



## Spring 2013

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### Dear Subscriber

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

Kind regards,

Caroline Salthouse

North West Coastal Forum Secretariat

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### NWCF News

#### **Irish Sea Maritime Forum 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, Glasgow, May 21<sup>st</sup> - Book Now!**

Posted on April 9, 2013

Following the very successful inaugural conference of the Irish Sea Maritime Forum in Belfast in June 2012, this is the second ISMF annual conference and is open to all with an interest in the Irish Sea. It will provide stakeholders with the latest news on marine planning from administrations around the Irish Sea including the forthcoming National Marine Plan for Scotland. It will also highlight a range of EU supported developments that are significant for Irish Sea stakeholders not least the EU's Atlantic Strategy and draft Marine Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Management Directive, plus INTERREG funding opportunities post 2014. The day will conclude with an overview of ISMF activities in its first year of operation,

the launch of the stakeholder informed Irish Sea Issues and Opportunities report, and an opportunity to contribute to the planning and delivery of the ISMF's 2013/14 programme. The conference is free to attend. To book follow this link:

<http://www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk/events/96/irish-sea-maritime-forum-second-annual-conference/>

## **Living on the Edge – Coastal Tourism and Sustainable Consumption, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> June, West Cumbria**

Posted on April 9, 2013

This World Environment Day event organised by the Samuel Lindow Foundation is being held in collaboration with The Tourism Society and the North West Coastal Forum and will be held at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) Westlakes campus in West Cumbria, with a parallel event being held at UCLan's campus at Pyla, Cyprus to enable involvement of the Turkish Cypriot communities at Pyla and the community of West Cumbria. Spanning international resort tourism on Cyprus and the local visitor economy of West Cumbria, and with a special focus on sustainable consumption, this symposium will promote a powerful exchange of perspectives on the environment and coastal tourism - one of the fastest growing areas in the world's largest industry.

Through a day and a half programme of visits, talks and seminars, the symposium will explore tourism and the power of the sea, from physical environmental processes, the impacts on culture and coastal communities, and its impact on our own wellbeing. The symposium will bring together an international audience of tourism professionals and policy makers with diverse backgrounds, but common interests.

More information is available on the Samuel Lindow Foundation website:

<http://www.thesamuellindowfoundation.com/communities.php?s=224>, where a flyer and programme with speakers and booking information will be posted shortly.

## **NWCF welcomes a new volunteer**

Posted on February 13, 2013

I am pleased to announce that the Coastal Forum staff team is again two – I've been joined by a part-time volunteer, Frances Edwards, who has been keeping the website content up to date and relevant since January. Frances started out at university in Cardiff, graduating with a BSc Hons in Maritime Geography. She then went to work at the UK Hydrographic Office, editing navigational charts of North West Europe. After that her career followed a varied path to fit in with raising a family. Her jobs included working for the Science and Engineering Research Council, in computer administration and press and PR, and HF Holidays where she co-ordinated itineraries for small group countryside tours. Last year, Frances spent some time working for the Solway Firth Partnership gathering interview data for a Marine Users Interaction Matrix. Frances has been studying part-time at Heriot-Watt University and recently graduated with a MSc in Marine Spatial Planning. She took a specific interest in the management of trans-boundary marine areas.

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## Regional News

### National Infrastructure Projects – North West Update

Posted on April 5th, 2013

The National Infrastructure Planning website has details of the following major infrastructure projects in the coastal or marine area of North West England. Click on the project names below to go the National Infrastructure Planning website page for each project. Projects go through a range of stages and these are explained in brief below:

- **Pre-application:** the developer informs the Planning Inspectorate that they intend to submit an application.
- **Acceptance:** a formal application is submitted by the developer and the Planning Inspectorate has 28 days to decide whether or not the application meets the standards required to be accepted for examination.
- **Pre-examination:** a period of approximately 3 months where the public are able to register, submit their views in writing, and attend a preliminary meeting chaired by an Inspector.
- **Examination:** a period of 6 months where the Planning Inspectorate carries out the formal examination, collecting written evidence and conducting hearings.
- **Recommendation and Decision:** The Planning Inspectorate prepares a recommendation within 3 months of the end of the examination. The Secretary of State has a further 3 months to make the decision on whether to grant or refuse development consent.
- **Post decision:** There is a further six week period for challenge in the High Court (Judicial Review).

