



Summer 2012

Dear Subscriber,

Welcome to the Summer 2012 edition of the North West Coastal Forum's News and Events Update. A shorter email version is available with quick links to the NWCF website articles which are reproduced in full below.

Kind regards,

Caroline

North West Coastal Forum Secretariat

NWCF News

Delivering Sustainable Coasts, 18 & 19 September 2012, Southport – book before September 5th!

Posted on July 16, 2012

The North West Coastal Forum, working with Sefton council and 10 EU partners as part of the SUSTAIN project, is holding a major international conference addressing coastal sustainability issues across Europe and celebrating achievements of organisations and individuals across North West England. Places are still available but are filling up fast.

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 <http://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.

Although this is a free conference booking is essential. To find out more and to reserve your place download the full booking form from the hyperlink below:

<http://www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk/nwcf-cm2/wp-content/plugins/download-monitor/download.php?id=100>

Exhibitors please note there is exhibition space available, see the booking form.

*The **Interregional Cooperation Programme INTERREG IVC**, financed by the European Union's Regional Development Fund, helps Regions of Europe work together to share experience and good practice in the areas of innovation, the knowledge economy, the environment and risk prevention. EUR 302 million is available for project funding but, more than that, a wealth of knowledge and potential solutions are also on hand for regional policy-makers. Visit: <http://www.interreg4c.eu/>*

Regional News

Burbo Bank Extension Offshore Wind Farm – Geotechnical Investigation

Posted on August 22nd, 2012

DONG Energy will be carrying out a geotechnical investigation at the proposed Burbo Bank Extension offshore wind farm site from late August until mid-September. The aim of the investigation is to provide details about the structure of the seabed. It is a preliminary licensed study and does not pre-empt the pre-application process (see National Infrastructure Planning round up below) which the Burbo Bank Extension project is currently undergoing prior to obtaining consent.

Two vessels will be involved in the study. The self-propelled barge Victor is expected on site in late August for approximately one week. A jack-up rig Excalibur, accompanied by a support tug will be on-site during the second week in September for a duration of around 3 weeks.

Maritime users are requested to give a wide berth of at least 500 meters and a notice to mariners has been issued.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Emily Marshall, Stakeholder Coordinator, Renewables UK Project Development, DONG Energy, tel: +44 (0) 2078 115235, email: emars@dongenergy.co.uk, web: <http://www.dongenergy.co.uk>

The Inaugural Irish Sea Tall Ships Regatta comes to Liverpool!

Posted on August 22nd, 2012

The inaugural Irish Sea Tall Ships Regatta will begin in Dublin on Sunday 26th August and culminate in a four-day event in Liverpool from the 30th August to the 2nd September. The regatta is being organised by the charity Sail Training International and Liverpool City Council are working with them to host the finish of this inaugural race involving at least 14 of an international fleet of tall ships which has been taking part in a series of races over the summer.

This will be the first time a fleet of tall ships has come to Liverpool since Tall Ships Race 2008 which attracted over 450000 visitors. The ships will be moored in Canning Dock, Albert Dock and Liverpool Cruise Terminal and in addition to being able to go on board a tall ship there will be a

range of other activities such as music and street theatre taking place all around Pier Head. A parade of sail will take place on Sunday 2nd September from 10:30 a.m.

Peter Cardy, Chief Executive of Sail Training International, said: "Liverpool has a rich maritime history and has been a great friend to sail training which has helped to develop a strong willingness throughout the Tall Ships family to return to the city. We hope that the Irish Sea Tall Ships Regatta could become a recurring fixture in the busy calendar of events that is enjoyed by the residents of Liverpool as well as the many visitors to this fantastic city."

Leader of Liverpool City Council, Councillor Joe Anderson, said "I'm committed to doing everything I can to celebrate Liverpool's strong maritime heritage. Nautical events in Liverpool are extremely popular and there's always a huge amount of excitement around the visit of Tall Ships to the city. Everyone in Liverpool has an affinity with the sea and we're delighted to be able to host this inaugural visit which will attract thousands of visitors to the city. We're already working on how we can make the four day event a memorable occasion for everyone involved and in doing so, showcase our iconic waterfront."

