

# Dart Estuary Forum (DEF)

Notes of the meeting held on  
13<sup>th</sup> November 2018, held in Follaton House, Totnes

*Notes in italics show post meeting updates and inclusions*

## 1. Chair, Mike Pearey, welcome:

Wants DEF to be as inclusive as possible, and to act as an information exchange and networking forum. Conscious that many organisations are doing similar work, such as water quality measurement; hopes we can join up some of these efforts to improve collaboration, cooperation and outcomes.



## 2. Introductions and apologies for absence

Those present:

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Graham Anderson <b>GA</b> | Dittisham PC                            |
| Jane Brady <b>JB</b>      | Dart Bioregional Learning Centre        |
| Dr Ross Brown <b>RB</b>   | Exeter University                       |
| Mark Cooper <b>MC</b>     | Harbour Master                          |
| Adam Davison <b>AD</b>    | South Devon AONB                        |
| James Dodd <b>JD</b>      | Dart Harbour Board                      |
| Rhidian Howells <b>RH</b> | SWW                                     |
| Roger Jobson <b>RJ</b>    | RYA                                     |
| Penny Johns <b>PJ</b>     | Dart Harbour Authority ( <b>notes</b> ) |
| Gary Jolliffe <b>GJ</b>   | Till The Coast is Clear                 |
| Lou Hoskin <b>LH</b>      | Devon Maritime Forum                    |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Prof. Tom Hutchinson <b>TH</b> ( <b>Vice Chair</b> ) | University of Plymouth                    |
| Nigel Mortimer <b>NM</b>                             | South Devon AONB Estuaries Partnership    |
| Sir Geoffrey Newman <b>GN</b>                        | Blackpool & Start Estate                  |
| Mike Pearey <b>MP</b> ( <b>Chair</b> )               | Permaculturist, farmer & environmentalist |
| Rob Price <b>RP</b>                                  | EA  |
| Kirstie Pritchard <b>KP</b>                          | DCC - Natural Environment                 |
| Christine Singfield <b>CS</b>                        | Natural England                           |
| Julian Williams <b>JW</b>                            | Stoke Gabriel Boating Assoc'n             |
| Christine Wood <b>CW</b>                             | Marine Biological Assoc'n                 |
| Penny Woollams <b>PW</b>                             | Marine Conservation Society               |

Initials (in **bold**) are used to attribute contributions during the meeting.

Acronyms used in these minutes include:

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| AONB     | Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty                        |
| CPRE     | Campaign for the Protection of Rural England              |
| Defra    | Department for Food, Environment & Rural Affairs          |
| D&S IFCA | Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority |
| DCC      | Devon County Council                                      |
| DMF      | Devon Maritime Forum                                      |
| DoC      | Duchy of Cornwall   |
| DWT      | Devon Wildlife Trust                                      |
| EA       | Environment Agency  |
| MCZ      | Marine Conservation Zone                                  |
| MMO      | Marine Management Organisation                            |
| MPA      | Marine Protected Area                                     |
| NE       | Natural England   |
| NERC     | Natural Environment Research Council                      |
| PC       | Parish Council  |
| RIB      | Rigid Inflatable Boat                                     |

|      |                                     |
|------|-------------------------------------|
| RNLI | Royal National Lifeboat Institution |
| RYA  | Royal Yachting Association          |
| SDCP | South Devon Catchments Partnership  |
| SHDC | South Hams District Council         |
| SUP  | Stand-up Paddleboard                |
| SWW  | South West Water                    |
| WFD  | Water Framework Directive           |
| WRT  | Westcountry Rivers Trust            |

**Apologies for absence were received from:** Jules Florey - SWW Biodiversity Delivery Manager; Andy Osman – Noss on Dart Marina; Beshlie Pool – South Devon and Channel Shellfishermen<sup>#2</sup>; Sue Pudduck – Dart Harbour Communities Group (nee ‘Non Bens’); Cllr Hilary Bastone – SHDC; Emma Reece – National Trust<sup>#1</sup>; Tom Stratton – Duchy of Cornwall; John Barnet – Friends of Dart Harbour; Rosie Lear – Westcountry Rivers Trust; Cllr Jonathan Hawkins – DCC; David Lucas – MMO<sup>#3</sup>