**Burbo Bank Extension offshore wind farm, DONG Energy Burbo Extension (UK) Ltd (Acceptance stage).** Extension to Burbo Bank Offshore Wind Farm. The application was submitted 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 May 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, were sent to the Secretary of State of the Department of Energy and Climate Change on 22<sup>nd</sup> January. A decision will be made by the Secretary of State by 22<sup>nd</sup> April 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 first quarter of 2014.

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

**Heysham to M6 Link Road, Lancashire County Council (Archived Projects)** 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. Decision: Development Consent was granted by the Secretary of State on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2013 and there is now a 6 week period for any legal challenge as set out in Section 118 of the Planning Act 2008. <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/north-west/heysham-to-m6-link-road/>

**Roosecote (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/roosecote-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/>

## West of Duddon Sands Offshore Wind Farm Newsletter – Spring 2013

Posted on April 4, 2013

DONG Energy has published a newsletter bringing communities all the latest information on the construction of the West of Duddon Sands offshore wind farm. When completed the wind farm will be located offshore, approximately 14km south west of Walney Island and will cover an area of approximately 66km<sup>2</sup>. It will consist of 108 3.6MW turbines which could generate enough energy to meet the needs of approximately 372,000 homes, or just under a third of Lancashire's electricity consumption, when it becomes operational in 2014. The newsletter can be downloaded here: <http://www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk/2013/04/04/west-of-duddon-sands-offshore-wind-farm-newsletter-spring-2013/>

## Revocation of the North West Regional Strategy

Posted on April 3, 2013

On the 27th March the coalition Government announced its decision to revoke the regional strategies for the North West, West Midlands and South West Regional Strategies. This decision is subject to parliamentary ratification. The reasons for the decision to revoke these regional strategies are set out in the post-adoption statement for each region, which will be placed in the Library of the House and published on the department's website when the orders are laid in Parliament. For more information follow the link to the full statement on Hansard: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130327-wms0001.htm#13032734000011>

## NW Coastal Developments on RIBA Awards 2013 NW Shortlist

Posted on April 3, 2013

Two landmark coastal buildings have been shortlisted for the Royal Institute of British Architects 2013 NW awards. Broadway Malyan's Mann Island, Liverpool and Studio Three Architects' Rosall Point Observation Tower, Fleetwood join 14 other buildings in the region on the short list for this year's awards. The RIBA Awards are intended to champion and celebrate the best of British architecture; reflecting changes in architectural tastes, technology and aspirations while continually setting and rewarding new standards in British architecture. At their core is a commitment to the understanding and enjoyment of buildings and spaces. The shortlisted buildings will be assessed by a regional jury and the winners will be announced on 12th June. The regional winners will go on to be considered in the RIBA National Awards. For more information see the RIBA website:

<http://www.architecture.com/RegionsAndInternational/UKNationsAndRegions/England/RIBANorthWest/Awards/RIBAAwards2013NWShortlist.aspx>.

