

**Queen's Harbour Master Plymouth**

Longroom House  
RM Barracks  
Stonehouse  
Plymouth PL1 3RT

QHM/532/3

16 March 2018

**NOTES OF THE TAMAR ESTUARIES CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING**

**HELD AT 1015 ON THU 8 March 2018 IN**

**WARSPITE ROOM, COUNCIL HOUSE, PLYMOUTH**

<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Representing</u></b>
Mr C Necker	Chairman and Queens Harbour Master
Ms B Siddons	Natural Infrastructure Officer (EMS)
Mr R Price	Environment Agency
Mr E Crowe	Natural England
Ms A Gall	Natural England
Mr C May	MMO
Mr A Dissanayake	Natural England
Mr C Matthews	Duchy of Cornwall
Mr K Hiscock	Wembury MCA

<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Discussion and Decisions</u></b>	<b><u>Action</u></b>
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: K Curry (PCC), S Cadman (CIFCA), T Charlesworth (CHC), R Allen (CHC), S Bedingham (MMO), R Baker (CC) T Carson (PCC), N Jory (WDBC), C Woodall (TVAONB), R Sekula (SWDBC), P Sander (SWBDC), N Trathen (QHM), A Jones (QHM).	
2. Agree Notes of the last meeting.	The notes of the last meeting held on 9 November 2017 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.	

3. Matters Arising.	<p>1. <u>Baseline Dredging Document</u> – Awaiting endorsement letter from NE prior to publication.</p> <p>UPDATE July 2017: Additional comments received from NE will be incorporated ready for final endorsement <u>Complete</u></p>	
	<p>2. <u>Water users leaflet.</u> 2017 leaflet published and distributed.</p> <p>Action on all to provide any required updates to the Water Users Leaflet by End Feb 2018</p> <p>UPDATE Mar 2018: Leaflets to be printed and circulated to coincide with QHM water safety messages &amp; press release, May Day Bank Holiday. <u>Complete</u></p>	
	<p>3. <u>PCC Sports Study.</u> Thank you to all TECF members who contributed to consultation process.</p> <p>July 2017: Draft report complete, final report to be forwarded to TECF and PPMLC once complete.</p> <p>UPDATE Nov 2017: Distributed Late September <u>Complete</u></p>	
	<p>4. <u>NE Conservation advice.</u> Action on all to view and comment on updated conservation advice available from NE website.</p> <p>July 2017: Presentation will be included on Agenda for next TECF.</p> <p>UPDATE Nov 2017: included in NE update. <u>Complete</u></p>	
	<p>5. <u>Biosecurity Plan.</u> 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.</p> <p>UPDATE Nov 2017: See Agenda Item. 6</p> <p>UPDATE Mar 2018: Final draft to be reviewed at TOFF, 22 March 2018.</p> <p>NIO to circulate current Biosecurity plan to all TECF. <u>Action</u></p>	NIO
	<p>6. <u>Marine Park:</u> NIO raised the recent proposal of a Marine Park designation for Plymouth. Mr Crowe (NE) felt this may have some potential, but should be seen more as an accolade rather than additional designation.</p> <p>QHM suggested inviting Luke Pollard MP to a future TECF meeting to provide an oversight of the current legislative and environmental designations and management structures already in place.</p>	

