



February, 2012

Dear Subscriber,

Welcome to the bumper February edition of the North West Coastal Forum's News and Events Update. This edition contains information on upcoming workshops and conference, new funding opportunities and updates on a variety of coastal projects around the North West and beyond.

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

NWCF News

Diary Date – 18 & 19 September 2012: Delivering Sustainable Coasts

February 8, 2012

The North West Coastal Forum, working with Sefton council and 10 EU partners as part of the SUSTAIN project, is pleased to announce the dates and location of a major international conference addressing coastal sustainability issues across Europe and celebrating achievements of organisations and individuals across North West England.

Featuring the **2012 North West Awards for Coastal Excellence** the conference is free to attend and will focus on the outputs from the **SUSTAIN 'Assessing sustainability and strengthening operational policy'** project, partly-funded by the INTERREG IVC Programme

(see www.sustain-eu.net). Experience from Sefton Council and the SUSTAIN partnership, as well as examples of sustainable practice from across the North West will also be presented. The conference will be followed by a day of optional guided site visits. A full programme will be available nearer the conference dates. In the meantime see the full conference announcement for details of how to register advance interest attending or exhibiting:

[Delivering Sustainable Coasts conference announcement](#)

The 2nd North West Awards for Coastal Excellence (NW ACE 2012)

February 13, 2012

The North West Coastal Forum is pleased to announce the opening of nominations for the 2nd biennial NW ACE – an award scheme to recognise outstanding achievement in and contribution to the long-term management of our coast and near-shore marine environments.

NW ACE winners and highly commended entrants will have an opportunity to showcase their work to an international audience as the awards are being presented at ‘Delivering Sustainable Coasts’ – a major international conference on the 18th – 19th September, in Southport, Merseyside.

The Award categories are:

Coastal Champion: This award will be made to an individual in recognition of their significant contribution to the long term management of the North West coast. Nominations are open to anyone involved in coastal activity in North West England, either as part of their work or as a volunteer.

[NW ACE 2012 Coastal Champion](#)

Coastal Community Action: This award will be made to a community group in recognition of their significant contribution to the long term management of the North West coast. Nominations are open to any residents’ group, school or community volunteer group which has carried out work on the North West coast within the last 2 years.

[NW ACE 2012 Coastal Community Action](#)

Coastal Best Practice: This award will be made to an organisation or groups of organisations working in partnership in recognition of their significant contribution to the long term management of the North West coast. Nominations are open to businesses, local authorities, governmental agencies and NGOs which have carried out work on the North West coast within the last 2 years.

[NW ACE 2012 Coastal Best Practice](#)

Nominations open on the 15th February 2012 and will close at 5 p.m. on 31st May 2012

Workshop – ‘A Sea Change: Marine Spatial Planning from Solway to Dee’

February 17, 2012

In partnership with The Wildlife Trusts and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), the NWCF are holding a workshop to discuss the issues, opportunities and challenges facing marine spatial planning in the North West.

The event will be held at the Solaris Centre, Blackpool on 20 March 2012, 10am – 1pm, with optional field trips in the afternoon. The event is free of charge, however places will be limited and therefore booking is essential.

For more information on the event, including a programme as soon as it is finalised, visit the [specific event page](#).

Regional News

Making the Right Connections to Improve Bathing Water

February 15, 2012

As part of their ongoing work to improve bathing water quality in the North West, particularly before new stricter standards are introduced in 2015, the Environment Agency are reviewing sewer plans and using innovative techniques to identify and tackle places plumbing is misconnected. These misconnections occur when an appliance such as a washing machine or toilet is connected to the wrong sewer and waste water therefore bypasses sewage treatment, reaching the sea unprocessed.

The EA's project manager Sam Billington said ““Bathing water quality in the UK has improved dramatically over the past two decades, but we need to do more to meet even higher standards. By using CCTV and dye tracing we will be able to pin point these smaller sources of pollution which, when added together, can have a significant impact on bathing water quality.”

The project stretches along the North West coast between Formby in Merseyside and Skinburness in Cumbria and the Environment Agency are encouraging homeowners, hoteliers and business premises to check their plumbing using advice found at www.connectright.org.uk, which also contains information on what to do if a misconnection is found.

Burbo Bank Extension Consultation Update

February 14, 2012

Dong Energy have published a document with information on the progress of the consultation process for the Burbo Bank windfarm extension in Liverpool Bay. The update details the consultation timetable and contains information on developments together with project contact information and is downloadable from the [Dong website](#).

The second round of community consultation events will begin in April 2012, with details posted on the website – www.burbobankextension.com

Fisheries Update

February 14, 2012

- The North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NWIFCA) are holding a Technical, Scientific and Bylaw Subgroup Committee meeting on February 17th. This meeting is not open to the public or press, however papers are available on the [NWIFC website](#).
- Defra's winter 2011/12 issue of Fishing Focus is available to download from [their website](#). This issue contains information on :
 - December Fisheries Council outcomes
 - Marine Conservation Zones
 - The Red Tape Challenge
 - CFP reform and domestic fisheries reform
 - News from the Marine Management Organisation on catch quota trials, marine planning and Fisheries Local Action Groups

World's Biggest Offshore Wind Farm Opens off the Cumbrian Coast

February 9, 2012

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Edward Davey, opened the world's biggest offshore windfarm off Walney in Cumbria today (9th February).

The £1 billion pound wind farm consists of 102 turbines and will produce enough power to supply 320,000 households. It is a joint venture between DONG Energy, SSE and OPW. It will create around 60 jobs at the new operations centre in Barrow-in-Furness.