## Draft Biosecurity Plan – Marine Invasive Non-native Species in the Solway

Posted on March 20, 2013

The Solway Firth Partnership has produced a draft Biosecurity Plan for the Solway Firth. This follows a seminar on 'Marine Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) in the Solway' last September brought together key stakeholders from around the Solway to raise awareness of the potential impact of marine INNS and to look at possible ways of tackling them. One of the key actions arising from this seminar was the need for a biosecurity plan for the Solway. The vision of the draft plan is 'to establish a sustainable framework for preventing, detecting and controlling marine invasive non-native species within the Solway Firth Partnership area through appropriate management, data collection, liaison and education'. Consultation on the draft plan has now closed. For more information contact the Solway Firth Partnership, see: <http://www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk/>

## Announcement of new coastal defence and flood alleviation projects

Posted on March 4, 2013

Last month the Government announced the programme of flood and coastal erosion schemes for 2013/14. A partnership funding model with contributions from local councils, businesses and private investors, in addition to the £294 million investment from Government, covers 93 new flood defences to start construction this year. Of these, seven schemes will protect over 14,000 homes in the North West coastal area at a total cost of £115 million. Two flood alleviation schemes at Ulverston and Formby are included along with the following schemes along the coast:

- West Shore Park, Walney, Coast Protection Scheme
- Wave Reflection Wall Improvements, Morecambe
- Rossall, Fleetwood, Coast Protection Scheme
- Anchorsholme, Blackpool, Coast Protection Scheme
- Hesketh Outmarsh East Managed Realignment Scheme, Southport

Further details and a full list of all the funded schemes can be accessed via this link: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/flooding/>

## Cumbria Coastal Access Updates – January and March 2013

Posted on March 4, 2013

Please find below a link to the two latest access updates from Natural England Cumbria Coastal Access Team giving details of the roll out of coastal access in West Cumbria including the initial Allonby to Whitehaven stretch and the next section which is Whitehaven to Silecroft. <http://www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk/2013/03/04/cumbria-coastal-access-update-march-2013/> For more information on the roll out of open coast access across England visit the Natural England website:

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/enjoying/places/coastalaccess/default.aspx>

## NW IFCA Latest Newsletter

Posted on February 12, 2013

The latest newsletter from the NW Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority can be downloaded from the link below. It covers issues such as the MCZs consultation and a new approach to European Marine Site management, as well as news about inshore fisheries in the North West. In February and March the NW IFCA held a series of Community Information Events. These were an opportunity for anyone with an interest in the marine environment or inshore fisheries to come and find out about how the NWIFCA operates, ask questions about their work and to meet their local area officer. They also gave an update on current marine issues, such as the designation of Marine Conservation Zones and European Marine Site management, as well as the proposed new Byelaw prohibiting fishing at Heysham Bass Nursery Area. For more information see: <http://www.nw-ifca.gov.uk/ContentDetails.aspx>

## Morecambe Bay benefits from latest round of Coastal Communities Fund

Posted on February 12, 2013

On 11<sup>th</sup> February Communities Secretary Eric Pickles announced the latest round of successful projects which will get financial support from the Coastal Communities Fund.

Following on from the success of Barrow in last summer's first round, Cumbria County Council and Morecambe Bay Partnership have been awarded £490,000 to stimulate sustainable economic growth in the Morecambe Bay area by enhancing the area as a tourism destination through branding/marketing, connecting and signing 200 km of a bay cycle way, place-making work, and over 300 training places. The project aims to deliver 33 jobs and will coordinate its work with other projects being delivered by the Partnership. The bay cycle way be a major contribution to the delivery of the North West Coastal Trail concept for multi-use access along the North West's coast.

The £23.7 million Coastal Communities Fund was launched in 2012 to provide coastal towns in the UK with money to help pay for projects that can transform and diversify seaside economies and to help coastal towns and villages provide training and employment opportunities for people. Funds can be used to support both capital and revenue projects and communities are encouraged to match funds with other pots of money.

The fund is financed by the government from revenue generated by the Crown Estate's marine assets and is administered and distributed in partnership with the 'BIG Fund', the non-Lottery funding operation of the Big Lottery Fund.

