

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

QHM/532/3

17 March 2017

**NOTES OF THE TAMAR ESTUARIES CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING**  
**HELD AT 1015 ON THU 9 MARCH 2017 IN**  
**WARSPITE ROOM, COUNCIL HOUSE, PLYMOUTH**

<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Representing</u></b>
Mrs K Curry	Natural Infrastructure Officer (NIO)
Mr A Jones	Port Conservancy Officer (QHM)
Mr M Reynolds	Associated British Ports
Capt T Charlesworth	Cattewater Harbour Master
Ms R Baker	Cornwall Council
Ms S Davies	D&S IFCA
Ms L Garlick	Devon County Council
Dr S Otway	DIO
Mr C Matthews	Duchy of Cornwall
Mr J Sabel	NIO Team
Mr R Swinfen	Wembury Conservation Group
Mr N Gray	MMO
Ms C Woodall	Tamar Valley AONB
Mrs A Gall	Natural England
Mr M Ashley	Natural England
Mr J Readman	Marine Biological Association
Mr M Goble	PCC
Mr J Lowther	Plymouth University

<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Discussion and Decisions</u></b>	<b><u>Action</u></b>
1. Welcome and Introductions	NIO welcomed everyone to the TECF Meeting and apologised for the chairman's absence. NIO also acknowledged the sad passing of Councillor Benson. NIO gave all present an opportunity to introduce themselves.	
2. Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence had been received from: Mr C Necker (QHM), Mr N Trathen (DQHM), Ms H Tillin (MBA) Mr R Sekula (SHDC), Mr C May (MMO)	
3. Agree Notes of the last meeting.	The notes of the last meeting held on 10 November 2017 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	

	<p>area for a Plymouth Sound and Estuaries boat trip. NIO to draft letter by end Nov '16 proposing boat trip for Spring '17.  <b>Update Mar '17</b> - SWW will give a presentation at next TECF, boat trip to be planned for Spring/summer.  <u>Action Ongoing</u></p> <p>4.7.8 <u>Annual Survey.</u>  Action on all to provide NIO with evidence of work completed with reference to Management System  <u>Complete</u></p> <p>11. Dr Otway 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.  <u>Action ongoing</u></p> <p>7 <u>MCZ Smelt study.</u> Findings presented under item 6.  <u>Complete</u></p> <p>5. <u>Developing a Tamar Biosecurity Plan Project</u>  Action placed on QHM PCO to liaise with PML and MBA regarding stakeholder engagement and workshop attendance. Work shop has now taken place and identified a number of areas of study which will inform future works. A presentation will be given at future TECF.  <u>Complete</u></p> <p>6. <u>EMS Recreation Study</u>  The onsite surveys have now been completed. Also the online survey has been completed and analysed.  <u>Complete</u></p> <p>7. <u>Matters for Decision</u>  NIO to draft Terms of Reference for EMS CIL working group  <u>Action</u></p> <p><u>Infauna assessment</u> – New contract in place (with MBA) to analyse data, request to provide information regarding any other data sets that could be used  <u>Action</u></p> <p>10. <u>DPoP</u> - DIO/NE/CHC to clarify Salmon migratory periods which would restrict dredging within the Cattewater. DIO confirmed that Salmon not thought to have any restrictions.  <u>Complete</u></p> <p>NIO to provide link to noise monitoring for Drakes Island  <u>Action</u></p>	<p>NIO</p> <p>All</p> <p>NIO</p> <p>All</p> <p>NIO</p>
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	<p><u>Baseline Dredging Document</u> – Awaiting endorsement letter from NE prior to publication. <u>Action</u></p> <p><u>11. Marine plans</u> – South Marine plan comment now closed <u>Complete</u></p>	NE
5. Presentations	<p>Mr J Sable gave a presentation on Joint Local Plan – Plan is now published and available for comment (until 26/04/17). Mr Sable commented that there are a large number of designations defined through specific policies, many of which are specifically marine-related, which are spilt between Plymouth and the surrounding towns and villages.</p> <p>There are a number of sites allocated for development. Plan to be delivered by 2034.</p> <p>Mr J Readman gave a presentation on EMS Recreation Study – Study is currently in Phase 4 (Reporting) after completing the Site Surveys, workshops and online survey. The study aims to provide evidence to inform the management measures required under the Habitat Regulations.</p> <p>Capt Charlesworth questioned whether specific study of impacts at Drakes Island had occurred. In response, Mr Readman said that they had not as this was not part of their brief.</p> <p>Ms Ms C Woodall asked if data can be shared to the Tamar Valley AONB to assist with development proposals. This will be possible and will be discussed outside the meeeting. <u>Action</u></p> <p>Discussion took place around areas of use and whether the impacts on high use areas has been considered. It was thought that although encouraging areas to bring in visitors it should also be considered that areas of already high usage should be directed away from. It was confirmed that this will be reported on during the next steps and mitigation plan.</p> <p>Dr Otway asked whether birds will be taken into account for the Habitat Assessment. NIO advised that they are not included in the HRA but they will be considered.</p>	NIO/TVAONB
6. Findings of Smelt Study	<p>Mrs Gall gave a presentation on the Smelt Study. The report is available upon request.</p> <p>Dr Otway asked whether there was any correlation between low/no spawning with elevated arsenic levels in the upper reaches. NE advised this has not been specifically studied but will be passed to the appropriate people.</p> <p>NIO asked if the study confirms the conservation advice for the area. NE advised yes it does however further study is ongoing.</p>	

