



August 2011

Dear Subscriber,

Welcome to the August edition of the North West Coastal Forum's News and Events Update. Click the links to read the full articles on our website, or download the full-length pdf attached.

We are also testing a new template with this edition and would appreciate feedback on any issues, such as image rendering. If you have any problems, please email a.lindop@nwcoastalforum.org.uk.

Kind regards,

Alasdair, NWCF

Regional News

National Marine Week has Begun! Events in the North West

Organised by The Wildlife Trusts, the 2011 National Marine Week has begun. Running from July 30 to August 14, the week offers a variety of events around the country uncovering the magic of the marine world. In the North West, the focus is on shark events at a number of beaches in Cumbria, Lancashire and Cheshire:

“Join the Wildlife Trust to learn about the amazing sharks in the Irish Sea, then make a life size sand sculpture of a basking shark – a massive 12m! We will then go on an egg case hunt to gather data as part of a national survey which will help conserve sharks, skates and rays for the future.”

Additional information: Please bring suitable beach footwear and dress for the weather conditions on the day. Spades and buckets will be useful.

Full programme of Marine Week events in the North West:

		Half Moon Bay,		
02/08/2011	Shark Event	Heysham	10am	Lancs
03/08/2011	*	*	*	*
04/08/2011	Shark Event	Ainsdale Beach	10am	Lancs
		Thurstaston		
		Country Park,		
05/08/2011	Shark Event	Wirral	10am	Cheshire
07/08/2011	Beached Art	St Bees	10am	Cumbria
	Wildlife Watch			
07/08/2011	Roadshow	Crewe		Cheshire
		Hilbre Island		
	Seal Watching and	(booking		
08/08/2011	Rock Pooling	required)	10.30am	Cheshire
09/08/2011	Living Seas	Wigg Island	11am	Cheshire
		Biggar Bank		
10/08/2011	Shark Event	Walney	10am	Cumbria
11/08/2011	Shark Event	St Annes	10am	Lancs
12/08/2011	*	*	*	*
13/08/2011	Living Seas	Brockholes	10am	Lancs

Funding Boost for Morecambe Bay

Protection of the famous views in Morecambe Bay received a huge boost today with the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) announcing that the Morecambe Bay Landscape Partnership has been earmarked for an award of £2million through its Landscape Partnership (LP) programme to support schemes that provide long-term social, economic and environmental benefits for the bay. Using money raised through the National Lottery, the HLF sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported more than 30,000 projects, allocating £4.6bn across the UK

Morecambe Bay is famed for its vast inter-tidal sand and mudflats, spectacular views and outstanding diversity of wildlife. The Morecambe Bay Partnership's vision for this landscape will promote the natural and cultural heritage of the Bay whilst also helping to address potential issues associated with climate change. The application proposes that a range of training opportunities, including archaeological fieldwork, oral history workshops, surveying, habitat management and restoration, guide training and sustainable farming, will be developed in order to give local people a greater sense of ownership and knowledge to maintain the area in the future.

The HLF uses money raised the National Lottery to sustain and transform a wide range of heritage for

present and future generations. In the Landscape Partnership programme, the Morecambe Bay project has achieved a 'first-round pass' with £2million set aside, meaning that initial support has been granted, but the full funding is subject to the acceptance of a final, fully developed application, to be submitted February 2012.

Liverpool Coast Guard Faces Closure

The Liverpool coast guard station at Crosby has been named as one of eight Maritime and Coastguard Agency centres to close in the UK under plans unveiled in a Government Review. The decision has sparked local outrage and accusations that the closure will put lives at risk in the Irish Sea. An online campaign to save the coastguard station has sprung up at

<http://www.saveliverpoolcoastguard.org>

Read more in the Liverpool Daily Post: <http://www.liverpooldailypost.co.uk/liverpool-news/regional-news/2011/07/15/liverpool-coastguard-station-in-crosby-axed-in-government-review-92534-29056527/>

Wirral Council Coastal Strategy: Have Your Say

Wirral Council are currently developing a coastal strategy to protect the borough's coastline from flooding and erosion and are inviting anyone who has a passion for, or an interest in, Wirral's coast to contribute by taking part in an online survey.

