

As a general point CE endeavours to consult with local clubs and associations before commenting on environmental issues, however the time allowed is often very short.

1 Thames Estuary (AYC of Southend on Sea area)

- 1.1 CE attended the PLA River Users Consultative Forum (Estuary) meeting at Gravesend on 24th November. Items of interest were:
- The PLA have written to all Clubs on the Thames setting out the arrangements for recreational craft over the period of the Olympics and Para-Olympics next year. Basically the Thames will not be closed to recreational craft; however they must have a booked berth and apply for a permit or be transiting to beyond Richmond and apply for a transit permit. CE has arranged for the notice to appear on the RYA East Web-site;
 - The Police Special Branch are asking recreational boaters in the Thames region (ie all the Kent, Essex and South Suffolk coasts to act as eyes and ears and report any suspicious activity and/or vessels to them via the Coastguard on VHF Channel 16, or phone 999;
 - Channel dredging for the new London Gateway Dubai Port will start in January 2012, along Sea Reach and up the Black Deep to the Sunk VTS;
 - The PLA closed off the Southern entry to Fisherman's Gat for some 12 to 18 hours to allow for the laying of that portion of the London Array export cable. London Array Stakeholder Notice 50 refers;
 - There have been no incidents involving recreational craft in the estuary over the last sixth months.
- 1.2 CE attended a workshop meeting of the Thames Estuary Partnership Recreation Action Group to decide on the future role and tasks of the Group. The results should soon be circulated to attendees.

2 Crouch and Roach (CAYF area)

- 2.1 CE will attend a meeting of the Crouch Harbour Authority Advisory Group in Burnham on 7th December.

3 Blackwater and Colne Estuaries (BaCSPA area)

- 3.1 Total removal of the 'wings' of the Bradwell barrier wall, which was postponed to the Autumn following a change of methodology to make siltation less likely, is progressing.
- 3.2 There have been no minutes received of the Colne Estuary Partnership Advisory Group (CEPAG) meeting on the 7th July at Wivenhoe which CE was unable to attend.
- 3.3 CE Chaired the Brightlingsea Harbour Advisory Group meeting at Brightlingsea on 4th October. Items of interest were:
- Continuing problems are being experienced with the silt removal system in the small marina by the new flats. The installed pumps are not coping and additional arrangements are being investigated;
 - The Harbour Board are to run a euro-funded investigation into the long term future of the harbour;
 - An application has been made to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) for a licence to install additional pontoons in February/March 2012;
- There is an investigation into the provision of wet storage for dinghies that are tenders to yachts on the moorings.

4 Hamford Water, the Stour & Orwell and Suffolk Estuaries Deben, Ore/Alde and Blyth. (HASA areas)

- 4.1 CE attended the Harwich Haven Harbour Liaison Meeting at Harwich on 29th November. Items of interest are:
- There have been no incidents with recreational vessels in the last year. However a number of recreational vessels have been reported and spoken to for taking the incorrect course or action in relation to shipping in or crossing the main channel. Several of these boats were foreign;
 - The HHA launch coxswains have or are taking RYA Coastal Skipper qualifications;
 - The overall rates of intertidal erosion are reducing, showing that mitigation measures are working;
 - A 10 year summary report on erosion and beneficial sediment replacement is being prepared. Beneficial replacement is now running at 130,000 tonnes per year;
 - A new offshore disposal site is being investigated nearer to Harwich so as to shorten the dredger round trip.
- 4.2 There has still been no meeting of the Hamford Water Management Committee.

4.3 CE attended the Deben Estuary Partnership meeting on 26th November at Woodbridge CC. The HASA representatives will no doubt cover this meeting in their report. There are however items of primarily environmental import:

- The presenter from the MMO gave assurance that the MMO is unlikely to take action on MCZ sites unless there is good supporting scientific evidence;
- Progress has been made on the management of saltmarsh off Sutton Hoo;
- Action on the MCZ process will not override existing plans;
- Local funding and a local contractor will be employed on Ramsholt restoration from October 2011;
- Our concerns over small scale dredging licensing and fees, were supported by the Chairman of the meeting, Councillor Jane Burch, and the general meeting;
- The need for local community involvement in flood measures under the new Flood and Coastal Erosion Management (FCERM) was emphasised and supported.

5 Lowestoft, Great Yarmouth and the Broads (N&SBA area)

5.1 Nothing to report.

6 Wash, Ouse, Nene and North Norfolk Coast (GOBA, ANRC & NWNSA areas)

6.1 Following the visit of Gus Lewis and Caroline Price to Wells and their discussion with the MMO, we are still waiting for a response from the Enforcement Officer (MMO) concerning the situation in Wells Harbour where dinghy sailing has been hampered by the harbour works which are more extensive than originally given consent.

7 Cambridgeshire (B&CAA area)

7.1 Nothing to report.

8 Shore Line Management Plans and General Flood Management

8.1 Ministerial approval of all Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs), which also cover Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) is still outstanding and not expected before the end of the year.

8.2 A new consistent groundwater flood warning service was launched in October but CE has no details so far.

9 Water Framework Directive (WFD)

9.1 CE met the Anglian River Basin WFD Project director on 28th September in Ipswich to discuss progress. As expected there is very little for us to do at this stage but soon we will start discussions on the next phase plan which must be completed by 2015.

10 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs)

10.1 The targets for the MCZ process have been extended and we now expect the Defra Ministerial decisions to be available by August 2012 with public consultation in late 2012 into 2013. We may however get an indication early next year of those MCZs that NE/JNCC are passing forward for Defra and Ministerial consideration.

10.2 As stated last time, it will be very important that every one of us studies the detailed proposals during the consultation period and takes part in the consultation either directly or through CE.

11 Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)

11.1 CE is still trying to get to grips with the work on the system of Marine Spatial Planning with consent/planning permission being controlled by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) for the two East Coast Areas. This is proving to be not easy.

12 Offshore Renewables (Wind Farms etc)

12.1 Offshore work on construction of phase 1 of the London Array project continues and to date 90 monopiles and transition pieces have been installed plus the two sub-stations. Progress would seem to be accelerating but still to be behind the scheduled completion of phase one by the end of September. Our advice remains that the use of

Foulger's Gat should be avoided if possible until the work completes. Relevant NTMs and our advice are on the RYA East website.

12.2 Installation of the Greater Gabbard site is proceeding and as of November (the last report received) some 138 Towers are complete with a further 16 monopiles and transition pieces awaiting their towers. Both substations are installed and extensive cable laying has been completed but a number of the cables are not yet buried. There has been positive identification of a UXO South of the Northern array and thus in the North East TSS.

13 Presentations

13.1 No new bookings.

14 Nuclear Power Stations

14.1 No new items.

Chris Edwards 7th December 2011