



Newsletter Winter 2005

In this Issue...

Forum Update	1
Dates for your diary...	2
Scotland's Award Beaches	3
Fisheries to benefit from 6.5 million of funding	4
Scottish Environment Week	4
New strategy marks the start of planning system to protect Scotland's water	5
Towards a bathing management framework	6
The planning response to Climate Change: advice on better practice	7
BBC Coast series – Lunan Walk	8
Booking Forms	i, ii

Tay Estuary Forum Update

Improving links with people living and working around the Tay Estuary

The Tay Estuary Forum was invited to Harbour Chambers, Dundee to address the Dundee Port Liaison Group. The Project Officer gave a brief overview of the work of the Forum and the importance of the Tay Estuary as a natural resource. She also outlined the key principles of ICZM and how those taking part in commercial activities around the Tay Estuary could potentially benefit from getting

involved with the work of the Forum.

The Project Officer also took part in an information evening to outline the work of the Forum and the environmental importance of the Estuary to a local community group in Monifieth. The Project Officer spoke about the Tay Estuary, ICZM, and the work of the Forum, whilst also encouraging those in attendance to think about taking a more active interest in the coast around the Tay.

The Tay Estuary Forum was represented at the

Estuarine and Coastal Science Association's (ECSA) 39th International Conference, held at Heriot Watt University. The Project Officer gave a presentation highlighting the current state of vertical and horizontal integration in coastal zone management in Scotland today, posing the question 'Would enhanced vertical integration between local and national level improve the effectiveness of Local Coastal Partnerships in Scotland?' (Finan and Duck, 2005)

Tay Estuary Forum Occasional Report Series

The first report in the TEF's Occasional Report Series has been produced. The report entitled 'Beach Usage: Understanding the Issues' was made available to download from the TEF website. The report written by Andrew Staines and David Blackwood from Urban Water Technology Centre, provides an overview of key issues affecting beach usage, which includes an assessment of the factors that affect choice of beach, an assessment of bathing water management practice in the Tay Estuary area and a comparison of local beaches. Although the paper makes no recommendations on the best way forward, it provides information to assist decision makers in the development of systems of sustainable beach management that reflect the balance of human use and the natural habitat and is proportionate to the degree of use of the beaches. Suggestions for additional research topics or submissions for publication in the series should be sent to the Project officer.

Steering Group Update

The Tay Estuary Forum would like to take this opportunity to welcome both David Hekelaar, who has recently joined the Steering Group representing Montrose Port Authority and Keith Dalglish, who is representing SNH Fife, on to the Steering Group.

TEF Business Plan

The TEF's Business Plan will guide the work of the Forum until 2008. The document sets out the key deliverables as identified by the Tay Estuary Forum's Theme Framework and 'Planning for Real' consultation exercise.

The document also sets out the strategic vision and the shared strategic priorities of the Tay Estuary Forum partners for the next three year period. The document highlights the necessary costs, the timetable for achieving the key deliverables, and the continuous evaluation procedure.

It is a working document, which will allow for new key deliverables to be added as priorities change, as new organisations join the Forum, and as Scottish coastal management develops.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

Tay Estuary Forum's Annual Conference, Friday 28th April 2006

After the success of the Tay Estuary Forum's Annual Conference in previous years this year's conference will again be held at the West Park Conference Centre, Perth Road, Dundee. The One-day event will include several invited speakers discussing a variety of topics relating to the sustainable management of the Tay Estuary. If you would like to suggest a topic area for discussion or take part in the lively 'Soap-box' session, please contact the Project Officer. Please check the TEF website for more information; www.dundee.ac.uk/crsem/TEF/

A booking Form has been included at the end of this Newsletter. If you would like to ensure your place at the TEF Conference please fill it in and return it to the Project Officer.

CoastNET: Public Engagement in Coastal Issues; Scotland Workshop, Friday 17th March 2006

In partnership with the Tay Estuary Forum, CoastNET are running their FREE Scottish 'Public Engagement in Coastal Issues' Workshop in Dundee at West Park Conference Centre.

Aims of the Workshops

There are increasing pressures on our coasts and seas, from aggregate dredging and fishing to coast protection and leisure use. Sharing our knowledge of these pressures and enthusing the public to get involved, is arguably one of the most important, and challenging, tasks facing those working in the marine and coastal sector.