The strategy will set out measures to defend the borough's shoreline – from Gayton on the Dee coast, to Eastham on the Mersey – from the long term risks of coastal erosion and tidal flooding. Councillor Brian Kenny, Cabinet Member for the Environment explained: "Our coastline is loved by both residents and businesses alike and it is essential that it is properly managed and protected so that future generations can continue to enjoy it.

"This will be a long-term strategy, setting out what needs to be done and how the Council and other organisations will do it, so it is vital that every consideration around the coast is taken into account."

The consultation is currently underway and people can complete it online by visiting <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8DN9M5W>. It is open until 5pm on Wednesday 31st August 2011.

Sign up for Beachwatch Big Weekend 2011

The Marine Conservation Society's annual Beachwatch Big Weekend, now in its 18th year, will take place this year over the weekend 17th & 18th September. MCS Beachwatch is our coastal environmental initiative, involving local individuals, groups and communities in caring for their coastal environment, and with thousands of volunteers taking part in the Beachwatch Big Weekend every year, is the most influential fight against marine litter in the UK.

Register to participate at the MCS website by following this link:

http://www.mcsuk.org/what_we_do/Clean+seas+and+beaches/Beachwatch/Beachwatch,

and find out which beaches are taking part in the North West by following this link:

<http://www.mcsuk.org/beachwatch/beachsearch/?BeachRegion=North%20West>

National News

National Planning Policy Framework Consultation

CLG have published a consultation on the draft National Planning Policy Framework. The consultation runs until 17th October. Full details, including how to respond, can be accessed via <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/draftframeworkconsultation>

CLG intend to run 4 planning reform events in September: London 7th, Leeds 8th, Birmingham 13th, Bristol 15th. These events will cover the NPPF and other planning reform matters. Information on registration, etc., can be found on the same link.

New Data Added to Marine Planning Portal

The Marine Management Organisation's Marine Planning Portal (<http://planningportal.marinemangement.org.uk/>) has been recently updated with new data. The portal allows anyone logging on to view a range of information and locations – from details of wind farm developments to conservation areas – and understand how busy our seas have become. It offers an easy way to be involved in marine planning, allowing the user to view specific areas and aspects of the marine environment, and share comments.

The new data includes information on:

- Marine Protected Areas
- Defence and national security
- Energy production and infrastructure development
- Ports and shipping
- Marine aggregates
- Marine dredging and disposal
- Subsea cables
- Fishing activity
- Aquaculture
- Tourism and recreation
- Marine ecology and biodiversity
- Historic environment

Coastal Communities Fund Announced

Coastal communities across the UK are to receive money from the Government through a new Coastal Communities Fund financed by money generated through Crown Estate marine activities. The fund is designed to support the economic development of coastal communities and will support a wide range of projects, including those that support charities, the environment, education and health. Examples could include support for developing renewable energy, improving skills or environmental

safeguarding or improvement.

The fund will be available on a bid basis and will be equivalent to 50% of gross income raised from Crown Estate marine activities. In April 2012, this will be £23.7 million available, from the £47.4 million generated in 2010-11. For more information, read the Treasury press release: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_86_11.htm

International News

Common Fisheries Policy Reform – EC Proposal

On July 13th, the European Commission launched proposals for the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The proposals build on a 2009 Green Paper and 2010 public consultation to form a 'radical approach' to fisheries management in Europe. The plans will secure both fish stocks and fishermen's livelihood for the future while putting an end to overfishing and depletion of fish stocks. The reform will introduce a decentralised approach to science-based fisheries management by region and sea basin, and introduce better governance standards in the EU and on the international level through sustainable fisheries agreements. For more information, including a full list of proposals and the official press release see: <http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/reform/>

Open Consultations

Coastal Access in the North West

Closes August 12th 2011

Following the Accessing the North West Coast workshop in June, the North West Coastal Trail project have opened a consultation to produce an up-to-date picture of activity and opportunities which are contributing or could contribute to the creation of a continuous route for cyclists, horse-riders and pedestrians when accessing the North West's coast. For more details see:

<http://www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk/2011/07/07/coastal-access-in-the-north-west-consultation/>

National Planning Framework Consultation

Closes 17th October 2011

See article above.

Conferences and Events

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