# notes sent – appended to meeting notes

**3. Approval of 18<sup>th</sup> June 2018 Dart Estuary Forum meeting notes** – approved.

**4. Matters arising** - Exchanging data on water quality – see Item 5.

**5. Water Quality Matters Pt 1 - Rhidian Howells SWW (Waste Water Management) Presentation**

RH briefed on size and complexity of SWW's waste water network, and their asset improvements for the River Dart. He covered a wide number of initiatives, such as; "Upstream Thinking", partners SWW, DWT, WCRT, Exmore Mires. The ethos is that by looking after the land protects the rivers. SWW offers help with water management plans and capital grants for farms, e.g. slurry storage. "Downstream Thinking". "Water Aid", "Think Sink", "Beach Live", "Home Safe" and "Love your Loo" campaign focussing on what is put down WCs, and what happens when you flush: blockages cost 4.5m per year in SW. Baby wipes & wet wipes are the biggest challenge. SWW research revealed that 69% of customers said they would change behaviour concerning what they deposit into the WC, so they now have a dedicated employee running the "Love your Loo" campaign, which includes the recently released short educational film on the "3 Ps" (Poo, Pee, Paper), which received a highly positive response from the group.

A copy of Rhidian’s presentation and notes are attached to these notes.

Questions / discussion:

**All commended the 3Ps film. GN** - how long has the "Love Your Loo" film been out? **RH** - Film is very recent [15October2018] Full-time SWW employee now promoting a "Love Your Loo" campaign with schools, groups, etc. **PW & TH** led push to support the 3 Ps campaign, and have volunteered to lead on. **GJ** - done several cleans on Dart, lots of wet wipes & tampon applicators. *Post Meeting Note: Chair sought clarity on what marketing was already planned by SWW. In their autumn newsletter, sent to all SWW customers, the front page is entirely devoted to 3Ps.*  
**Action: decide where DEF should to target education effort – Holiday Lets?**

**AD** asked about public sector buy in? **RH** – It's everyone’s water. SWW does need to make business work for us, and need to provide a service. It is important to incentivise people for cultural change, e.g. lower water bills, cleaner environment to see money reinvested.

**TH** – are you aware of inhouse monitoring of new pesticides / chemicals in farming? **RH** – Doesn't know.

**Action – RH to pass details to TH of the appropriate SWW contact.**

**RB / JD** – do you see better water quality through "Upstream Thinking"? **RH** – ‘Upstream Thinking’ is about improving farm practices as part interventions, swales, surfacing tracks, reestablishment of small wetlands, creating habitat - all ‘slowing the flow’ to reduce runoff and improve quality of waters that then need less treatment to turn into potable water.

**PW** - what is "Building For Wildlife"? **RH** Better homes for wildlife, gave some examples.

**RJ** - do you have programme about what is being put into, or going down drains? **RH** Yes mainly fats, full time SWW officers educating on best practices, fat traps.

**MP** – don't see enough evidence of either soft engineering or hard engineering – such as permeable road surfaces - to reduce flooding issues: what is SWW engagement with planning depts/builders? **RH** - Don't have much success with builders whose main objective is to build more properties. As a minimum we need to separate sewage from surface/rain water. **MP Post Mtg note: Welsh Assembly have recently passed enforceable legislation requiring builders to separate foul drains from rainwater.**

**JD** - what gets through system, to the river Dart? **RH** All discharges are legally compliant and meet targets set by environment agency.

**JB** - asked about the cost of the campaign? **RH** - don't know

**MP** – Oct 2018 EU voted by 90% to ban all single use plastics that end up in watercourses /oceans in next three years. Wish UK Govt could take this approach. *Post Mtg Note: During MP's call on Sarah Wollaston MP (7 Dec 18) she said fragile Govt combined with power of lobbyists and worries about a French style Maillot Jaune protest, made rapid change difficult hence Govt feels a slower approach to environmental issues is less politically risky. She does agree with the "Polluter pays" principle.*

## 5. Water Quality Matters Pt 2: Rob Price (EA) – presentation;

Outline of presentation: Water Framework Directive 2003 - sharing what data is available - how this can be accessed - leave with a few considerations – discuss what could be do through the Dart Estuary Forum to make improvements. Consultation next year, on Water Industry periodic review and asset management plan, on investing in environmental outcomes: this is big hitting stuff to achieve good ecological status. Brexit is unlikely to have an impact because government supports the legislation behind the Water Framework Directive at least until 2025.