<p>7. TECF Service: Natural Infrastructure Officer's (NIO) Report.</p>	<p>NIO presented her report (Annex A)</p> <p>Action on all to provide all required updates to the Water Users Leaflet by 20 March 2017-03-17 <u>Action</u></p> <p>Information is still awaited from PCC, who manage the majority of the moorings in the waters, to understand whether there has been a change in their number. <u>Action</u></p> <p>NIO to provide link to noise monitoring for Drakes Island <u>Action</u></p> <p><u>Post-meeting update: the reports can be downloaded from Plymouth City Council's online planning website by searching using the Planning application number 14/00001/FUL. If you have trouble finding them, please email NIO and she will send them to you directly.</u></p> <p>PCC sports study out for public consultation wc:13/03/17 <u>Action</u></p>	<p>All</p> <p>NIO/M Goble</p> <p>NIO</p> <p>All</p>
<p>8. Nature Conservation</p>	<p>Mrs A Gall gave update of NE activity (Annex B).</p> <p>Action on all to view and comment on updated conservation advice available from NE website. <u>Action</u></p>	<p>All</p>
<p>9 MMO</p>	<p>i. <u>Disposal site characterisation</u> A new site has been opened for at sea disposal, named Plymouth Deep (PL035) and will be accepting licences to dispose. The Rame Head site will now no longer be used, it will remain open for 5 years, followed by unused for 5 years before being closed after 10 years; no applications to dispose at Rame Head will be accepted.</p> <p>ii. <u>Marine planning</u> Next Marine Planning Workshop takes place on 22 March 2017, places for the Plymouth event are now full however spaces are still available in Falmouth (21 March) and Taunton (23 March)</p> <p>iii. <u>Marine applications</u> Small volume of applications, none of note here.</p>	
<p>10. Matters brought forward from PPMLC.</p>	<p>No matters were brought forward</p>	
<p>11. Water Events</p>	<p>The 2017 Water Events Diary (WED) can be found on the QHM website (www.qhm.mod.uk/plymouth/)</p>	

	<p>Major events for the coming year:</p> <p>28 May – Gypsy Moth re-enactment 29 May – Start of the OSTAR/TWO STAR 24 Jun – Armed Forces Weekend 7-12 Aug – Fastnet Finish 9-10 Aug – National Fireworks Championships 13 Aug – Breakwater Swim 7-8 Oct – ORCDA Powerboat events</p> <p>Request for all to submit known events for 2017 WED <u>Action</u></p>	All		
12. Items for Future Meetings	<p>QHM and NIO to discuss Suggestion of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Biosecurity plan</li> <li>- SAMS list</li> <li>- ANOB presentation</li> <li>- IFCA Wrasse update</li> </ul>			
13. Any other business	<p>Tamar valley AONB – currently working on an application for development funding. Will be working closely with local regulators and authorities.</p> <p>D&amp;S IFCA – Netting byelaw has not yet been enacted as more time is needed for evidence gathering.</p> <p>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. <u>Action</u></p>	All		
16. Dates of Next Meetings	<p>Dates of the forthcoming PPMLC and TECF meetings were published as follows:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><u>PPMLC</u> 1400 on 8 June 2017 1400 on 12 Oct 2017 1400 on 8 Feb 2018</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><u>TECF</u> <b>1015 on 13 July 2017</b> <b>1015 on 9 Nov 2017</b> <b>1015 on 8 Mar 2018</b></p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><u>PPMLC</u> 1400 on 8 June 2017 1400 on 12 Oct 2017 1400 on 8 Feb 2018</p>	<p><u>TECF</u> <b>1015 on 13 July 2017</b> <b>1015 on 9 Nov 2017</b> <b>1015 on 8 Mar 2018</b></p>	
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Distribution:

