



PEMBROKESHIRE COASTAL FORUM

At the Heart of our Coast's Future

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the sixth edition of the Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum newsletter, which includes Forum news and other relevant information from both the UK and Europe.

We are also keen to hear about any of the actions/initiatives affecting the coast which members are involved in. If you would like to contribute an article, please email it to chardick@mhpa.co.uk by the end of August 2004.

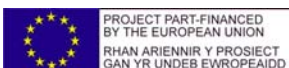
PEMBROKESHIRE COASTAL FORUM NEWS

THE TEAM

There have been a few changes to the team since the last edition of the newsletter. Jo Dilly is currently Forum Officer, covering the role of Tonia Forsyth while on maternity leave. Assistant Officer Katherine Lucas left in March to pursue a Masters degree and Claire Hardick joined the team as Administration Assistant. John Warneford is also on board as Activities Liaison Officer for both the Marine Code and Pembrokeshire Outdoor Charter Group.

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE....

Here at Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum we work very hard at keeping all members up to date. To help us help you, please let us know if the newsletter can be emailed to you in the future. This not only helps us cut costs and save paper, but will significantly reduce the amount of time it takes to photocopy and send around 1000 copies via the post. It is also available to download from the web



Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum is a partnership of individuals and organisations from the public, private and voluntary sector, who are working together to promote a sustainable approach to the planning, management, use and development of the Pembrokeshire Coastal Zone.

Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum is funded through Objective 1, with cash and in-kind support from: Milford Haven Port Authority; Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority; Pembrokeshire College; Pembrokeshire County Council; Countryside Council for Wales; Welsh Development Agency; Environment Agency; National Trust; Pembrokeshire Business Initiative; Crown Estate; Pembrokeshire Chamber of Commerce.

at www.pembrokeshirecoastalforum.org.uk. If you do not wish to receive a hardcopy of the newsletter in the future, please email pcf@mhpa.co.uk.

PROGRESS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRATEGY FOR ICZM

Work on the strategy for ICZM in Pembrokeshire is underway, making use of the material provided by the topic groups and the series of coastal surgeries. This material can be seen on the PCF website. A big thank you to all those who have contributed so far.

In the early autumn there will be further opportunities for members of Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum to contribute to the strategy itself. The dates and venues for these events will be circulated in due course and will be posted on the website.

COASTAL SURGERY

There will be two coastal surgeries in the near future. The first is during the launch day of Pembrokeshire Fish Week (June 26th) on Milford Docks, and the second is on July 10th during the Fishguard Festival in the West Wales Maritime Heritage Society marquee. The team will be available at both events throughout the day, and anyone can drop by to discuss coastal issues of concern.

Coastal surgeries are a great way to find out more about the coast and waterway and how it is being managed, and members of the public are encouraged to share their views about the coast. We always try and ensure surgeries are well-publicised in the local press and are held in a variety of locations throughout the year.

If you want the team to hold a coastal surgery in your area, let us know by emailing pcf@mhpa.co.uk. All information contributes to future Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum work.

PCF HELPS INFORM UK-WIDE STRATEGY

During the spring, Forum Officer Jo Dilly was invited to take part in a web-based event as part of a DEFRA consultation "*Taking it on: developing UK sustainable development strategy together.*"

This involved the UK government, the Scottish Executive, the Wales Assembly Government and Northern Ireland Administration.

The responses will be collated and the findings from the panel will be compared with those of a public consultation (also web-based). The information will be used to inform new UK sustainable development strategy.

LEAFLETS

Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum has distributed more leaflets around the county for the summer season. Last year we gained new members from the increased publicity generated by the leaflets. If anyone would like to have a quantity for display, please contact us and we can send some out to you.

MARINE CODE UPDATE

The work of the Marine Code group is continuing as the 2004 season gets into full swing.

It was hoped that during April the zoning of the islands could be finalised by all member organisations. However, inclement weather led to these 'On the Water' reviews being put back.

Numerous wildlife and dive trips have already happened onboard members' vessels, skippered by WiSe accredited staff.

A website is also under construction and is hoped to go live in the near future. This will provide visitors with information about Pembrokeshire and its wildlife. It will also provide contact and product details for all members including WiSe accredited operators.

Before the launch in spring next year, Liaison Officer John Warneford hopes to increase membership to local marinas, dive clubs/groups or individuals interested in water based recreation and sustainable development of marine leisure activities.

Recent New Members: Cleddau King Boat Charters; South Wales Kite Surfing Association.

For more information on anything to do with the Marine Code, please contact John Warneford on 01646 696134 or email jwarneford@mhpa.co.uk

PEMBROKESHIRE OUTDOOR CHARTER GROUP

Members' commitment to sustainability has been further developed through activity training days. During the spring several member organisations have participated in a coasteer training session at Abereiddy and training walks at Caerfai and Skrinkle Haven.

