

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

QHM/532/3

15 November 2016

NOTES OF THE TAMAR ESTUARIES CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING
HELD AT 1015 ON THU 10 NOVEMEBR 2016 IN
WARSPITE ROOM, COUNCIL HOUSE, 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 M Reynolds	Associated British Ports
Capt T Charlesworth	Cattewater Harbour Master
Ms R Baker	Cornwall Council
Mrs K Stephenson	D&S IFCA
Ms L Garlick	Devon County Council
Dr S Otway	DIO
Mr C Matthews	Duchy of Cornwall
Mr T Cronin	EA Catchment Co-ordinator
Mr J Sabel	NIO Team
Mr R Swinfen	Wembury Conservation Group
Mr C May	MMO
Ms N Collings-Costello	Cornwall Council
Ms J Churchill-Bissett	MMO
Cllr M Benson	WDBC
Mr T Carson	PCC
Mr B Hobbs	Cornwall Council
Mr N Gray	MMO
Ms J Bugg	MMO
Ms C Woodall	Tamar Valley AONB
Mrs A Gall	Natural England
Ms C Wood	Marine Biological Association
Ms H Tillin	Marine Biological Association
Mr T Vance	PML Applications Ltd
Mr M Goble	PCC
Mr P Sanders	Devon County Council

<u>Item</u>	<u>Discussion and Decisions</u>	<u>Action</u>
1. Welcome and Introductions	Chairman welcomed everyone to the TECF Meeting and gave all present an opportunity to introduce themselves.	
2. Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence had been received from: Mr R Sekula (SHDC), Mr S Cadman (CIFCA)	

3. Agree Notes of the last meeting.	The notes of the last meeting held on 14 July 2016 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.	
4. Matters Arising.	<p>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 draft letter by end Nov '16 proposing boat trip for Spring '17. <u>Action Ongoing</u></p> <p>4.4.14a. Dr Otway provided an update regarding the Baseline Document with a presentation at agenda item 10. <u>Action Complete</u></p> <p>4.7.5 Potential funding has been identified for the TECF interpretation Panels; discussed under agenda item 8. <u>Action Complete</u></p> <p>4.7.8 <u>Annual Survey</u>. Technical issues with "Survey Monkey" have proved difficult and had been deferred until further notice. QHM suggested that last year's survey could be used as the template for a 'manual' version in the interim. Action on NIO to distribute a manual survey and for all to provide feedback with evidence of work completed against the Estuary Management Plan by 31 Jan 17. <u>Action ongoing</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 became aware of any future 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 complete</u></p> <p>6.2 <u>National MPA Steering Group</u>. NE provided a summary of the meeting under agenda item 9. <u>Action Complete</u></p> <p>6.4 <u>Plymouth Waterfront Plan</u>. No comments received and consultation now closed; further public consultation will be opened with the overall Plymouth Plan in Mar 17. <u>Action Complete</u></p> <p>6.5 <u>Funding</u>. Discussed under agenda item 8.2 <u>Action Complete</u></p> <p>6.5a <u>TECF Priorities</u>. Comments received, incorporated and priorities issued at Para 2b to NIO's Report (AnnexB). <u>Action Complete</u></p>	<p>NIO</p> <p>NIO</p> <p>All</p>

	<p>6.6 <u>CIL Funded Project Proposal</u>. Decision made under agenda item 7. <u>Action Complete</u></p> <p>6.7 <u>Recreational Impacts Surveys</u>. MBA presentation under agenda item 6. <u>Action Complete</u></p> <p>6.7a <u>Slipway Audit</u>. Comments being correlated. Thank you to all contributors. <u>Action Complete</u></p> <p>6.11 <u>Developments</u>. Jennycliffe Pathway – Information on works passed to Duchy. Mr C Matthews (D of C) may follow up with NIO regarding ownership of fundus. <u>Action Complete</u></p> <p>7 <u>Condition Assessment</u>. No comments received. <u>Action Complete</u></p> <p>7 <u>MCZ Smelt study</u>. Report still in progress and will be issued to TECF via NIO. Consideration would be given to delivering a presentation summarising the findings at future TECF once substantive evidence has been collated. <u>Action Ongoing</u></p> <p>8 <u>Draft Netting bylaw</u>. Devon & Severn IFCA reported that consultation for their byelaw had been completed and agreed by the Byelaw Sub-Committee earlier this month (with a few minor changes). It will go forward for final approval in early Dec. Once approved the byelaw will then pass to the MMO for quality assurance before being confirmed by the Secretary of State. It is planned to have it in place by March 2017. Information found here: http://www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk/public-consultation- D&S IFCA were also liaising with Cornwall IFCA aiming to achieve common rules and regulations for adjoining areas of responsibility. <u>Action Complete</u></p> <p>10a. <u>Water quality warning system</u>. EA unable to consider a cascade warning system for the general public at this time. Information is available on various websites and individuals are encouraged to seek this out rather than relying on it being sent to them. NIO clarified the areas of monitoring are confined to the designated swimming areas. <u>Action Complete</u></p> <p>10b. <u>Invasive Species</u>. Mr Chris Matthews yet to liaise with NE. Discussion regarding funding; EA confirmed that funding is low but terrestrial monitoring is ongoing. <u>Action Complete</u></p>	<p>NE / NIO</p>
<p>5. Developing a Tamar</p>	<p>Christine Wood(MBA) and Tom Vance, (PML Applications) gave a presentation regarding Biosecurity plans for marine</p>	