A copy of **RP**'s presentation is attached to these notes.

Oil spills are investigated, and appropriate action taken. Three-yearly oil spill exercises are undertaken, trialling and testing different ideas. Next trial, to decide whether worth buying the kit, will be pulling a short boom that can capture oil. Booming is quite expensive, and very limited to being in the right place at the right time and in the right weather. **MC** / DHNA accepted **RP** invitation to attend next exercise.

Environment Programme – human activity can change rivers, estuaries and coast, etc. EA aim to reduce or even stop some of these changes, by - using evidence to focus where we work; securing and investing money or resources where it is most needed; working with partners to make improvements; co-ordinating different departments in the DEFRA organisation. In 2018 EA invested £2.8M into over 50 projects and improved 56km of water environment, and in 2019 plan to invest £3.2M in more projects and improve over 64km of water environment.

The River Dart Catchment is split into 27 'water body' chunks, 26 freshwater and 1 estuarine (aka 'transitional waters') each about 10 – 25km long & each assessed against key natural processes - chemical, biological (e.g. shellfish) and hydro-morphological (the way waters flow, maritime/flood risk/reclaim of land) and how their ability to maintain the water quality are affected. Pressures include nutrient loading, physical modification, chemicals, fish barriers and invertebrate community health. Main pressures include urban pollutants, heavy modification of watercourses, historic legacy e.g. the atmospheric deposition of mercury. Mercury is a chemical status 'failure' against one water body within the Dart catchment (where?) – believed to have drifted across from central Europe. At a management level the EA bundles the Dart in with the catchments between the Avon and Torbay.



**RJ** – what is Moderate or Excellent? (See ‘Help’ section of Catchment Data Explorer) **RP** Estuary is classified as ‘moderate’ for ecological status and ‘good’ for chemical status. ‘Excellent’ classification given for bathing waters at outer estuary mouth is from a different set of standards (E.coli).

Water Framework Directive banding attempts to quantify the health of a water body to support a healthy natural environment and is not a statement of water quality safety for humans to swim ... they may indeed be mutually incompatible. **Q**. Is the Mercury level in the Dart a danger to bathers? **RP** In the context of the Water Framework Directive & drinking water it is OK. For recreational use, Environmental Health would need to advise. **TH** – levels are highly unlikely to be danger to people.

Current Bathing Water Quality can be found at [www.environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/profiles/data-compare.html?district=South%20Hams](http://www.environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/profiles/data-compare.html?district=South%20Hams) or during the swimming season at [www.beachlive.co.uk/index.cfm?articleid=8222](http://www.beachlive.co.uk/index.cfm?articleid=8222)



Environment Projects. See slide

**MP** - there are a number of organisations who are doing work on water quality testing, is that data joined up, would it be helpful to share? **RP** - Yes EA have a current Strategic Monitoring Review, as having to do ever more for less, year on year - we need to be smart. Very keen to work with those organisations to help take samples, monitor waters and share data. **TH** volunteered to lead on trying to construct an open / available *infographic* for water quality data. **MP** Extremely useful if this could be achieved.

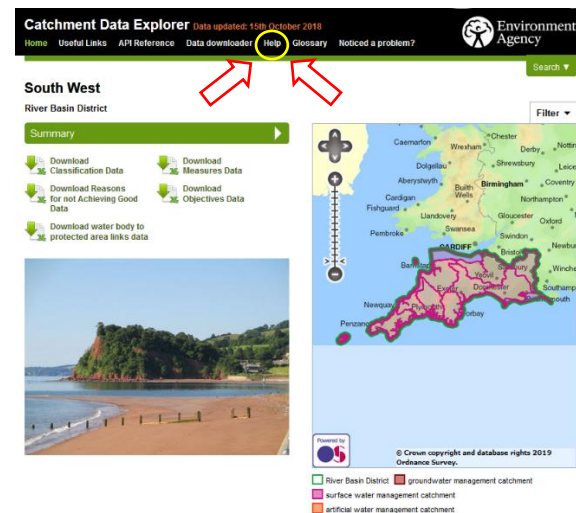
**RJ** - what about the tidal estuary waters, is the MMO on list, they have responsibility too? The RYA’s Green-Blue scheme - another angle to debate. [www.thegreenblue.org.uk](http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk) Their particular guidance for boat users is at [www.thegreenblue.org.uk/Boat-Users](http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk/Boat-Users)

