**Queen's Harbour Master Plymouth** 

Longroom House RM Barracks Stonehouse Plymouth PL1 3RT

QHM/532/3

24 July 2017

#### NOTES OF THE TAMAR ESTUARIES CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING HELD AT 1015 ON THU 13 JULY 2017 IN CHARTER ROOM, COUNCIL HOUSE, PLYMOUTH

Present	Representing	
Mr C Necker	Chairman and Queens Harbour Master	
Mr N Trathen	Deputy Queens Harbour Master	
Mrs K Curry	Natural Infrastructure Officer	
Mr A Jones	Port Conservancy Officer (QHM)	
Ms B Siddons	Natural Infrastructure Officer	
Mr J Heike	South West Water	
Mr M Court	South West Water	
Mr N Gray	MMO	
Ms S Bedingham	MMO	
Ms S Davies	D&S IFCA	
Mr S Cadman	Cornwall IFCA	
Mr M Parry	National Marine Aquarium	
Ms J Arrowsmith	National Marine Aquarium	
Mr E Crowe	Natural England	
Mrs A Gall	Natural England	
Capt T Charlesworth	Cattewater Harbour Master	
Mr M Goble	PCC	
Mr C Matthews	Duchy of Cornwall	
Ms R Baker	Cornwall Council	
Ms L Garlick	Devon County Council	
Ms C Woodall	Tamar Valley AONB	

<u>ltem</u>	Discussion and Decisions	Action
Welcome and Introductions	Chairman welcomed everyone to the TECF Meeting and gave all present an opportunity to introduce themselves.	
1. Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence had been received from: J MacLennan (NE), P Elsmere (EA), R Sekula (WDBC), N Collings-Costello (Cornwall CC)	
2. Agree Notes of the last meeting.	The notes of the last meeting held on 09 March 2017 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.	
3. Matters Arising.	4.4.4.6. Natural Infrastructure Officer (NIO), to request SW Water give a presentation to TECF on their Water Quality Improvements project and invite their representatives responsible for this geographical area, along with other TECF	

members, for a Plymouth Sound and Estuaries boat trip. A successful boat trip took place in early May and QHM	
welcomed the SW Water team who would be delivering their presentation at Agenda Item 4. <u>Complete</u>	
4.4.11. Ongoing request from DIO regarding information on the potential use of dredged material from Thanckes Jetty project has been running for 12 months. <u>Complete</u>	
<u>4.7. Matters for Decision</u> NIO to draft Terms of Reference for EMS CIL working group. See agenda item 7. <u>Complete</u>	
<u>1. Infauna assessment</u> – New contract in place (with MBA) to analyse data. NE requested members provide information regarding any other data sets that could be used. <u>Closed</u>	
2. Noise monitoring. NIO took an action to provide a link to Drakes Island noise monitoring information. Provided in March TECF Minutes Para 7. Complete	
3. Baseline Dredging Document – Awaiting endorsement letter from NE prior to publication. UPDATE July 2017: Additional comments received from NE will be incorporated ready for final endorsement Ongoing	NE/DIO
5. Information sharing. Ms C Woodall asked if data from the EMS Recreational Study could be shared with the Tamar Valley AONB to assist with development proposals. <u>Complete</u>	
<u>7i. Water users leaflet.</u> Action on all to provide any required updates to the Water Users Leaflet by 20 March 2017. New Leaflet published and available for distribution. Chairman asked all members to distribute widely.	ALL
<u>7ii. Moorings.</u> Action on PCC to determine whether the number of moorings they manage has recently changed. UPDATE July 2017: No change in number. <u>Complete</u>	
<u>7iii. PCC sports study.</u> Thank you to all TECF members who contributed to consultation process. UPDATE July 2017: Draft report complete, final report to be forwarded to TECF and PPMLC once complete. <u>Action</u>	NIO
<u>8i. NE Conservation advice.</u> Action on all to view and comment on updated conservation advice available from NE website.	

