

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

QHM 532/7

9 June 2016

**NOTES OF THE PORT OF PLYMOUTH MARINE LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
 THURSDAY 9 JUNE 2016
 PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY MARINE STATION**

Present	Representing	User Group
Mr C Necker	Queen's Harbour Master	Harbour Authority
Mr N Trathen	Deputy Queen's Harbour Master	Harbour Authority
Mrs K Curry	Natural Infrastructure Officer / TECF	Plymouth City Council
Mr A Jones	MOD (QHM)	Harbour Authority
Mr P Holt	Ships Project	
Mr W Blagdon	British Marine Industries	
Mr M Goble	Plymouth City Council Piermaster	Moorings
Mr N Webb	Sander Stevens	
Mr T Mansell	RNLI	Navigation and Rescue
Mrs A Gall	Natural England	
Ms G Evans	Natural England	
Mr C Bush	Mayflower Marina	Marine Commerce
Mr S Lowther	Plymouth City Council	
Mr K Banks	Millbrook Moorings Association	Moorings
Mr M Reynolds	ABP	Marine Commerce
Ms J Wytcherley	Natural Infrastructure Officer	Plymouth City Council
Mr M Woods	RYA	
Cllr M Benson	Bere Ferrers Parish Council	Parish Councils
Mr C Turner	Tamar Protection Society	Landscape Conservation
Inspector A Micalleff	MOD Police Marine Unit	Crime Abatement
Capt T Charlesworth	Cattewater Harbour Master	Marine Commerce
Mr J Sabel	Natural Infrastructure Officer	Plymouth City Council
Mr J Wilton	Maker with Rame Parish Council	Parish Councils
Ms J Simpson	QHM Office Manager/Minute Secretary	MOD

Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
1. Introduction	QHM welcomed everyone to the Summer PPMLC and thanked Plymouth University Marine Station for allowing us to hold the meeting there.	
2. Apologies	Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Millidge (RNLI), Mr C Matthews (DofC), Mr P Wiseman (Mount Edgcombe Estate), Mr M Brown (PCC), Mr D Curno (RYA) and Mr S Whitting (PPSA).	
3. Notes of the previous meeting	The notes of the previous meeting held on 11 February 16 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.	

Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
4. Matters arising	<p>4.4.4.4.6 Mr Goble confirmed that work has been carried out to create two separate lanes and appropriate signage has been installed to improve deconfliction at the Mount Batten Slipway. Mr Goble will continue to monitor the situation and report back at the next meeting whether this has improved safety. <u>Action Complete</u></p> <p>5. Following an excellent presentation on Diving in Plymouth Sound by Mr Brown at the last PPMLC it was decided to include 'Diving' as a heading on the VISIT PLYMOUTH website with links to QHM, TECF and RNLI websites (to provide legislative, environmental and safety advice). NIO reported that this is still in hand and will be completed at the end of June. <u>Ongoing</u></p> <p>6. The first Water Safety Plymouth Group Meeting took place in April. Mr Mansell (RNLI) provided an overview of the meeting under Agenda Item 7.</p> <p>7f. The Slipway Audit has completed. NIO provided a comprehensive brief under Agenda Item 6.</p> <p>11d. At the last meeting Cllr Benson reported that they are seeing a large amount of debris at Weir Quay, mainly trees washing down the river. PCO reported that he has now received the QHM RHIB back following repairs and will be keeping an eye on the situation. In the meantime QHM asked everyone to inform the PCO or Longroom Port Control Station if they see any debris that could become a problem. Discussion followed on education as a means of preventing material entering the water.</p> <p>g. Mr Goble reported that the navigation light on Fisher's Nose is now working. <u>Action complete</u></p>	<p>Mr Brown / NIO</p> <p>PCO / All</p>
5. Presentations	<p>Mr Goble gave a presentation on Plymouth Maritime Services and their role and responsibilities. The Maritime Services work within the boundaries of the Harbours, Docks and Piers Act 1847, PCC Act 1987 and the Public Health Act 1907. They have powers to licence and look after vessels of <12 passengers, a large number of moorings and 3 boat storage areas – Elphinstone car park, Oreston Quay and Saltash Passage Quay. Mr Goble went onto show the improvements that have been made in the last few months to the public slipways that he is responsible for. Mr Reynolds asked how this work is carried out, as Mr Goble only has one person to assist him at present. Mr Goble explained that he identifies the problems and then contracts the work out. However he finds it difficult to monitor all the areas, as he no longer has a boat. Discussion followed on why the Pier Master is not equipped with a boat. QHM asked Mr Goble to produce evidence from PCC that a launch is not planned to be reinstated. If this is the case, the committee may decide to formally raise</p>	