For more information see <http://www.sailtraininginternational.org/events/irish-sea-tall-ships-regatta-2012> and <http://www.visitliverpool.com/whats-on/search/irish-sea-tall-ships-regatta-p310581>

National Infrastructure Planning round up for NW England

Posted on August 22nd, 2012

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 more details on each of the projects listed below:

Heysham to M6 Link Road, Lancashire County Council (Examination 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 A A683 and A589 by Lancaster and Morecambe College. The project includes remodelling Junction 34 and a 600 space park and ride site. The Examination is due to close by 4th October 2012.

Preesall Saltfield Underground Gas Storage, Halite Energy Group (Examination stage)

An underground gas storage facility 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 Issue Specific Hearing originally timetabled for 22 August 2012 has been cancelled to allow the applicant and relevant interested parties sufficient time to address matters raised at the first hearing.

Roosecote (Barrow) Biomass Power Station, Centrica Energy (Pre-Examination stage)

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. Registration of interested parties began on 3rd August and will close on Friday 7 September 2012

Burbo Bank Extension offshore wind farm, DONG Energy Burbo Extension (UK) Ltd (Pre-Application stage)

Burbo Bank Wind Farm Extension. The application is expected to be submitted in the fourth quarter of 2012.

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.

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.

Fylde BeachCare News

Posted on August 15th, 2012

Annie Heslop has recently been recruited as the new Fylde BeachCare Officer, to take project into its second phase. Fylde BeachCare is a partnership between the Environment Agency, United Utilities and Keep Britain Tidy across the Fylde peninsula from Fleetwood to Lytham. It aims to inspire and empower the local community, tourists and businesses to take sustained action to improve the coast and to make positive behaviour changes in how they impact bathing waters. This is carried out through school visits, events, beach litter cleans, working with beach volunteer groups and targeted campaigns with all sectors of society. For more information or how you can get involved contact Annie on 07918 054600 or email annie.heslop@keepbritaintidy.org

Mini Consultation Report (Burbo Bank) (Offshore Wind Farm Extension)

Posted on August 15th, 2012

The Mini Consultation Report provides a snapshot of the results and feedback obtained from the second series of consultation events held in April. The report details the issues discussed and preferences that were expressed by those that attended the events.

See also Newsletter No. 3 summer edition |(available on the link below) which includes future plans intentions

For more information follow this link:

<http://www.dongenergy.com/burbobankextension/Pages/index.aspx>

Cumbria Coastal Access Update

Posted on August 8th, 2012

Natural England have issued the first of a series of monthly newsletters reporting on coastal access progress in Cumbria. To view a copy of the newsletter see below:

<http://www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk/nwcf-cm2/wp-content/plugins/download-monitor/download.php?id=103>

For information on national coastal access progress see the Natural England website:

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

Ribble Estuary Cockle Fishery Re-opens

Posted on August 1st, 2012

Following recent problems with contamination the Foulnaze cockle fishery in the Ribble Estuary is

now re-opening as a designated commercial cockle fishery on the afternoon tide of 1st through to 31st August, **subject to weather conditions**.

Strict regulations apply – please consult the NW IFCA website: <http://www.nw-ifca.gov.uk/> for regulatory and other important information relating to access to Foulhaze, including information on how to apply for permits.

Copeland Coastal Partnership Conference & Launch of the International Coastal Communities Conversation Project

Posted on August 1st, 2012

The 2nd Copeland Coastal Partnership conference took place on the 6th July 2012 in Whitehaven. Partners discussed what had been achieved over the last 12 months and proposals for the next 12 months. The conference was held jointly with UCLan and the Samuel Lindow Foundation and also formed the launch of the international Coastal Communities Conversation (<http://www.thesamuellindowfoundation.com/communities.php?s=224>) project – an international project being developed by the Samuel Lindow Foundation to create a conversation with other coastal communities around the world which the North West Coastal Forum is pleased to be participating in.

A conference report will be available soon – see the Copeland Coastal Partnership page on Copeland Borough Council's website for more information: <http://www.copeland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=2245>

Local Nature Partnerships Established

Posted on July 19th, 2012

Congratulations to Cheshire, Cumbria, Lancashire, Liverpool City Region and Morecambe Bay Local Nature Partnerships which have all submitted successful bids to be formally recognised by Government. On Tuesday 16th July Richard Benyon, Parliamentary Undersecretary for the Natural Environment confirmed a list of 41 LNPs across England including all the proposed LNPs which have a North West coastal element.

