

QHM/532/3

14 July 2016

NOTES OF THE TAMAR ESTUARIES CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING
HELD AT 1015 ON THU 14 JULY 2016 IN
WOLFSON ROOM, MARINE BIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, CITADEL HILL, PLYMOUTH

<u>Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Mr C Necker	Chairman and Queen's Harbour Master (QHM)
Mrs K Curry	Natural Infrastructure Officer (NIO)
Mr N Trathen	Deputy Queen's Harbour Master (DQHM)
Mr A Jones	Port Conservancy Officer (QHM)
Mr A Stanger	Natural England
Ms G Evans	Natural England
Mr M Reynolds	Associated British Ports
Capt T Charlesworth	Cattewater Harbour Master
Ms R Baker	Cornwall Council
Ms H Kendal	West Country Rivers Trust
Mrs K Stephenson	D&SIFCA
Ms L Garlick	DCC
Dr S Otway	DIO
Mr C Matthews	Duchy of Cornwall
Mr T Cronin	EA Catchment Co-ordinator
Mr J Sabel	NIO Team
Mr R Sekula	SHDC
Mr R Swinfen	Wembury Conservation Group
Mr R Jones	NCHQ (MoD)
Dr D Coates	NCHQ (MoD)
Mr C May	MMO

<u>Item</u>	<u>Discussion and Decisions</u>	<u>Action</u>
1. Welcome and Introductions	Cdr C Necker welcomed everyone to the TECF Meeting, thanked the MBA for hosting, and introduced representatives from Navy Command Maritime Environmental Protection Team as observers to the Forum.	
2. Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Tony Carson (PCC), Simon Cadman (CIFCA), Corinna Woodhall (TVS), Pete Bromley (SHH), Jenny Wytcherley (PCC), Neal Gray (MMO), Cllr Mike Benson (WDBC), Cllr Brian Hobbs (CC), Kat Deeney (PCC)	
3. Agree Notes of the last meeting.	The notes of the last meeting held on 10 March 2016 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.	
4. Matters Arising.	4.4.4.6. Kaja Curry, the Natural Infrastructure Officer (NIO), was asked to invite SW Water to give a presentation to TECF on their Water Quality Improvements project. As SWW have not responded to this invitation, the Chairman suggested inviting SWW representatives responsible for this geographical area for a Plymouth Sound and Estuaries boat trip. NIO to	

	<p>draft letter. <u>Action Ongoing</u></p> <p>4.4.14a. Due to the ongoing mediation in respect of dredging licences, DIO are currently unable to present an update to the Baseline Document. Once the MMO have reached an agreement with the complainant, Dr Otway will provide an update (expected to be at the next meeting). <u>Action Ongoing</u></p> <p>4.7.4 Slipway audit now complete and published; covered under agenda item 6. <u>Action complete</u></p> <p>4.7.5 Potential funding has been identified for the TECF interpretation Panels; discussed under agenda item 6.6. <u>Action Ongoing</u></p> <p>4.7.8 <u>Annual Survey</u>. NIO continues to gather information to complete this year's annual survey. "Survey Monkey" chosen to host the questionnaire. The format would be simplified from last year's version with questions currently being finalised. Aim will be to go live in early Aug and all TECF members requested to complete by end of Sep 16. Link to survey to be forwarded to all once completed.</p> <p>4. Western King shoreline identified as being owned by "Urban Splash"; no funding at this time for repairs. <u>Action complete</u></p> <p>7.6.1 A statement of account is required. TECF's financial position was recently discussed during June's TECF Officer's meeting and is covered under agenda item 6.5. <u>Action complete</u></p> <p>8. NE were asked to provide a brief on the methods used in Marine Site monitoring and condition assessment. NE provided this brief to TECF Officers in June and updated all TECF members under agenda item 7. <u>Action complete</u></p> <p>11. Having received no responses to a request on beneficial uses of dredged materials, Dr Otway again asked members to advise DIO if they were aware of any planned or proposed shoreline management, managed realignment, coastal habitat creation or other project that could use dredged materials from the Tamar. This includes both soft silt materials arising from maintenance dredging, and soft silt and siltstone cobble materials that would arise from the OFD Thanckes jetty replacement capital dredging.</p>	<p>NIO</p> <p>Dr Otway</p> <p>NIO</p> <p>NIO / All</p> <p>ALL</p>
5. Dockyard Port of Plymouth Dredging Baseline Document	Although unable to present on the results of the Baseline Document, Dr Otway provided an update on progress with the various work streams associated with the current dredge licences and work to characterise an alternative disposal site.	
6. TECF Service: Natural Infrastructure Officer's (NIO) Report.	<p>NIO presented her report, which is attached at Annex A.</p> <p>6.2 <u>National MPA Steering Group</u>. NE were requested to obtain a copy of the minutes from the June meeting to present at the Autumn TECF.</p> <p>6.4 <u>Plymouth Waterfront Plan</u>. Comments requested from all TECF</p>	NE