**RP** - Catchment Data Explorer – free to use online – [www.environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/RiverBasinDistrict/8](http://www.environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/RiverBasinDistrict/8)

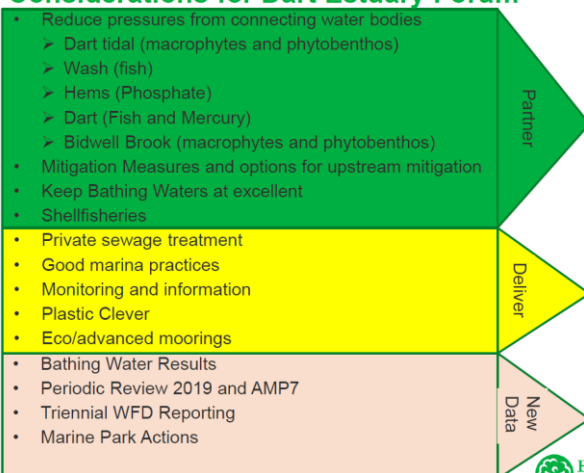
**BIG Hint** ... once online, **do** click the “Help” section to bring up lots of very relevant further information - more detail on how water qualities are measured etc. – gives guidance on how to use the tool.

EA work with SWW and other organisations/businesses who discharge into the water bodies – ensuring discharges are sustainable and compliant. Working on ‘periodic review’, suggesting and agreeing to improvements on discharging assets to improve the situation.

EA have sampling points but where point-source discharges are permitted, there is an expected level of self-regulation, with electronic kit etc., to show times and duration of discharges. Working on big level capital investment projects, need to get on and do that, business as usual.



### Considerations for Dart Estuary Forum



### Considerations for Dart Estuary Forum?

Reduce pressures from connecting water bodies. Explore & identify available mitigation sites for future mitigation projects; keep Bathing Waters at excellent (will get new data results soon) and improve waters for shellfisheries. Dart Estuary Forum could play a strong role, working closely with South Devon Catchments Partnership in areas such as private sewage treatment, good marina practices, antifouling, monitoring information, plastic clever, eco/advanced moorings. Life fund – funding this kind of work –

some port authorities looking at that work, could be part of that, possibly pilot projects. Could look at delivering them.

**NM** essentially supportive of the South Devon National Marine Park concept, though there has been no suggestion that the Marine Park would extend as far as the Dart Estuary – the present proposed area of the plan is very Plymouth-centric.

Water Environment Improvement Fund – DEF project ideas may be taken forward on to the South Devon Catchments Partnership medium term plan - there is a process to attract funding to help take projects/funding forward.

**LH** – as well as future coastal project ideas under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive

**JD** – DHNA is keen to be involved & help - we have a budget that can be put to environmental projects that are relevant to or take place in the estuary; our main criteria is that they are going to have some positive output for the estuary rather than for some individual's education etc and are averse to any more signage! Dart Harbour is willing to support ideas for projects from other sources (and can also provide support by making assets available as well as some limited finance). **RP** Power of the partnerships - academia that can help - access to resources - collective expertise to build projects.

**MC** – DHNA need evidence that shows how our efforts are benefitting - should we get a specialist contractor? DHNA have £20k available for environmental improvement projects for next year.

**RJ** – RYA now actively promoting their Green-Blue scheme within all basic training on how leisure boating community can engage & play a role.

**MC** – got that. We need to know about practical reality, the effects of antifouling, scrubbing grids, etc. Premier Marine will have current best practice facilities but people are still scrubbing boats on the foreshore – we need to have the evidential tools to enable us to get message across.

**TH** – offered to take an Action to follow up with DHNA.

## 6. Dart Estuary Forum – Terms of Reference

**MP** – would like to include a sense of "restoration" to help focus for the group, for example restoring a healthy salmon fishery in the Dart, but content with the suggested "conserve and enhance".

