

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

QHM 532/7

21 June 2018

**NOTES OF THE PORT OF PLYMOUTH MARINE LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
 THURSDAY 14 JUNE 2018
 CHARTER ROOM, GUILDHALL, PLYMOUTH**

Present	Representing	User Group
Mr C Necker	Queen's Harbour Master	TECF / Harbour Auth.
Mr N Trathen	Deputy Queen's Harbour Master	TECF / Harbour Auth.
Mr A Jones	MOD (QHM)	TECF / Harbour Auth.
Capt. T Charlesworth	Cattewater Harbour Commission	Marine Commerce / Harbour Auth.
Mr R Allan	Cattewater Harbour Commission	Marine Commerce / Harbour Auth.
Mr P Bromley	Sutton Harbour	Marine Commerce / Harbour Auth.
Mrs K Curry	Natural Infrastructure Officer	TECF / Council
Ms B Siddons	Natural Infrastructure Officer	TECF
Insp. A Micalleff	MDP Marine Unit	Crime Abatement
Mr S Crayfourd	RNLI	Navigation and Rescue
Mr M Wood	RYA	Recreation & Tourism
Mr D Curno	RYA	Recreation & Tourism
Mr A Curd	Marine Management Organisation	Nature Conservation
Ms S Davies	Cornwall IFCA	Nature Conservation
Mr R Price	Environment Agency	Nature Conservation
Mr C Bush	Mayflower Marina	Marine Commerce
Mr N Webb	Commercial Operations	Marine Commerce
Dr K Lathem	Calstock Parish Council	Town & Parish Council
Mr G Reed	Bere Ferrers Parish Council	Town & Parish Council
Mr M Goble	PCC Pier Master	Moorings
Mr K Banks	Millbrook Lake Mooring Assoc.	Moorings
Mr P Scott	Rame Head Gig Club	Moorings
Mr A James	Plymouth University	Recreation & Tourism
Mr A Rye	Plymouth Federation of Sea Anglers	Recreation & Tourism
Mr K Hamblin	Port of Plymouth Canoeing Assoc.	Recreation & Tourism

Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
1. Introduction	QHM welcomed everyone and thanked Plymouth City Council for hosting the meeting. QHM asked all present to introduce themselves.	
2. Apologies	Apologies for absence were received from: Mr B Grose (PoP Canoeing Assoc.), Mrs A Gall (Natural England), K Butler (RNLI), Ms C Smith (Wembury Marine Station), Mr T Head (PPSA), Mr P Wiseman (Mount Edgcumbe Estate).	

Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
3. Notes of the previous meeting	The notes of the previous meeting held on 12 October 2017 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.	
4. Matters arising	<p>4. MMO will explore the possibility of digital formats for the marine plans and inclusion on electronic charting. Update 8/6/17: No MMO representative. Update 12/10/17: No MMO representative. NIO requested to obtain an update and encourage attendance. Update 08/02/18: Ms Beddingham (MMO) agreed to request an update from the relevant team. Update 14/06/18: Mr Curd (MMO) confirmed that the marine plans will be available via GIS online and the intention is to make them compatible with different systems, this will be tested by stakeholders. <u>Complete</u></p> <p>4.6. <u>Review of bathing water quality</u>: NIO awaiting response from Environmental Health regarding improved notification system. Update 12/10/17: System now up and running however there is no auto trigger. Information is promulgated on the internet which will be placed on TECF website and social media (manually). - All requested to contact Ms Beth Siddons if they would like to be added to an email distribution list. Update 14/06/18: All members are still able to contact Ms Siddons if required. Updates are also being promulgated via social media. <u>Complete</u></p> <p>4.8f. <u>Slipway Audit</u>: comment from Mr K Banks regarding safety of EA owned Millbrook Lake slip. It has been deemed a safety hazard due to proximity to an outflow pipe however no signage is present. NE to investigate. Update 8/6/17: EA have been in contact with Mr Banks. Update 12/10/17: Mr Banks nor EA present. Update 08/02/18: Mr Banks informed PPMLC members that EA have updated the signage. However, he still feels that the wording is ambiguous and could lead to safety concerns. NIO will request an update from EA, plus attempt to reinvigorate their attendance at future meetings. Update 14/06/18: EA to discuss further resolution with Millbrook Lake Mooring Association outside of meeting. <u>Complete</u></p> <p>4.6a. <u>Port Safety Meetings</u>: The RNLI have assessed that these meeting are no longer required and that safety issues can be satisfactorily addressed through the PPMLC. Action on RNLI to determine whether additional attendees may be required. Update 08/02/18: RNLI will confirm; consideration is being given to whether the Royal Life Saving Society are potential attendees. Update 14/06/18: no response has been received from the RLSS. RNLI will become a facilitator to share information with RLSS as and when required. <u>Complete</u></p>	EA/MLMA (out of committee)

Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
	<p>4.7b. <u>Crab tiling survey</u>: Drone survey has been completed and results are awaited, this will highlight pressure points. Update 08/02/18: Survey complete, report awaited. Update 14/06/18: Ms Davies (Cornwall IFCA) presented the results summarised at 5b. <u>Complete</u></p> <p>4.12c. Sutton Harbour: Capt. Charlesworth on behalf of Mr P Bromley – Advised that Draft Harbour directions have been produced to bring byelaws into one place. Copies would be forwarded to members of the Port User Group for feedback before being opened up for public consultation. Update 08/02/18: Documentation for consultation has been sent to Port User Group members by Sutton Harbour. Mr Bromley unable to attend and has asked for any feedback to be forwarded direct to him. Update 14/06/18: Discussed under agenda item 15. <u>Complete</u></p> <p>6. Mr Crayford gave an overview of current RNLI work. - Hand-outs for this spring/summer safety campaign will be available at June meeting Mr Hannaford unable to attend meeting, all members were requested to contact RNLI directly if hand-outs are required <u>Action</u></p> <p>6a. At QHM's request the RNLI undertook to make an asset available for education during programmed events e.g. National Firework Championships. RNLI confirmed that the Coastal Safety Advice Boat (including an onboard safety team) has been booked for both evenings of the National Firework Championship. RNLI to report back to next PPMLC on its utility. <u>Action</u></p> <p>7. <u>SW Marine Plan</u>. The MMO are analysing user research findings, building a list of user needs, building the future vision, and developing a content strategy. If anyone would like to be involved in the project, this can be requested by emailing the planning team at Planning@marinemanagement.org.uk. <u>Complete</u></p> <p>8b. Information panels: - NIO(EMS) presented a “proof” information panel, action placed on all to provide comment by 22 Feb 2018 for new revision prior to TECF. Update 14/06/18: Discussed and summarised at Para 9a.</p> <p>11e. Water User Guide: QHM outlined the utility of the Water Users guide and requested updates for future editions. Action on all to promote distribution and request more copies if required. Update 14/06/18: Promote and distribute, please contact Ms Siddons if more copies are required <u>Action</u></p>	<p>All/RNLI</p> <p>RNLI</p> <p>All</p>

Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
	<p>11f. Media Safety Campaign: QHM will be issuing a media statement highlight safety within the Port aiming to target the late May bank holiday. Action on all to provide any input for specific content. Update 14/06/18: Discussed and reported at Para 12a.</p>	
5. Presentations	<p>a. <u>Environment Agency work in Plymouth Sound and Tamar Estuaries</u> Mr Price gave a presentation outlining the work of the EA. Question from Mr Curno regarding suspended sediment sampling?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EA do not sample specifically for suspended sediment but the water samples are monitored for Total Suspended Solids (TSS). <p>Question from My Scott regarding Japanese Knotweed and whether there are upcoming projects to manage it as well as Giant Hogweed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Currently no as Hogweed a more pressing issue at present. <p>Question from QHM, the “upstream thinking” is a “carrot” approach, i.e. Rewards for cooperation, what about “stick” e.g. prosecution?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EA have the power to make civil sanctions, management orders and impose zones of use and can take to prosecution if required. However it needs to balance evidence and manpower to complete this. <p>b. <u>Crab Tile Survey of Cornwall Side of Tamar Estuaries</u> Ms Davies gave a overview of the results of the survey (report available: https://www.cornwall-ifca.gov.uk/Research_Environment)</p> <p>Question from Mr Reed, why do people place crab tiles?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Members of the public for personal bait use <p>Question from NIO, do the people placing the tiles have fundus owner consent?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unknown, out of the scope of this project <p>Question from QHM, what tolerance is acceptable and what impact does increased numbers have?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unknown and out of the scope of this project <p>Comment from Capt. Charlesworth, the large numbers of crab tiles are indicative of people are doing it for financial gain, not personal use.</p>	
6. GDPR and PPMLC Distribution Lists	<p>Mrs Curry outlined the updated TORs with the inclusion of the recently introduced GDPR rules, there is also a distribution list for update. All to pass comment directly to NIO by 31 July 2018. <u>Action</u></p>	All
7. Plymouth Water Safety Update	<p>a. Mr Crayfouard gave an overview of the present “Respect the Water Campaign and presented some statistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5yr average of accidental death on the coast 175 (UK) - In 2016 there were 31 deaths with only 18 deaths in 2017 	

Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
	<p>These statistics are seen as a positive result from various media campaigns.</p> <p>b. Mr Crayford also discussed a diving kiosk that has been installed at the Mountbatten Centre. This provides free health checks to divers following a review concludes diving leads to a high number of medical emergencies.</p>	
<p>8. Biosecurity Plan and what it means to water users</p>	<p>Ms Siddens gave an overview of the recently published Tamar Estuaries Biosecurity Plan. The plan was published on 15 Jun and is the first in England and Wales to cover an over arching area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Purpose is to minimise the introduction and spread of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS); - The plan provides advice and recommendations for persons who may encounter INNS; - The plan identifies possible risks and gives a process for reporting, controlling and managing INNS; - Training has been identified as a key provision in managing INNS <p>The primary control method is to follow the RYA advice of CHECK, CLEAN, DRY, followed by educating people, reporting and assisting in developing site specific plans.</p>	
<p>9. EMS Recreational Impacts Project</p>	<p>a. Information panels: The first panels will be installed during the first week of July 18. Ms Siddens will provide a full list of locations that will be updated. <u>Action</u></p> <p>b. Website: - TECF website is currently under construction and will be launched at the end of July 18.</p> <p>c. Social Media - Twitter: @TamarEstuaries</p>	<p>NIO</p>
<p>10. TECF matters</p>	<p>NIO presented her report (attached at Annex A).</p>	
<p>11. EMS matters</p>	<p>No representative from NE was in attendance. NE report attached at Annex B.</p>	
<p>12. QHM matters</p>	<p>a. Water Safety & Incidents: QHM Media release delayed to avoid clash with launch of RNLI summer safety campaign, QHM release will be timed to target the start of school holidays (Late July).</p> <p>The overall frequency of incidents has been mirrored the seasonal norm. However, there has been an increase in minor pollution incidents.</p> <p>QHM outlined the incident involving FV Laura Jane – MAIB is investigating.</p> <p><u>Speeding</u> - Mr Reed highlighted that numerous vessels have been seen speeding in the vicinity of Weir Quay and feels that the speed limit signs are too small.</p>	

Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - QHM advised that any reports of speeding should be made directly to the relevant control station so that MDP marine unit can attend in a timely manner. It was also highlighted that QHM/TECF develop and distribute Smallcraft User Guides which should be made available. Action on PCO to provide contact details to Mr Reed. <p><u>Action</u></p> <p><u>MDP Marine Unit</u> – Insp. Micallef advised that following a review the marine unit will be receiving a 13% increase in personnel.</p> <p>b. Dredging No dredging is planned for this season for the Naval Base. Capt. Charlesworth outlined his current licence conditions for Cattewater.</p> <p>c. Dockyard Port of Plymouth Order: DQHM gave a presentation outlining the current position. The primary changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revised penalties to Level 3 - Aligning rules and regulations with current COLREGS where applicable. - Introduction of a “moving haven” to safe guard large/sensitive movements. - Reduction of reporting length from 25m to 20m. - Commercial vessels & vessels over 20m required to monitor VHF Ch 14. - Incorporation of directions promulgated in Annual PLNTMs. - Statutory Instrument should be in place March 2019. <p>d. Question from Mr Curno regarding anchoring areas, specifically at The Hoe foreshore reference Fan Shells.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DQHM explained that the anchoring area was still designated for small craft but mariners were requested not to use it via a local notice (PLNTM). 	PCO
13. Water events	<p>The 2018 Water Events Diary (WED) can be found on the QHM website (www.qhm.mod.uk/plymouth/)</p> <p>Upcoming events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Armed forces day – 30 Jun 18 - Drakes island swim – 1 Jul 18 - Breakwater swim – 5 Aug 18 - National Fireworks Competition – 8 & 9 Aug 18 	
14. Any other business	<p>Mr Wilton asked about blank firing exercises off Penlee Point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DQHM advised that regular military training exercises were conducted in the area some of which included blank firings. <p>Mr Scott asked whether the possible introduction of a National Marine Park encompassing Plymouth would lead to reduced anchoring and mooring or add additional constraints to be applied within seagrass areas?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - QHM explained that the current indication is that any new designation will not be established under any 	

Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action								
	<p>new statutory regulation and that the protection of important environmental features will continue through existing statutory legislation and management through TECF.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are no planned changes to the mooring of anchoring in the vicinity of seagrass, however QHM/TECF will continue to facilitate NE studies as part of the ongoing condition assessment. 									
15. Sutton Harbour Port Users Group	The user group was asked to convene following the completion of the PPMLC to discuss the updated Sutton Harbour Directions and Byelaws									
16. Dates of next meetings	<p>Dates of the forthcoming PPMLC and TECF meetings were published as follows:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><u>PPMLC</u></td> <td style="width: 50%;"><u>TECF</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1400 on 11 Oct 18</td> <td>1015 on 12 Jul 18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1400 on 14 Feb 19</td> <td>1015 on 8 Nov 18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1400 on 13 Jun 19</td> <td>1015 on 14 Mar 19</td> </tr> </table>	<u>PPMLC</u>	<u>TECF</u>	1400 on 11 Oct 18	1015 on 12 Jul 18	1400 on 14 Feb 19	1015 on 8 Nov 18	1400 on 13 Jun 19	1015 on 14 Mar 19	
<u>PPMLC</u>	<u>TECF</u>									
1400 on 11 Oct 18	1015 on 12 Jul 18									
1400 on 14 Feb 19	1015 on 8 Nov 18									
1400 on 13 Jun 19	1015 on 14 Mar 19									

Distribution:

NBC, All Committee members

PPMLC Thurs 14 June 2018**8. TECF Matters:
Report of TECF Matters
by Natural Infrastructure Officer****1) National Marine Management and Marine Planning****a) National Steering Group**

No further meetings of the **National Steering Group** (NSG) for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) have taken place. The group is currently on pause and the MMO are currently working with Defra to review how each MPA group under the Defra family operates.

b) Third tranche of Marine Conservation Zones:

The third tranche of Marine Conservation Zones are now out for consultation. These will contribute to the Government's ecologically coherent network of sites around the coast. The first tranche of 27 MCZs was announced in 2013 and included the Tamar Estuaries and Looe and Whitsand Bays. A further 23 sites were added in 2016 and DEFRA are now consulting on 41 new sites and the addition of new features to 12 existing sites of which one is Looe and Whitsand Bay MCZ (the new features are moderate energy circalittoral rock, Giant goby and two species of Stalked jellyfish).

The nearest sites to us are the three south Devon Estuaries of the Dart Estuary, Devon Avon Estuary and Erme Estuary.

The consultation is open until 20 July 2018 and further information is available from <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/marine/consultation-on-the-third-tranche-of-marine-conser/>

c) Marine Planning

Following the workshops held in March, the MMO is now analysing the responses and will be circulating a response very shortly.

They will then produce the third iteration which is expected in July or August. They are still on track to produce the third iteration in July – August of this year. The final Draft Plan is expected in Summer 2019.

Also, Alex Curd has replaced Neal Gray, as the MMO's Marine Officer for Marine Planning.

2) Plan for Plastics & Plastic Free Waterfront

Plymouth has launched a major new plan to tackle single use plastics and plastic pollution in Plymouth. The 'Plan for Plastics' was launched on Friday 8 June at the Dome, follows a week of action and is focussed on reducing the amount of plastic that ends up in the sea.

The Plan for Plastic focuses on a citywide drive to significantly reduce the use of single use plastics by 2020 and coupled with this will be a drive to encourage people to use the City's green and blue spaces.

The Plan will be driven, monitored and supported by Plymouth Britain's Ocean City Task Force and will include representatives from public bodies, environmental sector, voluntary sector, academia, industry and business.

The Plan is framed around four fundamental principles:

- Avoid – encouraging residents to avoid single use plastics, and to find alternatives such as reusable coffee cups;
- Recycle- continue to work to increase recycling rates in Plymouth;
- Innovate – support academic and industry led research into plastic free alternatives;
- Connect – developing an education programme to encourage people to visit and connect with the natural environment.

A detailed and fully costed Action Plan that sets out how each of the four principles will be taken forward is expected later in the year and will be produced by Plymouth Britain's Ocean City Task Force.

Also, Plymouth Waterfront has become the first UK city district to win accreditation with 'Plastic Free Communities' status issued by the charity 'Surfers Against Sewage'.