The other successful main round winners announced yesterday are:

- Cable and Wireless Porthcurno and Collections Trust, Cornwall £149, 587
- Clevedon Pier and Heritage Trust, Somerset £500,000
- Friends of the Folkestone and Marlowe Academies, Ramsgate £349,724
- Great Yarmouth Borough Council £600,000
- Hastings Borough Council £1,244,931
- Lincolnshire County Council £200,000

- Lynton & Barnstaple Railway Trust (Exmoor National Park), Devon £150,000
- North Tyneside Council £1,991,612
- North York Moors Historical Railway Trust, Whitby £800,000
- Port of Blyth, Northumberland £500,000
- Porthleven Regeneration Community Interest Company, Cornwall £99,570
- Plymouth City Council, Devon £670,400
- Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council £580,720
- Scarborough Borough Council £2,599,373
- South Hams District Council, Devon £450,347
- Sunderland City Council £2 million
- Swanage Railway Company Ltd, Dorset £1,469,000
- Torbay Council, Torbay, Devon £1,385,656
- Wadebridge Renewable Energy Project, Cornwall £100,000

It is expected that there will be at least 2 more annual bidding rounds, starting in 2013 and 2014. Invitations to bid for 2013 are expected to be announced in March 2013.

For further information see the Coastal Communities Fund web page:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/supporting-economic-development-projects-in-coastal-and-seaside-areas--4/supporting-pages/the-coastal-communities-fund>

## Coastal protection work near Silloth

Posted on February 10, 2013

Coastal protection work has now been successfully completed on a vulnerable area of the Solway Coast. The scheme, on the B5300 Maryport to Silloth road, has seen A 280 metre length of Rock Armour installed to protect the sand and gravel bank on which the important B5300 Maryport to Silloth coastal road runs between Mawbray and Beckfoot. Further details are available via this link: [http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/news/2013/January/18\\_01\\_2013-145722.asp](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/news/2013/January/18_01_2013-145722.asp)

## Walney Extension Offshore Wind Farm – report on community consultation

Posted on February 10, 2013

In September and October 2013, representatives from DONG energy visited 8 locations on the North West and Isle of Man coast and met nearly 370 people as part of the second round of community consultation events for the proposed Walney Extension Offshore Wind Farm.

All previous consultation documents, new environmental information and photomontages of potential seascapes were available. A report on this consultation and the results of the feedback from local people has been published and can be accessed via this link:

<http://www.dongenergy.com/walneyextension/News/news/Pages/WalneyExtensionMiniConsultationReport-2ndRound-Febuary2013.aspx>

## Cumbria rejects nuclear waste storage plan

Posted on February 10, 2013

Cumbria County Council has voted to withdraw from the process to find a potential location for a deep geological repository to dispose of higher activity radioactive waste. The vote, which ended the council's four-year formal involvement in the process, was taken at a meeting on 30 January. The vote has raised controversy with opposition from the coastal borough councils of Allerdale and Copeland. Further details are available via this link:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cumbria-21253673>

## The 2012 Open brings £65 million benefit to the Lancashire economy

Posted on January 8, 2013

According to new research released on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2013 the 2012 Open Championship which was held at Royal Lytham & St Annes delivered a £65 million benefit to Lancashire's economy.

The research, which was commissioned by the R&A who organise the Open Championships and was undertaken by Sheffield Hallam University's Sport Industry Research Centre, involved analysis of commercial involvement and interviews with 2133 spectators. Around £25 million of the extra spend took place within the Fylde Coast area with an additional £3 million in the wider Lancashire area due to spend by spectators, organisers, sponsors, the media and the players themselves. The remaining £37 million is destination marketing benefit derived from global media exposure.

The findings were announced in a joint news release from The R & A, Lancashire County Council and Fylde Borough Council. For more information see Lancashire County Council's website:

[http://www3.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/news/press\\_releases/y/m/release.asp?id=201301&r=PR13/0004](http://www3.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/news/press_releases/y/m/release.asp?id=201301&r=PR13/0004)

The British Open has been held here in North West England 3 times since 2006 (Royal Liverpool 2006, Royal Birkdale 2008 and Royal Lytham and St Annes 2012). It will return to the region in 2014 when it will be held at Royal Liverpool on the Wirral.