	<p>UPDATE Nov 2017: Proposal to invite Martin Atrill to future TECF for and update.</p> <p>UPDATE Mar 2018: NIO to determine most appropriate representative from MarCoPol to present feedback and findings from NMP workshop.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p> <p>Plymouth University's Marine and Coastal Policy (MarCoPol) research group will represent and advise from an academic stance. It is stressed that a National Marine Park should be seen as a "branding" exercise rather than any new designation; however wording will have to be carefully crafted.</p> <p>NE observed that the proposal needed to be refined and once more information was available NE may be able to present on the initiative later next year.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p>	<p>NIO</p> <p>NIO/NE</p>
	<p>7. <u>CIL TORs</u>: NE unable to agree 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 will be forwarded to members for approval out of committee.</p> <p>UPDATE Nov 17: NE comments now received; discussed at Agenda Item.7</p> <p><u>Complete</u></p>	
	<p>8. <u>TECF information Boards</u>: It was highlighted that NE would be involved in the new iterations providing updated environmental information.</p> <p>UPDATE Nov 2017: 5 Pilot sites have been selected, NE in discussion with NIO concerning environmental information.</p> <p><u>Complete</u></p> <p>UPDATE Mar 2018: NIO (EMS) to share current draft of template to all TECF members for feedback.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p> <p>8i. <u>TECF information Boards</u>: Action to look into refurbishment of Plymouth waterfront information panels.</p> <p>UPDATE Nov 2017: Contract for refurbishment of granite panels should be placed by Dec 17.</p> <p>UPDATE Mar 2018: Pending better weather for refurb to be completed. Expected end April 18.</p>	<p>NIO(EMS)</p>

	<p>9. <u>Netting Bye Law</u>: Focus on unmarked static gear, DQHM to brief VTS and MDP staff.</p> <p>UPDATE Nov 2017: VTS and MDP monitoring and moving when necessary and reporting to IFCA as per usual business. <u>Complete</u></p>	
Presentations		
<p>4. Natural England – Designated Sites website &amp; Conservation Objectives</p>	<p>Natural England Designated Sites website &amp; Conservation Objectives update.</p> <p>NE showcased the Natural England Designated Sites website, including how to identify designations and the qualifying features, how to find conservation objectives, management measures and operational guidance, current condition assessments and links to relevant authorities.</p> <p>Site was launched in 2016, but is under-going continual development and improvement, so NE is open to suggestions and recommendations.</p> <p>Mr Price (EA) suggested that the site could tie in the with EA river catchment system, to allow a review of Water Framework Directive related information.</p> <p>Question from QHM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Can there be some generic guidance that covers all the different designations &amp; related advice, rather than having to look at each individually?</li> <li>ii. Can information about the Coastal Concordat be added to the Operational Advice page for the EMS?</li> </ul> <p>ACTION: Review &amp; respond to questions from QHM.</p> <p>Questions from Mr Matthews (DoC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. How long does it take from time of designation for advice/guidance to be available online? NE – At time of change to status or designation, package guidance will be published online at time of next review cycle (usually March &amp; October) but NE can provide it manually via email request.</li> <li>ii. What is the new NE charging regime – at what point are charges incurred for advice to developers? NE – Statutory advice is not charged for, pre-consent advice is subject to charges.</li> <li>iii. What is being done by NE with the mapping of recreational activities? NE – Can find out.</li> </ul> <p>ACTION: Find out and confirm how mapping of recreational activities is being used by NE.</p>	<p>Awantha Dissanayake, Natural England</p> <p>NE</p> <p>NE</p>

5.		
Matters for Decision		
6.	NIL.	
7. TECF officers report	<p>NIO presented her report which is given in Annex A.</p> <p>1. <u>Marine Planning</u>: Workshop delivered by MMO to consult on the SW Marine Plan on 7 March, Plymouth.</p> <p>2a. <u>TECF Income</u>: Action on NIO to send Invoices by end Nov 2017 <u>Complete</u></p> <p>2b. <u>TECF Management Plan</u>: Decision made to extend the current plan (for 2 years) whilst BREXIT negotiations are underway with unknown outcomes.</p> <p>Action on NIO to look into this option by next TECF. <u>Action</u> – Carried forward to July 18</p> <p>Action on NIO to add to TOFF agenda 22 March 2018 <u>Action</u></p> <p>Action on all to review Management Plan by next TECF – NIO to request response from all members pre July 2018 TECF <u>Action</u></p> <p>Action on NIO - Annual Survey for 2017 to be circulated before July TECF meeting <u>Action</u></p>	<p>NIO</p> <p>NIO (EMS)</p> <p>All/NIO</p> <p>NIO (EMS)</p>
8. Update on Cawsand Eco-mooring Management Report	<p>NIO (EMS) gave overview of the draft Heritage Lottery Fund Management Report, provided by Mark Parry (Community Seagrass Initiative), regarding the results of the Cawsand Eco-mooring.</p> <p>Due to a fault in the original installation of the adaptation to the mooring, it was found the some of the buoys had come loose from the riser, which meant that the chain was causing scour, making findings to date inconclusive.</p> <p>Mr Parry is intending to conduct another survey prior to the July 18 TECF meeting to establish if the seagrass has shown sufficient sign of recovery, beyond the original baseline. The findings will be presented at the July 18 TECF meeting.</p> <p>Action on NIO to confirm if the Management report can be shared. <u>Action</u></p> <p>UPDATE: Mr Parry has confirmed that the Report has not yet been published, so is not available to share until that point.</p> <p>Action on NIO to confirm Mark Parry to present Cawsand Eco-mooring Trial survey findings at July 18 TECF. <u>Action</u></p>	<p>NIO (EMS)</p> <p>NIO (EMS)</p>