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	<p>their concerns to PCC.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p>	Mr Goble
6. Slipway Audit	<p>NIO presented findings of the Slipway Audit. Following discussion, the PPMLC were asked to review the draft audit document and forward any proposals to NIO by the end of June.</p>	All
7. Plymouth Water Safety Sub Committee	<p>a. Mr Mansell reported that the Plymouth Water Safety Sub Committee held their first meeting in April with 20 attendees.</p> <p>b. Mr Mansell mentioned that the RNLI recently rescued a small vessel which was lost in fog. It was eventually found 5 miles off the Eddystone with no lights or radio; they have subsequently reported this to the authorities. Discussion followed on other incidents involving the Plymouth Life Boats.</p> <p>c. The RNLI will be re-launching their 'Respect the Water' safety campaign this week.</p>	
8. TECF matters	<p>NIO's report is attached at Annex A.</p> <p>c. <u>Recreational Water Users Guide</u>. NIO asked all members to take and display copies of the new guide in areas where the maritime community congregates.</p> <p>i. <u>Protecting Marine Megafauna</u>. The MMO is reminding boat owners and operators of registered passenger and charter vessels about the rules and best practice relating to marine wildlife. They recommend that vessel owners follow the 'Wildlife Safe (WiSe) scheme, link below: http://www.wisescheme.org/</p>	All
9. SAC matters	<p>NE report is at Annex B.</p>	
10. QHM matters	<p>a. <u>Water Safety & Incidents</u>. QHM mentioned the need to educate water users in understanding the importance of adhering to the rules and regulations governing the port. He highlighted incidents involving people swimming under the influence of alcohol and vessels exceeding the speed limit. QHM would value early reporting from PPMLC members if they see anyone contravening the rules by reporting the incident on VHF #14 or ringing LRPC on 01752 836953. If evidence of these activities can be captured then the MoD Police Marine Unit (MDP MU) would be able to take the necessary action as QHM's enforcement agency. It is important that the Water User's Guide is distributed as widely as possible to get the message out to all water users.</p> <p>i. With regard to the alcohol problem Insp Micallef (MDP MU) mentioned a safety pint glass that the RNLI have made. As the drinker empties the glass, words regarding safety appears, which advises the drinker to think before entering the water/venturing afloat. Insp Micallef asked if it would be possible to have a supply for his stand at the Armed Forces</p>	

