



PEMBROKESHIRE COASTAL FORUM

At the heart of our coast's future

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the eighth edition of the Pembroke 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 February 2005.

PEMBROKESHIRE COASTAL FORUM NEWS

TEAM NEWS

The Pembroke Coastal Forum team has had its current funding package extended until March 2005. This means extra time to get existing projects finished. It is hoped a new funding package will be secured to enable the team to continue on new projects in the future.

NEW OFFICES

Pembroke Coastal Forum is now based in new offices outside the main Port Authority building. A fully fitted Portacabin houses the PCF team, Sue Burton (Pembroke Marine cSAC) and Stella Hooper (Maritime Heritage Project). John Warneford Activities Liaison Officer (Pembroke Outdoor Charter / Marine Code) is still in the main MHPA offices.

STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

A recent workshop was held with members of the Pembroke Concordat Group and PCF steering committee to establish how to develop

the ICZM strategy for the local coast and waterway.

The workshop was held with an independent facilitator and included a number of exercises to explore in detail some of the key elements of this work. Consensus was reached on a series of key themes for the report which were:

1. partnership – integrated working approach to the common goal and agreed vision
2. sustainable development
3. education / awareness raising
4. effective planning, policies and processes
5. research and information provision
6. strategic project development
7. community engagement

Pembroke Coastal Forum will now use all the information gathered over the past 3 years and produce a draft ICZM strategy framework for consultation in February 2005.

WEB NEWS

During the course of 2005 it is hoped that the website will get an overhaul to make it simpler and more user friendly. A lot of the information currently on there will be published in pdf format so the pages can be used more effectively.

RECREATIONAL AUDIT

This project has been carried out over the autumn to gather information about recreational activities at sites both in Pembroke and the southwest Wales region.

There has been a lot of local press coverage for this project, with articles appearing in many of the local papers and on 102.5 Radio Pembroke.

Part of the survey looked at how to deal with increasing pressures being brought to bear on some of the most popular haunts for outdoor activities, including surfing, jet skiing and caving. It is hoped this information will lead to better-placed marketing strategies under current and future tourism drives.

The project took place thanks to a partnership of organisations involved in the management and provision of sustainable recreation in southwest Wales and consultants Bowles Green Limited were awarded the contract to carry out the audit. The project overall was

coordinated by Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum.

MARINE CODE UPDATE

The Pembrokeshire Marine Code will get its full public launch during spring 2005, as the culmination of two years hard work. It is anticipated that this will be a high-profile event that should attract a lot of media attention – both local and national.

The code has been created to safeguard all local marine wildlife and there are simple guidelines for individuals and detailed, species-specific codes of conduct for commercial operators.

Recent new members signed up to the code are:

Tenby and District Sea Angling Club

Monkstone Jet ski and PWC Club

Pembrokeshire Boat Charters

For more information about the Pembrokeshire Marine Code contact Activities Liaison Officer John Warneford on 01646 696134, email jwarneford@mhpa.co.uk or log on to www.pembrokeshiremarinecode.org.uk

PEMBROKESHIRE OUTDOOR CHARTER GROUP

After a successful season of activities, members of the Pembrokeshire Outdoor Charter Group have been able to provide valuable information to aide the progress of the Recreational Audit (see previous page). With the information on numbers and locations used for activities provided by the group and other organisations it is hoped that an overview of activities on the coast can be produced which in turn will enable an effective management system to develop.

The POCG is soon to be involved in a number of beach clean ups of beaches around the coast. The POCG, alongside Keep Wales Tidy and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, are gearing up to remove graffiti from rocks that has appeared at a number of local beaches over the past months. In order to prevent further damage to the environment the group will utilise an environmentally friendly cleaning solution to remove the paint.

Throughout the winter months the POCG will also be developing the environmental awareness of outdoor activity instructors. Following a request to provide training for the Prince's Trust TOPS instructor course a number of dates have been arranged to cover activities including coasteering, climbing and

hill walking. John Warneford, Activity Liaison Officer for the POCG said: 'By providing training to new and existing instructors we are able to add value to the experience received by participants and raise awareness at the same time which they can then pass on to the public during activities.'