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Edward Davey, stated: "Britain has a lot to be proud of in our growing offshore wind sector. Our island's tremendous natural resource, our research base and a proud history of engineering make this the number one destination for investment in offshore wind. And Walney is the newest, biggest and fastest-built jewel in that crown, providing clean power for hundreds of thousands of households. Opening Walney during my first week in office lets me underline my commitment to continuing the Coalition's work to make this sector a success story for the British economy, not least with the innovation it is driving and the employment it is creating."

For more information see the [DECC website](#)

New Observation Tower for Lancashire Coast

February 9, 2012

Construction has begun on a new observation tower at Rossall Point, Fleetwood. The new tower is to be 14m tall and will be the base for the National Coastwatch Institution as well as a platform for the general public and birdwatchers, affording views out over Lune Deep, the Lakeland fells, the Fylde coast and the Irish Sea. More information can be found on the [BBC Lancashire site](#).

UNESCO Officials Deliver Report on Liverpool's World Heritage

January 25, 2012

A delegation of UNESCO officials have published a report detail their recommendations on the World Heritage Status of Liverpool, following a [visit in November](#) to assess the impact of proposed [developments in the city's docklands](#). The delegation reported positively on the impact of completed projects, the new Liverpool Museum and the Mann Island, which have invigorated the waterfront, without seriously impacting the views of the Three Graces. However, the group concluded that if the proposed developments, which involve a £5.5billion mixed-use scheme of port infrastructure, offices and residential units, including several skyscrapers, go ahead as outlined, the city's World Heritage would be 'irreversibly damaged, due to a serious deterioration of its architectural and town-planning coherence, a serious loss of historical authenticity, and an important loss of cultural significance.'. The report recommends that the principle stakeholders, Peel Holdings, Liverpool City Council and English Heritage work together to adjust the plan, taking on the observations in the report.

A summary of the mission's findings can be viewed on the [World Heritage Centre website](#).

National News

Launched: The South West Marine Energy Park

February 17, 2012

The South West Marine Energy Park, which aims to accelerate the commercialisation of marine power, will stretch from Bristol to Cornwall and as far as the Isles of Scilly. Around the UK, DECC estimates that our seas have the potential to generate up to 27GW of power by 2050, equivalent to the power generated from eight coal-fired power stations. The park was launched this week by climate change minister Greg Barker in Bristol, in partnership with national and local government, Local Enterprise Partnerships, the Universities of Plymouth and Exeter and industry including Cornwall's famous Wave Hub.

For more information, read the full article on the [Link2Portal website](#).

Marine Conservation Zones Project Newsletter 8

February 17, 2012

Defra have published the 8th Newsletter of the Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) project.

In this update:

- How the Project involved stakeholders early on
- How Natural England and JNCC produce their advice
- What work is still to be done
- The MCZ designation timetable

Read the update on [Defra's website](#).

Coastal Communities Fund Prospectus Released

February 9, 2012

The UK Government today (10 Feb) Coastal Communities Fund prospectus has been published today. The fund, which aims to 'help coastal communities unleash their growth potential that can only be harnessed locally', will support bids in excess of £50,000, with a proposed launch for expressions of interest at the beginning of March. The prospectus highlights the objectives and criteria for the fund, as well as eligibility, and can be downloaded from the [Government's CLG website](#).

MMO Publishes East Region Evidence and Issues Report

February 9, 2012

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has published the final Evidence and Issues report for the East Inshore and Offshore areas. The report takes into account comments from over 50 stakeholders from a variety of organisations and can be downloaded from the [MMO website](#). A summary of consultation responses will be published on their website on 13th February.

Funding Available for 'Town Team' Pilot

February 9, 2012

On February 4th, the Government announced the 'Portas Pilots Prospectus: an invitation to become a 'Town Team'. This follows Mary Portas' independent review into the future of the high street. One of her recommendations is the creation of 'Town Teams', a visionary, strategic and strong operational management team for high streets, which the Government has accepted and wants to act on immediately.

A fund has been set up for 12 pilot teams across the country, with up to £100,000 available each. The project aims to support a mix of pilot areas; one type specified is coastal towns. Bids are to be presented by 30th March 2012.

The prospectus and application form can be [downloaded on the CLG website](#). More information can also be found on [Mary Portas' site](#).

UK Climate Change Risk Assessment

January 27, 2012

The UK Government have published the Climate Change Risk Assessment, the first assessment of its kind and the first in a 5 yearly cycle. The assessment includes detailed analysis of 100 potential risks across 11 sectors, and sets out the main priorities for adaptation under 5 key themes.

The assessment has been divided into several reports for ease of digestion, all of which can be accessed along with more information, at the hub on the [Defra website](#).

2011 Water Framework Directive Progress Update

January 26, 2012

The Environment Agency has published a summary of the 2011 results for surface waters (rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters). This summary, and previous reports, can be viewed [here](#).

International News

Report on Economic and Social Costs of Overfishing

February 10, 2012

The New Economics Foundation (nef) has published a report on the economic and social costs of overfishing in EU waters. The report, 'Lost at Sea', estimates that overfishing has cost the EU £2.7billion and 100,000 jobs. For a summary, and to download the full report, visit the [nef website](#).

New sustainable fisheries report published by PC ISU

February 7, 2012

The Prince's Charities International Sustainability Unit Marine Programme has published a new report: 'Towards global sustainable fisheries: the opportunity for transition' The Prince's Charities' International Sustainability Unit (ISU) was created to help build consensus on solutions to some of the major environmental problems facing the world. This report into fisheries is the result of 2 years of research, consultation and working with other organisations to develop an understanding of the sustainability and resilience of food systems. The report summarises the emerging consensus on solutions to sustaining and increasing food production from the sea. It can be downloaded from the PC ISU Marine Programme website.

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/>