In total there were eight member organisations represented, with a total of 42 staff attending. These were Fresh Adventure, Orielson Field Studies Centre, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, Pembrokeshire College, Preseli Venture, Sealyham Activity Centre, Stackpole for Schools and TYF Adventure.

Recent New members: South Wales Kite Surfing Association.

WHO'S WHO

This is an ongoing project that has been on hold in recent months, as the team concentrated on the Draft Issues report. However, it is now something we can devote more attention to – and we need YOUR help!

The aim of the *Who's Who in the Pembrokeshire Coastal Zone* is to provide a directory of organisations in Pembrokeshire that have something to do with the coast. The idea is to provide a fully comprehensive directory for communities, managers, planners and users of the coast and where to go for information and advice.

Eventually this will be compiled as a cd-rom. If you would like to know how you could be included in the directory, contact us either by phone or email. (Contact details on back page.)

LOCAL NEWS

COASTAL BUSES CRUISE THROUGH THE SUMMER

Pembrokeshire's spectacular coastline will be entirely accessible by public transport this summer, thanks to an innovative network of buses.



©Jessa Fairbrother

The Pembrokeshire Coastal Buses Services are back on the road, seven days a week, until September 26th.

The 'Poppit Rocket', 'Strumble Shuttle', 'Celtic Coaster', 'Puffin Shuttle' and 'Coastal Cruiser' (above) carried over 40,000 passengers last year. The coastal buses are a valuable solution to rural transport problems along the coastline between Cardigan and Pembroke, providing daily public

transport to both locals and walkers, with some areas receiving public transport for the first time. It is anticipated the services will continue to reduce the number of people using cars to visit the National Park and Wales bus pass holders will be pleased to learn their passes are valid on all Pembrokeshire Coast Bus Services.

All of the services have been designed and introduced by Pembrokeshire County Council in conjunction with the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority as part of the Pembrokeshire Greenways' project. Funding is provided by the County Council's allocation of Local Transport Services Grant and the National Park.

For further timetable details please pick up a leaflet from Tourist Information Centres or contact Pembrokeshire County Council's transport unit on 01437 775227 (during office hours). Timetables are also available online at: www.pembrokeshiregreenways.co.uk

SPECIAL CREATURE FEATURE

Compass Jellyfish - *Chrysaora hysoscella*

Jellyfish are not fish at all, but members of the Cnidaria family, which also includes anemones.



©Rohan Holt

The **Compass Jellyfish** is common off the coast of Pembrokeshire and is usually seen between May to September moving through the water by pulsating movements of its bell. It grows up to 30cm in diameter and it can be distinguished from other species by the sixteen distinctive brown lines radiating from its central brown spot. It feeds on small zooplankton which are caught by the tentacles attached to the edges of its bell. The tentacles pass the plankton to the four long arms surrounding the central mouth. It is not unusual to

see a community of juvenile fish living in the tentacles of this species.

The compass jellyfish can inflict stings as can several other jellyfish found in these waters. If in doubt – DON'T TOUCH! The common jellyfish however (a neat transparent/white saucer up to 25cm diameter with four conspicuous round reproductive organs), which is often seen in large numbers, is harmless.

A jellyfish survey of the Irish Sea is being conducted by Swansea University and linked to national research by the Marine Conservation Society. The survey is connected to research on Leatherback turtles which feed on jellyfish. For more information on this and other marine recording schemes contact Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum.

Public input into species recording is particularly valuable when it comes to marine species as they are so often 'out of sight, out of mind'. There is still so much to learn about the amazing underwater world and its inhabitants and EVERYONE can help!

A short video on the underwater life of the Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation is now available on cd-rom. See the www.PembrokeshireMarineSAC.org.uk for details.

SAC officer Sue Burton is currently on maternity leave. Please contact the Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum team with any SAC queries and they will be able to redirect you as appropriate.

PEMBROKESHIRE DARWIN SCIENCE FESTIVAL

Marine Futures © **Pembrokeshire** is a community science programme organised by the Pembrokeshire Darwin Science Festival to encourage people to become aware of their natural environment and to engage in dialogue with scientists about issues of environmental concern.

Children, young people, parents and grandparents will be given the opportunity to take part in a step-by-step programme which includes:

- Field Visits
- A series of inclusive science-based workshops run in partnership with other local educational and marine organisations.
- Science projects from specially designed packs which can be carried out to a standard high enough to achieve CREST Awards for Science.
- A *Marine Futures* event at which projects, posters, and murals will be displayed and judged. Participants can meet scientists to discuss the issues and obtain careers advice.