If you would like more information about the POCG or would like to be involved please contact John Warneford on 01646 696134 or email jwarneford@mhpa.co.uk

LOCAL NEWS

LNG GETS GO AHEAD

Pembrokeshire County Council approved plans this autumn for the company Dragon to store hazardous substances at the Waterston Petroplus plant.

Dragon will be a smaller development than the South Hook LNG plant.

For information on the Dragon LNG developments you can ring: 01646 691273 between 8.30am and 3pm or log onto www.energyforwales.co.uk

For more information on South Hook LNG developments log onto www.southhooklng.co.uk

WEATHER CHAOS FOR SEALS AND MANX SHEARWATERS

Bad weather during the autumn is thought to be the reason for the high number of seals stranded in Pembrokeshire and the rest of the south and west Wales coast.

The Llys Nini Animal Centre in Swansea had already rescued double the amount of baby seals for the time of year during September and was anticipating as many as 50 before the end of 'seal season' in the New Year.

The injured seals had gashes and cuts consistent with being driven onto the rocks through storm conditions.

They are looked after at the centre in Swansea before being taken to the RSPCA seal 'hospital' in Norfolk.

Any member of the public who spots an injured seal should contact the National RSPCA 24 hour emergency hotline: 08705 555999. For more info on the Llys Nini Animal Centre go to www.llysnini-rspca.org.uk

The weather also adversely affected the birds of Pembrokeshire, with a large number of Manx Shearwaters being rescued by the RSPCA after a member of the public saw them stranded on Newgale beach.

More than 60 were rescued alive and taken to the West Hatch treatment centre in Bristol.

DEAD PORPOISE FOUND IN NORTH PEMBROKESHIRE

A porpoise was found dead on the beach at Cwm-yr-Eglys in October. Early indications suggest it died following an attack from a Bottlenose dolphin, due to its broken ribs.

WHALE MYSTERY

A Sowerby's beaked whale beached at the Parrog in Newport (Pembrokeshire) earlier this autumn was just one of two whales washed up on the Welsh coast in the last few months.

This particular whale had already been stranded at Llangrannog in Ceredigion, where it had been rescued and returned to the water.

Unfortunately it did not survive being stranded for a second time at The Parrog.

Cliff Benson, chairman of the Sea Trust of South and West Wales said: "These whales are very rare. There is no way they would be in the relatively shallow seas around us. The last time one was stranded here was in 1938. It's very worrying."

Another Sowerby's was found at Rosslare, along with a Minke whale, at the end of August. A dead fin whale was also discovered on mudflats near Newport (Gwent).

TURTLE WASHED UP AT PENDINE

A dead Leatherback turtle was found washed up at Pendine Sands in October following storms. A ranger at Pendine beach found the turtle, which measured 1.6 metres in length.

KEEP WALES TIDY CLEAN COASTS PROJECT

The Keep Wales Tidy 'Clean Coasts Progress Report' for the two year period up to March shows that 1256 bags of rubbish were collected along Pembrokeshire's coast by volunteers.

There are 2 complementary elements to the Clean Coasts Project. The Coastcare Project, which was piloted in Pembrokeshire, and the Green Coast Award.

Both have shown considerable expansion over the past two years, with the most notable achievement being the work carried out by volunteers who devoted hours of their free time to 'adopt' and improve beaches in their locality.

The report shows that in Pembrokeshire 28 Coastcare groups spent 3540.5 hours on 306 projects and removed 1256 bags of rubbish from local beaches. These figures highlight the scale of the problem that marine litter poses to all of those who live and work around the Pembrokeshire coastline, and the threat that is ever present to local marine wildlife.

Other examples of projects carried out by Coastcare groups include surveys, the promotion of responsible dog walking, access improvements and awareness raising.

The Green Coast Award is a symbol of environmental excellence. It aims to acknowledge, promote and protect the environment of rural beaches in Wales and Ireland. Since 2002, three more of Pembrokeshire's beaches gained Green Coast Award status bringing the total to 12. With constantly improving water quality and the adoption of beaches by Coastcare groups, it is likely that more Pembrokeshire beaches will achieve Green Coast status next year.