Further information is available from

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/environmentandpollution/plastics>

3) Plymouth and SW Devon Joint Local Plan

a) Joint Local Plan

The Examination in Public of the Plymouth and SW Devon Joint Local Plan is now complete. We are still waiting for the Inspectors Report which is expected any day. Updates are available on the website

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/plymouthhandsouthwestdevonjointlocalplanexamination>

b) EMS Recreational Mitigation

Work is being undertaken to review the mitigation plan for the European Marine Site in order to inform the tariff that will be levied against new development. Ultimately this will need to be levied against all development within an identified 'zone of influence' of the Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area boundaries. Further details will be made available to PPMLC as they are agreed.

4) Recent calls for a Plymouth National Marine Park

On 6 June the Blue Marine Foundation, a national charity dedicated to creating marine reserves and establishing sustainable models of fishing, held a conference in Plymouth to explore the potential of creating Marine Parks and what these might look like. 130 people attended to hear presentations and to discuss how they might additional benefits over and above the existing system of marine designations in England.

The new Labour administration for Plymouth has also pledged to support the campaign for Plymouth Sound to be designated the country's first National Marine Park.

A workshop is due to be held at the end of June hosted by Luke Pollard to discuss this further.

5) Update on Biosecurity Plan

This is covered as a separate agenda item. The Plan has now been agreed and is available on the website. A briefing note will be sent out to all marinas clubs and boatyards during the next month to explain what it means to them and the Water Users Guide will need to be updated.

6) Developments

Drakes Island: Whilst planning consent has been granted, negotiations are ongoing regarding variations to the planning conditions.

Vauxhall Quay Boardwalk with commercial units, Sutton Harbour: This planning application was originally granted in 2015, but it has now lapsed resulting in this resubmission. The MMO license for the marine element was finally granted in December 2017.

Bostons Boatyard: This is an application for the redevelopment of the old boatyard site and slipway into a development of 16 dwellings. And it will include works to the old unacceptable slipway which consists of the rubble-filled barges. Further information awaited.

7) Forward Plan for PPMLC Briefing Sessions

PPMLC	Proposed Speaker
1400 on 11 Oct 2018	
1400 on 14 Feb 2019	

Kaja Curry
Natural Infrastructure Officer

Natural England Update

PPMLC Meeting 14th June 2018

Changes to Condition Assessment for subtidal seagrass

We are in the process of changing the recorded condition of subtidal seagrass in the SAC from favourable to unfavourable. This information was sent out by email in April:

We would like to inform you of a change we are making in our assessment of the condition of seagrass beds within Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC. Subtidal seagrass beds are now considered to be in 'unfavourable condition'.

Subtidal seagrass beds are a sub-feature of 'Large Shallow Inlets and Bays', 'Estuaries' and 'Sandbanks which are slightly covered with water at all times' within the SAC. The subtidal seagrass beds within this site were last surveyed in 2012, when the condition of this feature was described by the contractor as 'favourable'. In our 2016 condition assessment, the subtidal seagrass condition was subsequently assessed as 'favourable'. The 2012 survey was the first full assessment of the subtidal seagrass feature and can be considered a baseline survey. Due to survey limitations it was not possible to assess potential impacts from anchoring and mooring. Our 2016 condition assessment did not use proxy data, and therefore we did not do a vulnerability assessment as part of the assessment process.

Recently, particularly with our experience of undertaking vulnerability assessments for Marine Conservation Zones (sites for which little condition evidence was available and therefore assessments had to be made using activity data and habitat sensitivity), our approach to condition assessments has developed. We would now include a vulnerability assessment to address the lack of available evidence on potential anchoring and mooring impacts. Seagrass is known to be sensitive to physical disturbance and abrasion and anchoring and mooring has a medium to high risk of inducing this pressure (*see our [Advice on Operations for the site](#)*) and in some subtidal seagrass beds within the SAC anchoring and mooring is known to be of a high intensity. In a vulnerability assessment, a feature that is sensitive to a pressure (to which it is known to be exposed) would indicate a moderate to high vulnerability and a subsequent General Management Approach of 'recover' or 'restore' is applied.

Although the subtidal seagrass feature was previously assessed as being in favourable condition, there were some inherent uncertainties in the 2016 assessment and the contractor's assessment in 2012. Confidence in these assessments was low for the attribute 'number of plants per m²'. There was a decline in number of plants per m² between 2009 results and 2012 results but it was difficult to make comparisons and the assessment was made assuming an absence of anthropogenic impacts.