At a recent conference organised by The Wildlife Trusts, delegates highlighted the key reasons for raising public awareness of the marine environment, from engendering a more widespread sense of personal responsibility for the state of the marine environment, increased pressure on politicians and decision makers to manage the marine environment sustainably, to simply, better managed seas.

This workshop represents a rare opportunity to bring together those involved in coastal management and marine education to share ideas on how best to engage people in coastal and marine issues. It is essential that coastal practitioners work together and share limited resources and activities to ensure that time and effort are not wasted and people do not continually have to 're-invent the wheel'.

Workshop Objectives

- understand different organisational priorities for communicating with, & engaging, the public.
- share good practice in public engagement.
- highlight existing support and co-ordination & identify support role for CoastNET.

A mixture of informed presentations and facilitated break out discussion groups will achieve these objectives. The regular breaks and hour-long lunch provide plenty of opportunities for networking.

Registration

The South East workshop to take place in January 2006 is now fully booked. Please make sure you reserve as soon as possible for the other regional workshops as places are limited to a maximum of 25. A registration form is enclosed at the end of this Newsletter. If you would like to attend the event please complete the registration form and return it to the TEF Project Officer or directly to CoastNET.

SCOTLAND'S AWARD BEACHES

More Scottish beaches were awarded a record seven Blue Flags with Dundee's Broughty Ferry and Montrose the newcomers. And 40 getting the coveted Seaside Award status

Environmental charity Keep Scotland Beautiful has announced today that a record number of Scottish beaches have gained prestigious Blue Flag awards.

Seven Scottish beaches have scooped the coveted international beach quality mark, with newcomers Broughty Ferry and Montrose beaches joining the existing five Fife-based Blue Flag winners: Aberdour Silversands, Burntisland, Elie and St Andrews East and West Sands. In addition, 40 beaches have gained the UK Seaside Award.

The Blue Flag is recognised world-wide and those that achieve the accolade must pass tough tests on environmental management, facility management and provide excellent information on the environment and the beach. Lifeguards must be present and as a pre-requisite the bathing water must also meet the highest standards of water quality. The Blue Flag is organised by FEE (Foundation for Environmental Education) and run in Scotland by Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB).

The Seaside Award recognises the more rural nature of Scotland's beaches. More emphasis is placed on litter management procedures, beach and information provision along with involvement from the community than on the facilities present. Research from last year shows that 55% of visitors would rather visit a Seaside Award beach because of its rurality and cleanliness.

KSB director John Summers said: "We are delighted to announce that a record number of beaches in Scotland have attained Blue Flag status and I am particularly pleased

that Broughty Ferry and Montrose have now joined the elite beaches of the world.

"Clean beaches help our tourism industry, create jobs and help our coast's renaissance and we would like to pay tribute to all the hard work that goes in to achieving these awards by local authorities and communities. Considerable investment has been made in the past by organisations such as Scottish Water to help clean up our coastal water quality and I would urge beach-goers to continue playing their part in keeping Scotland's beaches beautiful.

"For the first time ever we have listed all the award winning beaches on our web site and now potential visitors can search for award beaches with ease."

Dundee City Council Leader of the Administration Jill Shimi said "The city council has worked very hard with our partners and the local community to secure this fantastic Blue Flag award.

Generations of Dundonians have enjoyed Broughty Ferry beach and this new status confirms a clean and safe seaside environment for future generations."

Across the UK, 119 beaches were awarded Blue Flags today, compared to only 12 when the scheme began in 1987. For more details see www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org

Seaside Awards were granted to 40 beaches throughout Scotland. In the Tay Estuary forum area these are:

Broughty Ferry (Dundee) - Resort & BF
Montrose (Angus) - Resort & BF
St Andrews, East Sands (Fife) - Resort & BF
St Andrews, West Sands (Fife) -Resort & BF

Fisheries to benefit from £6.5 million of funding

One hundred new jobs are expected to be created as a result of £6.5 million of funding to improve and modernise Scotland's fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

Sixty-seven Scottish businesses will benefit from grant awards under the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG) programme. The money will be partly used to modernise fishing vessels and improve port facilities.

Fisheries Minister Ross Finnie announced the awards earlier today ahead of the first meeting of the Sea Fisheries Advisory Group, part of the Executive's Sustainable Framework for Sea Fisheries. He said:

"This is a further substantial commitment to the future of Scotland's fisheries and aquaculture industries on top of 30 million pounds invested over the last five years.