First proposed in the Natural Environment White Paper LNPs are strategic partnerships with a range of local organisations and businesses and should work with and influence local decision-makers to manage the natural environment as a system and embed its value in local decision-making. Although there is guidance on what role an LNP should have it is for each partnership to decide locally what their priorities are and how to work together most effectively to address the needs and challenges of their area. Government funding was available for the establishment phase but the LNPs will be expected to be self-sustaining in the long term.

For more information on the role of LNPs see the Defra website: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/whitepaper/local-nature-partnerships/>

National News

Severn Barrage – back on the cards?

Posted on August 22nd, 2012

Following a meeting in July 2012 with former Welsh Secretary Peter Hain and the consortium

Corlan Hafren, David Cameron has instructed ministers and staff to look again at the Severn Barrage. A previous scheme was rejected in 2010 by Chris Huhne, the then Energy and Climate Change Secretary, due to the projected cost of £34bn to the public purse.

The new proposals project a cost of £30bn entirely funded through private finance, much of it according to the BBC coming from investors in Kuwait and Qatar. Corlan Hafren submitted a business plan to the Department for Energy and Climate Change last year.

A spokesperson from DECC said: "The government is open to working with affordable, environmentally-responsible projects that represent good value for consumers. So far, we have only seen a very draft and high-level outline business case from the consortium. Even if this proposal can meet our criteria it has a long way to go in development."

For more information and a range of links to different news sources about the barrage see the Severn Estuary Partnership's dedicated Severn Estuary Tidal Power Consultation – Resource Page: <http://www.severnestuary.net/sep/resource.html>

South Coast to be the next Marine Plan Area

Posted on August 1st, 2012

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has announced the next marine area to be planned will be the south coast and seas from Dover to the River Dart in Devon.

Steve Brooker, the MMO's Head of Marine Planning, said: "England's South Inshore and South Offshore marine areas were chosen for their wide range of marine activities that need to co-exist in these busy waters. These marine areas are identified as environmentally sensitive so it is vitally important that new activities are introduced in a sustainable way, ensuring that social, environmental and economic implications are considered together. As the demand for space increases, so will the need for use of our seas as a key resource. This is an ideal time for marine planning to begin in these areas, to ensure there is a clear framework for sustainable development. "

This is a huge disappointment to many in the North West who had lobbied hard for the North West to be the next marine plan area, however with our shared boundaries with Scotland and Wales and the necessity for the differing administrations, who are all at different stages in the development of marine planning, to be able to plan jointly at those boundaries I think it is fair to say we lobbied more in hope than expectation.

For more information on the next area to be planned and other marine planning news download the MMO's latest newsletter below:

<http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/marineplanning/news/newsletter9.htm>

Latest News on Marine Conservation Zones

Posted on July 23rd, 2012

On 18th July JNCC and Natural England submitted their advice to Defra on the recommended Marine Conservation Zones all around England, including those proposed for the Irish Sea. This advice reviews the science behind the recommendations from each of the regional MCZ projects, the quality of the ecological data and the views of JNCC and Natural England on overall MCZ project progress.

The full report runs to 1500 pages; both this and a shorter executive summary can be accessed via the JNCC website: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6228>.

A newsletter has also been issued and can be downloaded below:

<http://www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk/nwcf-cm2/wp-content/plugins/download-monitor/download.php?id=101>

Marine Planning Newsletter – Issue 8 May 2012

Posted on May 28th, 2012

The Marine Management Organisation's newsletter 8 is available to download from the MMO website: <http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/marineplanning/newsletters/newsletter8.htm>

Paths for Communities (P4C) launched

Posted on May 28th, 2012

Natural England has launched a new £2m funding scheme which will run from May 2012 to March 2014.