The Women's British Open has also been a frequent visitor to the region with all 3 of the above courses hosting events, the last being held at Royal Liverpool in 2012

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## National News

## Natural Resources Wales

Posted on April 3, 2013

On the 1st April 2013 a new body formed by the Welsh Government came into force to carry out the functions previously carried out by the Countryside Council for Wales, Environment

Agency Wales and the Forestry Commission Wales. Natural Resources Wales will take over the functions previously carried out by all three former government agencies and will continue to work closely with its equivalent bodies in England in cross-border areas, particularly in relation to strategic planning and managing cross-border incidents. For more information on the new body see the Natural Resources Wales website:

<http://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/splash?orig=>

## MCS Good Beach Guide 2013

Posted on April 3, 2013

The Marine Conservation Society has published its 2013 Good Beach Guide. The results are based on samples taken during the 2012 bathing season which was a difficult year for bathing water quality due to the excessive rainfall experienced throughout the bathing season. The sewage system has limited capacity so too much rain can result in the excess being discharged untreated into streams, rivers and coastal waters. The Marine Conservation Society has its own criteria for recommending beaches. In the North West only Meols, Moreton and Red Rocks at Hoylake – all three on the Wirral peninsula – meet the MCS standard. However many more across the region met the current mandatory standard for bathing water and one, at Walney Island, met the guideline standard. Information on all the beaches can be found by following this link to the MCS Good Beach Guide:

<http://www.goodbeachguide.co.uk/>

Further information about bathing water results and monitoring can be found on the Environment Agency website: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/recreation/142937.aspx> and the Defra website: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/water/water-quality/bathing/>, including the changes which are already being put into force to comply with the revised Bathing Water Directive.

## National Sustainable Development Indicators – consultation responses published

Posted on April 3, 2013

Earlier this year Defra carried out an informal consultation on a new set of national sustainable development indicators. These should provide an overview of national progress on key issues that are important economically, socially and environmentally in the long term. They are intended to complement the National Wellbeing Measures published by the Office for National

Statistics. The consultation responses have now been summarised and this document and other information relating to the SDIs is available to download from this link:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2012/07/24/sus-dev-indicators/>

## JNCC's Marine SPA Newsletter January 2013

Posted on March 12, 2013

The 10th edition of the JNCC newsletter from the Marine Special Protection Area team has been published and is available to download below. The newsletter details additional features

currently being considered for the Liverpool Bay SPA and a report to Natural England on these is due in March 2013.

The newsletter is available via this link:

[http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/SAS\\_SPA\\_News\\_January\\_2013.pdf](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/SAS_SPA_News_January_2013.pdf) or see other news on marine SPAs and previous newsletters on the JNCC website: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1414>.

## Updating the Wales Coastal Directory

Posted on March 10, 2013

Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum (PCF) and the Severn Estuary Partnership (SEP) have been working on behalf of the Wales Coastal and Maritime Partnership (WCMP) to undertake a review of coastal groups and fora across Wales, updating work done by Cardiff University in 2005. The aim is to produce an up-to-date Wales Coastal Directory summarising key information about each organisation and including a map showing the extent of current coastal groups and fora. This should enable more effective and extensive communications for future Marine Policy activities. In addition it could also support engagement across Welsh Government's entire marine and coastal portfolio (fisheries, tourism, marine energy, etc.) and the emerging marine planning agenda. Once completed results will be placed on the WCMP website: <http://www.walescoastalpartnership.org.uk/>

## Marine Planning Newsletter Issues 11 & 12

Posted on March 8, 2013

The latest marine planning newsletters from the Marine Management Organisation are available. Issue 11 covers issues such as the East of England draft marine plan and work taking place in the new South Plan area. It also provides details of a range of new reports which have been published on marine evidence and information such as a review of fisheries resource and activity, a socio-economic data report and tools review, spatial data on marine recreational activities and seabed habitat mapping. Issue 11 can be downloaded from this link: <http://marinemanagement.org.uk/marineplanning/news/newsletter11.htm>