9. Nature conservation	<p>Mrs Gall presented Natural England's update which is given in Annex B.</p> <p><b>DEFRA 25 Year Plan</b></p> <p>Mr Crowe (NE): NE are currently working with DEFRA on how the actions can be taken forward.</p> <p>Action on NIO to add update from NE regarding 25 year plan and how the actions will be delivered to the agenda for July 18 TECF. <u>Action</u></p> <p>Action on NE to review how the TECF Management Plan aligns to the 25 Year Plan objectives and that it is sufficient to the Plan needs/ give suggestions for additions. <u>Action</u></p> <p>Action on NIO - NE film of Wembury Reefs to be added to agenda for July TECF meeting. <u>Action</u></p>	<p>NIO</p> <p>NE</p> <p>NIO</p>
10. MMO Update	<p>Update given by Mr May (MMO):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Marine Licence issued to place "wave breakers" in front of the Plymouth Sound breakwater to protect it.</li> <li>ii. MMO team to embark on the next dredging campaign from the dockyard to ensure ML conditions are being met and to check on disposal at sea.</li> <li>iii. EuExit demands being high on HQ and coastal staff, which may impact timelines on responses to enquiries.</li> </ol>	
11. IFCA Update	Not in attendance.	
12. Matter brought forward from PPMLC	NIL	
13. Water Events	<p>The 2017 Water Events Diary (WED) can be found on the QHM website (<a href="http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/qhm/plymouth/leisure-users/events-diary">www.royalnavy.mod.uk/qhm/plymouth/leisure-users/events-diary</a>)</p> <p>Call for any planned events for 2018 WED. <u>Complete</u></p> <p>UPDATE Mar 2018: WED now published on QHM website.</p>	
14. Items for future meetings	NIL	
15. Any other business	<p>1. Mr Price (EA) provided an update:</p> <p><b>25 Year Environment Plan:</b> The <a href="#">plan</a> was launched by Government this year and sets out plans to improve the environment within a generation. Following on from this we were pleased to announce the launch of a new, 'pioneer' team based in the South West dedicated to tackling <a href="#">plastic waste</a>.</p> <p><b>Tamar Banks:</b> Following feedback received at various stakeholder consultation events and other communication channels, we are continuing to refine the detail in our design</p>	