The funds are available to local community partnerships and are aimed to support local communities working with land owners to make improvements to the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network. Importantly all P4C projects must also create some new PRoW and most are expected to also include creation of new bridleways. For more information, including how to apply, see Natural England's P4C web page: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/access/rightsofway/p4c.aspx>

International News

European Bathing Waters Report Published

Posted on August 21st, 2012

The European Environment Agency (EEA) in cooperation with the European Commission DG Environment European Environment Agency has published the annual report on bathing water (coast and inland) across all 27 EU Member States. The report, published in May 2012, gives the results of the 2011 bathing water season and so gives an indication of where quality is expected to be good in 2012. 92.1% of the bathing waters meet the minimum water quality standards set out in the Bathing Water Directive. See the European Environment Agency site:

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/status-and-monitoring/state-of-bathing-water> for the report, and to download specific country reports or check bathing water quality on an interactive map (the data can be visualised in geospatial mapping programs such as Bing Maps and Google Earth maps)

Irish Sea Maritime Forum – conference outputs and future programme available

Posted on August 16th, 2012

Following the successful launch of the Irish Sea Maritime Forum at Titanic Belfast in June a conference report summarising the outputs of the workshop sessions and a future programme of activity has been produced. This report, together with presentations from the event, can be accessed through the project page on: <http://www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk/projects/current-projects/irish-sea-maritime-forum/>. The coming year will see 2 further events to take the work of the Irish Sea Maritime Forum forward and sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are available at

both:

Irish Sea Issues and Opportunities workshop - 2nd November 2012, Maritime Museum, Liverpool
2nd Annual Conference of the Irish Sea Maritime Forum – 20th May 2013, Glasgow (as part of European Maritime Day)

European Innovation Partnerships on Water

Posted on August 15th, 2012

DG Environment, in close cooperation with DG Research and Innovation and other DGs, has launched a proposal for a European Innovation Partnership on Water.

The EIP (European Innovation Partnerships) on water will be driven by a bottom-up approach to identify the priorities for action and to identify the bottlenecks and needs to facilitate innovation.

Meetings: 4th September 2012 – Steering Group in Brussels.

Start of the operational phase of the EIP on Water by 2013.

More information can be found on the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/innovationpartnership/index_en.htm

Open Consultations

European Commission consultation on Ocean Energy

Posted on August 22nd, 2012

The European Commission's DG Mare is running a consultation on Ocean Energy. Europe's Integrated Maritime Policy aims to help Europe realise the potential of its marine and coastal resources by providing a framework for coordination of the different functions, uses and users of the seas and oceans and by promoting excellence in marine research, technology and innovation.

Ocean energy, for the purposes of this consultation meaning energy generated from tide or wave installations, is recognised as a potential source of jobs and growth in Europe however its development has faced many challenges.

The Commission wishes to gather opinions and ideas from stakeholders on whether, and how, to help the sector make its contribution to security of energy supply in Europe and meet targets for a 'greener' future.

The consultation does not include off-shore wind energy which the Commission considers to be at a different stage of development, with major installations already producing electricity, under construction, or in the planning stages

The consultation runs until 14th September 2012. For more information see the European Commission website:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs_fisheries/consultations/ocean_energy/index_en.htm

Marine Licensing: Navigational dredging and other exemptions

Posted on August 21st, 2012

Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 introduced a new licensing system for

managing activities in the marine environment. Defra is seeking views on proposals to modify the current Exemptions Order, introducing new exemptions or modifying existing exemptions where the risks to the environment, human health and other uses of the sea are minimal. The consultation presents several options for reducing the regulatory burden on navigational dredging including potential new exemptions or efficiency improvements. The proposals will affect those who carry out the following activities:

- Deposits of substances or objects
- Removing objects and substances from the seabed
- Dredging
- Constructing, altering and improving works

The consultation runs from 14 August 2012 to 22 October 2012. For more information see the Defra website: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2012/08/14/marine-licensing/>

Habitats Directive: consultation on draft guidance on the application of article 6(4) Alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) and compensatory measures

Posted on August 21st, 2012

Defra is seeking views on draft guidance on the application of article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive. Article 6(4) allows plans or projects which may have an adverse effect on the integrity of a European site to go ahead on grounds of “imperative reasons of overriding public interest” (IROPI) when there are no alternative solutions and compensatory measures have been secured. In particular, views are sought on:

- The overall approach to allowing plans or projects to go ahead on grounds of IROPI
- The relationship between alternative solutions and IROPI
- The definition of IROPI
- Compensatory measures

The consultation runs from 7 August 2012 to 30 October 2012. For more details see the Defra website: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2012/08/07/habitats-directive-iropi/>

Wildlife Law – consultation

Posted on August 21st, 2012

The Law Commission is consulting upon Wildlife Law with the aim of simplifying the existing complex framework of Acts and placing wildlife law into a single statute. Existing legislation dates date from 1831 through to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended. Much of the older legislation is out of step with modern requirements, and the principal modern Act – the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 – has been amended to such a degree that it is difficult for any non-specialists to use.