Biosecurity Plan Project	<p>non-native and invasive species.</p> <p>Action placed on QHM PCO to liaise with PML and MBA regarding stakeholder engagement and workshop attendance. <u>Action</u></p>	PCO
6. EMS Recreation Study	<p>Heidi Tillin (MBA) gave a presentation on Plymouth Sound and Tamar Estuaries Recreation Study. Phase 3 is now underway with the Autumn/Winter Surveys being conducted. The final element of evidence gathering will be via an online survey which will be distributed in the near future and run for 6 weeks. <u>Action</u></p> <p>Corrina Woodall offered to include a link to the online survey in the Tamar Valley AONB Bulletin to increase the distribution.</p>	<p>NIO/Ms Tillin</p> <p>NIO/Ms Woodall</p>
7. Matters for Decision	<p>EMS CIL Funded Project Proposal</p> <p>NIO gave a presentation on EMS CIL. Programme at Annex A</p> <p>The recommendations were agreed.</p> <p>NIO to draft Terms of Reference for the Working Group <u>Action</u></p>	NIO
8. TECF Service: Natural Infrastructure Officer's (NIO) Report.	<p>NIO presented her report (Annex B).</p> <p>No further comment received</p>	
9. Nature Conservation	<p>Mrs A Gall gave update on MPA steering group (Annex C) followed by an overview of NE activity (Annex D).</p> <p>SPA advice now complete and published</p> <p>MCZ advice in draft to be finalised Winter '16</p> <p>EMS monitoring complete – observed increase in INNS</p> <p>Migratory fish data collection – acoustic sensors to be deployed by CEFAS</p> <p>Sediment Infauna assessment – New contract in place (with MBA) to analyse historic data. Members were requested to provide information regarding any other data sets that could be used <u>Action</u></p>	All
10. Dockyard Port of Plymouth Dredging Baseline Document	<p>Dr Otway gave a presentation on draft Baseline Document.</p> <p>The Baseline Document had been issued to TECF members who were asked to comment on document prior to meeting which Dr Otway reviewed and addressed in his presentation (Presentation to be forwarded separately).</p> <p>DIO/NE/CHC to clarify salmon restriction within the Cattewater <u>Action</u></p> <p>NIO to provide link to noise monitoring information from Drakes Island planning application <u>Action</u></p>	<p>DIO/NE/CHC</p> <p>NIO</p>

	<p>EA were requested to provide contact for Hemerdon Mine <u>Action</u></p> <p>Following incorporation of the feedback the Baseline Document would be finalised with NE and published on QHM's website.</p>	<p>EA</p> <p>DIO/PCO</p>
11. MMO	<p>a. <u>Alternative Disposal site characterisation</u> The CEFAS report on a proposed alternative dredge disposal site was due to be endorsed by the steering group next week before being released for public consultation, planned to last 4 weeks.</p> <p>b. <u>Marine planning</u> 1st iteration of SW marine plan expected by March '17, however as an ongoing process additional input welcomed at anytime.</p> <p>South Marine plan available for comment. <u>Action</u></p> <p>iii. <u>Marine applications</u> Small volume of applications, one of note: Cremyll shipyard (Mashfords) application to replace No.2 Slip</p>	All
12. Matters brought forward from PPMLC.	<p>Plymouth Water Safety Sub Committee met for their second meeting. The RNLI introduced a new Community Safety Officer (Ms K Butler) who would aid steering work streams, risks analysis and further develop practical communication channels between QHM/RNLI/CG/MDP MU and recreational water users.</p>	
13. Water Events	<p>The 2016 Water Events Diary can be found on the QHM website.</p> <p>All major events now complete; some recreational sailing events still ongoing.</p> <p>Request for all to submit known events for 2017 WED <u>Action</u></p>	All
14. Items for Future Meetings	<p>QHM and NIO to discuss.</p>	
15. Any other business	<p>Mr M Goble reported that RNLI Lifejacket Lockers for use by visiting yachtsmen have been installed at Elphinstone car park.</p> <p>Ms C Woodall advised that TVAONB were bidding for lottery funding for ongoing projects.</p> <p>Cllr Hobbs enquired about planning requirements for a new landing facility at Grenville Point in Torpoint. NIO considered it may come under the Coastal Concordat and suggested initial discussions with the MMO.</p>	Cllr Hobbs/ MMO