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	<p>Weekend. Mr Mansell agreed to provide posters and beer glasses for the PPMLC and MDP Marine Unit.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p> <p>ii. Mr Turner offered the help of the RNLI sea safety advisors who were able to give presentations to relevant groups/clubs.</p> <p>b. Dredging. DQHM reported that dredging in the Naval Base was completed in mid March.</p> <p>i. DQHM reported that the MMO supported by the MOD and the other Harbour Authorities are continuing to work to identify and establish the viability of an alternative disposal site.</p> <p>ii. Capt Charlesworth mentioned that a request for a Judicial Review of the present disposal licences had been lodged and that he is an interested party in this.</p>	RNLI
11. Water events	<p>The 2016 Water Events Diary can be found on the QHM website. This already includes regular sailing events and large events such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West of England Rowing Championships 18 Jun A PLNTM will be issued as the area north of Laira Bridge will be closed for water skiing • Armed Forces Weekend 25-26 Jun Restrictions in place due to Air Displays: 1645-1730 Sat 25 Jun 1300-1400 and 1500-1600 on Sun 26 Jun • Chestnut Appeal Drakes Island Swim 7 Aug • Fireworks Championships 16-17 Aug • Breakwater Swim 21 Aug • Powerboat Racing 8 -9 Oct <p>A full checklist is available on-line. www.qhm.mod.uk/plymouth/</p>	
12. Any other business	<p>a. Cllr Benson asked if Bridge No. 2 Beacon had been replaced. QHM explained that the contractor will be starting repairs soon.</p> <p>b. Cllr Benson mentioned that there will be a Community Water sports day shortly to mark the opening of the new Weir Quay premises.</p> <p>c. DQHM mentioned that the disagreement between the mooring holders and PCC was nearing resolution and a new Mooring Group has been created to improve communications.</p> <p>d. QHM announced that this will be the last meeting for Miss Simpson as she has been promoted and will be moving on to work for a different department in the Naval Base. He thanked her for all the hard work over the last 8 years and wished her well in her new post.</p>	

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12. Dates of next meetings	<p data-bbox="427 181 1209 248">Dates of the forthcoming PPMLC and TECF meetings were published as follows:</p> <table data-bbox="427 277 1214 450"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="427 277 826 315"><u>PPMLC</u></th> <th data-bbox="826 277 1214 315"><u>TECF</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="427 344 826 383">1400 on 13 October 2016</td> <td data-bbox="826 344 1214 383">1015 on 14 July 2016</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="427 383 826 421">1400 on 9 February 2017</td> <td data-bbox="826 383 1214 421">1015 on 10 November 2016</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="427 421 826 450">1400 on 8 June 2017</td> <td data-bbox="826 421 1214 450">1015 on 9 March 2017</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>PPMLC</u>	<u>TECF</u>	1400 on 13 October 2016	1015 on 14 July 2016	1400 on 9 February 2017	1015 on 10 November 2016	1400 on 8 June 2017	1015 on 9 March 2017	
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Distribution:

NBC, All Committee members

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PPMLC Thurs 9 June 2016

8. TECF Matters: Report of TECF Matters by Natural Infrastructure Officer

a) National Marine Management and Marine Planning

The **National Steering Group** for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) met in February and key issues are as follows:

Plymouth Sound and the Tamar Estuaries is being used as the pilot for reporting on the condition assessment and ensuring that all the national information is reflected on the web based information. The draft advice packages for the Special Protection Area and the Special Area of Conservation have been produced and TECF has provided comments on both of these. This should make it easier to access the information needed for any decision making.

At a national level, discussion have been taking place with RYA and BMF on the promotion of best practice such as providing templates for codes of conduct as well as guidance on roles and responsibilities for recreational activities and ways of working.

The priorities which are being considered for the national MPA Project for next year include strategically reviewing bait-digging as well as continuing work to look at reporting frameworks and identifying guidance and best practice.

MMO have now launched the start of the marine planning process for the South West which includes the waters of Plymouth Sound and the Tamar Estuaries.

Marine Planning: TECF hosted a workshop for the MMO on 12 April at which they presented their approach to developing the Marine Plan and stressed that they would be looking for a thorough consultation with local stakeholders and that TECF and PPMLC would be both be important in this process.

The next stage will be their call for evidence which is over the coming months at which they are also looking for information on the challenges, opportunities and needs for each plan area over the next 20 years and how marine plans could address these. At the Plymouth workshop to be held on 19 July, they will also be showing the work they have done to date and will be demonstrating their Marine Planning Evidence Base. The event is to be held on 19 July and people

interested in attending should book on the MMO's Eventbrite pages at <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/marine-management-organisation-6637965761>

b) Plymouth and SW Devon Plan, Waterfront Vision and Local Greenspace Designations.

It has now been agreed that the SW Devon local authorities will work together to produce a single local plan for Plymouth, South Hams and West Devon and consultation will begin in July. The plan will have a 'nested' approach which will include broad policies which will apply to all three districts and then there will be 'area' policies which will apply at a district level and then to more local neighbourhood areas.