**RJ** - useful if we could have a contact list of the DEF network. MP/NM the Yealm - Teign Estuary had such a directory, a useful local estuary 'who's who', but keeping it up to date was a significant part of the funded work of a staff member has proved very difficult. It would be possible to compile a list of DEF member organisations:

**Action:** All – invited to send NM a brief outline of their Member Organisations in regard to DEF

## 7. Estuaries Officer's interactive report & Update

Carbon and climate change high on the news agenda at the moment – and estuaries are or should be right up there in terms of the value of their ecosystem services – massively important for their carbon take-up through photosynthesis and long-term carbon lock-up within their mudflats, often many meters deep – as hugely important nursery areas for much of the seafood we eat and as nature's own catchment waters treatment works, feeding cleaner water into our coasts.

Underlying the majority of our Estuaries Partnership work is our work to conserve and enhance our estuaries' water quality – our work with schools and community groups, events and outreach, campaigns and projects, and even development management all partly aiming to have a positive impact on water quality.

We all need to play an active part - right from our actions at home with what we put on our gardens, down our sinks, into our bins ... that helps look after our local streams, which helps look after our rivers ... and that helps look after

our lakes and estuaries, and our coast – the ethos of ‘Downstream Thinking’. Being the ‘eyes & ears’ of our local waters is something that all can do, in work and in play, recognising change within an area we know and asking why? And if concerned, taking a ‘Don’t ignore it – report it’ approach – **the EA have an excellent 24/7 Environmental Incident hotline - 0800 807060 - have it in your phone!** <https://www.gov.uk/report-an-environmental-incident>  
**Action All - If concerned, don’t ignore it - report it!** Don’t expect a ‘blue-light’ crash-team for anything but the worst cases, but the intelligence given is recorded and may help build part of an important picture. Report pollution incidents, runoff from building sites, numbers of dead or gasping fish, damage or danger to the natural environment - even poaching or illegal fishing. **RH** - SWW want to know of any leaks from their assets, ring 0800 230 0561 to report. SWW will inform EA too.

**AD** – Formal review of the South Devon AONB Management Plan - consultation now closed, thank you for lots of detailed responses. It is a statutory document for the South Devon AONB designated area - including the five estuaries, and the South Devon Heritage Coast designation which extends 2km off the coast. Reviewed management plan has 3 main sections - place, people, working together.

The AONB Planning Guidance will need to be reviewed, including clearer guidance on foreshore and seabed losses in order to combat the cumulative effect of losses over time. It also needs strengthening regarding Sustainable Drainage Schemes, as there is still too much rainwater going into the waste water system and triggering overflows of sewage, etc.

**AD** - National review of Protected Landscapes, chance to get involved. Trying to promote wider engagement, have a look at DEFRA website, review- very open. Deadline 18 December. *Post Mtg Note – reminder sent out by NM 13 Dec. MP has informed Dart Harbour Communities Group and advertised it in their parishes Magazine.*

With caveats, we are supportive of a new Dartmouth slipway – although there would necessarily be some estuary bed loss and shading, a public slipway would be for the common good and would allow greater public access to the estuary, greater opportunities to experience the Dart estuary and build a greater active respect for its environment.

Over the last period there have been a lot of planning and marine licence applications to comment on - we don’t aim to block development, rather to keep them sustainable and consider the waterbodies downstream during all stages of development and the new developments eventual use and maintenance. We will normally encourage the production of a ‘Construction Environmental Management Plan’ (CEMP), to consider the receiving environment and minimise/mitigate runoff/impact etc.

At another recent local Estuary Forum, we were reminded that the appropriateness and efficacy of private household waste water (& sewage) treatment or holding systems and those new systems for new development of less than 10 properties no longer falls within the remit of the Environment Agency, as they might have expected.

- We were reminded that the primary responsibility for this is the property owner of existing systems, and the developer and the Local Planning Authority for new systems.

- The Environment Agency are only a statutory consultee on major planning applications from a non-mains foul drainage perspective, so a development needs to involve more than 10 dwellings to a non-mains system before they are consulted. Otherwise, it is the Local Planning Authority that decides whether the application is acceptable in line with the “Advice for Local Authorities on non-mains drainage from non-major development” – see attached.

