



Newsletter

Summer 2003

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Tay Estuary Forum Update

2003 Conference Report

The forum's 2003 annual conference, which was held on March 14th at West Park Conference Centre, was a great success. The day consisted of several guest speakers who discussed a variety of topics.

The day commenced with a fascinating talk by Bill Dow on "Dundee's changing Waterfront", which was followed by Mark Williams' (Scottish Water) presentation on the Tay WasteWater Treatment Works.

Callan Duck (SMRU, St Andrews University) and Marshall Halliday (Esk District Salmon Fishery Board) highlighted some of the issues that occur when attempting to find a balance in the delicate relationship between seals and salmon in the estuary.

The afternoon commenced with an outline of beach usage from Andrew Staines (University of Abertay), who was followed by Dr Mick

Mick Smith (University of Abertay) who considered "Ethics and the Environment".

The day concluded with a talk from Mike Galloway, Director of Planning and Transportation, Dundee City Council who outlined the Council's plans for the future of Dundee's Waterfront.

Delegates at the conference also got the opportunity to discuss the issues, both threats and opportunities, which they felt affect the estuary during the "Planning For Real" sessions, which were run during the day.

Delegates were asked to categorise the issues, which they identified into those that should be relatively easy to deal with and action could be taken straight away and those which may arise in the future and would require more time to resolve.

The issues identified during the planning for real session will form the basis for the forum to produce a management

Coastal Management Strategy and Action Plan for the estuary.

The session provided an opportunity to gain a wider perspective of the concerns of delegates by facilitating networking and encouraging exchanges in opinion and discussion of the major issues facing the estuary. Some key points identified by delegates were;

- Opportunity to improve recreation on and around the estuary
- Increasing people's awareness of the importance of the estuary through education and interpretation projects
- Issues associated with wind Power generation
- Effects of sea level rise
- Coastal erosion
- Pressure for development

If you would like to find out more about this or any other article in the Newsletter please contact the Project Officer.
(See contact details below)

If you would like to contact the Forum please do so at the address below

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FIFE HARBOURS STUDY

A consultant's study of Fife harbours has been undertaken for Fife Council with the aim of developing a strategic plan for their use and future development, having been concluded that Fife interests, including the regard to leisure market opportunities. The study looks at all 37 Fife harbours from Kincardine in the south to Newburgh in the north with an audit carried out of a range of factors such as basic infrastructural condition and facilities, ownership, current uses and demand, and economic impact of uses.

Of particular note, the study emphasises that their wider context of implementation would be undertaken for Fife Scottish East Coast Council with the aim of developing a strategic plan for their use and future development, having been concluded that Fife interests, including the regard to leisure market opportunities. The study looks at all 37 Fife harbours from Kincardine in the south to Newburgh in the north with an audit carried out of a range of factors such as basic infrastructural condition and facilities, ownership, current uses and demand, and economic impact of uses.

The study produced Fife Council will now be considering the report's findings and recommendations over the coming months, and how these might be taken forward, including further consultation.

SEA Of Offshore Wind Energy Locations

Strategic Environmental Assessment of UK Offshore Wind Energy Locations.

The UK Government Department for Trade and Industry is undertaking a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of Offshore Wind. Work began in November 2002 to develop Strategic Environmental Assessment and a Steering Group was established that has met four times and includes government, conservation and industry representatives including the Marine Conservation Society (representing Wildlife and Countryside Link an umbrella group for UK environmental organisations). The SEA is focusing on 3 Strategic Areas, two in the North Sea and one in the Irish Sea

The strategic areas were chosen by the Department for Trade and Industry on the grounds of them being good sites for wind farms and not, unfortunately, on any ecological grounds. The SEA is a good first step in making more informed decisions about the locations of future offshore wind farms, but it is being rushed through with many data gaps and may hence be flawed.

For further information see the website at:

<http://www.og.dti.gov.uk/offshore-wind-sea/>

Or search for offshore wind SEA DTI

More information from Melissa Moore (MCS) at melissa@mcsuk.org

Publish Step by Step Decision Making Framework : to help decision makers in face of an uncertain future climate

On 20 May 2003 the UK Climate Impacts Programme published a new technical report, Climate adaptation: risk, uncertainty and decision-making. The report provides a step-by-step decision-making framework designed to help decision-makers – including planners, businesses and government - manage their activities in the face of an uncertain future climate. The guidance will help you judge the significance of the climate change risk, compared to the other risks you face, so you can work out what adaptation measures are most appropriate.

It will help you answer the questions:

What climate change risks could affect my decision?

What adaptation measures are required, and when should they be implemented?

The report, which has drawn on a wide range of UK expertise in climate change forecasting, risk assessment, policy and project appraisal, has been prepared by the Environment Agency's Centre for Risk and Forecasting and UKCIP, with funding from DEFRA.

