

**Coastal and Marine Working Group**  
**Renslade House, Exeter**  
**13<sup>th</sup> December 2007**

**Attendees** – Roger Covey (Chair, Natural England), Lyn Jenkins (Environment Agency), Richard White (Devon Wildlife Trust), Emma-Rose Herrera (Environment Agency), Alex Bolton (Torbay Coast & Countryside Trust), Douglas Herdson (National Aquarium), Gavin Black (Natural England), Chris Davis (Natural England), Matt Hamilton (Avon Wildlife Trust), Neil Sherwood (Biodiversity South West).

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Actions</b>
<b>1. Apologies</b>	
Keith Hiscock (Marine Biological Association), Naomi Brookes (BioSW)	
<b>2. SW Coastal Monitoring Project</b>	
<p>Lyn Jenkins introduced the South West Coastal Monitoring Project. It is a 5 year (started in April 2006), £7.2 million programme funded by Defra to monitor the SW coast, including topographic beach surveys, ecological monitoring, wave height, erosion and a complete aerial survey. The Environment Agency lead on the aerial mapping and the habitat mapping.</p> <p>The data is handled and managed by Plymouth Coastal Observatory, which has been set up at University of Plymouth. All data will be publicly available and will be comparable around the coast from Portland, Dorset to Sharpness Dock in Gloucester, Gloucestershire. Habitat mapping will be taking place from Christchurch, Dorset through to Gloucester (the Isles of Scilly will be included). All habitats and land use from lowest low water up to break of slope, including tidal flood plain and SSSIs.</p> <p>Aerial photography has been delayed due to the weather, but will need to have been completed by next year. Photos will be 1:2500 resolution and will pick up habitats such as eelgrass. Habitats will be mapped according to integrated habitat classification, and to a high level (between phase 2½ and NVC). Peter Brett Associates got the contract which should be finished by December 2009. Ground truthing has been sub-contracted to the Local Record Centres.</p> <p>There is an issue with OS and the use of Mastermap, meaning that only people with Mastermap licenses can view the data. High resolution jpegs could be posted on the website but they won't be interactive. There are however sufficient people who hold a Mastermap license to cover this situation (NE, EA and at least 25 LA's).</p> <p>The Habitat Creation steering group will be reconvened, Gavin Black</p>	

<p>will represent Natural England on this group.</p> <p>This work will establish a baseline for future work. The data could also be used to revise the South West Nature Map.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to link WFD monitoring SAC monitoring, a workshop may be needed.</p> <p>Chris Davis asked whether the islands around the South West coast, for example Lundy Island, are included. Lyn Jenkins said that this would need to be checked, but they may not have done because the project's primary driver is flood and coastal defence.</p>	<p><b>Lyn Jenkins</b></p>
<p><b>3. SW Regional Habitat Creation Programme</b></p>	
<p>Targets to create 200ha of 'wet' habitat in the South West for the next 3 years have been set. This is replacement habitat for coastal squeeze (development and climate change). This also has a direct link to flood risk management.</p> <p>A confidential list was circulated which identified opportunities for habitat creation. There is a larger list is being kept that includes site with no Environment Agency involvement. Chris Davis requested a copy of this list, Lyn Jenkins agreed to forward a copy once it had been updated. Lyn Jenkins asked the group to give thoughts, ideas and other projects that should be noted by 25<sup>th</sup> January 2008.</p>	<p><b>Lyn Jenkins</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p>
<p><b>4. NERC Marine Guidance</b></p>	
<p>Natural England have provided funds for a contract to be issued to produce draft guidance on the NERC act, this will also include workshops and be aimed at organisations such as harbour bodies and sea fisheries. It may also be a lever to get these organisations to join this group.</p> <p>The contract specification for this contract was circulated to the group. Please send comments on this to Roger Covey as soon as possible, please also send any potential contractors that you may know.</p>	<p><b>All</b></p>
<p><b>5. Lyme Bay Consultation</b></p>	
<p>It was agreed that the Marine and Coastal Working Group would respond to the Lyme Bay consultation on behalf of Biodiversity South West. Richard White reported back on what has already been done by the biodiversity sector, including a 7,000 strong postcard petition to Hilary Benn MP and a 3,000 strong electronic response to the consultation from the general public.</p> <p>The group agreed on the content of the response, recommending Option C. Richard White will draft a response and circulate it for comment before it is summated.</p>	<p><b>Action completed 18/12/07</b></p>
<p><b>6. Future Action?</b></p>	
<p>Should this group be an information exchange or a good for facilitating action? The group's work programme needs to be</p>	

addressed and our top priorities listed. Roger Covey will email the group's work programme to the group to see if it is still current.	<b>Roger Covey</b>
It was suggested that the group could lead on adding the marine/coastal elements to South West Nature Map. The group should contact Louise Liebernecht about 'Finding Sanctuary' and Neil Constable about Natural England's coastal access work.	
<b>7. AOB</b>	
Louise Liebernecht and Neil Constable should be invited to the next Coastal and Marine Working Group meeting.	<b>Roger Covey</b>
<b>8. Date of next meeting</b>	
The next meeting will be some time in March, a date will be set nearer the time.	