	<p>options and are in the process of undertaking further consultation.</p> <p><b>Big Spring Beach Clean:</b> We are the <a href="#">supporting partner</a> for this year's Surfers Against Sewage Big Spring Beach Clean (7 -15 April). Last year a local beach clean was organised on Bovisands. See website for details of this years events.</p> <p><b>Water Environment Grant Fund:</b> On the 19<sup>th</sup> March Natural England and the Environment Agency will be launching our Water Environment Grant Fund. The fund is open to charities, local authorities and businesses (with conditions) for projects that will improve the quality of the water environment or water dependent designated sites in rural areas. The fund is based on the European funded Rural Development Programme for England.</p> <p><b>New rules for farmers:</b> On 2 April, Defra plan to launch a new set of <a href="#">rules for farmers</a> to tackle water pollution. The rules will promote good practice in managing fertilisers and manures encourage land managers to take reasonable precautions to prevent diffuse pollution from runoff or soil erosion.</p> <p><b>Storm Emma:</b> A flood alert was issued for the coastal area from Rame head to Start Bay and a Flood Warning for Plymouth Barbican. We have no reports of any properties flooding from rivers or sea in these areas.</p> <p><b>Strategic Monitoring Review:</b> We are reviewing the way which we undertake monitoring to increase collaboration and provide greater flexibility at a local level. To do this we have established 6 prototype catchments in England for which the Tamar is one of those prototypes. We are keen engage QHM Plymouth to explore monitoring opportunities.</p> <p>2. Mr Hiscock (Wembury MCZ) – provided a brief review of the success of the Wembury Marine Centre during 2017, particularly with regard to their outreach programme with local schools, improving ocean literacy, and providing education, engagement and enjoyment related to the marine environment.</p>							
<p>16. Dates of Next Meetings</p>	<p>Dates of the forthcoming PPMLC and TECF meetings were published as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="391 1713 1241 1865"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="391 1713 869 1758"><u>PPMLC</u></th> <th data-bbox="869 1713 1241 1758"><u>TECF</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="391 1758 869 1803">1400 on 14 June 2018</td> <td data-bbox="869 1758 1241 1803"><b>1015 on 12 July 2018</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="391 1803 869 1865">1400 on 11 Oct 2018</td> <td data-bbox="869 1803 1241 1865"><b>1015 on 8 Nov 2018</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>PPMLC</u>	<u>TECF</u>	1400 on 14 June 2018	<b>1015 on 12 July 2018</b>	1400 on 11 Oct 2018	<b>1015 on 8 Nov 2018</b>	
<u>PPMLC</u>	<u>TECF</u>							
1400 on 14 June 2018	<b>1015 on 12 July 2018</b>							
1400 on 11 Oct 2018	<b>1015 on 8 Nov 2018</b>							

Distribution: NBC, All Committee members

## Annex A: Agenda Item 7

### Natural Infrastructure Officer's TECF Report

#### Item for Information

#### 1. National Coordination & Marine Planning

No further meetings of the **National Steering Group** (NSG) for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) have taken place.

In January 2018, DEFRA published [A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment](#), commonly referred to as the 25 Year Plan. There are a number of pledges directly relating to the marine environment, including:

- Reversing marine biodiversity loss & restoring it where possible;
- Reducing plastic usage and preventing marine plastic litter;
- Increasing the coverage of protected marine sites and better management of existing ones;
- Reaching 'Good Environmental Status' in our seas whilst supporting sustainable marine industry;
- Implementing a sustainable fisheries policy to replace the Common Fisheries Policy;
- Protecting fish stocks to support maximum sustainable yield;
- Tackling non-native, invasive species.

There were also broader goals such as tackling climate change, pollution & clean waters, sustainability and flood risk. There is a useful ['Targets at a glance'](#) page online which summarises the main aims and objectives of the plan.

**Marine Planning:** The MMO are running a series of workshops this week that will provide an opportunity to input towards the development of the [South West Marine Plan](#). The engagement will focus on:

- draft marine plan area visions
- draft options to address issues in each marine plan area
- the next steps in marine planning

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

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

The [online engagement for Iteration 2](#) of the SW Marine Plan is now open, and will remain so until 29 March 2018.

The MMO workshop is on Wednesday 7th March so a verbal update will be provided at TECF by NIO.



## 2. Finance and Priorities

### a. TECF Income 2017/18

The budget for 2017/18 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. Payments from nearly all organisations have now been received.