"The scheme in the Highlands and Islands has been regularly oversubscribed with high quality bids and for that reason I have topped up the available EU FIFG aid with Executive funds to benefit a larger number of projects across Scotland.

"I am particularly delighted to announce support of improvements to facilities at Mallaig and Carradale harbours and the further expansion of cod farming facilities on Shetland.

"I am committed to a profitable and sustainable fisheries sector and see grant support as contributing to achieving this objective.

"The Sea Fisheries Advisory group can also help us to realise this goal by overseeing the successful implementation of the Sustainable Framework for Scottish Sea Fisheries.

"I am delighted to bring together industry leaders, scientists, environmental and retail representatives

for the first time this evening to address the challenges the industry is facing."

This is the ninth round of FIFG awards which were introduced in 2000 and will run until the end of 2006. Over the period of the FIFG programme, 55 million pounds has been made available to Scotland (17 million pounds for the Highlands and Islands area and 38 million pounds for the rest of Scotland).

In addition to the FIFG awards totaling 4.21 million pounds, there will be a Member State back-up contribution. The Executive has committed 2.29 Million for the projects to be supported by this round of awards.

The management groups at their meetings in November 2005 set the closing date for the next round of applications. It is anticipated this will be 31 March 2006

Scottish Environment Week

In Feb 2005, LINK organised their first Scottish Environment Week in the new Scottish Parliament, which was a great success. Following the success of the 2005 event, another is being organised for 6-12 February 2006. See Scottish Environment Link for more details http://www.scotlink.org/Current_action/environment_week.php.

Article continues on next page...

Scottish Environment Week creates an opportunity to focus, in Holyrood, on the importance of the environment and its value to the society and economy of Scotland.

Through the week an exhibition in the Garden Lobby of The Scottish Parliament focused on:

- the rich and diverse natural and cultural heritage of Scotland
- the active involvement of people across the country in caring for the environment in their own communities and workplaces
- sustainability in practice, generating success and jobs.

Discussion events were held in Parliament relating to the themes above through the week. Opportunities were available for MSPs

to engage with projects or visit places of interest in constituencies around the country.

The highlight of the week was an evening reception, which the First Minister and the President of Scottish Environment LINK addressed.

A range of representatives from across society were invited, from the business sector to community groups, voluntary organisations and government bodies covering interests in health, industry, poverty and international development. Through the week, there was an opportunity for MSPs to make their own pledge to the environment and our future, in a Holyrood Declaration.

Scottish Environment Week 2006 6-12th Feb

NEW STRATEGY MARKS START OF PLANNING SYSTEM TO PROTECT SCOTLAND'S WATER

An exciting new era in policy and practice for Scotland's water environment has begun, environmental watchdog, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) has launched the River Basin Planning Strategy for the Scotland River Basin District. Representing the start of the implementation of river basin planning for Scotland, the Strategy is a requirement of new legislation to protect and improve all of Scotland's waters. The Strategy also outlines SEPA's commitment to establish a National Advisory Group and a network of eight Area Advisory Groups in 2006.

SEPA's Callum Sinclair said, "At the heart of the Strategy lies SEPA's vision of river basin planning as a system that will promote sustainable water use in a manner that protects and improves the water environment. The active involvement of other interested parties will be crucial to the success of the Strategy and the new planning system. The Strategy will help inform organisations and communities on how and when they can become involved in river basin planning in the future, and to consider how their contributions will be most effective. For some, this process has already begun by attending seminars held in 2003 or by responding to the formal public consultation exercise in 2004."

The actions in the strategy focus on three strategic areas and have been developed using the views expressed in the participative and consultative exercises:

1. Establishing administrative arrangements and working principles to support the production of river basin management plans;
2. Delivering participative and consultative opportunities; and
3. Integrating and co-ordinating river basin plans with other plans and planning.

Mr Sinclair added, "River basin planning and the River Basin Management Plan it will produce will deliver a range of short, medium and long-term benefits for Scotland's water environment. This Strategy will form the basis on which SEPA and its partners can plan and prepare to deliver basin planning in order to better protect, manage and improve Scotland's waters for everyone."

