitigation and Management Scheme. See posters here; <https://my-tamar.org/projects/>

Join here: <https://my-tamar.org/sign-up/>

### 4.4. CEMP

South Devon National Landscape (formally AONB) have published “A guide to the production of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) which provides lots of brilliant guidance for mitigating impacts from marine related developments.

Find it here: [South Devon AONB Cemp Guide](#)

### 4.5. Climate Connections

Climate connections team at Plymouth City Council are launching Climate Connections - the Who's Who. Businesses, social enterprises, charities, community groups, schools, people who are committed to positive climate action are invited to sign up and share what you've achieved, what you're working on and your latest projects, inspiration, events and more.

*“At Climate Connections, we believe that together we can make a huge difference in the fight against climate change. Are you with us?”*

*By joining Plymouth Climate Connections community, you can;*

- *Share and learn insider tips and pitfalls*
- *Find solutions to your net zero challenges*
- *Shout about all the good things your organisation is doing*
- *See what others in your sector are doing*
- *Get inspiration from plans, policies and resources*
- *Share the highs and lows of your net zero journey*

*Join today! [Who's who - Climate Connections Plymouth](#)”*

## 5. Projects

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### 5.1. Rewilding the Foreshore

With TECF support, PCC secured funding from [Rewilding Britain](#), with some additional funding from the NMP and the MRMMS to produce a report looking at the feasibility of rewilding opportunities within Plymouth's urban coastline; inspired by [Yorkshires Concrete Coasts Project](#). This report however, will focus on key recreational locations to improve the quality of the access point and public's connection to nature connectedness.



The consultants carrying out the feasibility study, Arc Consulting, have all the files we have supplied so far. These will be reviewed and mapped, with any gaps identified. They will also be undertaking some ground truthing and interviews with relevant stakeholders and experts in the area, including those working on the management of waterfront assets and with the environment.

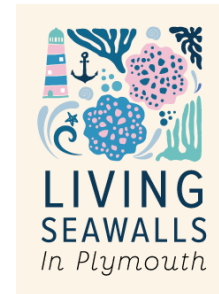
The report will provide suggestions of ecological interventions at a range of different levels from retrofitting existing structures, incorporating enhancements opportunities into new infrastructure to softer interventions that can be used on a smaller scale.

It will explore options for five specific locations but will also give costings for additional ecological enhancement options that could be utilised in future work.

The intention is that the feasibility study will be completed by late Spring.

## 5.2. Living Seawalls in Plymouth

Franz Bauer, PhD student from University of Plymouth (UoP) continues to monitor the seawall. In November, the colonisation was primarily; ephemeral green algae (*Ulva* spp.), fucoid macroalgae (*Fucus* spp.), barnacles, some bryozoans, and various marine snails (top shells, periwinkles, one limpet).



Jessica Allen, PhD student from UoP will be focussing on building the evidence base for multifunctional coastal infrastructure, through stakeholder engagement, meta-analysis, and experimental work. The aim of the project is to increase the evidence surrounding ecological engineering, its value, and how it is perceived by people.

The Rockpool Project have the following update;

*"We have been working hard to engage with local people through our engagement stand and flyers. Based at the Mayflower memorial we have spoken to local community members about the Living Seawall and have helped them understand more about the purpose of the project and how it can benefit the local area."*

***Our next upcoming events are the 10th and 24th of February at the Mayflower steps (10:00-14:00); where we will be running our information stand and leading citizen science surveys."***

Find more details here:

<https://www.therockpoolproject.co.uk/events/>

Project website here: [Living seawalls in Plymouth - University of Plymouth](#)







Photos taken by Franz Bauer PhD student at UoP who is monitoring the biodiversity and functionality of the tiles.

## 6. Research

### 6.1. Impact of Artificial Lighting at Night on the Marine Environment

Plymouth Marine Laboratory have published a Research Brief to inform and advise about the impact of Artificial Light at Night (ALAN) (Appendix B). There is also a tool to help aid understanding of the threat of light pollution, with the Tamar area being trailed with higher resolution data.