ORGANISATION	2017/18	2018/19
<b>Harbour Authorities</b>		
Ministry of Defence, QHM	3,000	3,000
Associated British Ports	2,000	2,000
Cattewater Harbour Commission	9,000	9,000
Sutton Harbour Commission	2,000	2,000
<b>Harbour Authorities Subtotal</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>
<b>Local Authorities</b>		
Plymouth City Council	10,000	10,000
Devon County Council	2,000	2,000
Cornwall Council	2,000	2,000
West Devon Borough Council	4,500	4,500
South Hams District Council	4,500	4,500
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>23,000</b>
<b>Other</b>		
Natural England	1,000	1,000
Duchy of Cornwall	4,375	4,375
Environment Agency		
Devon & Severn IFCA		
Cornwall IFCA		
Marine Management Organisation		
English Heritage		
<b>Other total</b>	<b>5,375</b>	<b>5,375</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>44,375</b>	<b>44,375</b>

### b. Delivery of Priorities 2017-18

The priorities were set and progress is given in the following table.

Action	Progress
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.	The work on the Recreation Mitigation has helped to deliver project funding, but CIL / S106 funding should not be seen as a replacement for local authority funding.

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.	Awaiting clarification on post-Brexit arrangements and will be undertaken as part of the revised management plan process in 2018/19.
3. Continue to host TECF, PPMLC and TOFF meetings.	Ongoing
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.	Recreation Study completed. Findings incorporated into the Habitat Regulation Assessment for the JLP. Drafting the Recreation Mitigation plan and SAMS list to inform the actions. Devising the payment mechanism for authorities of the JLP and supporting Cornwall in developing their mechanism.
5. Oversee the delivery of the CIL EMS Project.	Project commenced in April 2017. Project Officer in place, work underway. Branding and comms work commenced, panels being produced, mooring management taking place, crab tiling surveys completed.
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.	NIO Officers attending the national EMS meetings and representing the area at SW marine planning meetings.
7. Continue to provide marine planning advice to local planning authorities. Ongoing. Also see item 4 above.	Technical Input provided to developments. Advice given with regards to Coastal Concordat and HRA screening of developments where necessary.
8. Oversee the implementation of the “non-native marine invasive species plan for the Tamar.	Final version circulated and TECF Officers meeting will be booked in before Easter. Sign off from TECF pending.
9. Delivery of Tamar Estuaries Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water Users Guide under review for 2018 edition</li> <li>• New website under construction.</li> <li>• Annual Survey to be circulated by end of June 2018.</li> </ul>

### **3. Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan**

The Joint Local Plan is currently going through the Examination in Public, with hearings planned until 22 March 2018. On the first day of the Examination the HRA for the JLP was discussed. Natural England and the JLP Council’s had submitted a Statement of Common Ground to the Inspector prior to the commencement of the Hearings. Amongst other matters, it concluded that, subject to some suggested amendments the Plan was sound in relation to the HRA. The Inspector therefore had no further questions and simply asked NE to confirm they were happy that the legal requirement in relation to the Habitat Regulations had been met. The first day also covered the Integrated Assessment and some of the strategic policies. The Hearings over the next few days covered Housing numbers as well as the Plymouth Policy Area specific allocations.

The Examination then moved to Totnes but was abandoned on Wednesday last week, half way through the second day reviewing sites within South Hams District Council and the planned West Devon session, due to take place in Tavistock on 1 March, was cancelled due to the inclement

weather. We are awaiting confirmation on when these sessions will be rescheduled. Currently the final sessions are scheduled for 20, 21 and 22 March, in Plymouth, to discuss Environment, Other Development Policies, and Delivery and Monitoring but this may now be subject to change.

#### **4. Strategic Access Management & Monitoring (SAMMs) List**

The SAMMs list has been drafted and mechanisms for enabling resources to be secured are going through an options analysis. This has been discussed with the Investment Manager within PCC but it also requires input from the officers that are currently leading the JLP Examination. Once the Examination has been closed these discussions will take place.

#### **5. Developments**

Current planning and marine planning matters include the following.