NBC, All Committee members

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## Agenda Item 7 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. The key objectives are:

1. Establish reporting frameworks;
  - a. Use of Designated Sites System for management info.
2. Monitor implementation of actions in resolving risks and issues.
  - a. Review whether management arrangements for sites are effective
  - b. Deliver actions as required.
3. Provision of guidance and best practice
  - a. Risk based approach to activities
  - b. Include assessment of bait collection and recreation.
4. External funding opportunities
  - a. Highlight funding available
5. Communication, co-ordination and promotion of effective MPA management
6. Monitoring and collecting data on activities
7. MPA management generic advice.

**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. They can be found at <http://mis.marinemanagement.org.uk/south-west/environment> and are available for comment until the end of the month. Your view is being sought to let the MMO know what you think about them by using the online questionnaire found at <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/mmo/marine-planning-iteration-1-engagement-1/>

There is also a workshop scheduled for the Future Inn at Plymouth for Wed 22nd March at 9.30am. You can book onto it through the online link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/marine-planning-south-west-plan-development-workshops-tickets-31288688309>.

The timetable for delivery is given 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

## 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.

ORGANISATION	2016/17 requested	2016/17 agreed	Rec'd	2017/18 Proposed
<b>Harbour Authorities</b>				
Ministry of Defence, QHM	3,000	3,000	Yes	3,000
Associated British Ports	3,000	2,000	Yes	2,000
Cattewater Harbour Commission	9,000	9,000	Yes	9,000
Sutton Harbour Commission	2,000	2,000	Yes	2,000
<b>Harbour Authorities Subtotal</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>		<b>16,000</b>
<b>Local Authorities</b>				
Plymouth City Council	9,000	10,000	Yes	10,000
Devon County Council	2,000	2,000	Yes	2,000
Cornwall Council	4,500	2,000	Yes	2,000
West Devon Borough Council	4,500	4,500	Yes	4,500
South Hams District Council	4,500	4,500	Yes	4,500
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>24,500</b>	<b>23,000</b>		<b>23,000</b>
<b>Other</b>				
Natural England	2000	3,000	Yes	3,000
Duchy of Cornwall	3,500	4,375	Yes	4,375
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		
<b>Other total</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>7,375</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,375</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>46,375</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>46,375</b>

Income has now been received from all partners for 2016/17.

Invoices will be sent out early in the new year for 2017/18.

#### b. Delivery of Priorities

Delivery against the agreed priorities for this 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: there are still uncertainties relating to the impacts of Brexit, so it is proposed to roll this on into 2017/18.
3. Continue to host TECF, PPMLC and TOFF meetings: Delivered.
4. Recreation Study for the Habitats Regulations Assessment and drafting of findings to inform strategic planning documents. : Delivered.
5. Secure funding and deliver CIL EMS Project.: Delivered
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. Next year a Supplementary Planning Guidance document will be needed for the authorities of the Joint Local Plan.
8. Produce a generic Non-native marine invasive species plan for the Tamar: This is being delivered through a contract by Natural England. The plan will be completed early 2017.
9. Support the production of the Cornwall Environment Strategy – no progress has been made on the Cornwall Environment Strategy by Cornwall Council.
10. Renew 4 TECF Information boards. – this has been deferred due to staff sickness.

### 3. EMS CIL Project

The funding has now been secured on the project brief which was presented at the last meeting. We are currently recruiting for a dedicated NIO EMS CIL Officer and interviews will take place on 14th March with a view to having the person in post asap. 38 high quality applications were received and it was a challenge to shortlist for interviews with such a high number of quality candidates. The new officer will be introduced to everyone as soon as he/she commences. Natural England officer will be on the interview panel.