16. Dates of Next Meetings	Dates of the forthcoming PPMLC and TECF meetings were published as follows: <table><tr><td data-bbox="384 309 831 342"><u>PPMLC</u></td><td data-bbox="831 309 1222 342"><u>TECF</u></td></tr><tr><td data-bbox="384 342 831 376">1400 on 9 February 2017</td><td data-bbox="831 342 1222 376">1015 on 9 March 2017</td></tr><tr><td data-bbox="384 376 831 409">1400 on 8 June 2017</td><td data-bbox="831 376 1222 409">1015 on 13 July 2017</td></tr><tr><td data-bbox="384 409 831 443">1400 on 12 Oct 2017</td><td data-bbox="831 409 1222 443">1015 on 9 Nov 2017</td></tr></table>	<u>PPMLC</u>	<u>TECF</u>	1400 on 9 February 2017	1015 on 9 March 2017	1400 on 8 June 2017	1015 on 13 July 2017	1400 on 12 Oct 2017	1015 on 9 Nov 2017	
<u>PPMLC</u>	<u>TECF</u>									
1400 on 9 February 2017	1015 on 9 March 2017									
1400 on 8 June 2017	1015 on 13 July 2017									
1400 on 12 Oct 2017	1015 on 9 Nov 2017									

Distribution:

NBC, All Committee members

Agenda Item 7

EMS Managing Recreational Impacts Programme

Recommendation

- 1. That TECF Supports the EMS Managing Recreational Impacts Programme**
- 2. That TECF agrees to establish the EMS Managing Recreational Impacts Officer Working Group**

1 Background

- 1.1 The NIO is in the process of securing £264,000 from Plymouth City Council's Community Infrastructure Levy and S106 fund to deliver the requirements from PCC's Habitats Regulations Assessment for its last Core Strategy.
- 1.2 A Habitats Regulations Assessment that accompanied the Core Strategy identified a number of possible impacts on Plymouth Sound and Estuaries Special Area of Conservation and on the Tamar Estuaries Special Protection Area (collectively known as the 'European Marine Site') arising from the growth of the City. The adopted response to this was to levy a charge from development. This levy would fund work to deliver identified assessment and management actions to address the impacts on the designated features arising from increased levels of marine recreation linked to the City's growth.
- 1.3 This need was described in the Planning Obligations SPD which set out the level of contributions to the European Marine Site for the management of these recreational impacts and was to be collected through S106 contributions. Later the Council adopted the CIL and published the Regulation 123 List which identified the EMS as one of the infrastructure projects to be funded through the CIL.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 It is proposed that the work will be delivered by Plymouth City Council but through Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum. The key partner agencies will be fully involved including the Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities the Harbour Authorities as will Natural England as the statutory nature conservation body. 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.

2 Timescale

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| 2.1 Project Sign off | Nov 2016 |
| Project Commencement | January 2017 |
| Project Completion | March 2020 |
- 2.2 It is anticipated that there will be a subsequent phase to this project on completion, in order to continue with the management actions as required.

3 Scope

- 3.1 The key marine recreational activities which are known to result in pressures on the sensitive habitats and species will be targeted and these are:
- 3.2 Recreational angling
- 3.3 Recreational sailing and in particular mooring and anchoring
- 3.4 Bait digging and crab-tiling
- 3.5 Sub aqua diving

- 3.6 Management responses will focus on these activities and will in particular use education and awareness as a means of increasing understanding and eliciting a change in behaviours so that detrimental impact is avoided.
- 3.7 Sensitive species are also included here and in particular Little Egrets and Avocets for which more understanding is needed to enable development to take place without impacting on their supporting habitats. In order to achieve this research will be carried out to identify exactly how the birds use the Plymouth Sound and Tamar Estuaries for nesting, roosting, loafing and feeding so that suitable strategies can be put in place to provide sufficient supporting habitat.
- 3.8 This work is still required following the UK referendum to exit the EU, as confirmed in a recent email from DEFRA stressing that it is 'business as usual' in relation to legal compliance.

4 Project Outcomes

4.1 This project will deliver the following key outcomes:

- Enable the Council to comply with its legal obligation under the Habitat Regulations;
- Achieve statutory compliance with the Habitat Regulations in relation to the delivery of the Core Strategy;
- Robust assessment of the high risk activities which include recreational angling, recreational sailing and in particular mooring and anchoring, bait digging and crab-tiling and also sub aqua diving.
- Improved understanding of how Little Egrets and Avocets use the Plymouth Sound and Tamar Estuaries to inform Plymouth City Council of how development can proceed without impacting on these protected birds.
- Monitoring system which enables information to be shared amongst all the delivery partners.
- Framework against which to identify management responses to marine recreation on and in the waters of Plymouth Sound and the Tamar Estuaries.
- Programme of education and awareness targeting the high risk activities which include recreational angling, recreational sailing and in particular mooring and anchoring, bait digging and crab-tiling and also sub aqua diving.
- Changes in behaviour amongst marine users so that detrimental impacts are avoided or reduced.
- Increased awareness through the use of innovative 'citizen science' approach that collects valuable data on key marine environmental features.
- Monitoring to show the effectiveness of the actions in changing behaviour and reducing detrimental impacts.
- Full support of the user-groups in all actions brought forward.
- Framework against which to identify management responses to marine recreation on and in the waters of Plymouth Sound and the Tamar Estuaries.

4.2 This work will ensure that new standards are achieved in measuring and assessing the levels of marine recreation by using the latest technology and approaches and will result in information being shared across a common platform with all of the regulatory authorities and will so ensure that only appropriate and evidenced management responses are brought in the future.