	UPDATE July 2017: Presentation will be included on Agenda	
	for next TECF. Action	NIO/NE
	13. A Wrasse fishery has been established locally; evidence is needed to establish impact on ecosystem and any management measures required – open to public consultation on 7 April 2017. This will lead to a report on restrictions. UPDATE July 2017: See para 12.2. <u>Complete</u>	
4. SWW Investment Programme affecting	1. Mr Mike Court and Mr James Heike gave a presentation regarding the work SWW are currently undertaking to further improve Plymouth Bathing waters.	
Plymouth Bathing Waters	2. It was noted that a slight risk to bathing waters exists within the Hoe (east and west) designated areas due to current work. This necessitates the removal of a pump at Plymouth Central Pumping Station based in Cattedown (work end expected Oct '17).	
	Any further information can be sought from Ms Lisa Butcher, Customer Liaison – 07791926065, <u>lisa.butcher@balfourbeatty.com</u> .	
	<ul> <li>3. Question from Capt. Charlesworth regarding the reasoning behind improvement works at Greenergy site.</li> <li>This is due to the large surface run-off in the area which does not require treatment; the water can be diverted straight into the water way, reducing volumes requiring treatment.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>4. Question from Mr R. Baker regarding future planning and longevity of the improvements.</li> <li>The works take into account many factors such as climate change and urban creep; the improvements are expected to be effective until at least 2045.</li> </ul>	
5. Draft Tamar Estuaries Biosecurity Plan	1. Mrs Gall apologised for Ms MacLennan's absence and gave a presentation on the current status of the Tamar Estuaries Biosecurity Plan.	
	2. The plan is currently not a legal requirement but is seen as good practice. Plymouth is the first to implement and was chosen due to the latest NE condition assessment highlighting the site in <i>unfavourable</i> condition in part due to Invasive None Native Species (INNS).	
	3. The plan has been written and was consulted upon during a workshop in March. Templates are available for individual marinas.	
	4. TECF can help to enact the plan which currently consists of best practice guidance. TECF and Port Authorities can assist with prioritising next steps.	
	5. Actions if INNS are found are still to be refined with training	

	courses planned in the future	
	courses planned in the future.	
	6. A final plan is to be published with a follow up meeting required with TECF members: The chairman notes that TECF fully support this work and will look to continue to assist with its progress; a further meeting should be held before the next TECF. Action	NIO/NE
	<ul> <li>7. Question from DQHM regarding ownership of the plan i.e. does the Port Authority or individual marinas own the plan?</li> <li>NE confirmed that TECF own the plan, as a joint approach is most suitable for continued and effective management.</li> </ul>	
6. Natural	1. Mr Crowe gave an overview of NE future plans.	
England's Conservation Strategy for 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	Delays in national Policy have delayed publishing, however NE have produced "Conservation 21" outlining their strategic policies and drivers. This can be found at the following link:	
	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/conservation-21- natural-englands-conservation-strategy-for-the-21st-century	
	2. Conservation 21 is a forward looking strategy. Rather than be driven by national policy and legislation, it aims to remove restraints through environmental understanding and promotion of new ideas.	
	3. NE have reorganised into geographic areas rather than subject areas. They are developing 12 "Focus" areas within Devon & Cornwall, to prioritise limited resources, of which the Tamar estuaries are one. Mr Crowe showed a proposed map of the area but stressed that the boundaries have yet to be confirmed.	
	<ul> <li>4. Other aspirations were a MPA Awareness and Education Campaign and works to enable/improve fish migration above Gunnislake Weir.</li> <li>Mr Parry (NMA) advised that if any environmental messages need to be promoted then the NMA can support this.</li> </ul>	
	5. NIO questioned the recent proposal of a Marine Park designation for Plymouth. Mr Crowe felt this may have some headway but should be seen more as an accolade rather than additional designation. QHM suggested inviting the MP to future a TECF meeting in order to provide an oversight of the current legislative and environmental designations and management structures already in place.	
7. Agree EMS CIL Terms of Reference	1. NIO/QHM requested that the Terms of Reference forwarded with the Calling Notice are agreed by all members.	
	2. NE unable to agree at present time as they still have comments to be made. NE have agreed to forward their comments by 20 Jul 17 and, once incorporated, the revised	