##### **PLYMOUTH**

- **17/02074/FUL Bostons Boat Yard Baylys Road Plymouth PL9 7NQ** = Redevelop site by erection of 15 dwellings and associated roads, footways, garages, parking and landscaping (demolition of existing boatyard buildings) and works to rebuild existing slipway
- **17/02323/FUL Harbour Arch Quay Sutton Harbour Plymouth PL4 0HN** = Erection of nine-storey building comprising 14 residential units and ground floor commercial unit for use as a shop (Class A1), or financial and professional services (Class A2), or a restaurant or cafe (Class A3), or a crèche/day nursery (Class D1), cycle and refuse storage facilities and associated works
- **17/02068/S73 Drakes Island Plymouth** = Removal of condition 8 (long term Egret monitoring) from application 17/00336/FUL
- **18/00054/FUL Devonport Dockyard Saltash Road Keyham Plymouth PL1 4SG** = Temporary use of Table Top Mountain as a car park
- **17/02324/FUL Land At Harbour Arch Quay Sutton Harbour Plymouth PL4 0HN** = Resurfacing of existing hard surface area
- **17/02306/S73 Drakes Island Hoe Road Plymouth** = Remove condition 8 (long term Egret monitoring) and amend wording for conditions 7 (operational environmental management plan), 9 (design details), 10 (lighting details), 11 (external materials), 12 (landscape design and management plan), 14 (glazed acoustic screen), 18 (MOD explosives safeguarding), 19 (contaminated land), 23 (coastal erosion impacts) & 28 (Alderman Miller Memorial Garden) from application 17/00336/FUL
- **18/00054/FUL Devonport Dockyard Saltash Road Keyham Plymouth PL1 4SG** = Temporary use of Table Top Mountain as a car park
- **17/02324/FUL Land At Harbour Arch Quay Sutton Harbour Plymouth PL4 0HN** = Resurfacing of existing hard surface area.

Details of developments in other LPA areas will follow.

#### **6. Annual Survey**

The Annual Survey will be circulated before the next TECF meeting in July. The survey will be circulated in an online format – if you require a Word document, please contact Beth – [beth.siddons@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:beth.siddons@plymouth.gov.uk)

## **7. 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.
- Automatic notification of risks to bathing water standards for Plymouth Hoe East and West have been set up to be sent to NIO (EMS), from the Environment Agency – in the event of elevated risk, this notice will be circulated on TECF Twitter - @TamarEstuaries.

## **8. National Marine Park**

Luke Pollard MP has been coordinating discussion in Plymouth around the proposal for the Sound to be designated as a National Marine Park. Currently there is no such designation for the marine environment.

At this stage it is not being proposed that new legislation will be drawn up for the purpose of designating a Marine Park but that the designation is more linked to 'branding' the Sound and raising the profile of the special marine environment. There are ongoing discussions happening across the city which we will input into.

A workshop, hosted by Luke Pollard MP, was due to take place at the National Marine Aquarium on 1st March, but was cancelled due to the recent bad weather. The purpose of the workshop was to engage stakeholders in developing a local vision for the project and will be rescheduled, but a date is yet to be confirmed.

## **9. Plan for Plastics**

As Britain's Ocean City we want to be at the vanguard of the worldwide effort to eliminate plastics from our natural environment and are looking to develop a 'Plan for Plastics' to drive forward this agenda. As an Ocean City with a fantastic natural environment and world-renowned marine research and knowledge base we feel we are in a perfect place to lead in eliminating plastics from our environment. Our aim is for this to be a truly collaborative approach to tackling the problem.

We are currently drafting the Plan for Plastics but it will focus and drive a citywide effort to significantly reduce our use of plastics by 2020 and lead work to achieve our ambition of reducing plastic use to an absolute minimum by 2034.

We will circulate a copy of the Plan once it is complete.

## **10. Water Users Guide**

Amendments have been collated for the guide and the aim is to have the revised version printed and circulated before the end of April, to coincide with the QHM press release on water safety.

If you require copies, please contact Beth – Beth.Siddons@plymouth.gov.uk

## **11. EMS CIL Managing Recreational Impacts Programme**

Progress has been made with the following immediate deliverables;

- New website – template pages are built and navigation is under development.
- Quarterly newsletter will be published by 1 April.
- Information Panels: 5 panels to be installed but March deadline has been extended. A new schedule is TBC, but we aim to have the pilot installed by May 2018.
- Bait collection – Crab Tiling Report has been completed by Cornwall IFCA.

- Brand launch – Local Authorities' Comms/Marketing Team engagement needed. We also need to understand any implications for the proposed National Marine Park.