5 Key Deliverables

5.1 The project will deliver the following:

- Robust baseline assessment in the form of a Recreation Study
- Specific action plans for the recreational activities known to have the highest potential for inflicting damage to the sensitive species and features of the European Marine Site, these are:
 - Recreational angling,
 - Crab tiling and bait digging,
 - Recreational boating including anchoring and mooring,

- Sub aqua diving.
 - Development of a shared GIS system for use by all licensing authorities.
 - Management system in place for the key high risk recreational activities which is likely to include eco-friendly moorings if proved successful.
 - One Little Egret and Avocet Study into the use of the site by these birds.
 - A programme of information boards and messages through multimedia on the special nature of the marine environment and how certain actions by the user groups can have an adverse effect on the wildlife and habitats to be installed at key sites around Plymouth.
 - Installation and management of waste bins for fishing debris to be installed at the key sites for recreational angling.
 - Use of innovative means of engagement through 'citizen science' such as camera-traps and web tools as a way of raising awareness amongst users.
 - Full consultation and involvement of the marine recreational user-groups in developing interpretation and information.
 - Six workshops to engage with water users in order to explore the issues, identify solutions and devise a management response for more sustainable use of the water.
 - 1 FTE E Grade Natural Infrastructure Officer post created to deliver the above works for 3 years.
- 5.2 The budget has been set at £264,000 financed from CIL and S106 contributions and will be subject to Plymouth City Council's financial controls.

6 Role of TECF

- 6.1 It is vital that the members of TECF are fully engaged with the delivery of the EMS CIL and many will be actively engaged with delivering key work streams over the three years and into the future.
- 6.2 With this in mind it is proposed that:
- an officer working group be established to manage and oversee the delivery of this project as set out in the draft Business Case.
 - The group meets as required and reports to TECF on the delivery of the project.
 - If changes to the project proposal are required, then recommendations are made to Plymouth City Council.
- 6.3 Natural England will need to play a critical role in signing off all contract specification in order to ensure that the most recent guidance and best practice is complied with.

7 Recommendation

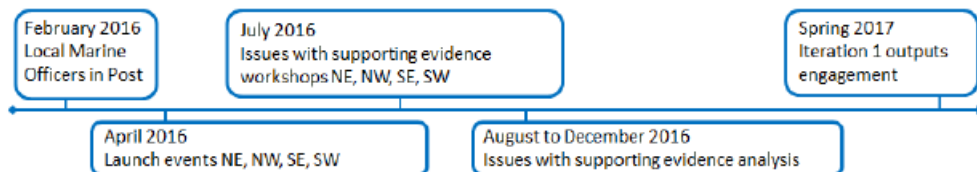
Recommendation

- 1. That TECF supports the EMS Managing Recreational Impacts Programme**
- 2. That TECF agrees to establish the EMS Managing Recreational Impacts Officer Working Group**

Agenda Item 8 Natural Infrastructure Officer's TECF Report Item for Information

1. Marine Planning

The MMO is currently working on the Marine Plans for a suite of areas including the South West. They are working to the following timetable;



Following workshops held in Plymouth in the summer in order to capture issues and evidence, they have now published an Excel spreadsheet identifying all the issues which is available for review at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/analysis-of-issues-with-evidence-for-marine-plan-areas>

A total of 1,000 separate issues have been identified which are split under the four categories of Economic, Environment, Governance and Social. Of these 421 issues are recorded as of being relevant to the South West Inshore.

The MMO is not consulting on the database in advance of iteration 1 outputs. However, if stakeholders have further evidence on issues they are advised to inform the MMO through planning@marinemanagement.org.uk or the local liaison officer neal.gray@marinemanagement.org.uk

2. Finance and Priorities

a. TECF Income 2016/17 and 2017/18

ORGANISATION	2016/17	2016/17	2017/18	
	requested	agreed	Rec'ed	Proposed
Harbour Authorities				
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
Harbour Authorities Subtotal	17,000	16,000		16,000
Local Authorities				
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
Subtotal	24,500	23,000		23,000
Other				
Natural England	2000	3,000		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		
Other total	5,500	7,375	0	7,375
Grand Total	45,000	46,375	0	46,375

Income has now been received from all partners for 2016/17 with the exception of Natural England.

It is proposed to roll the budget forward for next year with the same level of income.

We still have £21,800 in the reserve, so TECF can carry on for the moment, subject to funding being secured from the other core partners. This is £5,000 less than previously, as a contribution has been provided to the Community Seagrass Initiative's eco-friendly mooring trial as previously agreed at TECF.

b. Priorities

Priorities for this year are confirmed as:

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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. Community Seagrass Initiative



This HLF funded project includes the trialing of an eco-friendly mooring which is designed to keep the chain off the seabed. The National Marine Aquarium deployed this early in the summer in Cawsand Bay and will be monitoring its impact on the seabed over the coming year. If successful then this could offer a solution to reducing impact of moorings within the seagrass beds.

6. Developments

Current planning and marine planning matters include the following:

Plymouth

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. This is now subject to a Planning Appeal and is likely to be heard in Spring 2017.

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.

Granted.

16/01270/FUL: Jennycliff Beach

Repairs to steps and to cliff face.

Granted.

Old Royal Marines Barracks, Turnchapel

Construction of 18 business uses, with café.