The Clean Coasts Progress Report can be downloaded from www.keepwalestidy.org. If anyone would like any further information on Coastcare or the Green Coast Award then please contact Chris Corcoran or William Low on 01646 681949, or email pembrokeshire@keepwalestidy.org

RADAR SYSTEM GIVES CLEAR IMAGES

A pc based marine radar system and low motion buoy has been developed by Pembroke Dock based Ledwood Mechanical Engineering, in conjunction with Pembrokeshire College.

The Iris radar system can be used for coastal surveillance, defence purposes and to monitor sea traffic as well as many other uses where currently expensive patrol vessels are utilised. It is capable of carrying a much clearer image - onshore and offshore - than has previously been possible with similarly priced equipment.

It was developed as a result of collaboration between the private and public sector and supported by the Knowledge Exploitation Fund over the two and a half year period with total financial support exceeding £300,000.

It has enabled Pembrokeshire College to establish a radar network and a marine electronics laboratory in Milford Haven in support of the work undertaken for the project. These facilities will now be used to facilitate technology transfer within the area.

COASTAL BUS SERVICE IS ONE OF THE BEST

Pembrokeshire's coastal bus network has been praised as 'among the very best and most innovative practice in the UK today' by a leading Sustainable Transport consultant.

Colin Speakman was commenting on proposals by the Department of Transport to develop a transport best practice guide for National Parks in England.

The Puffin network now extends to five coastal routes, three of which are year-round services. Kirsty Morris, Greenways Officer, said: "The buses carried a record number 40,439 passengers this year and due to popular demand, winter services are running once again.

"Pembrokeshire Greenways is now looking to the future and plans to continue to improve the current network of coastal buses and extend opportunities inland, building on the success of the 'Preseli Green Dragon' trial service this summer."

These buses have been developed in recent years by Pembrokeshire County Council in association with Pembrokeshire Greenways partnership and with financial support from Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority.

The Poppit Rocket, Strumble Shuttle and Coastal Cruiser are now running three days a week throughout the winter. Timetables can be downloaded from the website www.pembrokeshiregreenways.co.uk or ordered through Kirsty Morris at Pembrokeshire Greenways on 01437 776313 or greenways@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

AWARD FOR COAST PATH PROJECT

A project to restore heath land on the Pembrokeshire coast path has been recognized with a Biodiversity Award.

The Marloes Coast Project linked conservation, farming and industry.

It was presented this autumn to Pete Smithies of Trehill farm, Marloes, by Assembly Environment Minister Carwyn Jones.

COASTAL CREATURE FEATURE

Jewel anemone – *Corynactis viridis*

This small anemone (up to 2.5cm across) really is an underwater gem! It is brilliantly coloured and can be green, pink, yellow, orange, red, brown or white in various combinations. Usually the disc, tentacles and tentacle tips are contrasting colours. The anemone has up to 100 tentacles, each ending in a small knob.



Corynactis viridis occurs from the lower shore and into the subtidal to about 50 metres depth (sometimes deeper) on rocks, in caves and beneath overhangs where it is shaded from light. The anemone is often found in dense aggregations especially on vertical rock faces in areas of high water movement (tidal currents and wave surge) where it forms extensive dazzling sheets of colour. This anemone is found around the south and west coasts of Britain and all around Ireland. Its northern limit is Shetland. A short video on the underwater life of the Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation is now available on cd-rom. See the website www.PembrokeshireMarineSAC.org.uk for further details.

Sue Burton is the officer for Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation. She is currently on maternity leave and due to return in January. In the meantime, please contact the Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum team with any SAC queries and they will be able to redirect you as appropriate.

UK NEWS

A draft of the Environment Strategy will be ready in Summer 2005 for public consultation. If you would like to find out more about its progress, visit website: www.countryside.wales.gov.uk/environmentstrategy

WALES COASTAL MARITIME PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD

A recent meeting of the WCMP was held in Swansea. Guest speakers outlined current work on the Environment Strategy for Wales, Water Framework Directive and Fisheries Strategy for Wales (details below). The group also discussed in detail the proposed ICZM conference to be held in early 2005 where PCF will be giving a presentation on local ICZM developments to date. The partnership is in the process of producing a detailed paper on ICZM, describing what it means for us in Wales, who should be involved and what an ICZM strategy might look like. Once completed the paper will be available on the PCF website.

ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY FOR WALES

The Assembly Government's Environment Strategy Team recently invited a number of representatives from a wide range of organisations to participate in workshops, which were held in Llandudno, Swansea and Llandrindod Wells. Issues which are considered important to the people of Wales were identified at the workshop and will be carefully considered in drawing up an Environment Strategy for Wales. Key topics were prioritised with detailed consideration being given to what were perceived to be the most important.

Top environmental issues included: education; sustainable agriculture; local food production; biodiversity; air quality; climate change; land use planning as a regulator of activity; energy generation and use; sustainable construction / development; landscape; transport and waste minimization.

Although issues were discussed in detail, little emphasis was placed on coastal related concerns. The coastal strip makes up approximately 40% of Wales' total area (8,000 square miles) and its importance in terms of the environment and economy should be highlighted.

FISHERIES STRATEGY FOR WALES

The Welsh Assembly Government intends to produce an Overarching Welsh Fisheries Strategy aiming to ensure a sustainable future for Welsh Fisheries.

For further information and to contact stakeholder representatives with your views, go to website: www.countryside.wales.gov.uk/fisheries or email: Fisheries@wales.gsi.gov.uk.

WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE RISK ASSESSMENTS

In accordance with Article 5 of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the Environment Agency (EA) is carrying out a first iteration of River Basin Characterisation assessment, part of which aims to review the impact of human activity on the status of surface waters and groundwater. These include rivers, lakes, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater.

Risk assessments have been carried out on the magnitude of activity or pressure exerted on water bodies, along with the susceptibility of the environment. The results of the review will help the EA to refocus and improve current monitoring programmes in order to meet the WFD requirements.

Factors affecting various water bodies in Pembrokeshire, which are likely to affect their ability to meet required WFD objectives by 2015 include: pollution of terrestrial ecosystems; acidification of rivers; diffuse phosphorus; pollution by TBT (Tributyltin – found in anti-fouling paint); land claim; shoreline reinforcements affecting morphology; construction of weirs and sluices; abstraction and flow affecting groundwater ecosystems; and, invasion by alien species (e.g. water plants).

More information can be found at website: www.characterisationqualityreview.org.uk.

CATCHING THE WAVE STRATEGY LAUNCHED

The National Assembly has set out its vision for the future of Wales as a premier watersports destination in Europe.

The document *Catching the Wave* was launched at the Southampton boat show in September by the Assembly's Economic Development Minister, Andrew Davies.

The document sets out the goal for a 40% expansion of the watersport and marine economy over the next five years.

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.seatrust.org.uk - a section of the wildlife trust South and West Wales

www.iwdg.ie - the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group, dedicated to the conservation and better understanding of whales, dolphins and porpoise in Irish waters

www.llysnini-rspca.org.uk - the RSPCA Llys Nini branch serves the former Mid and West Glamorgan area of South Wales

www.southhooklmg.co.uk - information on the LNG plans for the South Hook site

www.energyforwales.co.uk - information on the Dragon LNG plans at the Waterston site

www.countryside.wales.gov.uk - for information on the Environment Strategy for Wales

www.countryside.wales.gov.uk/fisheries - for more on the Welsh Fisheries Strategy

www.characterisationqualityreviw.org.uk - for more on the Water Framework Directive Risk Assessments

www.keepwalestidy.org - for details on the Keep Wales Tidy Clean Coasts Project

EVENTS

PEMBROKESHIRE, NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

ICZM Conference, Swansea. 3rd February 2005. Free conference looking at current developments on the ICZM Strategy for Wales and how it can be implemented. Further details available shortly on Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum website.

Coastal Futures 2005, 19 – 20th January 2005, London. Topical Issues and future developments in relation to sustainable management of our coastal and marine waters. For more information go to www.coastms.co.uk

Shingle Currency Seminar, January 25th 2005, Greenwich. Free seminar looking at the marine aggregates industry and its interaction with sea bed habitats and wildlife. See website for more information www.southeastmarine.org.uk

International Conference on Coastal Conservation and Management in the Atlantic and Mediterranean, April 17 – 20th, 2005. Vilamoura, Algarve, Portugal

For more information go to website: <http://iccm2005.no.sapo.pt> or email iccm2005_as@aeiou.pt

PLEASE NOTE – Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum's Annual General Meeting, which is usually held in December, has been put back until early 2005. Members will be kept informed of the date nearer the time.

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