	<p>members on “Plymouth Waterfront Master Plan” (Link in NIO report; Annex A); please note Plymouth Sound appears under “Strategic Green Space” section</p> <p>6.5 <u>Funding</u>. ABP has agreed to an increased contribution. Request to all funding members to forward purchase orders, where required, to NIO by the end of July to enable invoices to be issued mid August.</p> <p>6.5a <u>TECF Priorities</u>. NIO outlined the priorities for this year which need to be finalised and agreed. Comments requested from all TECF members with any additions or amendments by 31 July 2016.</p> <p>6.6 <u>CIL Funded Project Proposal</u>. NIO briefed on the application to support 2 projects. QHM asked if funding was purely for research projects or whether it could be used to fund material improvements/capital expenditure. NIO confirmed that funding could be used either way, provided it contributed to the delivery of assessment and management requirements of the HRA. TECF members were encouraged to submit any suggestions for elements of the projects that would lead to tangible benefits to the features of the site.</p> <p>6.7 <u>Recreational Impacts Surveys</u>. Summer surveys are underway and the MBA would also be holding workshops in early Sep. MBA would be invited to provide an update at the next TECF</p> <p>6.7a <u>Slipway Audit</u>. Comments requested to NIO by 15 Aug.</p> <p>6.11 <u>Developments</u>. Jennycliffe Pathway – Mr Chris Matthews (D of C) sought clarification of the ownership of the foreshore below MHWS. NIO to liaise with Duchy of Cornwall</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>Funding members</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>NIO</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>NIO</p>
7. Nature Conservation	<p>Mr Andrew Stanger gave an overview of NE activity (Annex B).</p> <p><u>Condition Assessment</u>. Action on NIO to distribute Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC trial report. Individual TECF members should pass any feedback direct to NE.</p> <p><u>MCZ Smelt study</u>. Report should be available next month (Aug) and will be issued to TECF via NIO. Consideration would be given to delivering a presentation summarising the findings at next TECF.</p>	<p>NIO, NE, ALL</p> <p>NIO</p>
8. Recreational Sea angling Strategy - CIFCA	<p>Apologies were received from CIFCA, Devon and Severn IFCA provided an update:</p> <p>Draft Netting bylaw was nearing completion and would go out for consultation in Aug/Sep. No changes to netting areas within the Tamar Estuaries. There was also an aspiration to achieve coherence of regulations across the IFCA boundaries.</p> <p>QHM requested an update on the new netting bylaw at the next TECF</p>	<p>Devon and Severn IFCA</p>
9. MMO	<p><u>SW Marine Plan</u>. Marine planning workshop being held 19 Jul (note change of venue). Additional funding for a new Marine Planning officer to assist with this work had been secured. The new post will be based in the Penzance office.</p> <p><u>Dredging licences</u>. An email from Katherine Watson read out as public statement:</p>	

Agenda Item 6 Natural Infrastructure Officer's TECF Report Item for Information

1. Marine Planning

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>

2. Feedback from National MPA Steering Group Meeting

No further minutes from the National MPA Steering Group have been published since February. The last meeting was held at the end of June and the minutes have not yet been published.

3. Interreg / Other Funding Projects

PCC and TECF has recently been involved in putting forward project ideas to a joint Plymouth and Exeter University bid for NERC funding. We will hear in the next few months whether this will be successful.

The EU Horizon project which we recently submitted has been refused. The guidance we are currently receiving is not to resubmit.