Awaiting decision.

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 Officer & TECF Coordinator
Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum
Kaja.curry@plymouth.gov.uk
@TamarEstuaries
Nov 2016

Agenda Item 9 (MPA Steering Group minutes)

**DRAFT note MPA Management National Steering Group (NSG)***Thursday 6 October 2016 meeting 11:00 – 15:00*

Room 204, Nobel, House, London

1 Attendees

Michael Coyle (Marine Management Organisation (MMO)) –Chair;
 Tina Blanford (Defra);
 Stephen Bolt (Association of Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities);
 Tim Dixon (MMO);
 Tracy Edwards (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) – by phone
 Eve Leegwater (Environment Agency (EA));
 Jan Maclennan (Natural England (NE));
 Ollie Payne (Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC));
 Joanna Redgwell (NE);
 Mark Roberts (Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group (LGA CSIG))

2 Apologies

Jane Burch (LGA); Sarah Dacre (BEIS);
 Jon Davies (JNCC);
 Tanya Ferry (UK Major Ports Group);
 Rod Jones (Ministry of Defence);
 Laura Marquis (Department for Transport);
 Cllr Andy Smith (LGA SCIG);
 Inger Soderstrom (BEIS)

3 Agenda item 1: Welcome and Introduction

Michael Coyle (MC), the chair, welcomed attendees, and each attendee briefly introduced themselves MC then outlined the changes in NSG members since the last meeting:

- Joanna Redgwell now represents Natural England (NE) replacing Sam King;
- Tanya Ferry now represents UK Major Ports Group (UKMPG) replacing Liz English; and
- Laura Marquis now represents Department for Transport (DFT) replacing Godfrey Souter who has retired.

New members were welcomed to the group.

It was also noted that European Marine Site (EMS) officers from the network were invited to attend this meeting as we feel that the knowledge that they have will be invaluable to this group. Although there was significant interest from the group, due to work loads, no officers attended this meeting, but there will be a standing invitation for attendance to these meeting going forward. JM will forward this meeting note to that group.

MC announced that he is leaving his current post in the Marine Conservation Team, and that he would be heading up the compliance and control team at the MMO. This would mean that he is vacating the Chair responsibilities for the NSG. Recruitment is underway to replace MC in his current role and part of the job specification is to chair the NSG. It is intended that the successful candidate will be in post by December and certainly before the next NSG face to face.

Action 1: Circulate this note to EMS officers network (**JM**)

4 Agenda item 2: Review of previous note of meeting (June 2016)

It is considered that all actions from the February meeting have now been actioned or are no longer relevant due to the direction the group has taken. As such, only actions from the June meeting would be covered:

Action 1: Make minor amendment to the Work Plan (these are in the Annex below)(**TD**)
Complete

Action 2: Add a timeline for delivery (on the work plan) (**TD**) Complete

Action 3: Request volunteers for ownership and assistance of each plan number on the work plan (**TD**) Complete

Action 4: Gain sign-off of the Work Plan from all (**TD**)
Complete – albeit with the caveat that the work plan is living document.

Action 5: Ascertain whether reporting can be on both Site and Feature level on the NE Designated Sites System (**JM**)
Complete – further detail would be provided during this meeting (Agenda item 7).

Action 7: Arrange a meeting between a relevant Defra representatives and MC to understand the scope and detail of what reporting is required (**Callum Watt (CW)**).
Outstanding

Action 8: Consider process for collating management information on each MPA and including where this is stored and what the format may look like. **(TD)**

Complete - further detail would be provided during this meeting (Agenda item 7).

Action 9: Create and deliver webinar or add item to EMS officers October meeting agenda to raise awareness of the NSG **(JM/TD)**

Complete

Action 11: Circulate Eurosite newsletter to the NSG **(JM)**

Complete – This was sent out with the final June meeting documents. **ACTION - TD** to resend.

Action 12: To explore how the NSG can have a section on the .Gov website **(MK)** Complete - further detail would be provided during this meeting (Agenda item 3)

End

Action 2: Arrange a meeting between the relevant Defra representative (Dominic Pattinson) and NSG to discuss scope of annual reporting. **(MC)**

5 Agenda item 3: NSG Communication plan - Work plan item (WPI) 6.4

MC outlined that the MMO have been talking to our internal communication team about creating a communication plan for the NSG. Although there is no possibility of having a NSG logo there is the ability to have a NSG section on the MMO .Gov website. This is intended to be a one stop shop for all things NSG and will include documents such as:

Meeting notes

ToR

Most recent work plan

Items relating to each item from the work plan

Comms

Key messages

Annual reports to Defra

A full list of items will be determined after the NSG understand the requirements of the MPA board with more clarity.

The benefit was also noted to have links from this page to other organisation websites and vice versa (where restrictions allow). It was stated that the MMO would have to obtain written approval from all bodies to allow the MMO comms teams to use their logos on this webpage and other forms of communication surrounding the NSG. It was acknowledged that there would not be the functionality for individual members of the NSG to upload documents to this webpage; so it was suggested that a Hudl group is created to facilitate document sharing and information exchange.

The benefits of using social media were also acknowledged and this aspect is to be incorporated into the communications plan.

