



News and Events Update

September 2011

Dear Subscriber,

Welcome to the September edition of the North West Coastal Forum's News and Events Update. Click the titles to read the full articles on our website. The other links take you directly to the relevant websites.

Kind regards,

Alasdair, NWCF

Regional News

[Irish Sea Marine Conservation Zones Final Report Published](#)

by NWCF on September 8, 2011 { [Edit](#) }

After two years of intense work, the Irish Sea Conservation Project is at an end. The project, which aimed to recommend areas for marine conservation in the Irish Sea has involved over 50 individuals, representing all coastal stakeholders in the North West. The final recommendations report has been delivered to the Government, along with the final reports from the 3 other three regional projects, Net Gain, Balanced Seas and Finding Sanctuary.

The full report and its summary, along with more information about the project, can be found at www.irishseaconservation.org.uk/progress-reports. Media reports can be found here: [Guardian](#), [BBC](#)

[Walney Offshore Wind Farm Extension – Community Consultation](#)

by NWCF on August 25, 2011 { [Edit](#) }

DONG Energy is seeking community views on all aspects of their initial wind energy proposals to help inform the development of a planning application for an extension to the already consented Walney Offshore Wind Farm. Five public meetings are being held to discuss the proposals:

Barrow: Friday 9th September – 2pm-8pm – The Forum, Duke Street, Barrow in Furness, Cumbria, LA14 1HH
Egremont: Saturday 10th Sept – 10am-4pm – Egremont Market Hall, Market Street, Egremont, Cumbria CA22 2DF
Middleton: Monday 12th Sept – 1pm-7pm – Middleton Parish Hall, Low Road, Middleton, Lancashire, LA3 3JT
Blackpool: Tuesday 13th Sept – 2pm-8pm – St John's Community Hall, Cedar Square, Blackpool, FY1 1BP
Isle of Man: Thursday 15th Sept – 1pm-7pm – Villa Marina, Harris Promenade, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 2HJ

(NB there will be opportunities to comment after this time as further consultation will take place in spring/summer 2012 and early 2013).

To find out more see www.walneyextension.com, contact 0207 811 5235 or view the consultation documents at Barrow Borough Council's Town Hall.

[Blackpool and Fylde Coast Protection Strategy Consultation](#)

by NWCF on August 25, 2011 { [Edit](#) }

Consultation is underway on a draft Coast Protection Strategy for Blackpool and the Fylde, together with the associated Strategic Environmental Report and other supporting documents. The draft Strategy has been produced by Blackpool Borough Council in partnership with Fylde Borough Council to manage current and future risks along the Fylde coast, where it is predicted that as sea levels rise over the next 100 years more than 23,000 homes will be at risk of coastal flooding and erosion between Kingsway, Blackpool, and Naze Point, Lytham. The draft Strategy builds on policies in the North West England and North Wales Shoreline Management Plan.

Full details of the consultation and how to respond can be found on the [North West and North Wales Coastal Group website](#). The consultation closes on 11th November 2011.

[Partnership Working in Support of Marine Spatial Planning in the Irish Sea](#)

by NWCF on August 18, 2011 { [Edit](#) }

Over the course of spring 2011, the University of Liverpool, in collaboration with the North West Coastal Forum and the United Kingdom's National Oceanography Centre, organised two events aimed at exploring stakeholder views on the future development of transnational partnership working to support co-ordinated marine spatial planning in the Irish Sea region. The work was funded by the United Kingdom's Economic and Social Research Council and was guided by a Steering Group which included representatives of marine planning agencies from the six jurisdictions that border the Irish Sea.

A website has now been created for the project and a report summarising the outputs of the two events has been produced by Liverpool University. It provides an overview of:

- the background to the initiative
- the aims and content of the two events which were held in Liverpool and Dublin (including the presentations)
- the outputs to emerge from stakeholder discussions
- a proposed plan of action to foster improved transnational partnership working in the Irish Sea.

For more information about the project including all presentations and to download the final project report click [here](#)

National News

[The Heritage Value of Modern Shipwrecks](#)

by NWCF on September 7, 2011 { [Edit](#) }

English Heritage, with funding from [MEDIN](#), has completed a project to expand its database of historic wrecks to include postwar losses. The research has resulted in the recording of over 500 new shipwrecks, the full details of which, along with details of all other sites that make up the National Record of the Historic Environment (both maritime and terrestrial), can be found on English Heritage's PastScape website (www.pastscape.org.uk)

More information about the story, included a map and list of interesting wrecks recorded, can be found on the MEDIN news site by [clicking here](#).

[Consultation: Views on Environmental Compliance and Enforcement](#)

by NWCF on September 7, 2011 { [Edit](#) }

Natural England have launched an 8 week public consultation to seek views on how to help people to comply with laws protecting wildlife and the natural environment, and on how these laws should be enforced if regulations are broken.

The consultation closes on **30th September 2011**.

