



Winter 2012/2013

Dear Subscriber

Happy New Year!

Welcome to the winter edition of the North West Coastal Forum's News and Events Update.

Kind regards,

Caroline Salthouse

North West Coastal Forum Secretariat

NWCF News

SUSTAIN: new indicator toolkit for coastal localities available now

Posted on December 18th, 2012

The final outputs from the SUSTAIN project – part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund through the INTERREG IVC programme – are now available together with the presentations and other information from our recent Delivering Sustainable Coasts conference from the SUSTAIN project page: <http://www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk/projects/current-projects/sustain/>.

SUSTAIN – Assessing sustainability and strengthening operational policy – has been a 3-year project (2010-2012) It was a Regional Initiative addressing environment and risk prevention (Priority 2 of the programme) and the sub-theme water management. The project budget was €1.8m. The project partnership was made up of 12 partner organisations from across the EU. The lead partner for the project was the Coastal & Marine Union – EUCC (The Netherlands) and the project was taken forward in North West England by Sefton Council working with the North West Coastal Forum. More information on the project, including all outputs, is available on <http://www.sustain-eu.net>.

Please feel free to share the project outputs with colleagues who might be interested and to utilise the indicator toolkit. If you would like any help or to discuss the toolkit please contact Caroline Salthouse at the North West Coastal Forum.

North West Awards for Coastal Excellence 2012 – Results

Posted on October 5th, 2012

The NW ACE 2012 were presented to winners by Professor Annie Worsley, Chair of the North West Coastal Forum, during our recent Delivering Sustainable Coasts conference in Southport. A summary of the winners and the Awards Powerpoint presentation can be downloaded from: <http://www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk/2012/10/05/north-west-awards-for-coastal-excellence-2012-results/> For more information see the Current Projects page: <http://www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk/projects/current-projects/>.

Regional News

Major Infrastructure Projects Update

Posted on January 3rd, 2013

The Planning Inspectorate's website has details of the following major infrastructure projects in the coastal or marine area of North West England. Follow this link: <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/North%20West/> for all NW projects or see the specific project links below:

Burbo Bank Extension offshore wind farm, DONG Energy Burbo Extension (UK) Ltd (Pre Application stage) Extension to Burbo Bank Offshore Wind Farm. The application is expected to be submitted March 2013. <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/north-west/burbo-bank-extension-offshore-wind-farm/>

Walney Extension Offshore Wind Farm, DONG WIND (UK) Ltd (Pre Application stage)

Construction of Wind farm Extension Located West & Northwest of the existing offshore wind farm with an estimated 572 to 768 MW of installed capacity provided by 109 to 209 wind turbines. The application is expected to be submitted in the first quarter of 2013.

<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/north-west/walney-extension-offshore-wind-farm/>

Mersey Tidal Power, Peel Energy (Archived projects) Tidal power generation facility. This project has been withdrawn by the developer.

<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/north-west/mersey-tidal-power-scheme/>

Preesall Saltfield Underground Gas Storage, Halite Energy Group Ltd (Decision stage) An underground gas storage facility to store gas in, extract gas from and inject gas into, with a total storage capacity up to 900 million standard cubic metres and working capacity of up to 600 million cubic metres including: up to 19 operational caverns formed by solution mining of the Preesall halite deposit all to be constructed to any extent downwards below 220 metres below ground surface and to be confined in the Preesall halite deposit; 7 multiple wellhead compounds and a Gas Compressor Compound. The examination closed on 24 October. The findings and conclusions arising from the examination, together with the recommendation from the Planning Inspectorate, will be sent to the Secretary of State of the Department of Energy and Climate Change within three months i.e. by 24th January 2013.

<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/north-west/preesall-saltfield-underground-gas-storage/>

Alexandra Dock Biomass Project, RES UK & Ireland (Pre-Application stage) A new Biomass energy project, output between 100 and 150MW, in the Port of Liverpool. The application is expected to be submitted in the second quarter of 2013.

<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/north-west/alexandra-dock-biomass-project/>

Heysham to M6 Link Road, Lancashire County Council (Decision stage) A new dual carriageway approx. 4.8 kms long to the north of Lancaster linking Junction 34 of the M6 with the junction of the A683 and A589 by Lancaster and Morecambe College. The project includes remodelling Junction 34, a new bridge over the River Lune and a 600 space park and ride site. A recommendation has been issued to the Secretary of State by the Planning Inspectorate and the decision is expected by 19th March 2013. <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/north-west/heysham-to-m6-link-road/>

Rosecote (Barrow) Biomass Power Station, Centrica Energy (Archived Projects)

A power station generating up 80MW (net) of renewable electricity and related development including loading and handling facilities at Barrow Docks and a new transportation system (rail and/or conveyor) to move fuel from the docks to the power station site. This project has been withdrawn by the developer. <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/north-west/rosecote-barrow-biomass-power-station/>

Nugen's Moorside Project in West Cumbria, NuGeneration Limited "NuGen" (Pre Application stage) New Nuclear Power Generating Station (up to 3.6GW), with ancillary and other associated development. The application is expected in 2014.