Issue 12 gives feedback on the South Plan Area workshops held in January, an update on the timetable for the East of England draft Marine Plan consultation and information on range of evidence gathering projects. It can be downloaded from this link:

<http://marinemanagement.org.uk/marineplanning/news/newsletter12.htm>

## Appointments to the Board of the Marine Management Organisation

Posted on March 4, 2013

In February, the Environment Secretary Owen Paterson made two appointments to the Board of the Marine Management Organisation. Robin Teverson and Andrew Wells. Robin Teverson is an active public figure, a Liberal Democrat Member of the House of Lords and of Cornwall Council. Andrew Wells acted as a consultant to the Olympic Park Legacy Company and is a Board member of a housing association in the South East Of England. Further

details can be accessed following this link:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2013/02/15/appointments-to-the-board-of-the-marine-management-organisation/>

## Wales Coastal Monitoring Centre 3rd Newsletter

Posted on February 28, 2013

The Wales Coastal Monitoring Centre – the national centre for Wales dealing with monitoring and data for coastal defence purposes - has published its 3rd newsletter detailing activity over the past 12 months including the results of workshops held last year and plans for a further workshop to take place in Autumn 2013. The newsletter – which is provided in both English and Welsh - can be downloaded here: <http://www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk/2013/02/28/wales-coastal-monitoring-centre-3rd-newsletter/>

## Red Tape Challenge proposals published for the Water and Marine theme

Posted on January 26, 2013

The Red Tape Challenge (RTC) is a Cabinet Office-led initiative to ensure that regulations are fit for purpose in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Water and Marine group of regulations is the second Defra led theme. It covers drinking water quality, flood management, inland waterways, marine conservation and fisheries. Following consultation and review, Defra's proposals for the Water element of the theme, which include scrapping or improving 63% of the regulations, have been published. A paper on the Marine regulations will be published shortly. Further details and the report can be downloaded from the following link:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2012/12/05/pb13847-red-tape-challenge-water-marine/>

## UKTAG phosphorous proposals for WFD

Posted on January 26, 2013

The UK Technical Advisory Group (UKTAG) co-ordinates advice on the science and technical aspects of the EU's Water Framework Directive (WFD). It has published draft reports on river phosphorus and biological standards for lakes, rivers and transitional and coastal waters. Comments on these proposals for a set of revised standards for protecting High and Good status under the Water Framework Directive, were invited from stakeholders. The review was open until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013. Further details can be downloaded from this link:

<http://www.wfduk.org/stakeholders/stakeholder-review-phosphorus-and-biological-standards>

## Marine Strategy Framework Directive MSFD – Consultation report published

Posted on January 26, 2013

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) requires Member States to take measures to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status for their seas by 2020. In 2012, the UK Government and devolved administrations carried out a joint consultation on the early stages

of the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. The Government's response to this consultation has now been published, along with the final Impact Assessment, UK Initial Assessment of the UK's seas, and characteristics and targets of Good Environmental Status. For more information see the Defra website:  
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2012/03/27/marine-strategy-framework-1203/>

## Reports from The Crown Estate on marine biomass

Posted on January 8, 2013

Two recent studies have considered the environmental effects of using marine biomass for the production of biofuel. The research has considered the wider implications of large-scale seaweed farming and the potential carbon footprint from cultivation and production. Further details are contained within two new reports published by The Crown Estate and can be downloaded from this link: <http://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/marine/marine-research/energy-research/reports/>

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## International News

### Irish Sea Maritime Forum 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, Glasgow, May 21<sup>st</sup> - Book Now!

See details under North West Coastal Forum above.

### Living on the Edge – Coastal Tourism and Sustainable Consumption, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> June, West Cumbria

See details under North West Coastal Forum above.