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Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum  
@TamarEstuaries  
Mar 2018

## **Annex B: Agenda Item 9**

### **Natural England Update**

### **TECF Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

#### **Priority issues in the SAC and Tamar/Plymouth Focus Area**

We have identified priority work areas based on our Condition Assessment of the SAC and Plymouth and the Tamar has been identified as one of 12 'Focus Areas' across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly in which Natural England will focus effort. With partners we have recently been 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, we ran training days last year on the Yealm and at Wembury and on 1<sup>st</sup> February this year we held another session on the Yealm. We have applied for funding to continue this work with volunteers in a joint project with South Devon AONB and Cornwall Wildlife Trust and are awaiting the outcome of the funding bid. Elements of the project proposal will feed into the Tamar Biosecurity Plan.
- Discussions with key stakeholders around migratory fish passage and Gunnislake Weir. We are awaiting confirmation that South West Water will include a multi species fish pass in their next five year review of pricing and investments (PR19).
- Awareness raising about the marine environment is one of the key aims of our Tamar and Plymouth Focus Area. We recently produced a film about the reefs of Wembury <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=91RXaQ3NZug> are in the process of making one about all the Marine Protected Areas around Plymouth. We recently commissioned a videographer to film smelt, avocets and little egrets for the new film. We also commissioned some drone footage of the estuaries. Once finished we would like help from partners to share the film as widely as possible.
- Working with the local authorities on the new local plans and in particular on developing mitigation lists for potential increases in disturbance from recreation within Plymouth Sound and Estuaries Special Area of Conservation and the Tamar Complex Special Protection Area.

#### **Plymouth EMS and Tamar Estuary Sites MCZ Monitoring**

**Intertidal habitat mapping** – This 'biotope survey' of all the intertidal areas of the SAC was carried out by Ecospan Environmental Ltd. This will update our existing habitat maps and the data will be available through the MAGIC mapping website <http://www.magic.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx> . The report is due later this year.

**Subtidal reef survey** – This survey focused on the deeper (circalittoral) areas of reef within the SAC and was carried out by Natural England's monitoring team last year. It is planned to be repeated this summer to add to our data on this habitat.

**Allis shad and smelt surveys** – The Environment Agency carried out limited surveys of allis shad in the upper Tamar estuary last year and have produced a report, but there were difficulties with access to the sites. Over the last few weeks they have been surveying the spawning smelt on the Tamar on our behalf and have recorded a main spawning event near Cottage Weir at the top of the estuary. We are keen to continue work to understand these species on the Tamar but this will be dependent on securing funding.

**Environmental DNA migratory fish survey** – As part of a national project we have recently collected water samples to analyse to try to detect small amounts of fish DNA at different points on the Tamar estuary. At the moment we are just trialing the method for these species but the idea is that we should be able to produce a list of species present in a water body from water samples.

**Seagrass survey** – we last monitored the condition of the subtidal seagrass in the site in 2012 and plan to repeat that survey this summer to assess extent and health of seagrass beds across the site.

Once published, reports can be accessed here <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/> but they will be available on request prior to that.

### Coastal Access

The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 aims to improve public access to, and enjoyment of, the coastline by creating a clear and consistent public rights along the coastline of open-air recreation on foot.

As we have the South West Coast Path in Devon and Cornwall, we are looking at where we can improve the existing route (bringing it more seaward where possible and practical). The Act includes provision of a 'coastal margin' of land between the route and mean low water (other than for excepted land such as houses and gardens), plus the ability to propose 'roll back' to parts of the trail subject to coastal erosion, making it easier to reposition the trail in future.

On the Cornish side of Plymouth Sound the route is unlikely to change from the existing South West Coast Path route, other than where the route need to be altered due to erosion. On the Devon side letters are now being sent to affected landowners.

### Funding

We are hoping to put together a LIFE funding bid for work on seagrass in several sites in England. This will probably focus on tackling physical disturbance to seagrass beds. We have identified a number of potential partners nationally but if your organisation wishes to be involved please get in touch with me.

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