- Some further guidance and details may be found on the Gov.UK website - [www.gov.uk/guidance/discharges-to-surface-water-and-groundwater-environmental-permits#check-the-guidance-for-your-activity](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/discharges-to-surface-water-and-groundwater-environmental-permits#check-the-guidance-for-your-activity)

- An action from the meeting was that members asked **NM** to write to all relevant Town & Parish Councils within our water catchments to draw your attention to this as a reminder and suggest that some of their attention is given to the waste water treatment system being proposed within your local town or parish and raise any concerns within your consultation correspondence, when for example the system being suggested is given as a ‘to-be-decided’ or not given in sufficient detail.

- The letter (see attached) also suggest that Sustainable Drainage Schemes, site works runoff and the production of Construction Environmental Management Plans are also all considered.

**Fisheries signage** – the fisheries information on our local information panels is recognised as being out-of-date and will be up-dated ASAP.

**Fishing discards** – if significant amount seen, please do take a photo and report to: either MMO Brixham Office 01803 853383 or IFCA out-of-hours no. 07740 175479 (**All - keep numbers handy on mobile phone**)



**Devon & Severn IFCA**  
**Dart Estuary Fisheries Byelaws**

Restrictions are placed on the catching of Sea Bass for recreational purposes. Due to the continuing assessment of Sea Bass stocks these restrictions may change.

For the latest Bass legislation contact Devon and Severn IFCA on 01803 854648 or go to:  
[www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk/Enforcement/Bass-Compliance-Direction](http://www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk/Enforcement/Bass-Compliance-Direction)

Within the D&S IFCA's District (including the Dart Estuary) permits<sup>1</sup> are required for:

- The use of pots to catch sea fisheries resources
- Diving for shellfish
- Netting
- The use of Mobile Gear

Minimum take sizes<sup>2</sup>:

- Bass 42cm
- Scallops 100mm
- Edible crab - male 160mm, female 150mm
- Lobster 90mm

To view current byelaws, apply for permits to fish or view how to measure fish and shellfish, please visit:  
[www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk](http://www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk) Contact: [office@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk](mailto:office@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01803 854648 or 07740 175479 (out of hours telephone)

<sup>1</sup>The permits contain restrictions of use  
<sup>2</sup>There are additional minimum take sizes for other species

### Dart Estuary Forum - Round the table session

**CW** – MBA surveying along Dart and Tamar estuaries, looking for Non-Native Species, Mill Pool SG, trumpet tube worm. Pacific oysters, non-native barnacles. Will share information once available. Trumpet Tube Worm – can form significant build-ups.



**Pacific oysters** – these are a serious problem on the local Yealm estuary and we are starting a new project to look at this issue (related to biosecurity plans). Citizen scientists are wanted to monitor and identify hot spots and produce 'heat maps' with a view to managing populations.

**Action:** If anyone is interested in helping with the survey of the Dart estuary, please let Nigel know.

**Marine Conservation Zones**, consultation closed. **GA** – Dart MCZ needs to be designated within year so result expected by (latest) June 2019. Natural England don't know if it will be designated. Could be changes. **MC** All DHNA stakeholder groups objected, so the proposal should be amended. Last time the MCZ was proposed it wasn't created, for same reasons as on this occasion! DEFRA need to describe how an MCZ is going to be managed before asking to vote on it. **CS** – also looking at social economic impacts. *Post mtg note: NM - Natural England is currently reviewing their advice to Defra on the scientific evidence for the different habitats and species that have been proposed for protection, following the consultation.*

**RP** – the Environment Agency's Environment Programme team has outlined its Vision and ambition for Devon and Cornwall between 2021/22 and 2026/7. This includes South Devon Catchments, of which the River Dart is one, in which a budgetary programme of works has been submitted with an estimated total partnership investment of £4.5M to improve up to 100km of water body and aims to improve 10 water bodies from moderate to good ecological status/potential. The data that will help inform which water bodies to target will be made available over the summer of this year.

**GJ** - "*Till the Coast is Clear*", focusing on hands-on "lets clear it up". Picking up tonnes of it. Vessel "Not for Profit" and people able to help, available to help testing, in conjunction with collecting, providing employment for others.

**PW** – inertia with group, not sure what remit is, lot to do, some want to get on with it. How to make it happen?

**MP** – thinks some good actions already coming out of forum: it is for individuals to decide what they wish to get involved with personally; group is not going to dictate what people do.