### 4. Water Users Leaflet

The water users leaflet is due for a refresh and stocks are now down to zero. Reprinting should be straight forward following the work we had done on the artwork last year.

Please can everyone review the leaflet and let me know of any comments or changes that should be incorporated **by the 20 March 2017**.

### 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

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.

Whilst no formal response has been received from the local authorities, it is not expected to show any increase in activities other than development which is likely to result in increased recreational pressures and this is being addressed through the planning process.

Information is still awaited from Plymouth City Council, who manage the majority of the moorings in the waters, to understand whether there has been a change in their number.

Water quality is reported separately below.

## 6. Water Quality

- The EA have confirmed that Plym Hoe (W and E) bathing water quality as being excellent.
- Algal blooms were reported by the EA in June/July.
- EA sampling over the last 6 months has revealed a number of elevated counts of Escherichia coli and Intestinal Enterococci.
- Pollution risk notifications were issued and warning signs displayed at for Plymouth Hoe East and West on June 27th, August 6th, 25th and 26th.
- The ENS system in place at present consists of a cascade call from the EA to Public Protection Service. No calls have been received since June/July.

## 7. HRA Recreational Impacts Research & Appropriate Assessment

This is a key area of work in order to inform the Habitat Regulations Assessment for the Joint Plans and will be the driver for establishing how best to manage the recreational impacts in the coming years.

There is a significant amount of work to be completed over the coming months until the end of January when everything will need to be submitted, so work time available for TECF will be limited until then.

The key work areas will be in using the data to establish the mitigation strategy and partners are likely to be involved in the delivery of these looking ahead.

## 8. Developments

Current planning and marine planning matters include the following. This has not been updated due to staff absences.

### Plymouth

#### PLYMOUTH

**17/00336/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 resubmitted. This is also a Planning Appeal lodged against the previous application and is likely to be heard in Summer 2017.

#### **Old Royal Marines Barracks, Turnchapple**

Construction of 18 business uses, with café.

Awaiting decision.

### Cornwall

**MLP/2012/00326. Yonderberry 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.

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March 2017

## Agenda Item 8

### Natural England Update

#### 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:

- Discussions with key stakeholders around migratory fish passage and Gunnislake Weir.
- Engagement and training for volunteers to manage and monitor the spread of Pacific oysters in the Yealm estuary.
- Biosecurity planning – attendance and funding of a stakeholder workshop (held 1st March) which will lead to production of a draft biosecurity plan.
- Continued eradication of Giant Hogweed in Tamar Valley to avoid it spreading along corridors into other publically accessible areas where it can cause injury.
- Working with local planning authorities to develop strategic monitoring and mitigation plans in relation to likely additional pressure on the Special Area of Conservation from recreation as a result of new housing in the local plans.
- Endorsing the new Baseline Maintenance Dredging Document.

#### 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.

The [Tamar Estuaries Complex Special Protection Area \(SPA\)](#) advice package has been published on our Designated Sites System.

**Plymouth Sound and Estuaries Special Area of Conservation (SAC)** and **Tamar Estuaries Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)** are still in draft but can be used. Finalised packages will be available in the next few months.

### 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..

**Lynher mussel bed survey 2015** – We have received a final report from Cornwall IFCA who are continuing to monitor the bed on an annual basis. Please email me for a copy.

**Shad and smelt survey 2016** – The MBA and Environment Agency have produced a report on this work (EC18234). Please email me for a copy.

We expect to be surveying the following features in 2017 but are awaiting confirmation of funding :

**All intertidal biotopes, Circa-littoral reefs, shad and smelt.**

### The Green Blue Wildlife Guide for Boaters

The Green Blue have just launched their new national Wildlife Guide for boaters which Natural England, MMO, SNH and Wildlife Trusts have been advising on and support – the aim of which is to promote good practice to help minimise any impacts of boating activities on marine wildlife and protected sites.

**<http://thegreenblue.org.uk/News/2017/March/New-Green-Wildlife-Guide-for-Boaters>**

To complement the guide, The Green Blue is also launching **Writing a Green Wildlife Guide for Boaters** to help non-boating specific organisations when developing local codes of practice for water users.

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