4. Plymouth & South West Devon Local Plan and Local Greenspace Designations

Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan: The three local authorities have now agreed to produce the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan which will be single strategic plan dealing with land use and development across Plymouth, South Hams and West Devon. It will set out proposals that will balance the needs for housing, employment and the environment through to 2034.

The public consultation launched on 1 July, will run to 12 August is seeking comments on:

- An overall approach to development which will focus growth into the city and also land immediately around Plymouth– while planning for the towns and villages to grow to meet local needs
- There is an overall housing requirement of 30,300 homes between 2014 and 2034, being distributed across the city, towns and villages. This assumes 21,000 homes being developed in and around the city; 8,700 homes being in the towns and villages and 600 being within Dartmoor National Park.
- Proposals for how the 8,700 homes might be shared across the towns and villages of South Hams and West Devon
- Details of potential sites for development in towns and larger villages
- How Neighbourhood planning will play a key role in delivering the approach
- The greenspaces and blue spaces that will be protected.

You can access the consultation here: <http://plymouth.objective.co.uk/portal/planning/jlp/>

Local Greenspace Designations: 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 which are being put forward 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

Plymouth Landscape and Seascape Assessment Draft Report: This includes the Plymouth Landscape and Seascape Assessment Draft Report which identifies areas of ‘undeveloped coast’. In our area this includes parts of Jennycliff and Saltram.

This will be followed by a more formal consultation on a detailed plan in the autumn – leading to submission of a finalized plan early in 2017.

Plymouth Waterfront: The consultation includes the draft Plymouth Waterfront Strategic Masterplan, which sets out the priority themes of :

- Sights and sounds
- Working Waterfront
- Improving Waterfront Experience
- Connecting Waterfront Neighbourhoods
- A World Class Waterfront.

Major interventions are proposed at Hoe Park and Foreshore and also Sutton Harbour. Key interventions are:

- Introducing a coastal design language with the use of constant design palette, more lighting, delivering a linear park along The Hoe and improvements to the Foreshore.
- The report proposes to introduce feature lighting and a new foreshore lighting scheme which could link the waterfront together.

The draft Plymouth Waterfront Master Plan can be accessed here: http://ican.ltda-design.co.uk/drawingmanager/view_issue.aspx?guid=e94b3649-df03-4050-b6fe-ec61826c4448

Plymouth Sports Strategy: PCC has commissioned a piece of work to look at developing a sports strategy for the city and as part of this they will be looking at marine sports. The consultants who have been appointed will be meeting with key stakeholders over the coming months.

5 Funding and priorities for 2016/17

Year End 2015-16

	£	£ Sub Total	£ Grand Total
Brought forward from previous year	- 26,231	- 26,231	- 26,231
Expenditure			
Travel	231		
Refreshments	144		
Printing & Projects	588	963	
Expenditure - staff			
PCC Charge for NIO Officer	38,887	38,887	39,850
Income			
Partner income			
Cattewater Harbour Comm	- 8,270		
Assoc British Ports	- 1,678		
Sutton Harbour	- 1,119		
QHM	- 2,237		
Duchy of Cornwall	- 3,500		
SHDC	- 3,635		
WDBC	- 3,635		
Devon CC	- 2,000		
Cornwall Council	- 2,000		
PCC	- 10,247	- 38,321	
Project Income			
Natural England	- 2,100	- 2,100	- 40,421
C/F to next year	26,802		26,802
GRAND TOTAL			- 1

TECF Funding 2016/17

ORGANISATION	2016/17	2016/17	comment
	requested	agreed	
Natural England	2,000	3,000	Linked to a project for a shared GIS.
Harbour Authorities			
Ministry of Defence, QHM	3,000	3,000	confirmed
Associated British Ports	3,000	1,678	To be confirmed
Cattewater Harbour Commission	9,000	9,000	confirmed
Sutton Harbour Commission	2,000	2,000	confirmed
Subtotal	17,000	15,678	
Local Authorities			
Plymouth City Council	9,000	10,000	£10,000 agreed
Devon County Council	2,000	2,000	£2,000 agreed
Cornwall Council	4,500	2,000	confirmed
West Devon Borough Council	4,500	4,500	Confirmed
South Hams District Council	4,500	4,500	confirmed
Subtotal	24,500	23,000	
Other			
Duchy of Cornwall	3,500	4,375	£4,375 agreed
Environment Agency	In kind	In kind	
Devon & Severn IFCA	In kind	In kind	
Cornwall IFCA	In kind	In kind	
Marine Management Organisation	In kind	In kind	
English Heritage	In kind	In kind	
Total	45,000	43,053	

Confirmation is now in place for most of the funding and invoices will be issued shortly. We currently have £26,800 in the reserve, so TECF can carry on for the moment, subject to funding being secured from the other core partners. £5,000 of this will be used for the Community Seagrass Initiative's eco-friendly mooring trial.