<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/north-west/nugens-moorside-project-in-west-cumbria/>

North West Coast Connections Project (N Grid), National Grid (Pre Application stage)

Proposed 400kV electricity transmission connections from NuGen's proposed new nuclear generating station to be known as Moorside (near Sellafield) in West Cumbria to the existing transmission system in Cumbria/Lancashire. This application is expected in Summer 2015.

<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/north-west/north-west-coast-connections-project-n-grid/>

Walney Extension Offshore Windfarm newsletter 4

Posted on January 3rd, 2013

The latest newsletter from Dong Energy on progress on the Walney Extension is available to download from this link: <http://www.dongenergy.com/walneyextension/Pages/Index.aspx>

Liverpool 2 given the go ahead

Posted on December 17th, 2012

The Marine Management Organisation has approved an application for consent from Mersey Docks and Harbour Company Ltd (part of Peel Ports Group) to carry out construction and dredging to create a new deep water terminal of 17 hectares in the outer Mersey Estuary at Seaforth Docks. This development will provide facilities for 2 post-Panamax container vessels to dock at the same time and will increase container capacity at the port to an estimated 1,500,000 teus. It is expected to become operational in 2015. For more information see the MMO website:

<http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/news/news/121213.htm>

Solway Firth Partnership news

Posted on December 10th, 2012

The Autumn/Winter 2012 edition of the Solway Firth Partnership's newsletter – Tidelines - can be downloaded from: <http://www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk/>. It includes news from both sides of the Solway Firth including the £1.9m Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership Scheme – perhaps not strictly coastal but falling within the Solway Coast AONB and providing important services to birds which use the Solway coast.

National News

European Marine Sites – one stop shop for conservation advice

Posted on December 10th, 2012

Natural England has brought together detailed conservation advice for European Marine Sites (SPAs, SACs, or both) into one easily accessible resource on their website. Visit their web page:

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/marine/ems-feature.aspx> and click on 'latest information' to access the list of sites. In the north west these include: Solway Firth EMS, Shell Flat

and Lune Deep cSAC, Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA, Liverpool Bay SPA, Morecambe Bay EMS, Mersey Estuary SPA, Duddon Estuary SPA, Drigg Coast SAC and Dee Estuary EMS.

MMO publishes first series of marine evidence and information reports

Posted on November 6th, 2012

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has published a series of reports on activities in and around English seas. These are part of the MMO's work to identify and fill gaps in knowledge that marine planners, regulators and users currently face and they make recommendations on what information is needed to support MMO decisions, and how the evidence base could be developed in the future. The information from the reports will be used to shape marine plans, and to ensure all marine uses are fully taken account of as the MMO plans for the future of our seas.

The reports published recently are:

- Review of fisheries resource and activity in England
- Socio-economic data report and tools review
- Compilation of spatial data on marine recreational activities
- Seabed habitat mapping

The MMO will continue to publish data reports to build further on the marine evidence base.

Further information and a link to the reports can be found on the Marine Management Organisation website: <http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/news/press/121031.htm>

Marine Planning Newsletter Issue 10

Posted on November 6th, 2012

The latest Marine Planning Newsletter from the Marine Management Organisation can be downloaded from this link:

<http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/marineplanning/news/newsletter10.htm>

Isle of Man Marine Plan – Statement of Public Participation

Posted on September 3rd, 2012

The Manx Government's Department of Infrastructure has released a Statement of Public Participation to outline how and when interest groups and members of the public can have their say on formulation of the Isle of Man Marine Plan.

Minister for Infrastructure, David Cretney MHK said 'As a small Island nation, the role of the sea around our island has for centuries defined our industry, commerce and culture and as such has an inextricable link to the well-being of our nation. Acknowledging the importance and integral part the sea plays in our daily lives, our timetable for progress of the plan revolves around the principle of

stakeholder engagement and we will seek and value opinions from all sectors at every stage of the process.'

For more information follow this link: <http://www.gov.im/transport/planning/msp/spp.xml>

International News

EU Fisheries Reform

Posted on January 3rd, 2013

On 18 December 2012, the Fisheries Committee of the European Parliament voted to support the key elements of the Commission's proposal for a new Common Fisheries Policy.

Three proposals for new laws are still under negotiation: the new CFP, the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and the Common Market Organization. Negotiations between the Parliament and the Council are aimed at reaching a compromise on the whole reform package as soon as possible in 2013. This would allow the package to enter into force by 2014 at the latest.

Ireland, which will hold the Presidency of the Council in the first half of 2013, has made the CFP reform the priority of their work in fisheries.

Further details of the progress of the reform can be found from this link:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/cf/mare/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=9310&subweb=343&lang=en

Open Consultations

Triennial Review of the Environment Agency and Natural England

Posted on December 17th, 2012

The start of the Triennial Review of the Environment Agency and Natural England was announced recently by Environment Secretary Owen Patterson. This review is part of a rolling programme of triennial reviews of public bodies to consider whether the functions carried out by the body are still required and whether the delivery model is right and offers value for money.

