



TAY VIEWS

A PUBLICATION BY THE TAY ESTUARY FORUM: PROMOTING THE WISE AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE TAY ESTUARY AND ITS ADJACENT COASTLINE **ISSUE 30: Spring/ Summer 2011**

Thanks to all of you who attended this year's TEF Annual Conference in Dundee on April 15th! Special thanks to all the speakers who contributed to a full and diverse programme, your efforts are much appreciated, and those of the Session Chairs who helped the day run smoothly! We had a great event this year and you can read the full report on speakers, presentations and audience feedback in Item 5. As Summer progresses there are lots of local initiatives to become involved with, including the celebrations for the bi-centenary of the Bell Rock Lighthouse, Biodiversity Month, Marine Wildlife Watching and Spring Cleaning! For information on the TEF or any of the organisations we feature in the newsletters, please don't hesitate to get in touch, Best wishes,
Laura (Project Officer)

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1: TEF UPDATE

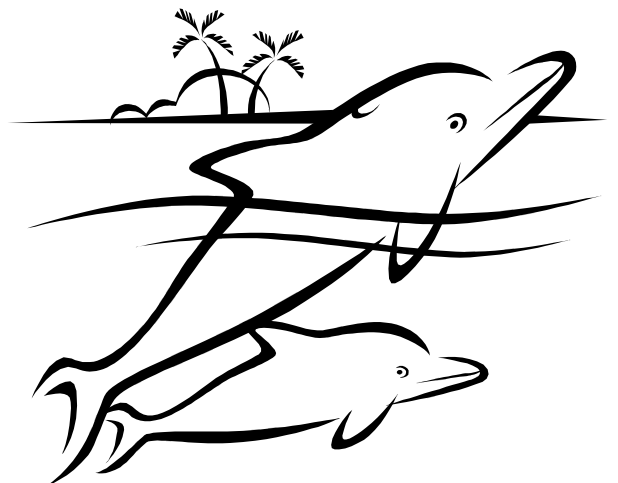
- Next TEF Steering Group meeting June 2011.
- TEF meeting with Marine Scotland tbc.
- TEF wishes to express sincere thanks to Pam Coutts (Angus Council) who retired this April, for all her hard work for the Forum over previous years. We welcome Kelly Ann Dempsey as the new Angus Council representative to the Steering Group.

To join the TEF mailing list or to put forward your views, articles or pictures contact:

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2. Angus Cetacean Awareness Project

Cetacean survey project is highlighting land based watching opportunities in Angus

Angus waters are visited by local and national priority cetacean species. Tayside Biodiversity priority species found in Angus waters include bottlenose dolphin, harbour porpoise and minke whale. January 2011 saw Humpback whales visit Montrose Bay on more than three occasions, an exciting and rare occurrence.

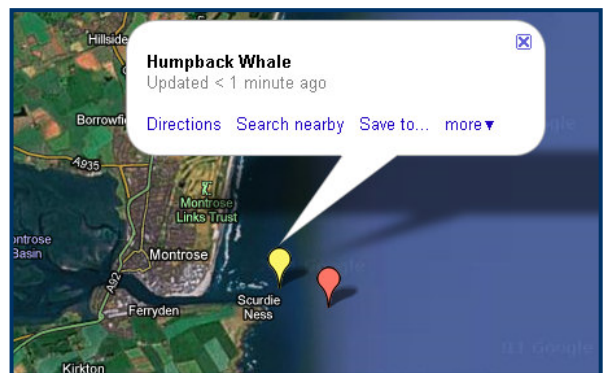
A project launched in September 2010 the Angus Cetacean Awareness Project, a 2/3 year data- collection exercise which aims to address the lack of knowledge of species presence and behaviours in Angus waters in now under full swing and is playing a part in developing working relationships, public participation and raising awareness of land based watching opportunities in the Angus area. March 2011 saw the first Whale & Dolphin Conservation Society "Shorewatch" training day in Angus at Montrose Basin Wildlife Centre where more than 10 local volunteers were trained in species I.D and data recording techniques. A second followed last month at SNH's St Cyrus NNR.

Further details of the project, sightings reporting and coastal wildlife watching opportunities can be found at the website www.marinelifeangus.co.uk . An Aberdeen college student is at present developing a map based sightings page which will be updated after each new sighting is logged adding a useful element for the public to pinpoint areas along the coastline where sightings frequently occur.

It would be fantastic if YOU spot any cetaceans that you contact us with details such as species type, location, number of animals, time of day etc by either visiting the site or emailing info@marinelifeangus.co.uk.