The full press release can be found on Natural England's website by [clicking here](#).

For the full consultation package, please [click here](#).

[Defra Launch Grant Scheme for Nature Improvement Areas](#)

by NWCF on September 7, 2011 { [Edit](#) }

Defra has launched a new grant scheme to establish Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs). NIAs are large, discrete areas that will deliver a step change in nature conservation, where a local partnership has a shared vision for their natural environment. The partnership will plan and deliver significant improvements for wildlife and people through the sustainable use of natural resources, restoring and creating wildlife habitats, connecting local sites and joining up local action.

Twelve NIAs will be established, using a £7.5m fund.

Full details of the programme can be found on the Natural England NIA website: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/funding/nia/default.aspx>

[Flood and coastal erosion risk management progress report 2008-2011 for England](#)

by NWCF on September 6, 2011 { [Edit](#) }

The Environment Agency has published a shortdocument summarising its work towards achievement of Defra outcome measures between 2008 and 2011, during which it achieved and exceeded all the main targets, with the exception of one covering intertidal habitats.

Download the report here: <http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/PDF/GEHO0711BUBK-E-E.pdf>

[Local Nature Partnerships fund – Round 2 applications open](#)

by NWCF on September 6, 2011 { [Edit](#) }

The Natural Environment White Paper, published by Defra in June, recognised that partnership working is the best way to achieve effective action for the natural environment and set out our vision for Local Nature Partnerships. Once established, their overall purpose will be to bring a diverse range of individuals, businesses and organisations together at a local level to create a vision and plan of action of how the natural environment can be taken into account in decision making.

Round 1 applications closed at the end of July, but Round 2 applications are now open until **31 October 2011**. Visit the Defra website for more details: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/whitepaper/local-nature-partnerships/>

[Beachwatch Big Weekend 2011](#)

by NWCF on August 25, 2011 { [Edit](#) }

The Marine Conservation Society's Beachwatch Big Weekend is on September 17th and 18th this year. Beachwatch is an annual beach litter survey and clean up which MCZ organises to get local people, groups and communities involved in caring for their coastal environment. Thousands of volunteers take part each year and the data collected is used to produce the annual MCS Beachwatch Big Weekend report. To find out more or register to get involved see the [MCS website](#)

[Biodiversity News and Consultation on Indicators](#)

by NWCF on August 25, 2011 { [Edit](#) }

Defra has recently published *Biodiversity 2020 – a new strategy paper for England's wildlife and ecosystem services*. The document sets out the Government's approach to halting the decline in biodiversity over the next decade on land (including freshwater systems) and sea, building on the Natural Environment White Paper and taking into account our international biodiversity commitments.

In addition a consultation is taking place on a new set of indicators to measure progress on Biodiversity 2020. The consultation is in the form of a technical discussion paper and invites comments on the scope and detail of the indicators. The consultation close date is **11th November 2011**.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2011/08/19/biodiversity-2020/>

Last but not least, a report on the *Economic Valuation of the Benefits of Ecosystem Services Delivered by the UK Biodiversity Action Plan* has been published.

All the above documents – and more – can be accessed at [Defra's biodiversity pages](#)

[National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy](#)

by NWCF on August 18, 2011 { [Edit](#) }

The Environment Agency has now published the National FCERM Strategy as required under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. This strategy sets out a statutory framework which will help all those involved in flood and coastal erosion risk management and local communities to work together to manage flood and coastal erosion risks. It will support local decision making and engagement and ensure that risks are managed in a co-ordinated way across catchments and along each stretch of coast. It includes the development of local flood risk management strategies. Organisations directly involved in FCERM include local authorities, internal drainage boards, water and sewerage companies and highways authorities, as well as the Environment Agency itself.

For more information, the full strategy and an executive summary see the [Environment Agency's website](#)

International News

[Analysis of Member States progress reports on ICZM](#)

by NWCF on September 6, 2011 { *Edit* }

The European Commission has published its final report analysing the progress reports each member state submitted detailing integrated coastal zone management progress.

'Analysis of Member States progress reports on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) can be downloaded by following this link:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/iczm/pdf/Final%20Report_progress.pdf

Open Consultations

[Walney Offshore Wind Farm Extension - Community Consultation](#)

Click link for more information - **Events on September 9th,10th,12th,13th,15th September**

[Natural England - Views on Environmental Compliance and Enforcement](#)

See above article - **closes 30th September 2011**

[National Planning Framework Consultation](#)

Click link above for more information - **closes 17th October 2011**

[Common Fisheries Policy reform proposals](#)

Click link for more information - **closes 10th November 2011**

[Blackpool and Fylde Coast Protection Consultation](#)

Click link for more information - **closes 11th November 2011**

[Biodiversity 2020: Developing indicators for measuring success](#)

Click link above for more information - **closes 11th November 2011**

Conferences and Events

For information on upcoming relevant conferences and events, please visit the Events page on our webpage: <http://www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk/events/>