### CITES conference takes decisive action to halt decline of sharks and other wildlife

Posted on April 4, 2013

On 14th March 2013 the triennial World's Wildlife Conference, which took place in Bangkok, adopted robust measures to protect 5 species of shark along with manta rays and many other vulnerable plant and animal species.

The 5 shark species to be included in Appendix II are the oceanic whitetip (*Carcharhinus longimanus*), scalloped hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*), great hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna mokarran*), smooth hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna zigaena*) and the porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*). These are all harvested in huge numbers for their valuable fins and, in some cases, meat. but in future will have to be traded with CITES permits and evidence will have to be provided that they are harvested sustainably and legally. These listings mark a milestone in the involvement of CITES in marine species. The porbeagle shark was included after two unsuccessful attempts at previous CITES Conference meetings. Ireland, on behalf of the

European Union Member States and Croatia, presented the proposal to protect the porbeagle shark and announced an implementation package of EUR 1.2 million to assist developing countries in the implementation of the listing of this and other marine species. The proponents welcomed the impressive alliance of countries co-sponsoring the proposal and argued that requiring CITES export permits will ensure that international markets are supplied by fish from sustainably managed fisheries that keep accurate records. This species has experienced severe population declines, notably in the northern Atlantic ocean and the Mediterranean, owing to unsustainable fishing for its high-value meat and fins.

The member States also adopted historic provisions to refine the standards for making scientific findings; determine the State responsible for issuing documentation for marine species harvested in international waters; assess the impact of CITES decisions on the livelihoods of rural communities; and address potential conflict of interest that could significantly impair the impartiality, objectivity or independence of members of the CITES committees.

For more information see the CITES website:

[http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2013/20130314\\_cop16.php](http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2013/20130314_cop16.php)

## ICES news

Posted on April 3, 2013

ICES, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, has revamped its website and now has on-line monthly newsletters which you can subscribe to. In other ICES news the next ICES Annual Science Conference will be held in Reykjavík, Iceland, 23–27 September 2013. For more information about the work of ICES and to sign up for news updates follow this link: <http://www.ices.dk/news-and-events/Pages/default.aspx>

## A new Framework Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Management?

Posted on March 13, 2013

On March 13 the European Commission launched a proposal to create a new Framework Directive to improve the planning of maritime activities at sea and the management of coastal areas. The proposal, in the form of a draft Directive, aims to establish a common European framework for maritime spatial planning and integrated coastal management in EU Member States. The proposal follows a consultation on MSP and ICZM in 2011. Europe has set itself the target of becoming a smart, sustainable, and inclusive economy by 2020 and the proposed new Directive aims to help achieve this, as part of the Commission's Integrated Maritime Policy.

European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Maria Damanaki said: "Today we are proposing a new step of the Integrated Maritime Policy of the European Union and offering a new tool for our Blue Growth Strategy. By facilitating sustainable development and investments at sea, the Directive will contribute to make real the potential of Europe's Blue Economy for growth and jobs".

European Commissioner for the Environment Janez Potočnik said: “This initiative will contribute to a healthy environment and better living conditions for the 200 million EU citizens who live in coastal regions. It should also help preserve unique and diverse coastlines and ecosystems that offer invaluable habitats for plants and animals”

For more information see the downloadable press release and the full text of the proposed Directive together with an Impact Assessment on the Commission’s Maritime Spatial Planning webpage: [http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/maritime\\_spatial\\_planning/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/maritime_spatial_planning/index_en.htm)

## The Melting Arctic

Posted on January 8, 2013

The rate at which the sea ice in the Arctic is melting is much faster than estimated by earlier predictions. The melting Arctic might impact not only the people living in the region, but also elsewhere in Europe and beyond. A report on the current research and debate about this topic can be found on the European Environment Agency website by following this [link](http://www.eea.europa.eu/articles/the-melting-arctic?&utm_campaign=the-melting-arctic&utm_medium=email&utm_source=EEASubscriptions): [http://www.eea.europa.eu/articles/the-melting-arctic?&utm\\_campaign=the-melting-arctic&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=EEASubscriptions](http://www.eea.europa.eu/articles/the-melting-arctic?&utm_campaign=the-melting-arctic&utm_medium=email&utm_source=EEASubscriptions)