The report outlines a range of climate change adaptation strategies, but recommends that whatever strategy you choose, you should:

- Aim to keep options open and flexible, so that other strategies can be put in place for the future;
- Avoid making decisions that will make it more difficult to cope with future climate change - such as inappropriate development in flood risk areas;
- Aim to find 'no regret' options, that will deliver benefits whatever the extent of climate change.

The Town & Country Planning Association is hosting a reception for the report in London, on 25 June, at 6pm. Here, Robert Willows from the Environment Agency will explain the decision-making framework, and organisations applying it within various sectors will outline their initial experiences.

If you would like to attend, please e-mail enquiries@ukcip.org.uk

Article continued on next page....

UKCIP and the EA will be running training workshops across the UK in the autumn on how to use the guidance. Workshops will be aimed at professionals from the following sectors: land use planning, civil engineering, buildings and infrastructure owners and operators, water management and environmental protection.

To register your interest please e-mail richenda.connell@ukcip.org.uk or call 01865 432 076.

The report and an introductory leaflet can be downloaded from http://www.ukcip.org.uk/risk_uncert/risk_uncert.html

If you would like hard copies, please e-mail enquiries@ukcip.org.uk



BROUGHTY BEACH IS 40% CLEANER THAN LAST YEAR!

Broughty Ferry Community Council is delighted to announce that the Marine Conservation has published the results for the annual Beachwatch survey for 2002 and Broughty Ferry beach is 40% cleaner than last year.

The survey team led by Broughty Ferry Community Council and supported by many individuals, community service order participants, undertook their survey work/ clean up in September last year. The length of beach surveyed stretched from Balmossie to Broughty Castle. The beach was discovered to have 0.9 items of litter per metre compared to the 1.57 items per metre, which were found last year.

Broughty Ferry Community Council has officially “adopted” the beach, which requires the commitment to clean, care for, and encourage the public’s enjoyment of the beach.

One of the survey team, Peter Spencer commented that “not only has the water cleanliness been dramatically improved through the construction of a new sewage treatment scheme (which became operational in 2001), we now have sound evidence that the problems of litter and sewage derived refuse on the beach are similarly being dealt with. Local voluntary effort coupled with the City Council’s beach cleaning programme shows what can be done”.

The average nationwide results for Scotland, were 1.24 items per meter, which shows that Broughty Ferry beach is cleaner than the average beach in Scotland and gives great heart to Dundee City Council in its commitment to achieving an Award Beach Status for Broughty Ferry in the Summer of 2004.

Reported by Doug McLaren (Broughty Ferry Community Council)

ICZM & national coastal strategies - *what is happening?*

An update from the Scottish Coastal Forum



In May 2002 the European Union adopted a Recommendation on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM); what does the Recommendation and ICZM mean for Scotland, its coast and the Tay Estuary Forum.

ICZM is designed to 'join up' all the different policies which have an effect on the coastline. It is about both planning and management of coastal resources and is an ongoing process that will evolve over time, rather than a 'one off' solution. Without co-ordination at all levels, efforts to provide sustainable management of the coast will only have limited success.

ICZM is not just an environmental policy but seeks to improve the economic and social well being of coastal zones: environmental and socio-economic goals are intrinsically interconnected.

ICZM is more about process: the process of everyone working together for the benefit of the whole coast and not just for one sector within it. ICZM sits at a level above our well-developed sectoral management regimes and is active already in Scotland through a network of local coastal management partnerships. These have prepared local ICZM strategies but now the emphasis is shifting to the national level to provide a framework in which the local initiatives can operate.

The EU has identified principles that should ensure the coast is managed well. These are:

- taking a broad overall perspective (in terms of activities and geographical areas covered);
- taking a long term outlook to management;
- taking a flexible management approach that adapts and evolves as knowledge increases;
- providing local solutions to local problems;
- working with natural processes
- involving all interested parties
- enlisting the support and involvement of relevant administrative bodies
- using the appropriate combination of legislation, administrative measures, monetary incentives and voluntary agreements as integration delivery mechanisms.

The ICZM Recommendation, which UK Government will implement, calls for national coastal strategies to be developed and a progress report to be made to the European Commission in early 2006. These strategies should cover:

- identifying the roles of the different administrative actors
- identifying the appropriate mix of instruments for implementation of the ICZM principles

- developing or maintaining national and, where appropriate, regional or local legislation or policies and programmes which address both the marine and terrestrial areas of coastal zones together;
- identifying measures to promote bottom-up initiatives and public participation in integrated management of the coastal zone and its resources. Of course, in Scotland a network of local coastal management partnerships exists already.
- identifying sources of durable financing for ICZM initiatives where needed;
- identifying mechanisms to ensure full and coordinated implementation and application of European Community legislation and policies that have an impact on coastal areas;
- adequate systems for monitoring and disseminating information;
- national training and education programmes to support implementation of integrated management principles.

A national stock take of the above listed areas is the first part of the national strategy process. This should be completed early in 2004 and will inform the overall UK vision for the coast and the component strategies for Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland that will be developed during 2004 and 2005.