	TORs would be forwarded to members for approval out of	
	committee. <u>Action</u>	NE/NIO
	Project to be added as a standing agenda item	NIO
8. TECF officers	1. NIO presented her report which is given in Annex A.	
report	TECF information boards were discussed and it was highlighted that NE would be involved in the new iterations providing updated environmental information. <u>Action</u>	NE/NIO
	<ol> <li>Action raised to look into refurbishment of Plymouth Waterfront Information Panels. <u>Action</u></li> </ol>	NIO
9. Community Seagrass initiative: Eco-	1. Mr Parry gave a presentation on the progress and current findings of the Community Seagrass Initiative.	
moorings update	Early results show positive effect on the rejuvenation of seagrass in areas where eco-moorings have been installed.	
10. Nature Conservation	Mrs Gall presented current NE work stream which is presented in Annex B.	
11. MMO Update	<ol> <li>Mr Gray gave an overview of Marine planning at Item 8i.</li> <li>Several marine applications are currently in process, including proposals to dredge in Turnchapel and the Cattewater. Disposal would be at the newly designated Plymouth Deep disposal site.</li> </ol>	
12. IFCA update	<ol> <li>Ms Davies gave an update on current D&amp;S IFCA works.</li> <li>A new Netting Byelaw is awaiting signoff by the SoS.</li> <li>New byelaw/report is available for comment regarding bait digging</li> <li>A successful prosecution was obtained for using fixed nets within Bigbury/Wembury Bay area.</li> <li>Current focus on unmarked static gear, DQHM to brief VTS and MDP staff.</li> <li>Action</li> <li>Mr Cadman gave an update on current C IFCA work.</li> <li>A need to highlight and confirm the delineation between IFCAs has been identified         <ul> <li>Boundary at 004°9.6'W</li> <li>Byelaw regarding bottom towed gear in Whitsand Bay is awaiting signoff by SoS</li> <li>Wrasse fishery gear is to be separately marked following consultation                 <ul> <li>CIFCA placing permit conditions (rather than byelaw as with D&amp;S IFCA)</li> <li>Closed season is between April-June</li> <li>The proposal also includes a number of voluntary closed areas</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ol>	DQHM

13. Matter	NIL		
brought forward			
from PPMLC			
14. Water	The 2017 Water Events Diary (WE		
Events	QHM website (www.qhm.mod.uk/p		
	DQ HM provided on major events s		
	of the year:		
	7-12 Aug – Fastnet Finish		
	9-10 Aug – National Fireworks Cha	mnionshins	
	13 Aug – Breakwater Swim		
	7-8 Oct – OCRDA Powerboat race	c (thc)	
15. Items for	To be discussed out of committee		
future meetings			
V			
16. Any other business	1. Mrs Gall highlighted that the report on sampling within		
DUSINESS	Rame Head subtidal mud habitat was "inconclusive". Whilst		
	the mud was confirmed as originating from the Tamar Estuary,		
	the transport method was not fully established. The report is		
	available from Mr Andrew Stanger if anyone requires a copy.		
	2. Ms Woodall reported that Tamar Valley AONB is looking to		
	broaden partnerships and is currently engaging Plymouth		
	Community Homes in support of their Heritage Lottery Funding		
	application; some of the future projects may have synergies		
	with the EMS CIL projects.		
16. Dates of	Dates of the forthcoming PPMLC and TECF meetings were		
Next Meetings	published as follows:		
	PPMLC	<u>TECF</u>	
	1400 on 12 Oct 2017	1015 on 9 Nov 2017	
	1400 on 8 Feb 2018	1015 on 8 Mar 2018	
	1400 on 14 June 2018	1015 on 12 July 2018	
		-	
			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

Distribution:

NBC, All Committee members

# Agenda Item 9 Natural Infrastructure Officer's TECF Report Item for Information

# 1 National Coordination & Marine Planning

**MPA National Steering Group (NSG):** The NSG met in the first week of March to set the work plan for the coming year. Not further meetings have taken place since then.

**Marine Planning:** The MMO has now drafted policies for the South West Marine Plan under the headings of Aggregates; Cables; Climate Change; Defence; Dredging and Disposal; Economic; Energy; Environment; Fishing and Aquaculture; Governance; Ports and Shipping; Social and Cultural and Tourism and Recreation. The MMO held a workshop in Plymouth in March as one of a series across the south west at which the policies were discussed in detail and the NIO attended.