It was acknowledged that if using the MMO website became too cumbersome then the NSG would look to house their page on other NSG members' website that had more flexibility such as the IFCA, JNCC or LGA.

MC stated that he hoped that the Communications Plan would be ready and available to share with other NSG members for comment by the end of October 2016.

MC discussed a paper that had been drafted by Natural England outlining their vision of what MPA management should look like. MC stated that he would like to feed into this to make this a joint NE/NSG vision. This would then include how the NSG would add value above what the individual organisation (such as MMO; NE or JNCC) would alone. It was envisioned that the new NSG chair would make the additions.

SB suggested that, in time, the aims and objectives of this group would align to that of the MPA implementation stakeholder group. To that end it may be of benefit to include them in discussions going forward from January 2017; so that they can begin feeding into this group. It was questioned as to whether we should form an advisory group from bodies such as NGOs, but it was felt that there would be too much overlap. It was felt that this steering group should not be diluted too far as this may impede speed of progress.

There were discussions on whether the group should present at Coastal Futures. Last year, there were a handful of slots where presenters had a minute to pitch projects/themes and then delegates could ask them about their talk in time between other talks.

The comms plan will be sent around the group for comment prior to publication. This will be accompanied with an ask to use organisation logos in the plan. This will also include a vision for the group and a strapline. It was felt that a strapline is required as there is currently a difficulty to communicate quickly and precisely the purpose and outcomes of the group. This was particularly noted by newer members of the group. This vision will also include a methodology on how we intend to engage with stakeholders.

JM asked how we promote the group within our own organisations:

MR – Standing agenda item on NSG progress. Whilst it is recognised that this does not reach all LPAs it does reach a significant amount.

SB – IFCA have awareness through discussions at the COG meeting and could be introduced other IFCA face to face meetings.

EL – There are only a limited amount of staff at the EA that have national MPA management in their remit. To that end there isn't a real requirement for dissemination throughout EA. It was noted that if there was the requirement further down the line then the NE NSG webinar could be adapted for the EA. JM will send the link (**ACTION complete**). It was noted that Defra run "lunch and learn" sessions, and this could be an avenue for raising awareness. TB is to look into getting a slot for this.

TE – There are good links between BEIS and the oil and gas industry and this is also good in keeping the offshore wind sector informed. However it was noted that the above webinar could also be delivered to inform BEIS Environmental Managers.

Action 3: Submit ideas for a strapline (**ALL**)

Action 4: To write to each body to ask for approval to use their logos (**MMO**)

Action 5: Create a Hudl group (**MMO**)

Action 6: Circulate proposed communications plan for comment (**TD**)

Action 7: Ascertain whether we can present at Coastal Futures 2017 (**TD**)

Action 8: Explore the possibility of promoting NSG at a Defra lunch and learn (**TB**)

6 Agenda item 4: Inshore MPA managers Face to Face – WPI 6.2

JM organises calls with EMS officers and relevant NE site leads. The intent of the call is to offer support and highlight best practice amongst the group.

If funding is available, each year, there is a face to face of this group. This year the invitees to the face to face have been expanded to fit a new approach to include other people with

management responsibilities in MPAs. The reason for this is to increase understanding of how MPAs are managed in areas where there are not EMS officers or management plans. It is the intent that this will help us understand issues related to EMS at both local and national levels.

One of the workshops at the face to face ties in with item 6.3 on the work plan. This is about the opportunity to screen the items that we have discovered from IPENS work to understand whether those (perceived) pressures on EMS were still current/relevant. This should then provide a list of priority activities to look at whether management is required. This will then allow for NSG efforts to be focused.

On a wider point, it was noted that there was the opportunity for further join up between EA and NE staff given the alignment of each organisations boundaries.

7 Agenda item 6: Bait digging – WPI 4.4

TD outlined that the MMO had been progressing with a methodology for assessing the risk to MPAs from bait collection. This methodology was based on an Ecological Risk Assessment for the Effects on Fishing that has been used in numerous places around the world. The first stage involves a data gathering exercise to frame the scope of further work. It is intended to screen out individual MPAs where bait collection does not occur; meaning that there is no impact and therefore no need to undertake a full site assessment. These data can be captured via a questionnaire and IFCA conservation officers and NE site leads are best placed to complete them as they have the local knowledge. The questionnaires are very high level and are intended to be completed as a desk based task.

The questionnaire has been trailed with an IFCA and a local planning authority, and the feedback has been taken on board.

After the initial data gathering exercise, more targeted analysis of the remaining sites will be conducted.

The MMO are seeking approval from both NE and IFCA for buy in for this approach as these bodies will be asked to fill in site specific detail, whilst the MMO complete the admin and site selection going forward based on the site scores.

TD and MK and are to present this concept at the NE bait collection workshop.

It is understood that if/when assessments are further down the line, bait shops will be an excellent resource to gather intensity data.

8 Agenda item 8: Organisations reports / updates

TE: Nothing to report on MPA management related issues since the last meeting

MR: There is regular reporting into the wider LPA group regarding the work of the NSG

JM: The main progress has been around the updating of the designated sites system (DSS). It is the intention that threats, and actions to counter those threats, to MPAs will be part of the condition assessment and added to the system. However, management information will be input and condition assessment data will follow when available.