In the meantime, the Scottish Coastal Forum (SCF), set up by government in 1996 to advise on coastal policy, identified a need for a strategy in 1997 and has followed closely the emerging European Recommendation. SCF has undertaken much preparatory work on a coastal strategy (see Coastal Strategy page of SCF web site), including position papers on coastal activities and research into existing integration mechanisms and partnerships. SCF is currently drafting a coastal strategy that addresses the main areas identified in the EU Recommendation and will pass this to the Scottish Executive later in 2003. The Deputy Minister for Environment and Rural Development has indicated that it will be a valuable contribution to the coastal strategy that the Scottish Executive will be finalising over the next few years.

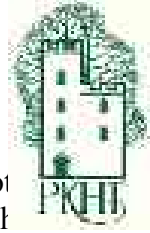
When the coastal strategy is complete, a framework to support and promote bottom up initiatives and finance such initiatives will be in place. The existing network of local coastal partnerships is well placed to thrive in the future although their exact roles and responsibilities may be refined as the strategy develops.

Further information from

www.scotland.gov.uk/environment/coastalforum

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/marine/iczm/index.htm>

PERTH AND KINROSS HERITAGE TRUST



Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust is a Scottish charity which was first established in 1988 who have since then established a website dedicated to the rich and varied archaeological and architectural heritage of Perth and Kinross. It is hoped that the site, which was launched last month, will help to raise the profile of the trust, and act as a springboard for people searching for more information on heritage and those who want to find out more about Perth and Kinross past from prehistoric monuments, such as stone circles, burial mounds and hill-forts and the legacy of the Roman occupation to the river-powered textile mills of the Industrial Age. The website contains a series of pages which outline both the archaeological and architectural heritage of the area, along with several pages on specific projects, such as the Carpow Log Boat, which is detailed in the following article.



For more information or if you would like to find out more please visit their website using the link below
<http://www.pkht.org.uk>

CARPOW LOG BOAT

In autumn 2001, the discovery of a log boat on inter-tidal mudflats at the head of the Tay Estuary was reported to the Trust. An initial visit confirmed that the find was indeed a log boat, partially exposed from the inter-tidal sands, gravels and peat. Subsequently a radiocarbon (^{14}C) date was taken from the vessel and this has indicated a date of around 1000BC, from the Late Bronze Age.

While only around 5m (16ft) of the boat is exposed, small-scale excavation has shown that the boat is at least 8.5m (28ft) long and probably in the region of 10m (32ft) in length and made from a single piece of oak. It is most likely that the boat was used for fishing and wild fowling in the productive river and estuarine environments, although transportation of people and goods is also a likely use. While there are records of six log boats being discovered in the estuary during the 19th century, only one discovered in 1895 and

now on display in Dundee Museum, survives. This boat has been radiocarbon dated to around 500AD and is 9m (30ft) long and also made from a single piece of oak. While the Carpow vessel survives water-logged and partially buried in the inter-tidal zone, fluctuations in conditions when it is uncovered at low tides means that its long-term preservation in situ is in question. The vessel has been sand-bagged to protect it in the interim while consideration is given to its long-term future

BAG IT AND BIN IT – DON'T FLUSH IT

A NATIONAL campaign to help clean up Scotland's environment is to get underway this summer.

In a bid to help clean up beaches and reduce the cost of dealing with sanitary waste, Scottish Water is urging everyone NOT to flush items like tampons, condoms and nappies down their toilet. Instead, the organisation will be asking people to Bag It and Bin It – Don't Flush It. Previous campaigns in Scotland have shown raising public awareness of the problems caused by such waste can dramatically reduce the number of items flushed into the sewage system.

A Scottish Water spokeswoman said: "We are asking people to carefully wrap items and dispose of them in the bin – rather than putting them down the toilet.

"In Scotland it has been estimated that a staggering 340 million items of sanitary waste are flushed every year. The waste water system simply wasn't designed to cope with these things and they can cause blockages in pipes and damage screens at treatment plants.

"As a result, this waste can also get into the environment, polluting rivers and beaches and harming wildlife."

Scottish Water is joining forces with the Scottish Executive and Clean Coast Scotland for this summer's campaign.

Items which should **NOT** be flushed include:

- Nappies and wipes
- Cotton buds
- Sanitary towels and tampons
- Panty liners
- Condoms
- Razors



The only things which should be flushed down the toilet are human waste and toilet paper (not too much!).

A Beachwatch survey for 2002 found sewage related debris accounted for 5.8% of total waste found on Scottish beaches.

Similar schemes run in the past proved to be highly effective. One in the West of Scotland saw a 49% reduction in the amount of waste being flushed. This meant more than a quarter of a million fewer items were going down the loo in one area alone – some of this landing on local beaches and waterways.

This year's campaign, which will be launched in August, targets the whole of Scotland with the simple message: **Bag It and Bin It – Don't Flush It**