The consultation has now closed and the next iteration is now due in April 2018 when it will be reported through TECF.

The timetable for delivery still stands as below.

#### Table 1: Marine Plan Delivery (MMO)

Activity	Estimated timing
Plan development – iteration 1 released for consultation	April 2017
Plan development – iteration 2 released	April 2018
Plan development – iteration 3	April 2019
Final draft plan consultation	Summer 2019
Adoption	2019

# Plymouth and SW Devon Plan, Waterfront Vision and Local Greenspace Designations:

The Draft Joint Local Plan consultation has now closed. Over 2,500 comments were received and these are currently being reviewed.

This includes the proposal to designate a number of Local Greenspace Designations, which will then have the same protection as greenbelt.

The next stage is for final submission to the Planning Inspector and this is due at the end of July, with a view to adoption either later in 2017 or in early 2018.

# 2 Finance and Priorities

### a. TECF Income 2016/17 and 2017/18

The proposed budget for the coming year is set out below. It should be noted that this does not include the EMS CIL Project finances, which will run by PCC with reporting through TECF.

	2017/18
ORGANISATION	
	Proposed
Harbour Authorities	
Ministry of Defence, QHM	3,000
Associated British Ports	2,000
Cattewater Harbour Commission	9,000
Sutton Harbour Commission	2,000
Harbour Authorities Subtotal	16,000
Local Authorities	
Plymouth City Council	10,000
Devon County Council	2,000
Cornwall Council	2,000
West Devon Borough Council	4,500
South Hams District Council	4,500
Subtotal	23,000
Other	
Natural England	3,000
Duchy of Cornwall	4,375
Environment Agency	
Devon & Severn IFCA	
Cornwall IFCA	
Marine Management Organisation	
English Heritage	
Other total	7,375
Grand Total	46,375

Invoices will be sent out over the summer of 2017.

### b. Delivery of Priorities

It is proposed that the priorities for the coming year are as follows:

- 1. Stabilise funding: Whilst funding is stable at the moment, it has not been possible to secure long term funding to increase security. The EMS CIL funding will help, but there is no time for complacency in securing funding for the partnership.
- 2. Mid-term review of the management plan in light of Reg 35 Conservation Advice update and emerging issues relating to BREXIT: This will now take place in 2017/18 and will reflect the latest best practice emerging from the Marine Protected Areas National Steering Group.
- 3. Continue to host TECF, PPMLC and TOFF meetings.
- 4. Complete Strategic Access, Mitigation and Management Plan for the EMS in light of the Recreation Study and secure necessary funding through a Supplementary Planning Document.
- 5. Oversee the delivery of the 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.: NIO officer to act as EMS Rep on National Steering Group. Ongoing.
- 7. Continue to provide marine planning advice to local planning authorities. Ongoing. Also see item 4 above.
- 8. Oversee the implementation of the "non-native marine invasive species plan for the Tamar.

# 3 EMS CIL Managing Recreational Impacts Programme

Beth Siddons has now been recruited as the EMS Recreational Impacts officer to deliver this project. She has a three year contract and she already has several initiatives in development in line with the project plan, following the commencement of the EMS CIL Managing Recreational Impacts Programme in April.

### Information panels

The project will aim to replace all 30 existing information panels at public slipways and access points around the European Marine Site, to raise awareness of the EMS and encourage safe and responsible enjoyment of the waterways. An initial pilot of 5 panels will be delivered as a trial run, before a full roll out across the site. A project brief has been created and key stakeholders will be engaged to advise on the content development and requirements.

In addition, new information panels will be installed at c.6 key angling sites relating to fishing debris management, along with fishing waste receptacles and regular collections. Discussions are also taking place with the Plymouth Waterfront Partnership regarding the installation of interpretation panels along the Plymouth waterfront about the EMS and its features.

#### Devon & Severn IFCA

Following a meeting with Sarah Clark and Steph Davis of D&S IFCA, a number of actions are in progress. D&S IFCA are currently conducting bait collection surveys at Ernesettle, which will continue until September 2017. D&S IFCA are currently developing recreational angling awareness materials for the Severn and these will be shared to help inform the information panel project and the fish waste management panels for the EMS.