All SACs and SPAs have been added and NE is now ready to request the upload of the "stage 1 management spreadsheet" that has been compiled by the MMO. This spreadsheet contains all existing MMO and IFCA bylaws. There were discussions on whether we should be inputting

River Basin Management Plan data at this stage. It was felt that as the spreadsheet was available now for upload we should not miss this window of opportunity to start the upload process. To that end the River Basin Management Plans will form part of the "Stage 2" upload. This "Stage 2" upload would be deeper information regarding management and recreational activities. The key then is ensuring that there is a programme to keep these data fresh and up to date.

The project regarding anchoring is still ongoing and the MMO are chasing MBA for an update – this will then go into Defras website. Other reports such as recreational boating activity reports and the RYA marine wildlife guide can/should be linked to the NSG webpages.

OP: The OSPAR management report has been collated and will be shared with the NSG once complete. A paper surrounding impacts of scientific surveys within MPAs has been written. It was noted that this has strong links into item 9.4 on the agenda. Once finalised this paper will be shared with the MPA Network Board. TE noted that BEIS has worked with the oil and gas industry to understand impacts on the harbour porpoise population in the southern North Sea resulting from survey work.

JR: Noted that there has been an internal NE restructure. It is envisaged at this stage that Caroline Cottrell and not Jonathan Burney will sit over the work stream where NSG falls.

SB: Work is ongoing around the Pioneer project. Questions remain around funding and workloads but IFCAs are pressing on. IFCAs will also be extremely busy until the end of 2016 implementing management.

TB: Working on the potential repeal regarding Lyme Bay. Also working on TIII MCZ consultation in advance of the Minister deciding on which sites to consult on.

EL: Working on the PR19 price review. This is regarding what water companies can charge over a set period of time. They are also undertaking a national scoping exercise to understand which current licences could effect MCZs and where there is opportunity for MCZ enhancement through those licences. They have also been advising the Government around tidal lagoons and, theoretically, whether is there enough habitat that could be used as compensatory measures.

MC: Have been conducting fisheries assessments and are about to launch consultation on Margate and Longsands SCI

They also have been working on high profile licence applications within or adjacent to MPAs including, Fal and Helford SAC, Whitsand and Looe Bay MCZ, Manacles MCZ and Kingmere MCZ.

Action 9: Sharing of OSPAR management report (JNCC).

9 Agenda item 9: Any Other Business

9.1 Climate Change

Cefas have commissioned a review to identify those MPA features that are most vulnerable to this pressure. The intention is to understand whether there is anything that can be done to proactively mitigate for the impacts of this pressure. MC asked whether NSG members that would be interested in feeding into this, and if so to contact him. To aid this, a list of features and the date of the next meeting will be circulated to this group.

Action 10: Circulate relevant features and date for next meeting (MC)

9.2 Environment Audit Committee Inquiry

It was noted that many people around the table had fed into this inquiry ahead of the deadline on 7th October. It was felt that the NSG was beginning to significantly deliver against the requirements of the inquiry.

9.3 Additions to the Work Plan

It was agreed that this will be a standing item going forward to ensure that the work plan is as current and relevant as possible; and should include the removal of items once delivered

It was suggested that we should have a general advice section that does not fit into any of the specific priorities. An example was providing a clearer steer on the role for authorities through from consultation – designation – management and what is expected of them. This section and first advice requirement will be added to the work plan and then others will be added as grey areas are identified.

Action 11: Add a “MPA management generic advice” section to the work plan (TD) **Date of next meeting**

MMO will send out potential dates for February 2017 via Doodle Poll.

10 Close

ANNEX

1: It was requested that the scope of item 1.4 (Annual report) was explained, as this would have implications for the entire scope of the work of the NSG. As such MC acknowledged that it was vital that we get a steer as to what outcomes the MPA Network Board (NB) require.

2: It was noted that links from this section to 1.4 were not clear.

There were discussions around the scope of item 2.5 (information on licencing of activities). It was outlined that it would be extremely difficult to capture all information on this topic; and as above, it was noted that we will require a steer from the NB as to what they require. Both Sara Dacre and Eve Leegwater (EL) explained that both DECC and the EA have data surrounding this topic. As such MC suggested that, as a group, we need to understand the types of data that we have. JM noted that NE have various spreadsheets and systems containing data and Cllr Mark Roberts (MR) noted that he also has a significant amount of data, albeit it would be hard to access. Finally, on this point, it was suggested that the terminology of “MCZ Assessment” was confirmed as correct.

3: Pioneer is well placed to help deliver this PN. Additionally, if Pioneer is used in this capacity it would be advantageous for IFCA pilot districts to have representation on the NSG. It was also suggested that in addition to identifying specific best practice in this area, a timeline for delivery should be outlined.

4: Ollie Payne (OP), JNCC, highlighted that there might not be too much logic in identifying topics such as bait digging and other recreation when items in 4.1 have not been fully scoped. A full exploration of item 4.1 may uncover items that are more urgent than the ones identified. As such MC stated that item 4.1 was the priority here and then we would be in the position to inform the scope of this section. However bait digging is also still to be progressed as it is a

topic already in progress. This would happen in conjunction with identifying potential risks in addition to bait digging.