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## Open Consultations

### European Commission Fisheries Consultations

Posted on April 5, 2013

The European Commission has two current consultations on fisheries:

State Aid Legal Instruments in the Fisheries Sector closes on the 17th June and targets citizens, institutions, public authorities, companies, organisations and all other stakeholders concerned with State aid in fisheries and aquaculture. The purpose is to take views on the review of two Regulations: Commission Regulation (EC) No 875/2007 of 24 July 2007 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty to de minimis aid in the fisheries sector and amending Regulation (EC) No 1860/2004 (known as the “de minimis Regulation”) and Commission Regulation (EC) No 736/2008 of 22 July 2008 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the Treaty to State aid to small and medium-sized enterprises active in the production, processing and marketing of fisheries products (known as “the Block exemption Regulation” or “BER”). It also aims at obtaining information on the experience of national administrations and stakeholders in applying both Regulations. The consultation documents and other information are available from this link:

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs\\_fisheries/consultations/state-aid/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs_fisheries/consultations/state-aid/index_en.htm)

A separate consultation on Small-scale Drift Net Fisheries closes on 28th June 2013. This seeks views from the general public, fisheries stakeholders, Regional Advisory Councils, fishermen associations, producer organisations, environmental NGOs, experts/scientists working on fisheries related matters and national fisheries control bodies. The aim is to help

the Commission get an overview of the small-scale driftnet fisheries sector and to decide whether and how to review implementation of EU rules for this sector. The consultation documents and other information are available from this link:

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs\\_fisheries/consultations/driftnet/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs_fisheries/consultations/driftnet/index_en.htm)

## Triennial Review of the JNCC – consultation

Posted on April 5, 2013

Following a period of discussion with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and informal engagement with stakeholders the Environment Minister Richard Benyon announced in March the start of the triennial review of (JNCC). As JNCC is a UK-wide body this review will be undertaken jointly with the Devolved Administrations. Defra and the Devolved Administrations have jointly produced a Discussion Document and anyone with an interest in JNCC is invited to comment on it by 11th April 2013. Preliminary conclusions from the review will be available in summer 2013.

The Discussion Document, Written Ministerial Statement and information on how to respond can be obtained by following this link: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2013/03/21/triennial-review-jncc-1303/>

## Heysham Half Moon Bay – bathing water consultation 2013

Posted on April 5, 2013

In February Defra launched a consultation on whether Heysham Half Moon Bay should be dedesignated as an official bathing water and removed from the list of bathing waters designated under the Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC, revised by 2006/7/EC). This consultation follows an application from Lancaster City Council to have Heysham Half Moon Bay removed from the list as there is very low usage for bathing. Their application to have it dedesignated follows local consultation by Lancaster City Council on this issue. For more information, to see the criteria for dedesignation, the evidence for this particular bathing water beach and to respond please follow the link to the Defra consultation page:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2013/03/22/bathing-waters-heysham/> The consultation closes on 12th April 2013.

## Consultation on The Mersey Forest's long term plan

Posted on March 4, 2013

The Mersey Forest Partnership is now consulting on a refresh of The Mersey Forest's long-term plan. The Mersey Forest Partnership vision is to deliver "More from Trees". It has been delivering a wide range of social, economic and environmental benefits for Merseyside and North Cheshire for 20 years. It has done this by planting 9 million trees and two thirds of local residents have said their local environment has improved through the Partnership's work.

Comments on the refreshed plan are invited **until the end of April 2013**. The draft plan, an interactive map and comments form can be accessed using this link:

<http://www.merseyforest.org.uk/plan/#vision>

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## 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/>