More information on the Whale & Dolphin Conservation Society "Shorewatch" can be found at http://www.wdcs.org/national_regions/scotland/shorewatch/index.php

Image by Kelly Ann Dempsey



TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP



MARINE LIFE ANGUS



www.marinelifeangus.co.uk



3. Scotland's Marine Atlas and National Marine Plan

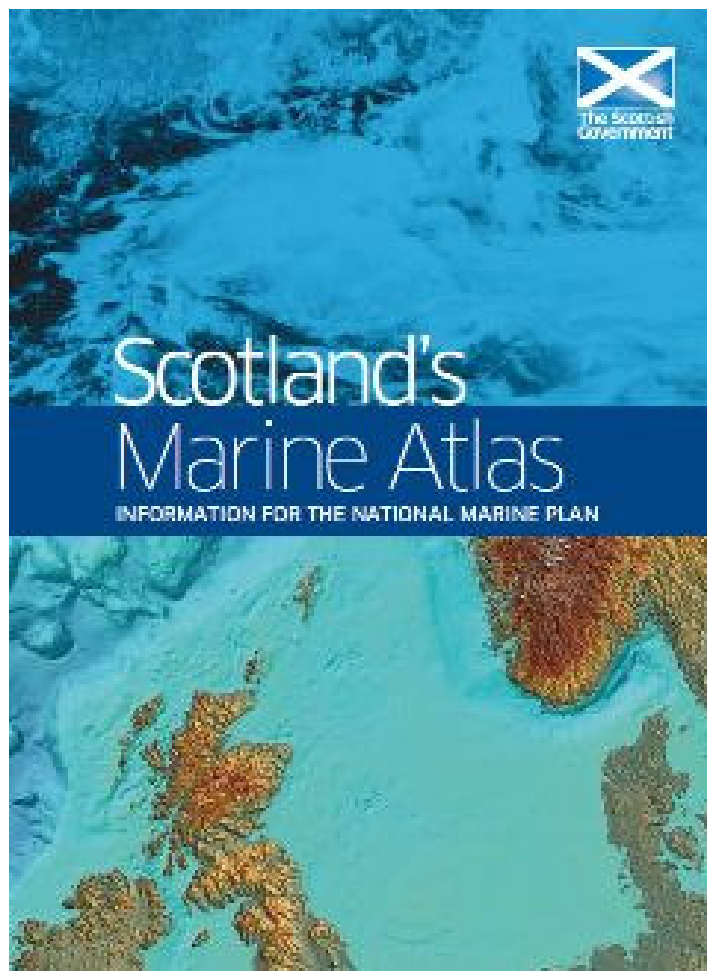
Scotland's Marine Atlas was launched in March 2011, as a key step towards developing the National Marine Plan for Scotland. The Atlas displays scientific data collected on the physical and biological characteristics of Scotland's Seas, and of the human activities that take place within the marine environment. The pre-consultation draft of Scotland's Marine Plan is out to consultation until June 2011 and you are able to source hard copies of both documents from the TEF at the usual address.

The Atlas can be viewed electronically online at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/marineatlas>

Copies and Responses to the Pre-consultation draft of the National Marine Plan at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/03/21114728/0>



4. Solar Cities Conference

Friday 24th June 2011 The Space Theatre, Dundee College, Old Glamis Road, Dundee

Growing the Green Shoots of a Low Carbon Economy

Thinking differently about the way we create and use energy is critical in making the transition to a low carbon economy. For the Urban Realm there are plenty of opportunities to cut costs, create jobs and tackle carbon emissions through re-thinking where energy is required and where it is created. This conference will explore how different approaches are being used across Scotland and Europe to make sure energy is used effectively and efficiently at different scales of community – from small rural village to large cities and even the regions.

Solar Cities Scotland 6th Annual conference will provide an excellent opportunity for networking and information sharing amongst professionals, groups and individuals that are interested in sustainable energy and low carbon living. Further details are soon to be announced but keep your diary's open for this forthcoming event.

Cost: £15 per ticket

Speakers so far confirmed include projects from Europe, England as well as flagship projects in Scotland. More details will be made available shortly through our website.

Workshop

The day will also see workshops investigating the contribution of strategic, community and individual led action to tackle carbon emissions in the urban realm under the following headings

Workshop Titles

1. Feed in Tarrifs – a how to guide for getting onboard
2. Tenemental Problems- Mixed tenure properties provide a complex web of issues for delivering community insulation and renewable energy schemes. What opportunities exists to help residents cut emissions and stop wasting money.
3. Setting up a carsharing club - Reducing our addiction to the private car is a major theme in sustainable communities. Can car clubs help communities and planners think differently about car use?