**PW** - when next AONB Management Plan published, will it list strategies and tasks? **AD** - AONB Management Plan has broad brushstrokes, lot of signposts for that, not defining actions – these will be within the annual delivery plan

that will also include actions from the Estuaries Plan. Get feeling this is a "doing group", which can raise profile of river Dart.

**RP** - there is the South Devon AONB Estuaries Management Plan, outstanding actions, if there is desire to do something, this is a good start for guidance and to signpost actions. Link -

[www.southdevonaonb.org.uk/uploads/files/Estuaries/SDEMP\\_Text\\_version.pdf](http://www.southdevonaonb.org.uk/uploads/files/Estuaries/SDEMP_Text_version.pdf) [2MB]

**RB** – Exeter Uni is involved in leading a Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)–funded project SWEEP - South West partnership for Environmental and Economic Prosperity - in collaboration with Plymouth University and Plymouth Marine Laboratory. This 5yr research programme aims to deliver economic and community benefits to the South West, whilst also protecting and enhancing the area's natural resources (natural capital). Delivery is being undertaken via a range of interlinked impact projects, co-designed with partners from the business, policy or community sectors, which aim to help manage land and water-based resources for the benefit of SW England's rural and marine-based economy.

**KP** – The National Mapping Programme (NMP - mapping archaeological sites from aerial photos and LiDAR) has previously completed mapping for the South Devon coast (a precursor to the South Devon Coast RCZA) and an earlier project looked at the Tamar Valley. NMP is a national project funded by Historic England. The NMP team in Devon are from AC Archaeology and are embedded with the DCC Historic Environment Team. The team are currently undertaking 'Moor to Shore Phase 1', which covers the area seaward of Dartmoor from the Exe Estuary to the middle Dart and is due to be completed in March 2019. We are currently putting together a bid for 'Moor to Shore Phase 2' which will look at the area seaward of the Moor from the Plymouth boundary to the Salcombe/Kingsbridge estuary. The Dart to Kingsbridge would be a potential Phase 3. NMP results go straight onto the HER (Historic Environment Record).

- The Lottery funded CITIZAN project (Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network <https://citizan.org.uk/>), which is run by the Museum of London Archaeology unit (MOLA), is looking to bid for a Second phase of the project. The basic idea is to involve local communities/groups in recording heritage that is at risk from coastal erosion. The DCC HE Team is awaiting reports/results from Phase 1 and is encouraging CITIZAN 2 (should it take place) to make greater use of the expertise and local knowledge available through partnerships such as we have in Devon. **MP** - Great if old stone bridges could be added in.

**JB** - Dart Charter at Dartington project – we are running a series of local activities and workshops, including Citizen Science with Westcountry Rivers Trust, to engage the local community in the care and understanding of their local river environment and to learn what people value about this stretch of the Dart. It's a 6-month partner project with Dartington Hall Trust. Please complete our survey: [www.dartington.org/rivercharter](http://www.dartington.org/rivercharter)

**TH** – should be getting going on things, plastics, invasive species, education about "love your Loo", water quality – recommend do get going on things that are an issue. Promote DEF point of view and ethos of working with others. Plymouth University can help with Info graphics and working with others to do targeted monitoring.

**MP** Do water companies target Supermarket packaging for wet wipes, baby wipes labelled as "flushable"? **RH** SWW try to get message across. Not just SWW, all water companies working for improved labelling. Should proactively get to networks, eg holiday cottages.

General agreement that the DEF should identify which things to do, network can get going on this. *Post Meeting note – MP noted by the Chair. We will ensure this is giving greater focus at the next meeting. Members are asked to come ready to volunteer if they have the capacity.*

**TH** - harness a journalist/ PR – will talk to Keith Rossiter. **RH** SWW have a communication team can help too.

**CS** Natural England – **Coast Path - Cremyll to Kingswear**: We are currently in the main stage for dialogue with local landowners and other legal interests in potentially affected land. We share with them any initial thinking and ask for their views on coastal access. The route of the existing South West Coast Path National Trail (SWCP) is likely be followed by much of the proposed England Coast Path (ECP) in this area and we will inform landowners where this is the case. Where improvements could be made to the existing SWCP route we will meet with landowners to discuss the best approach and ensure sensitive features are protected. There will be a formal opportunity to comment on



the proposals to improve coastal access at the end of stage 3, when a report for the stretch will be written up and submitted to the Secretary of State. This will be in 2019. For the Dart estuary discussions with the major landowner are ongoing.