D&S IFCA will:

- Provide report and GIS data from the recent crab tiling survey to identify keys areas that may require stakeholder engagement or awareness activity.
- Provide costs for walking and drone surveys to establish if the EMS CIL project can support further crab tiling surveying in areas that have not yet been covered (Tavy).
- Set up a tele-con between D&S IFCA, Cornwall IFCA and PCC to discuss the CIFCA crab tiling HRA and other research.
- Identify key angling sites around the EMS to inform the fishing debris management plan.

#### SeaZone GIS data

A suite of GIS maps and data has been purchased to underpin the compilation of a centralised resource of survey data and research conducted in the EMS. This will support decision making and facilitate the sharing of data to partner organisations and stakeholders. The total cost was £3,250.97. The suite includes:

- Bathymetry and Elevation
- Conservation and Environment
- Natural and Physical Features
- Socio-economic and Marine Use
- Structures and Obstructions
- Climate and Oceanography
- Admiralty Charts

### Website and Shared information

Work is underway to review the information held on the website relating to TECF and in line with the new web system being adopted by Plymouth City Council. There will be a new 'Coastal and Blue Spaces' section on plymouth.gov.uk and new content is being developed for the TECF microsite, primarily geared towards recreational usage and impacts.

# 4 Water Users Leaflet

The Water Users Leaflet is now complete. 3,000 were printed and have been distributed harbour offices, marinas and chandlers.

# 5 Annual Survey

Thank you to all who replied with a response to the TECF Survey. In the end responses were received from:

• D&SIFCA

- MMO
- Duchy of Cornwall
- QHM
- Sutton Harbour
- Cattewater Harbour Commissioners
- Devon County Council
- Plymouth City Council

The responses received show that the level of activity in the Plymouth Sound and Tamar Estuaries has remained very stable, with no reported increases in any activity likely to cause disturbance for which the organisations were responsible during the period 2015-17.

The level of control has increased with new management measures being introduced by Devon and Severn IFCA with their new bylaws whilst the MMO are commencing with the marine plan production.

Local authorities have not reported any increases in activities, other than development. This likely to result in increased recreational pressures and is being addressed through the planning process.

Plymouth City Council have confirmed that that has been no change in the number of moorings.

Water quality is reported separately below.

# 6 Water Quality

- The EA confirmed that last year Plym Hoe (W and E) bathing water standard was excellent.
- EA sampling for this season has revealed two instances of elevated counts of Intestinal Enterococci and three of Escherichia coli.
- A pollution incident due to sewage was reported at Plymouth Hoe West on 28 June and ended on 29 June.
- The Electronic Notification System, which enables a small number of elevated counts to be discounted, provided that users are notified, NS system in place at present consists of a cascade call from the EA to Public Protection Service.

# 7 Interreg Projects

A workshop reviewing the application process and project requirements for Interreg VA France (Channel)-England Programme was delivered by the Interreg Programme Facilitator on 5 July 2017, hosted by PCC. The workshop focus was given to projects relating to Natural and Cultural Heritage. There are currently two PCC-lead project ideas being proposed, the first relating to development of the Hoe foreshore to create tourism opportunities and generate funding for on-going maintenance. The second focuses on the enhancement of ecosystem services in coastal urban areas through good management of green and blue infrastructure.

# 8 Teat's Hill

The PCC Active Neighbourhoods Team are progressing the Teat's Hill Improvement project. Capital funding has been secured and they are working in partnership with the Blue Health Project, who are contributing capital and in-kind funding to make basic improvements to access and also to close the slipway.

The stakeholder group includes PCC, Plymouth Marine Centre, PCH, NMA, MBA, Devon Wildlife Trust and QAB. A series of community events are planned during July and August, including community consultation around improvements to the site which includes the slipway and access to the foreshore. Draft design proposals for improvements are expected by September 2017.

# 9 Developments

Current planning and marine planning matters include the following.