Relevant recent research

There have been some relevant recent studies that have investigated the effects of anchoring and mooring pressures on seagrass habitats. Unsworth *et al.* (2017) studied a range of sites in England where mooring occurs on seagrass (*Zostera marina*) and quantified the area of damage to seagrass caused by chain scour from swinging moorings. The authors found that the average area affected was 122 m² per individual swinging mooring. This study has also shown that loss of UK seagrass beds from boat moorings is 'small but significant at a local scale' and that this loss fragments existing meadows, 'ultimately reducing their resilience to other stressors'. We are aware of other stressors that may be impacting this feature;

namely sediment surface contaminants, aqueous contaminants and invasive, non-native species, as well as significant disturbance from anchoring.

Griffiths *et al.* (2017) conducted a risk assessment of 173 sites in England and Wales and highlighted Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC as one of the SACs most at risk from anchoring and mooring pressures. They ranked the site 9th out of 173 for exposure to anchoring. The site was considered to be at risk, with designated habitats (namely seagrass beds) considered 'at high risk based on the worst case abrasion/disturbance pressure'.

In summary, the condition of subtidal seagrass beds within the site is now considered to be 'unfavourable' and therefore a conservation objective of 'restore to favourable condition' should be applied. **This instigates the requirement for management and we will be working with the relevant authorities to address what measures might be put in place to allow recovery of this feature.** It may also be necessary to subsequently revisit the condition assessments for the supporting habitat features.

Priority issues in the European Marine Site

Our work in this area has been prioritised largely based on our Condition Assessment of the Special Area of Conservation. With partners we have recently been working on some of the issues that are causing parts of the site to be considered in 'unfavourable condition':

- We have secured funding from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund for a 2 year project working with South Devon AoNB and Cornwall Wildlife Trust to engage and train volunteers to manage and monitor the spread of Pacific oysters. This a particular issue in the Yealm estuary, but is likely to also start affecting other parts of the site. The project is just getting up and running and volunteer recruitment has started.
- Tamar biosecurity plan: last year this plan was developed with stakeholder input and has now been finalised. It is relevant to all water users in the Sound and estuaries and delivery is ongoing and is being monitored through TECF. It would be useful to hear about any actions which PPMLC members have undertaken that contribute to the plan's implementation.
- Awareness raising about the marine environment is one of the key aims of our Tamar and Plymouth Focus Area. Last year we produced a film about the reefs of Wembury <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=91RXaQ3NZug> and would appreciate your help to share it. We are working jointly with TECF on a longer film about all the Marine Protected Areas around Plymouth.
- 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.
- Trialling the 'helical screw' anchoring system for moorings in Cawsand Bay – these anchoring systems have a smaller 'footprint' than conventional mooring blocks and the trial will look at how effectively they work in a relatively open coast location. This feeds into a bigger project which we are about to bid to EU LIFE for. It relates to mooring and anchoring pressure on subtidal seagrass in a number of Special Areas of Conservation around

England. We anticipate that TECF/PCC and the National Marine Aquarium will be partners in this project if it gets funded.

Plymouth EMS and Tamar Estuary Sites MCZ Monitoring

Intertidal rocky shore monitoring 2016 – A report is available, please email for a copy.

Intertidal habitat mapping – This ‘biotope survey’ of all the intertidal areas of the SAC was carried out by Ecospan Environmental Ltd in September. 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 has not yet been produced but 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 and is being repeated this year to compare results.

Allis shad and smelt surveys – Due to ongoing difficulties with access to survey sites we have been unable to monitor Allis shad spawning this year but we have had two reports of adult shad being seen in the upper Tamar. In February the Environment Agency carried out smelt spawning surveys on our behalf in the Tamar, smelt eggs were recorded over a larger area than previously. At that time we were also able to get high quality footage and photographs of smelt in the wild which will be useful for our awareness work.

Subtidal seagrass – The subtidal seagrass in the SAC I being monitored this summer by a combination of diving and drop down video (this aspect led by the Environment Agency). It will revisit the sites monitored in 2012 to allow comparisons.

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

Angela Gall, Marine Lead Adviser

Devon, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Team, Natural England, Polwhele, Truro. TR4 9AD

Landline: 0208 026 8159. Mobile: 07500 761201 Email: angela.gall@naturalengland.org.uk