As part of the review workshops are being arranged. On the 16th January 2013 a workshop for marine industry and conservation organisations is planned. This will provide an opportunity to consider the triennial review of the Environment Agency and Natural England with regard to marine

issues and will look at the interfaces between Environment Agency, Natural England and other bodies with responsibilities related to the marine environment, including the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. JNCC is also expected to be the subject of a triennial review in 2013 and the workshop will provide an opportunity to feed in views as part of the preparation for the JNCC triennial review.

A discussion document has been produced looking at a range of options from some internal restructuring to merging the two bodies. Defra are inviting responses to the discussion document by **4th February 2013**. For more details including how to contact the review team (for example for details of the workshops), the Ministerial statement, the discussion document, terms of reference and a response form see the Defra web page: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/review-ea-ne/> .

MMO Corporate Plan 2013 – 2016 consultation

Posted on December 17th, 2012

The Marine Management Organisation is seeking comments from stakeholders to help shape its Corporate Plan for 2013-2016. The consultation closes on 11th January 2013. To download a copy of the plan and take part in a short survey visit the MMO website:

<http://www.marinemangement.org.uk/news/news/121210.htm>

Cumbria Coastal Access Consultation

Posted on December 17th, 2012

Natural England have published the final report for coastal access roll-out between Allonby and Whitehaven. This report sets out the proposals to the Secretary of State for improving access to this stretch of coast. It follows a public consultation on the draft proposals which ran in early summer 2012. A further 8-week period of consultation is now taking place and will close on **Monday 11th February 2013**. Following consideration of the proposals and any representations and objections the Secretary of State will then make a decision on the route.

For further details on the consultation and how to respond see Coastal Access pages of the Natural England website:

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/access/coastalaccess/allonby/default.aspx>

The page accessed by the above link includes:

- A copy of the report, which consists of an Overview document and four separate chapters with accompanying maps
- A copy of the form that must be used for making a representation
- Guidance notes to help complete the form
- A summary of the earlier public consultation on the Draft Proposals, which summarises the responses received and explains any significant changes to the proposals made as a result

Irish Sea Marine Conservation Zones Consultation

Posted on December 17th, 2012

Defra has published the consultation documents for the first tranche of Marine Conservation Zones. The consultation runs until midnight on **31st March 2013**. This is the key opportunity for everyone with an interest in the marine and coastal environment to influence which MCZs are designated. Information gathered during this consultation may also be used to influence which sites are put forward in later tranches.

In judging which sites to include in this initial round of designations Defra has stated that its aim has been to find the right balance between the strength of the conservation advantages an MCZ offers relative to the socio-economic implications of its likely designation. Whether an MCZ, and all of its features, are suitable for designation in the 2013 tranche depends on the levels of confidence in the scientific evidence and the balance between the site's conservation advantages and the socio-economic costs.

Only 4 of the 15 MCZs (19 including the recommended reference areas) put forward by the Irish Sea Conservation Zones Regional Stakeholder Group have been included in this first tranche to be considered for designation. These are:

- Cumbria coast – but only for Honeycomb Worm (*Sabellaria alveolata*) reefs – just 1 of the 8 features identified as the other 7 require further data
- Fylde offshore – for both features identified (subtidal sand and subtidal sands and gravel)
- Hilbre Island Group – for both features identified (Blue mussel *Mytilus edulis* beds and Peat and clay exposures)
- North of Celtic Deep – but only for subtidal coarse sediment and subtidal sands and gravels – just 2 of the 4 features identified as the others require further data

The website also contains links to a range of supporting documents including a list of Irish Sea sites for further consideration at a later stage, subject to the results of further work being carried out. These include:

- Allonby Bay
- Mid St George's Channel
- Mud Hole
- North St George's Channel
- Ribble Estuary
- Sefton Coast
- Slieve Na Griddle
- Solway Firth
- South Rigg
- West of Walney
- Wyre-Lune

For more information, including how to respond to the consultation and all supporting documents, see the Defra MCZ consultation page: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2012/12/13/marine-conservation-zones-1212/>

Consultation on the Liverpool City Region Destination Management Plan

Posted on November 8th, 2012

The Liverpool City Region Visitor Economy Strategy to 2020 sets out VisitLiverpool's vision for tourism for the next 10 years. This long-term strategy is underpinned by a Destination Management Plan which is a 3 year collective action plan for driving forward growth in the Visitor Economy. The DMP is updated regularly and a draft Destination Management Plan for 2013 – 15 is currently out for consultation. To access the consultation draft DMP and other related documents, including the Visitor Economy Strategy click here: <http://www.visitliverpool.biz/facts-figures/vision-and-strategy>

Conferences and Events

For information on upcoming conferences and events, including both North West Coastal Forum-organised events and events from other organisations that may be of interest, please visit the Events page on our website: <http://www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk/events/>

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