The proposed new regime would reduce the current dependency on criminal law by allowing an appropriate mix of regulatory measures such as guidance, advice and a varied and flexible system of civil sanctions such as fines and bans.

The consultation runs from 14th August to 30th November 2012. For more information see the Law Commission website: <http://lawcommission.justice.gov.uk/consultations/wildlife.htm>

Working Together to Deliver River Basin Management – consultation

Posted on August 21st, 2012

The Environment Agency is consulting on how different groups can work together to achieve the best solutions for river basin management in England and Wales. The first River Basin Management Plans were published in 2009 to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and these are now being reviewed and updated in preparation for publication of a revised set of RBMPs in December 2015.

The consultation runs until 22nd December 2012. For more information see the Environment Agency's website: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/portal/ho/wfd/working/together2012>

Consultation on the approach to Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) in England and Wales

Posted on August 21st, 2012

Flood Risk Management Plans are a requirement of the Flood Risk Regulations which implement the European Floods Directive. They are produced by Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) for rivers, reservoirs and the sea in Flood Risk Areas (Flood Risk Areas are areas where the risk of flooding from local flood risk sources is significant as defined in Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments (PFRAs) in accordance with a method and criteria determined by Government). The Environment Agency is currently consulting on the approach to delivering FRMPs.

The aim of the consultation is to:

- ask LLFAs in Flood Risk Areas their views on alternative approaches to delivering flood risk management plans
- give other LLFAs (not in Flood Risk Areas), risk management authorities and other interested stakeholders an opportunity to provide views on alternative approaches
- ask LLFAs, risk management authorities and other stakeholders for their views on implementation of future cycles of the Flood Risk Regulations, including co-ordination with river basin management planning.

The consultation runs from 3rd August to 31st October 2012. For more information on the consultation and how to respond see the Environment Agency website:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/portal/ho/flood/plans/approach>

Consultation on Update of the European Union's Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

Posted on August 21st, 2012

The Community Implementation Plan (a requirement of the POP Regulation) was drawn up in 2007 and covers the substances listed in the Stockholm Convention and also those listed in the UNECE POP Protocol. The Regulation requires that the plan is reviewed and updated when appropriate. The purpose of the Plan has been to take stock of legal and other European Union-level measures taken, assess their effectiveness in fulfilling the obligations of the Stockholm Convention, identify needs for possible additional measures and lay down an action plan for the implementation of these measures.

Many of the actions identified in the 2007 Plan have been or are about to be finalised and a European Commission report in 2010 identified several new actions that should be carried out for the EU to meet its international obligations. In addition, several new substances have been added

to the Stockholm Convention and the POP Protocol since 2007. As a result the European Commission has decided to review and update the Implementation Plan and is requesting views and comments from stakeholders.

The consultation will run from 2nd August to 25th October 2012. The consultation documents and other details can be found on the European Commission website:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/pops_en.htm

DEFRA Sustainability Indicators

Posted on August 15th, 2012

Defra is developing a new set of sustainable development indicators to meet the Government's commitments to transparency and sustainable development, and is carrying out an informal consultation for 12 weeks from 24th July 2012. People are welcome to express their views on the proposals for a new set of sustainable development indicators.

Caroline Spelman (Secretary of State for DEFRA) explained their important role in monitoring UK progress:

"We want to help our economy, our communities and the environment to grow and flourish in a sustainable way for the benefit of future generations. We have put sustainability at the heart of everything [we do], and these new indicators will help us take stock of our progress and give the public the means to chart our success."

The closing date for the consultation is on the 15th October 2012.

Conferences and Events

For information on upcoming relevant conferences and events, both North West Coastal Forum and those of other organisations, please visit the Events page on our website:

<http://www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk/events/>