



News and Events Update

October 2011

Dear Subscriber,

Welcome to the October edition of the North West Coastal Forum's News and Events Update. Click the links to read the full articles on our website. Please also please find attached a PDF version with full articles, if you prefer to download and read at your leisure.

Kind regards,

Alasdair, NWCF

Regional News

Water Treatment to Improve Blackpool Bathing Waters

Posted on October 13th, 2011

In an attempt to clean up water quality in the Blackpool area, United Utilities have announced plans for a £35m water treatment works on the River Wyre. It is hoped that the proposed works will contribute to cleaner bathing water off the Fylde coast, which in May failed to meet European standards.

Plans will be displayed at the River Wyre Hotel on Tuesday October 18th between 2pm and 7pm for any members of the public interested.

Blackpool Gazette article:

http://www.blackpoolgazette.co.uk/news/local/35m_water_works_boost_for_bathers_1_3861085

North West Shipyard Wins Windfarm Contract

Posted on October 13th, 2011

The Birkenhead-based shipyard Cammell Laird has won a £5m contract with energy group RWE to provide port facilities for the 160-turbine Gwynt y Môr windfarm off the coast of North Wales. The deal gives the company a foothold in the rapidly expanding offshore renewables market and means that Cammell Laird will be in a strong position to bid for further contracts as the round 3 windfarm projects in the Irish Sea begin to roll out, with the potential to create many more jobs at the company.

The company has also announced that, in partnership with Italian company Ansaldo Nucleare and Warrington-based Nueva, it intends to bid for the contract to build the UK's next generation of nuclear power plants. If the bidding process, which starts early next year, were to be successful, it would secure hundreds of jobs in the North West.

For more on the windfarm contract, read the Liverpool Daily Post's report:

<http://www.liverpooldailypost.co.uk/ldpbusiness/business-local/2011/10/05/cammell-laird-wins-5m-offshore-windfarm-contract-92534-29543856/>

For more information about the nuclear bid, see the BBC article: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-15282205>

Blackpool Comedy Carpet Unveiled

Posted on October 13th, 2011

A new £4m installation has been unveiled in Blackpool. The Comedy Carpet, a 2,200m square construction of granite and concrete, has been built below Blackpool Tower and features hundreds of jokes and catchphrases from the country's most famous comedians.

For more information about the project, visit www.comedycarpet.com

You can view a video of Ken Dodd opening the carpet from the Blackpool Gazette here:

http://www.blackpoolgazette.co.uk/lifestyle/legend_unveils_comedy_carpet_1_3857375

Or a photo gallery from the BBC: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-15237999>

National News

Wales Introduces Carrier Bag Charge

Posted on October 12th, 2011

In a move that is likely to have a significant positive impact on marine litter, Wales has become the first UK country to introduce a charge on single-use carrier bags. The levy covers all types of single use bag – plastic, paper and plant-based starch – with a minimum charge of 5p. With the country using an estimated 350 million bags in 2009, it is hoped that the levy will reduce that number significantly.

For more information on the levy, visit www.carrierbagchargewales.gov.uk and read the Marine Conservation Society report: www.mcsuk.org/wales/MCS+in+Wales/MCS+in+Wales/New+levy+on+plastic+bags+in+Wales

New Sponge Species Discovered on Norfolk Chalk Reef

Posted on October 12th, 2011

Marine Conservation Society researchers diving on a chalk reef off the Norfolk coast have discovered a species of sponge completely new to science. The amateur divers have spent the summer cataloguing species on the Norfolk reef - which was only discovered last year and is the longest in Europe – as well as other chalk reefs on the North Sea coast, identifying more than 250 species.

For more information, read the [MCS report](#), or view a [photo gallery here](#).

Proposed MCZs – Interactive Map

Posted on September 25th, 2011

The Guardian has posted an interactive map of the proposed English marine conservation zones, allowing users to see the recommended MCZs, the recommended reference areas and project boundaries.

[Click here](#) to see the map.

MMO Publish Socio-Economic Study

Posted on September 21st, 2011

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) have released their first commissioned study of socio-economic factors in marine planning. The independent study is a new resource that helps marine planners, developers and local authorities and others with an interest in sustainable development in the marine area to understand various issues affecting coastal communities.

The full report, “Maximising the socio-economic benefits of marine planning for English coastal communities” can be downloaded from the [MMO website here](#).

International News

Public Awareness of Marine Climate Change Issues in the EU

Posted on October 12th, 2011

A report has been published on the results of polling 10,000 European citizens about their knowledge and opinions of climate change. The poll, which was conducted during January 2011, spans 10 European countries and aimed to find out what the public knows and cares about in relation to marine climate change and its risks and impacts.

Download the report here:

<http://www.clamer.eu/images/stories/deliverables/deliverable%20%20%20%20polling%20report%20%20-%20final%20v3.pdf>

Open Consultations

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/>

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