Priorities for this year will include the following;

1. Stabilise funding
2. Mid-term review of the management plan in light of Reg 35 Conservation Advice update and emerging issues relating to BREXIT.
3. Continue to host TECF, PPMLC and TOFF meetings.
4. Recreation Study for the Habitats Regulations Assessment and drafting of findings to inform strategic planning documents.

5. Secure funding and deliver CIL EMS Project.
6. Contribute to the National EMS Group to support coordinated approach to management and to support coordination of South West marine plans.
7. Continue to provide marine planning advice to local planning authorities.
8. Produce a generic Non-native marine invasive species plan for the Tamar.
9. Support the production of the Cornwall Environment Strategy
10. Renew 4 TECF Information boards.

6. EMS CIL Funded Project Proposal

The NIO is in the process of securing £264,000 from PCC's Community Infrastructure Levy and S106 funds to deliver the requirements arising from PCC's Habitats Regulations Assessment for its last Core Strategy.

This programme will enable the Council to meet these legal obligations in its role as Competent Authority under the Habitat Regulations by delivering the identified assessment and management actions.

If successful, the programme will be delivered through two projects over a period of three years.

- Project 1 – Research and Assessment:
- Project 2 – Changing Behaviours.

It is proposed that the two projects are managed through a TECF Working Group. In practice this will be through liaison with key officers where relevant and then progress will be reported through TECF.

7. HRA Recreational Impacts Research

The Marine Biological Association are now undertaking the site surveys using MBA students. They will also be carrying out workshops with targeted groups such as sailors, anglers and divers. The spring surveys have now been completed and work is underway on the summer surveys. Already they are providing very useful information on where people are coming from to use the water and it will be interesting to see how this changes over the season.

This work is being carried through funding provided by PCC, SHDC, CC and WDBC.

Slipway Audit

This is being dealt with under a separate agenda item.

8. Little Egret Research Group

Work is continuing with Plymouth University and NE in order to secure some more detailed research into Little Egrets and to get better understanding on how they are using Plymouth Sound and the Tamar Estuaries.

A three year research project is currently being put together and once complete, funding will be sought.

9. Community Seagrass Initiative

Some years ago, TECF agreed to contribute £5,000 towards the Community Seagrass Initiative which is being run by the National Marine Aquarium, in order to test eco-friendly moorings in Plymouth Sound and the Tamar Estuary. Work is about to start on replacing a mooring in Cawsand with a new design which uses floats to keep the chain off the sea bed which will then be monitored to assess its effectiveness.

10. Water Quality

Bathing waters: Bathing waters so far this year have been good. The early warning system is once again in use.

11. Developments

Current planning and marine planning matters include the following:

Plymouth

Jennycliff Pathway

Application - Replacing pathway to beach at Jennycliff following storm damage. Due to works proposed below mean high water mark a Coastal Concordat will be required.

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

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

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

Cornwall

MLP/2012/00326. Yonderbury Jetty, Torpoint. EIA Screening and scoping for replacement of facility. This is a major piece of work which requires a full environmental impact assessment and MMO have agreed to lead on this. EIA Screening is complete. Works ongoing to address environmental issues.

Mrs Kaja Curry

Natural Infrastructure Team Leader (Maternity Cover) & TECF Coordinator

Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum

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July 2016

ANNEX B

Natural England Update TECF Meeting 14th July 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 is conducting 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. The surveys will also inform our SSSI condition assessment as many of the areas of intertidal rock are SSSI features. Any assistance with permissions and information on access to the shore would be much appreciated.

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

Natural England continues to work with the Natural Infrastructure Officer on developing mitigation for increased recreational pressures resulting from the local plans. We have just secured £4000 of 'innovation funding' for TECF to contribute to our joint work in on mitigation.

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 available to anyone on request. 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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