### 6.2. Effective Partnerships for Marine Nature Recovery

Natural England commissioned the Coastal Partnerships Network to find out 'What makes effective partnerships for marine nature recovery?' TECF participated in this study and will share the results once released. Recovery project summary here:

[coastalpartnershipsnetwork.org.uk](https://coastalpartnershipsnetwork.org.uk)

## 7. Developments

The table below shows applications made to Plymouth City Council (Table 1) and the MMO (Table 2) since the last PPMLC meeting that have a connection with the Marine Protected Area. You can view these applications online and some may still be available for public comment.

You can search for planning applications [here](#):

**Table 1 Planning applications made to Plymouth City Council Planning Authority since the last TECF meeting, within the MPA.**

Applications	Location	Description
23/01545/REG77	Millbay Ferry Terminal Plymouth	Request for approval under Regulation 77 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 for works at Millbay Ferry Terminal Plymouth
23/01653/ERS103	Turnchapel Wharf Plymouth	Screening opinion in relation to the expanded marine employment proposals to include land reclamation, pontoon berthing, full-tidal access hoist, 2 x Test tank facilities, and associated development
23/01664/11	Millbay Docks Millbay Road Plymouth PL1 3EF	Prior Approval of Demolition of Buildings located at Stonehouse, Plymouth PL1 3EW, UK Border Force Search Shed, UK Border Force Office/Wendy House, UK Border Force Passport Control Point (PCP) & Canopy, Fuel Pump Building.
23/01524/MJR	60 Discovery Wharf Plymouth PL4 0RA	Pre-application for change of use to 10 residential dwellings with ground floor commercial space, construction of an additional storey to the building, external works and car parking



24/00042/CDM	Tinside Pool Hoe Road Plymouth PL1 2NZ	Condition Discharge: Condition 3 of application 23/00709/FUL
24/00043/CDM	Land At Mount Batten Watersports & Activities Centre Plymouth	Condition Discharge: Condition 3 of application 23/00784/FUL
24/00059/ERS103	Arnolds Point, Embankment Road Plymouth PL4 9JW	Request for EIA screening opinion for proposed flood defence scheme
23/01744/FUL	11 St Levan Road Plymouth PL2 3AE	Installation of a Glass Reinforced Polymer kiosk to house a new gas governor with fenced compound and demolition of an existing gas governor
23/01730/FUL	2 Marine Road Plymouth PL9 7NL	Erection of 1no. dwellinghouse (Class C3)

You can search for marine licences applications here: [Check the public register of marine licence applications and decisions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-the-public-register-of-marine-licence-applications-and-decisions)

**Table 2 Recent licence applications made to the Marine Management Organisation within the MPA.**

Application number	Application Type	Description
MLA/2023/00287	Application - Construction of new works	Mount Batten Pontoon Replacement and Pile Repair, Plymouth City Council
Various applications	Grouped applications: Maintenance Dredging at HMNB Devonport	
MLA/2023/00435	Application - Maintenance of existing structures or assets	3 Basin- temporary scaffold steps and survey platform, Defence Infrastructure Organisation
MLA/2022/00017/1	Application - Disposal of dredged material, Navigational dredging (capital)	HMNB Devonport Capital Dredge
SAM/2023/00036	Sampling - Dredging	HMNB Devonport 9 Wharf Capital Dredge.
MLA/2023/00124/1	Application - Construction of new works, Other dredging	Millbay Ferry Terminal
MLA/2023/00555	Application - Maintenance of existing structures or assets	Princess Yachts Newport Street Unit 3 sea wall minor maintenance
MLA/2023/00397	Application - Construction of new works, Other removals, Other works	14/15 Dock: Wet Berth Pumphouse (WBPH), Devonport Royal Dockyard Limited
MLA/2023/00454	Application - Other dredging	Marine License Application for Environmental Dredging with Land Disposal (Voluntary Remediation)

End.



## 8. Appendices

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### **Appendix A Tamar Estuaries Non-Native Species Guide**

See separate document.

### **Appendix B: Artificial Lighting at Night - Research Brief**

See separate document.