The River Basin Planning Strategy for the Scotland River Basin District & a digest of responses to 2004s public consultation are available at www.sepa.org.uk/wfd/rbmp. To receive a copy of the Strategy, e-mail publications@sepa.org.uk

**Towards a Bathing Water Management Framework:
The challenges of COM 581: could mussels deliver a quicker
and more accurate assessment of water quality.**

On 24 October 2002, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a revised Directive concerning the Quality of Bathing Water; this proposal is called COM 581/2002/0254. In Scotland, there are 60 beaches designated under the Bathing Waters Directive 76/160, which was implemented in 1976 and is concerned with protecting human health and the environment. Bathing waters are defined as;

Since the original directive was published in 1976 there have been many changes to science, technology and the management of the environment, with a move away from a technical compliance approach to the development of managerial systems with greater public transparency. With these new approaches, new challenges face member states and their competent authorities (SEPA, Scottish water, Local Authorities etc) that have to develop the systems that are prescribed in the proposed directive.

In January 2003 Andrew Staines supervised by Dr. David Blackwood at the University of Abertay Dundee began a PhD with the aim of addressing how to equip bathing water managers and other competent authorities (Local Authorities, SEPA Scottish Water etc) with the necessary information and approaches and how to best adapt these to specific bathing water parameters, contained within a Bathing Water Management Framework (BWMF).

In the directive, there have been significant changes to many areas, but the most change has occurred in three key areas that need to be addressed to fully understand and develop a new bathing water directive:

1. The new legislation and management aspects, and how the competent and local

authorities roles could change within COM 581

2. Developing biological monitoring systems in support of the new bathing water directive proposal COM 581
3. Addressing public communication and transparency in the new directive and how information can be disseminated with specific need in the directive to use 'appropriate media and technologies, such as the Internet'

To achieve this, the research project has been divided into equivalent research packages that are to be linked in the third year of research. To formulate the Bathing Water Management Framework a live case study is ongoing at Arbroath Bathing Water entailing biological monitoring of water quality and the relaying of this data to a website, which also contains relevant information about the research.

How can you help?

A key deliverable of this research is to evaluate the framework by both the competent authorities and also the public who will benefit from the improved management of the bathing waters. If you would like to contribute to the research please view the website and fill in the online survey.

This information will then be used to enhance the research and refine the final Bathing Water Management Framework.

Website address:

<http://scieng.abertay.ac.uk/BWRG>

Research carried out by Andrew Staines for completion of PhD at Abertay University. This project is funded by Catchment Tay, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) & Angus Council

The Planning Response to Climate Change: Advice on better practice

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has published this document which provides planning professionals with an outline of the latest thinking regarding the planning response to climate change.

Given that planning practice on adapting to climate change is still developing, the hope is that the advice will stimulate planners to search for new strategies to respond to climate change, in partnership with developers and communities, etc.

The document covers:

- the context – causes of climate change, global climate change, the UK climate impacts programme (UKCIP), climate change in the UK, planning for an uncertain future, Government policy, and the role of planning
- climate change issues – infrastructure; flooding; coasts; water resources; biodiversity, land and landscape; economic development and tourism; transport; waste and resources; energy systems; and the built environment
- assessment – a climate sensitive development checklist, sustainability/environmental appraisal, environmental impact assessment, and the environmental assessment of buildings
- Implementation – implementation and further mechanisms.
- The final section of the document gives details of further sources of information.

Is climate change a material consideration?

The introductory section of the document poses the question as to whether climate change is a material consideration. Key references to climate change in English, Scottish and Welsh planning guidance are quoted in response to this question, eg:

- England – ‘...Regional Planning Bodies should consider their regions’ vulnerability to climate change....and consider how their region’s activities affect the production of greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change’ (PPG11)
- Scotland – ‘The Scottish Executive is committed to tackling climate change greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels, which are the biggest single contributor to global warming’ (SPP1: The Planning System (2002))
- Wales – ‘Planning policies and proposals should contribute to climate protection by encouraging land uses that result in reduced emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular energy-efficient development and promoting the use of energy from renewable resources’ (Planning Policy Wales (March 2002)).