To book your place go to: <http://www.solarcitiesScotland.org.uk/event-details.aspx?ID=35>

5. Tay Estuary Forum's 14th Annual Conference 2011 Friday 15th April, West Park Conference Centre, Dundee

**Around 60 delegates attended this year's TEF Annual Conference in Dundee.
After a Welcome and Project Officer Update, the day was split into 4 sessions:**

1: Sustainable Economic Development. Allan Watt (Dundee City Council) spoke about progress with, and plans for Dundee Waterfront including a virtual fly-over the city's centre and V&A site. This was followed by a presentation on Dundee Renewables by Stan Ure (Dundee City Council) exploring how the city is priming itself to play a major role in the renewables sector. David Gourley (Dundee College) then illustrated how local education centres were supporting the emerging sector by providing the long-term skills and training for a locally-qualified future workforce. Ruth Lonsdale and Scott Turpie gave a detailed account of how Broughty Ferry Development Trust are giving local residents a say in promoting sustainable development at the Castle Green area of the town, whilst remaining sympathetic to local heritage and natural features.

2: Sustainable Industry: Planning for the Future. Geoff Squire (James Hutton Institute, Dundee; formerly Scottish Crop Research Institute) illustrated examples of the maritime croplands around Tayside and innovative advancements in crop production through research and knowledge exchange. He also highlighted the future potential of facilities and expertise in Tayside, notably at the Institute's major new field research platform – the Centre for Sustainable Cropping – and its LEAF Innovation Centre and Living Field outreach and educational project. Dot Smith (Green Business Five) explained the organisation's role in supporting local businesses minimise their environmental impact whilst identifying new business opportunity; highlighting some local case studies. Julia Garritt (Forestry Commission Scotland) then explored Forestry as a sustainable industry with reference to the Tay catchment, discussing carbon sequestration, flood mitigation, mitigating diffuse pollution and tourism.

3: Renewable Energy and Waste Reduction: Martina Gassner (SeaEnergy Renewables) gave an update on progress with the Inch Cape Offshore Wind Farm, including a video of turbine construction. From large-scale power generation schemes to the opposite end of the scale next with Nigel Benson's (Bell Ingram) talk on Microgeneration, including Biomass, Heat Pumps, Solar and Hydro schemes and their cost benefits for domestic properties and businesses. Peter Davis from the British Plastics Federation in London then ended the session with an informative account on the issue of plastics in the marine environment, and current industry action to try and combat the problem.

Soapbox

This year's soapbox included 5-10 mins presentations on a variety of local initiatives and issues: David Strachan (Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust) spoke about the newly- formed Tay Landscape Partnership; Invasive weed control measures in the South Esk Catchment were explored by Marshall Halliday (Esk Rivers & Fisheries Trust) and finally, Kelly Ann Dempsey (Marine Life Angus) spoke on the Angus Cetacean Awareness Project and increasing awareness of cetacean life in our local coastal waters.

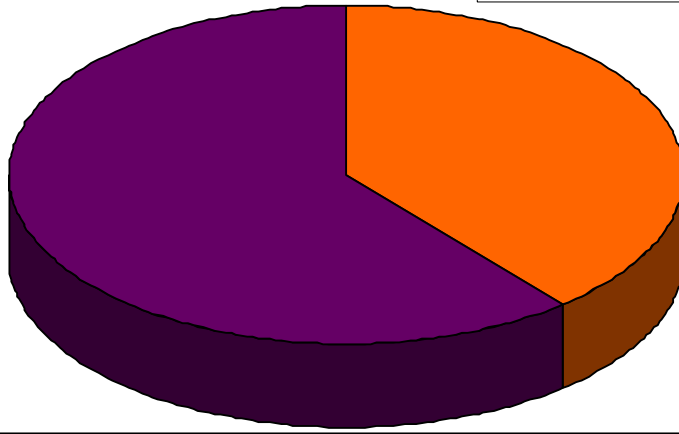


Feedback

Delegates have suggested the following topics for discussion at future events: Agriculture and Food Production, Marine Scotland, Green Networks, Future Fisheries Management, Recreational Conflict at the coast, Coastal Erosion. The event received good press coverage and feedback has been very positive with attendees rating: **Conference Structure, Relevance of Presentations and Venue/Catering** as follows (1-Poor to 5- Excellent):