**CS** - suggest for next forum agenda, a survey of seals at the Mewstone highlights some disturbance - people getting really close - anything we can do to get message across to take more care and allow a reasonable distance to them?

**Action:** Steven Westcott, to be invited to make a presentation.

**LH** - Devon Maritime Forum's new acting coordinator - maritime issues in Devon as a whole, happy to signpost projects, news, issues, etc., examples of schemes, in county can be reservoir of information. Website - <https://mailchi.mp/2cc084f330a5/oct2018> - be great to get feedback from people, info-graphics, re maritime surveys, working on developing that. Project with MMO to identify how to reach stakeholders - looking for help - comments or if interested in helping that, please get in touch. Am trying to make DMF more relevant. Nigel has contact details - [dmf@devon.gov.uk](mailto:dmf@devon.gov.uk) *Post Mtg Note – the Forum would welcome a presentation on this at the next meeting.*



**JD** - annexe to minutes all the things being done and achieved. Electronic updates each time to **PJ** at DH&NA.

**MC** - Young champions awards, prize money - decided change format offer £250 to young people who want to do something with strong link to estuary.

- Coastal Communities Fund grant – for fishermen's pontoons, to improve pontoons for storage, improve waste disposal, working with a team in Brixham, to take waste away.

- Dredge company from Holland, able to mix dredged material with a binder and place in sacks as a building material, e.g. for 'fixing' Hole-in-the-Wall - possible win/win solution. Perceived issue in in tidal reaches, south of Totnes - keeping the navigation channel open is critical - impacts to navigation and also strong environmental link.

**GN** – mentioned a previously locally-owned crushing machine, which could be used for pacific oyster shells. Crushed shell can be used to improve soils on farm land.

**AOB**

**Action MC / NM - Port Waste Management Plan – set example for mariners**

Date & Venue Spring 2019;

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April – 6:15pm** in the **Totnes Boating Association Clubhouse**, Steamer Quay, Totnes, TQ9 5AL

## Appendix – notes delivered by those giving their apologies

**#1 - Emma Reece - National Trust** - We have had large amounts of palm oil washed up over the weekend but mainly around the Wembury area so keep an eye out for it. We have been carrying out our annual tree safety inspections around Dyers Wood and Gallants Bower so there will be a small amount of tree surgery work being carried out over the winter. We have also been clearing a field next to the Coastguard Cottages in Dartmouth over the last few winters, this is to make it easier to access and treat the large amounts of Japanese Knotweed in there and also to return the habitat to grassland and woodland edge to improve the species diversity. Work will be starting on renovating Compass Cottage (the house on the drive up to the Coastguard Cottages) during the winter, this will then become a National Trust holiday let.

**#2 - Beshlie Pool - South Devon and Channel Shellfishermen** - there is a consultation open on Marine Licensing - some exemptions are being removed and some are being amended.

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/marine-planning-licensing-team/revisions-to-marine-licensing-exemptions/>

I intend to respond with concerns about the removal of derelict fishing gear by divers - because of risks to safety (imagine someone inexperienced trying to move a derelict beam trawl) and risks to protected wrecks - and I have concerns that individuals may see it as permission to remove active gear that they don't understand, as has already happened around the country; recently a fisherman in Wales had all his crab traps thrown away by someone well-meaning who thought they were litter. I intend to suggest that clubs should be issued a blanket licence at zero cost but individuals should not be given blanket permission.

I am also pleased to note that shellfish farms should now have to apply for a licence to expand their operation - something that will be very welcome further East.

Also, FYI really, there are proposals around to start a small seaweed farm near Start Point. when I met with the proposer, I highlighted that visual impacts need to be considered from an AONB point of view and sent her off with your name.

From a shellfish point of view, we're encouraging everyone to try spider crab at the moment, as the Asian demand has seen availability at the usual prices plummet, affecting local sellers. Not sure if relevant or just of interest!

**#3 - David Lucas - Marine Management Organisation** - The only ongoing issue that I wanted to raise is promoting awareness of the requirements for a marine licence for work carried out below MHWS or projecting above tidal waters.