Five key points

When it comes to taking the urgent action needed to address the issues associated with climate change, the document emphasises the following key points:

- Act now – climate change impacts should not be regarded as some remote risk to be tackled in the future. The impacts are with us now and need to be tackled now
- Make the links – many of the actions needed to respond to climate change can be justified for other reasons, for example, conserving water resources. Thus, on many issues, there is no reason why planning policy makers should be constrained by uncertainties over some future climate change impacts
- Spread the word – elected members, local authority officers, developers and the public need to be aware of the impacts of climate change, how to adapt to it, and how to mitigate future impacts
- Make the best use of existing tools – Environmental Appraisal and Sustainability Appraisal can be effective tools for ensuring that due consideration is given to climate change in planning policy

- Make effective use of existing instruments – planners have a number of instruments available, such as conditions, agreements, obligations and informatives, which can be used to respond to climate change.

A climate-sensitive development checklist

The document provides the following checklist which sets out the considerations that could be used as a filter in determining whether new developments:

- Are adapted to current and potential climate change impacts
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The checklist is outlined below and covers the following questions:

Assessing the risk

- Is the site in an area at risk from current or future climate change impacts and extreme weather events? This includes such events as rises in sea level, tidal flooding, rising groundwater levels, land erosion and subsidence, wind damage and water shortage
- Does the [proposed] development have the potential to increase climate-related risks in the locality? This covers increasing the risk in terms of increased surface water run-off, changes to flood or groundwater regimes, the need for new or enhanced coastal or flood defences, loss of tree cover, increased pressure on habitats, and increased pressure on water resources.

Design considerations – adaptation

- Has the development adopted features that increase resilience to climate change impacts? This includes such features as Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS), siting building services above flood levels, specifying water collection and recycling features, use of solar power, connection to district cooling systems, wind protection and shelter, and access for emergency vehicles.

Design considerations – mitigating greenhouse gas emissions

- Has the development adopted features that mitigate greenhouse gas emissions? This question covers such issues as energy efficiency, waste minimisation, and use of sustainable energy sources, water efficiency and transport emissions.



The BBC coast series has several walks

that accompany it, including one in the Tay Estuary Forum's area. According to the Coast website 'The beautiful Singing Sands of Lunan Bay make up one of the loveliest walks in Scotland- from odd rocks in the north to relics of the Second World War in the south it makes for an interesting journey' The walk is fairly level, involving mostly paved surfaces and flat unmade paths, with sand at the end. It is approximately 4 miles long takes about 3 hours to complete.

For more info visit www.bbc.co.uk/coast/



Booking Form



Tay Estuary Forum Annual Conference 2006 Friday, 28th April 2006, West Park Conference Centre, University of Dundee

The Venue West Park Conference Centre, Perth Road, Dundee
Conference Fee **£40** (includes lunch, morning & afternoon coffee & refreshments)

Please return your completed booking form ASAP and **by 30th March 2006**, so catering can be finalised.

- Cheques should be made payable to **University of Dundee**, and Forwarded to Tay Estuary Forum, Ewing Building, University of Dundee, Dundee, DD1 4HN.
- Invoices can be provided on request
- Payment should be made before the Conference
- No refunds shall be given for cancellations less than two weeks before the conference

A map showing the location of West Park Conference Centre is available on Dundee University Website: <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/general/campusmap/genlocation.htm>

For Further Details please contact Katriona Finan

Phone 01382 344933 / Fax 01382 348313

Email k.finan@dundee.ac.uk

Tay Estuary Forum Annual Conference 2006 – 28th April 2005 BOOKING FORM

Name _____ Organisation _____

Address _____

Email _____ Tele _____

Fax _____

No. of places _____ Total amount payable £ _____ Invoice required: Yes/ NO

Any special dietary requirements _____

Please return completed booking form to: Tay Estuary Forum, Ewing Building,
University of Dundee, Dundee, DD1 4HN
OR k.finan@dundee.ac.uk

Cheques should be made payable to **University of Dundee**

Public Engagement in Coastal Issues

CoastNET Regional workshops

REGISTRATION FORM

To register your interest for any of the regional workshops please complete the form below:

<i>Name</i>			
Organisation			
Position			
Workshop region			
<i>Address</i>			
<i>Telephone</i>		<i>Fax</i>	
<i>Email</i>			
Any special dietary or other requirements?			

Please return this form to:

Erin Pettifer, CoastNET, The Gatehouse, Rowhedge Wharf, High Street,
Rowhedge, Colchester, Essex, CO5 7ET. Tel / Fax 01206 728 644, e-mail
erin@coastnet.org.uk.

In order to secure a place on a workshop please send a completed pre-course good practice questionnaire with your booking form.