It is hoped that we will have single strong policies at the strategic level to protect waterfront and access to the water, as well as common environmental policies.

Plymouth had a specific stream of work to develop a vision for the Waterfront area of Plymouth (Royal William Yard to Mountbatten), which they are now consulting on. This has been prepared by consultants following a very well attended workshop held earlier in the year. Many PPMLC were involved in this and should have received the draft document. Care must be taken throughout this to ensure a balanced approach is taken to the waterfront sites.

Through the Local Plan-making process, Plymouth City Council is also putting forward sites to be designated under the new 'Local Greenspace Designation'. Waterfront sites nominated include:

Jennycliff & Mountbatten	Devils Point
Sites fronting Hooe Lake	Mount Wise
Areas fronting the tidal Plym	Kinterbury Creek
Teats Hill	Waterfront land at Ernesettle
The Hoe	Lakeside sites on Tamerton Creek

c) Recreational Water Users Guide

The 2016 edition of the Recreation Water Users Guide was completed and has been circulated. It is also available online and if you would like any copies, either hard copies or electronic copies, then please let NIO know.

d) Community Seagrass Initiative

This Heritage Lottery Funded project, led by the National Marine Aquarium, is now looking to trial a mooring in Cawsand Bay. A mooring has been identified and plans

are now being made to test it over the coming months. The design will be based on the one which has been successfully trialled in South Hams. If successful, it may lead to a new type of mooring which reduces the impact on the seabed.

e) Moorings Database

TECF is currently reviewing all moorings information held on its GIS systems and will be working with QHM to ensure info is upto date.

f) TECF Panels

The artwork for the maps is now complete, but we are currently bidding for funding to cover some of the costs of these panels. So this project is on hold until later in the year when we will know whether the funding has been secured.

g) Recreation Study

MBA have completed the first spring season of surveys and will shortly be commencing the summer round. They have also arranged a workshop for sailing clubs and invitations are to be sent out shortly. For more information contact Charly Griffiths chgr@MBA.ac.uk.

h) Sports Facilities Study

PCC has commissioned a 'Sports Facilities Strategy' which will include public slipways and outdoor lidos.

RPT Consultants have been appointed to undertake the work and they will be consulting over the coming weeks. Discussions will take place with them on how best to engage with key stakeholders at the appropriate level.

i) Protecting marine megafauna

MMO is reminding boat owners and operators of registered passenger and charter vessels about the rules and best practice relating to marine wildlife: "As the warmer weather reaches English shores it brings with it increasing opportunities to observe dolphins, porpoises and whales. Whilst this is a fantastic opportunity for wildlife watchers and marine tourism, it is essential that the health and well-being of the animals is considered at all times. To ensure the safety and appropriate protection of these animals the MMO recommends that boat and vessel owners follow the 'Wildlife Safe (WiSe) scheme'. The scheme, which is a UK standard for commercial marine wildlife watching, includes a code of conduct and sets out best practice for wildlife watching."

j) Developments

PLYMOUTH

14/00001/FUL **Drakes Island.** Hotel development including conversion of Grade II listed Island House, Scheduled Ancient Monument, battery and landscaping, refurbishment of jetty and infrastructure works. Application Refused.

16/00732/31 Quality Hotel, Leigham St, Plymouth

Notification of proposed demolition of building and site clearance.
Approved.

15/01714/FUL 135 HOE ROAD, PLYMOUTH, PL1 3DE

Redevelopment of existing café , extending the existing kitchen and erecting new café buildings with green roofs.
Consultation closes 22 June 2016.

15/02371/FUL DEVONPORT DOCKYARD, SALTASH ROAD, KEYHAM, PLYMOUTH

Demolition of office building(10/11 storey) and construction of replacement office building (5/6 storey) and associated outbuildings, parking and landscaping. Approved.