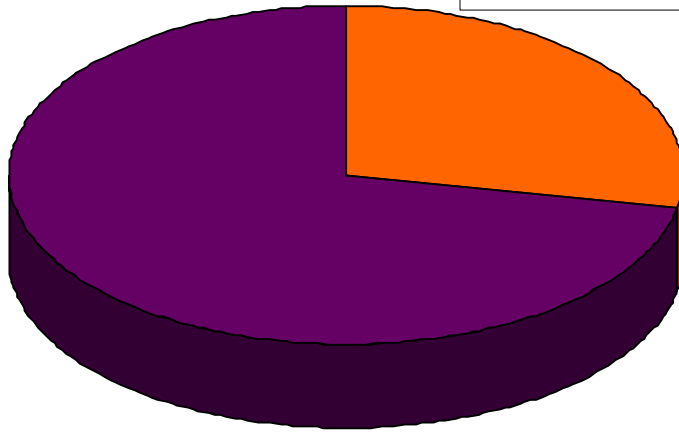
Conference Structure

1 2 3 4 5



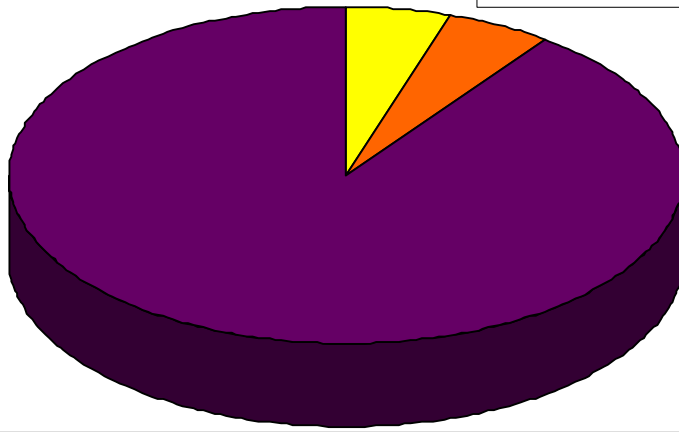
Relevance of Presentations

1 2 3 4 5



Venue and Catering

1 2 3 4 5





The Scottish Marine Group Open Meeting

October 20th 2011

Perth College UHI

Brahan Lecture Theatre

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Scottish Marine Group is an informal forum for marine scientific practitioners, researchers and postgraduates to share research interests via talks and posters.

In this Autumn meeting, the forum aims to highlight the diversity of Scottish marine science and its applications.

The cost of £6 covers refreshments. The college has parking and is easily reached from Perth railway and bus stations.

Contributors are invited to send their title and a very brief abstract before July 31st 2011, after which a programme will be available. Other participants are asked to book by September 30th 2011 please.



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SCOTTISH
ASSOCIATION
for MARINE
SCIENCE



7. Beach awards recognise Scotland's best

Scotland's beaches provide the perfect place for a fun day out, and today, 23 May 2011, awarding body Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) announced that 56 beaches will fly Seaside Award flags. So, with the weather hotting up for summer, KSB is urging people to take a trip to an award beach and dip a toe in the sea or have a picnic.

From Machrihanish Beach in the south west, to the beautiful St Ninian's Isle in Shetland, Scotland's award beaches have something to offer everyone, from lifeguarded swimming areas; bustling promenades with entertainment provided; to secluded bays which are havens for wildlife.

After visiting one of these award winning beaches, Keep Scotland Beautiful would like to hear from all beach users – people can now 'score the shore' at www.keeptoscotlandbeautiful.org/coastal so that other visitors know what to expect when they arrive.

The Seaside Award programme has been recognising Scotland's beaches for their litter management, information provision, risk assessment and safety procedures, and water quality for 19 years.

A total of 13 special recommendations have also been made this summer for beaches achieving Seaside Award status for more than 10 years in a row, showing consistently good management – including St Andrews West Sands in Fife which has achieved award status since the scheme began in Scotland in 1993.

Along with the 56 Scottish beaches achieving Seaside Award status, seven beaches have also been awarded the coveted international Blue Flag. This includes six beaches in Fife, and Coldingham Bay in the Scottish Borders.

The Blue Flag is recognised across the world and those that achieve the accolade must ensure all facilities are clean, and environmental management and information provision standards are excellent. As a prerequisite, the bathing water at the beach must also meet the highest standards of the EU Bathing Water Directive.

Derek Robertson, Chief Executive of KSB welcomed the announcement. He said: "Over the last 11 years the number of Seaside Awards in Scotland has more than quadrupled, there were just 13 in 2000, so I would like to pay tribute to all the hard work that goes in to achieving and keeping these awards by local authorities and communities, and I would encourage people, particularly in this economic climate, to make use of the fantastic beaches we have around the Scottish coast this summer.

"I am particularly delighted that Scotland can fly seven Blue Flags, and to welcome back North Ayrshire to the award scheme this year".

A map showing all the award winning beaches with descriptions, directions, facilities and pictures can be found at www.keeptoscotlandbeautiful.org/coastal along with an option for people to rate their favourite award beaches.