### Plymouth

### PLYMOUTH

**17/00336/FUL Drakes Island**. This has now been consented subject to s106 being agreed.

**Plymouth Hoe:** PCC is proposing to repair parts of the Hoe and will be removing a large concrete block from the foreshore – ongoing.

**Mount Batten Ferry Pontoon**: This is due to be replaced with a new brow and pontoon to cater for the Mount Batten ferry and will be completed by October. Awaiting MMO License

**Discharge Consent for Sewage Works**: SWW have requested changes to their discharge consent whilst they undertake improvement works to the Central STW.

**Wave Pontoon at King Point Marina**: A MMO license has been granted, and a condition discharge is being considered by PCC to replace the wave protection structure.

Cremyll landing jetty: Improvements are due to take place to the jetty.

**Devils Point:** there are proposals to repair the footpath following the landslip that took place a couple of years ago

Mrs Kaja Curry Natural Infrastructure Officer & TECF Coordinator Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum <u>Kaja.curry@plymouth.gov.uk</u> @TamarEstuaries July 2017

### Natural England Update

### TECF Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017

### Priority issues in the SAC

Our condition assessment carried out last year highlighted some priority issues to tackle within the Special Area of Conservation which may need management action. These are issues that are causing parts of the site to be classed as in 'unfavourable' condition. With partners we have begun working on some of these issues including:

- Engagement and training for volunteers to manage and monitor the spread of Pacific oysters in the Yealm estuary.
- Tamar biosecurity plan: C2W consultants, working with the Marine Biological Association and Plymouth Marine Laboratory have produced a draft biosecurity plan for the Tamar funded by Natural England. A workshop was held in March which was attended by stakeholder representatives from marine industries and other key stakeholders from the Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum (TECF) to develop the draft biosecurity plan. The draft plan has been updated following input from the workshop participants, and submitted to TECF. Actions likely to be adopted include:
  - Encouraging stakeholders to develop and share biosecurity plans for their own sites
  - Provision of training in Non Native Species (NNS) awareness and identification for local stakeholders
  - Promoting public awareness of NNS and the Check-Clean-Dry campaign, for instance by placing new signs in places frequented by the relevant stakeholders
  - The development of an information network for stakeholders, including email alerts of significant local sightings of NNS
  - The development of rapid-response control and eradication procedures for newly- detected NNS, if feasible.
- Funding has been found for this year to continue the programme of eradication of Giant Hogweed in Tamar Valley to avoid it spreading along corridors into other publically accessible areas where it can cause injury. This is joint work with the Tamar Valley AoNB and the Environment Agency

### Natural England's Conservation Advice on Marine Protected Areas

For anyone planning a development within or nearby the European Marine Site it is important to look at the newly produced conservation advice from Natural England.

We are currently producing a video to explain the guidance and how to use it; we hope to present this at the autumn TECF meeting.

The conservation advice packages for the three marine protected areas here are on our new Designated Sites System and can be accessed here:

Tamar Estuaries Complex Special Protection Area (SPA)

Plymouth Sound and Estuaries Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Tamar Estuaries Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)

### Plymouth EMS and Tamar Estuary Sites MCZ Monitoring

**Intertidal rocky shore monitoring 2016** – This is currently being reported on and will be shared when available.

**Intertidal habitat mapping** – This 'biotope survey' of all the intertidal areas of the SAC is planned for this summer. This is currently out to tender and we are contacting with all landowners to ask for access permission. The report will look at change over time in areas where we have previous mapping data from a survey in 2010.

**Subtidal reef survey** – This focused on the deeper (circalittoral) areas of reef within the SAC the fieldwork was carried out last week by Natural England's monitoring team.

Allis shad and smelt surveys – The Environment Agency are carrying out spawning surveys on our behalf at the top of the Tamar estuary to improve our knowledge of how these two migratory fish species use the site. Further surveys in the lower estuary are planned for later in the year.

### Public awareness / engagement

We are holding an exhibition on Marine Protected Areas with a focus on Plymouth at the National Marine Aquarium over the summer holidays jointly with JNCC. Natural England staff will be there to talk to most days. We are developing a film and posters to use at the exhibition which will be available for other uses afterwards. The aim is to help people visualise the diverse habitats and species that are protected here and to understand more about how they are protected.

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