Mrs Kaja Curry

Natural Infrastructure Team Leader (Maternity Cover) & TECF Coordinator

Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum

Kaja.curry@plymouth.gov.uk

@TamarEstuaries

June 2016

Natural England Update

PPMLC Meeting 9th June 2016

Natural England staff changes

David Marshall continues as Marine Team Leader with three Senior Advisors; Sangeeta McNair, Andrew Knights and Rhiannon Pipkin working across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

Angie Gall has recently returned from maternity leave as site lead for Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC. Hugh Tyler is the site lead for the Tamar Sites SPA. Marine Advisers in Cornwall are Liz Bailey and Carolyn Waddell.

Andrew Stanger has now moved to the Devon team based in Exeter and will lead on the Exe Estuary.

Natural England's Conservation Advice on Marine Protected Areas

The [Tamar Estuaries Complex Special Protection Area \(SPA\)](#) advice package has now been published on our Designated Sites System. The published site information and supplementary advice is available on this interactive web-based system. The final advice package was produced taking into account the stakeholder feedback received during the consultation. It includes information on seasonality of features. There is still work ongoing on the 'advice on operations' section of the packages and by the end of the year this section should be fully interactive as well.

Thank you for the comments regarding the advice packages for [Plymouth Sound and Estuaries Special Area of Conservation \(SAC\)](#) and [Tamar Estuaries Marine Conservation Zone \(MCZ\)](#), we are working through comments received before publishing later this year. These draft packages are not yet on the Designated Sites System but when they are finalised they will become fully interactive like the SPA advice.

Plymouth EMS and Tamar Estuary Sites MCZ Monitoring

Intertidal rock monitoring – This summer Natural England plan to conduct a survey of the extent, biotope composition and distribution of intertidal reef within the Plymouth Sound and Estuaries Special Area of Conservation (SAC). A brief walkover was conducted in 2010, however a survey of the entire site has not yet been completed. There is a known Pacific oyster presence; however the impact on site features is unknown. Any assistance with permissions and information on access to the shore would be much appreciated. The surveys will also inform our SSSI condition assessment as many of the areas of intertidal rock are SSSI features.

Neighbouring site Whitsand and Looe Bay Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) - a dive survey is planned to assess the seagrass beds within this site.

Consultations responded to/in process of responding to:

- MLA/2016/00027 - Application (Maintenance of existing works) rebuild quay at Noss Mayo
- MLA/2015/00336 Devonport maintenance dredge
- MLA/2015/00391 Cattewater maintenance dredge
- MLA/2015/00355 Torpoint marina dredge – ongoing
- PA16/02479 Crooked Spaniards Inn, Cargreen
- MLA/2013/00462 Sutton Harbour Boardwalk Development – ongoing

Condition Assessment

Under the Habitats Directive the UK is obliged to report on the Favourable Conservation Status of Annex I and Annex II features to the EU every 6 years (Article 17 and Article 12). Natural England is currently in the process of revising how we assess and report on the condition of our marine protected areas including SACs, SPAs and MCZs.

Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC trial

Plymouth Sound and Estuaries was selected as a trial site for this new methodology and we completed a condition assessment at the end of March 2016.

Overall findings of the Condition Assessment were that large areas of Reef and Mudflats & Sandflats are judged to be in favourable condition, with Saltmarsh deemed to be 100% in favourable condition. Some parts of the Sandbanks, Estuaries and Large Shallow Inlets and Bays are in favourable condition but large sections have been assessed as in unfavourable condition due to a few key factors:

- The increasing amount of Invasive non-native species (INNS), particularly the slipper limpet *Crepidula fornicata*, and the Pacific oyster *Crassostrea gigas*, and the impact these species are having on the designated habitats within the site.
- Low infaunal quality index (IQI) in intertidal and subtidal sediments, indicating low biodiversity.
- Elevated sediment contamination in parts of the site.
- Elevated aqueous contaminants specifically in the Yealm estuary.
- Connectivity of the Tamar Estuary and the impact on the Allis Shad population within the estuary.

A report summarising the findings of this assessment has been provided to TECF and is due to be discussed at the next Officers meeting. In the near future the results will be displayed on the Designated Sites System alongside the finalised Conservation Advice package for the SAC.

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