5: It was agreed that the plan should not contain references to specific funding bids, but 5.2 should be re-worded and about working with partners on projects which contribute to meeting the needs of the NSG.

6: Ollie Payne (OP) outlined that interaction was not just required with local site managers, and that there was a similar level of interaction required with offshore site managers.

As an additional specific point it was noted that the communication of the work of this group may have been lacking in the past. This was acknowledged but explained due to an absence of a coordinator. Some channels of previous dissemination of information (such as council meetings) were identified, but all agreed that a communication plan should be implemented; to inform not only internal colleagues but also external stakeholders, and raise the profile of the group as the “go to” place for management issues etc (volunteers for this ask has been added to the Work Plan). MC asked for volunteers to promote the group. The Communication plan is a significant piece of work and requires scoping.

It was also suggested that it was made clear that the NSG is responsible for bringing parties together as well as delivering against the Work Plan.

Agenda Item 9 Natural England Update

TECF Meeting 10th November 2016

[Update on the Marine Protected Areas National Steering Group](#)

The National Steering Group met in October and minutes of this meeting will be circulated separately. European Marine Site officers have been invited to attend these meetings from now on. The group has a workplan and has made the following progress against it:

- Reporting frameworks – NE are making progress with the Designated Sites System which now has basic information about all MPAs. We have the ambition to include management information on the same system – stage 1 has been completed with a spreadsheet of data of all MMO and IFCA byelaws. This is due to be uploaded on to the system soon and the next step will be testing how this information can then be viewed by the public.
- Developing guidance and best practice
 - o Bait collection – a workshop was held in Peterborough in October with key authorities and stakeholders, MMO are developing a quick risk assessment methodology to determine priorities and get an overview of level of activity around the country
 - o Recreation – NE have just advertised a contract to deliver a project on recreational activities – gathering evidence on impacts and thresholds of impacts, information on best practice and case studies and working with national user group organisations to look at messaging and approaches to raising awareness
- Communication – MMO are putting together a comms plan about the MPA NSG and communicating about MPAs. This will include a website to store and make accessible information about the group, work plan, annual management reports etc
- Develop a network of MPA managers – NE currently holds annual EMS officer workshops but the aim is to expand this to other MPA managers.

[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 latest conservation advice from Natural England.

The [Tamar Estuaries Complex Special Protection Area \(SPA\)](#) advice package has been published on our Designated Sites System. It is live and will be regularly updated when new data is available.

[Plymouth Sound and Estuaries Special Area of Conservation \(SAC\)](#) and [Tamar Estuaries Marine Conservation Zone \(MCZ\)](#) are still in draft but can be used. These draft packages are not yet on the Designated Sites System but when they are finalised this winter they will become interactive like the SPA advice.

[Plymouth EMS and Tamar Estuary Sites MCZ Monitoring](#)

Intertidal rock monitoring – This summer Natural England surveyed of the intertidal reef within the Plymouth Sound and Estuaries Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Although results have not yet been analysed, initial impressions are that the rocky shores are largely

unchanged since previous surveys with the exception of the increase in non-native species such as Pacific oysters and Wakame (a type of kelp).

As highlighted in our recent condition assessment, numbers of Pacific oysters on the shores of the Yealm estuary have pushed that part of the site into unfavourable condition. We are setting up some transects to be carried out annually to monitor the situation and the effect of any management measures. The idea is that it will be a methodology that anyone can repeat so that stakeholders can get involved in the monitoring. We will be discussing management of the oysters in the intertidal zone with stakeholders at the Yealm Estuary Management Group.

Migratory fish monitoring – CEFAS, with the Environment Agency and ourselves are planning some further monitoring of migratory fish species in the Tamar, particularly Smelt and Allis shad. This Defra funded project aims to set up an acoustic array in the estuary and tag fish to analyse their movements through the estuary and up into fresh water. This will start early in 2017.

Sediment infauna analysis – Natural England and the Environment Agency have a number of years' worth of data on sediment infauna within the European Marine Site. We are about to let a contract to analyse this data over time. If there are any other datasets that we can have access to it would be useful to include them in this to add to the time series.

Recreational disturbance

Natural England is working with TECF and the local authorities to understand existing levels recreational pressure on the European Marine Site and whether this is leading to disturbance to habitats and species. We are helping to identify mitigation for the anticipated increase in recreation within the site as there is further housing growth over the coming years. We have provided £4000 of funding to TECF this year which is for work on mitigation ideas specifically tailored to potential issues within the site.

Consultations responded to/in process of responding to:

- MMO. MLA/2016/00332. Trinity Pier, Millbay Marina
- MLA/2016/00297 Application (Decommissioning of works) Pomphlett Marine Loading Jetty, Plym Estuary
- Plymouth City Council 16/01270/FUL Jennycliff Bay Repairs to footpath and cliff face.
- Repairs to seized large tidal flaps at Stonehouse Creek in Plymouth – AMEY engineering.
- Habitats Regulations Assessments of various fishing activities within the European Marine Site – with Devon and Severn IFCA.
- Plymouth dredged material site selection steering group.
- Maintenance dredging baseline document.

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