The programme is available to community groups and associations, youth groups and projects that are located in areas of social exclusion and remote rural areas throughout Pembrokeshire. To book or find out more, telephone 01646 699200/fax 01646 697806 or go to www.darwincentre.com

UK NEWS

UK STOCKTAKE OF ICZM IS PUBLISHED

The valuable role of coastal forums, such as PCF, is given great prominence in the recently published UK Stocktake of Integrated Coastal Zone Management [ICZM].

In May 2002, the European Union adopted a Recommendation on implementing integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) in Europe. This asks Member States to undertake a national stocktaking of legislation, institutions and stakeholders involved in the management of the coastal zone and, based on this, to develop national strategies to deliver ICZM. In 2003 Defra and the devolved administrations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales joined together to undertake the stocktaking for the UK. The final report from the team of consultants, with their conclusions, was published on 14 April 2004.

The report provides a detailed analysis of how different organisations interact with each other at the coast by:

- describing the environmental, social and economic characteristics and natural resources of the UK's coast;
- identifying the different laws, agencies and other stakeholders that influence the planning and management of activities on the coast;
- analysing how these bodies integrate with each other and identifying any gaps, overlaps or opportunities.

The project team undertook extensive consultation with key coastal organisations (including statutory agencies, local authorities, industry, conservation bodies and recreational groups) through questionnaires and workshops.

The Stocktake findings present a mixed picture of how the principles of ICZM [as set out by the EU] are being implemented in the UK. Examples of good practice are highlighted but the current framework reflects the sectoral approach to managing coastal issues in the UK.

Particular prominence is given to the important role that voluntary local initiatives, such as PCF, have played in recent years and can continue to play in coming years:

“At the local level, a number of coastal forums, groups and partnerships have developed around the UK to resolve specific issues of concern. Their exact remit varies but almost all these initiatives possess a common purpose of promoting a more integrated approach to local coastal management by facilitating cooperation and resolving conflicts; raising awareness and understanding, and collecting and distributing information.”

“The Stocktake has demonstrated considerable support for coastal forums as a way of involving stakeholders, facilitating exchange of information, breaking down sectoral barriers and moving ICZM forward at a local level.”

Of particular interest to PCF is the prominence given to the question of the resourcing of Coastal Forums:

“Their current ability to deliver action and change is under debate, though reasons being given for this inability include the absence of long-term core funding, as opposed to project funding to support their work and staff. While there was clearly a variety of existing sources of potential funding, a central ‘pot’ and guidance on what is available was regarded as essential for the long term survival of these forums.”

“The need for a more secure funding arrangement to support ICZM is a key message of the Stocktake”

The next steps in developing the ICZM strategy for the UK will be outlined once the outcomes of related reviews on marine nature conservation and development in coastal waters have also been published.

The report of the Stocktake can be found at the DEFRA website

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/marine/iczm

MARINE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT CONSULTATION PAPER

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Welsh Assembly Government, the Scottish Executive and the Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland has jointly published a consultation paper on the marine historic environment. The paper sets out the key issues and questions in relation to marine historic

environment designation. The issues addressed in the paper include:

- The closest practical integration of marine and terrestrial historic environment protection;
- A statutory definition of 'marine historic asset';
- The inclusion, in a new designation, of all elements of the marine historic environment;
- The introduction of a single consents regime for all protected maritime sites; and
- The provision by the relevant heritage agency of 'statements of significance' for each protected site showing the reasons for protection, what is important about the site and indicating activities for which consent would be needed.

Overall, the proposals in the paper seek to provide:

- A positive approach to managing the marine historic environment, which will be transparent, inclusive, effective and sustainable and central to social, environmental and economic agendas at a local as well as national level; and
- A legislative framework that protects the marine historic environment but enables appropriate management techniques to be applied and to evolve.

This consultation follows on from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's consultation paper "Protecting our historic environment: Making the system work better" (July 2003) and the Welsh Assembly Government's "Protection of Historical Assets in Wales" (September 2003). These papers set out ideas for improving the system for protecting buildings, above and below ground archaeology and other land-based heritage assets, in England and Wales respectively, and promised a further consultation paper about the marine historic environment. The paper can be found on the website of the Department for culture, media and sport www.culture.gov.uk in the section on consultations. The consultation period lasts until 30 June 2004.

'NEW' COASTLINE 'NEW' SPECIES

The European Union has now got an extra five thousand kilometres of coastline as new countries joined on May 1st. The coastline has increased from 96,000 to 101,000km and EU policies and legislation now apply to these coastal zones.

New member states mean there are a selection of 'new' species in the coastal regions of Europe, including European bison (Poland), Stellar's eider (Lithuania and Estonia), and green turtle (Cyprus).

BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLANS UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

The Wildlife Trusts have produced a leaflet reviewing the strengths and weaknesses of a marine Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP) at a local level, looking at southeast England as a case study. The leaflet summarises a 52 page document called "*Giving fresh momentum to Marine BAP in South East England: The case for change*", published by the Wildlife Trust South East Marine Programme. Both leaflet and full document are available to download from www.southeastmarine.org.uk

HELP FIND THE GENTLE GIANTS

Members of the public are being encouraged to report any encounters with basking sharks and marine turtles to the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) to help increase awareness and knowledge of these spectacular creatures. Both of these gentle giants visit UK seas every summer to feed, yet very little is known about their life history and ecology. It is vital therefore to collect information on their numbers and distribution to aid management and provide recommendations for their protection.

The Basking Shark is the largest and perhaps the most spectacular fish in the North Atlantic, reaching 11 m in length and weighing up to seven tonnes. They glide through the surface waters filtering copepod plankton from thousands of litres of seawater to sustain their vast body mass.



© Gavin Parsons

The critically endangered Leatherback, the largest of the marine turtles, grows to 2.9 m in length. MCS, supported by the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) is promoting public participation in Basking Shark Watch. Since its initiation in 1987, MCS has received over 17,000 shark reports from the general public. Turtle Watch was launched more recently in 2001, but since then over 150 turtle sightings have been reported to TURTLE,

the national database of turtle sightings in UK waters.

But it's not just the giant sea creatures that MCS is interested in. Last year the National Jellyfish Survey was launched by MCS, with the aim of creating a national picture of the distribution of UK jellyfish – the Leatherback's food source. Hopefully the results will enable MCS to predict where foraging leatherbacks might occur when they visit our seas.

Any sightings can be recorded online or contact MCS for Basking Shark Watch recording cards, the UK Turtle Code or the MCS Jellyfish ID Guide. See www.mcsuk.org for all details.

EVENTS

PEMBROKESHIRE

June 26: Coastal Surgery, Pembrokeshire Fish Week (Fish Week: June 26 – July 3). Come and meet the team for a chat about any coastal issue of concern. On Milford Docks throughout the day.

July 10th: Coastal Surgery, Fishguard Festival. In West Wales Maritime Heritage marquee throughout the day.

August 4: 2pm – 4pm: Rocky Shores at Dale with Phil Wensley, FSC. Kids love turning over rocks to discover the amazing marine creatures. No one is more enthusiastic or more knowledgeable than Phil Wensley. Part of the Darwin Science Festival Field Events Programme 2004. Booking & payment in advance essential. Call 01646 699220.

August 14: 11am – 4.30pm: Cauldrons and Crinoids with Sid Howells, CCW. Discover the geology and scenery of the coast from Stack Rocks to Bullslaughter Bay – a 2 mile coastal walk including a steep descent into bay. Part of the Darwin Science Festival Field Events Programme 2004. Booking & payment in advance essential. Call 01646 699220.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

July 13: Intergrated River Basin / Catchement Management, Water Framework Directive, SOAS London
bob.earll.coastms.co.uk.

August 23 – 28: International Summer Course on Coastal Zone Management in the Atlantic Coast: the II Advanced Training Course, University of the Azores, Ponta Delgada, Portugal.
www.uac.pt/~geografia/WEB/2.htm

September 1 – 4: IXth conference on environmental education in Europe. Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, organised by the NGO "Ecosouthwest".

<http://ecosw.dir.bg/ceee2004>. Questions to ecosw@dir.bg.

September 13 – 17: Changes in land uses, Consequences on estuaries and coastal zones. ECSA 38th Symposium, co-organisation Seine-Aval programme and ECSA in collaboration with ERF, Rouen, France http://seine-aval.crihan.fr/ecsa38_symposium

September 20 – 22: Littoral 2004. Aberdeen, Scotland. Delivering sustainable coasts: Connecting Science and Policy. A joint EUROCOAST and EUCC-The Coastal Union Conference, supported by CoastNET, the UK's national coastal network.
www.littoral.org

USEFUL

PUBLICATIONS/WEBSITES

Local Authority Guide – Alan Michael, minister for Rural Affairs, has published a new guide to help local authorities manage the increasing recreational demands on England coasts and estuaries. See www.defra.gov.uk/news/2004/040331c.htm

The World's Coasts: Online (TWCO) has recently been published by Kluwer Academic Publishers. This online-only encyclopaedia is a collection of data on coasts from around the world, and edited by Dr. Eric Bird (University of Melbourne, Australia). For more information and sample chapters go to www.wkap.nl/subjects/TWCO.

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