

# TAW TORRIDGE ESTUARY FORUM

NEWSLETTER UPDATE – 2nd. October, 2006



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## MOORINGS CODE OF PRACTICE:

The Moorings Code of Practice has now been finalised, and can be found on the TTEF website: [www.ttef.org.uk](http://www.ttef.org.uk) and downloaded from there. **We should be grateful if you would circulate this Moorings Code of Practice as widely as possible, to any individuals or organisations with an interest in moorings.**

## INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT (ICZM) CONSULTATION RESPONSE:

We have sent in responses to the ICZM consultation, and copies of the response are available from me upon request.

## NORTH DEVON AREAS OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY FORUM: "IT'S OUR COAST"

**Sunday 8th. October 2006 – Watermouth Castle  
10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.**

Entrance to Watermouth Castle and Family Theme Park will be free for the day to celebrate this AONB event, which is for local people and families to come along and enjoy the North Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty's (AONB) very first coastal event.

The day will include fun workshops, demonstrations, competitions and prizes, a nature trail, guided walks, rock climbing with Royal Marine Commandos and much more. There will also be a special presentation and an opportunity to meet presenters from the BBC 'Coast' programme, including Alice Roberts who recently appeared on the 'Big Royal Dig'.

Organisations involved on the day will include Natural

England, Surf Life Saving Clubs, Lundy Island, the National Trust, the Northern Devon Coast and Countryside Service, the North Devon Marketing Bureau, South West Water, the RNLI, the Marine Biological Association, the TTEF, and many more.

There will also be two formal presentations during the day; one on 'Shifting Shores', explaining about how climate change is affecting our coast, and one giving you an opportunity to meet the BBC 'Coast' presenters and to ask questions. Both of these presentations will be held in Watermouth Castle's Fountain Theatre

For further details about the event, or details about how to reserve places for the free workshops for children and adults and formal presentations, please contact the AONB Team on 01237 423655 or visit:

[www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk](http://www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk)

(There will be a small optional charge on the day for anybody wishing to have unlimited use of the manned rides situated in the Castle Gardens)

### NOTE:

**Tony Pratt will be running the TTEF stand at this event, and he would be very grateful for volunteers to assist him.. If you could spare an hour or two to help on the day, please contact him on:**

**Tel: (01271) 371340 or e-mail: [tonvp0@tinypworld.co.uk](mailto:tonvp0@tinypworld.co.uk)**

## FREMINGTON LOCAL NATURE RESERVES:

The Northern Devon Coast & Countryside Service invited me to attend the opening of two Local Nature Reserves in Fremington on Sunday, 30th. July 2006. It was a beautiful day, and we were taken on conducted walks around the two reserves – Mary Breeds led the walk around Lovell's Field and Fremington Pill, and Peter Mullen and David Gayton led the walk to Leat's Meadow. A very enjoyable day.

## MARITIME VOLUNTEER SERVICE:

It is intended to open a Unit of the Maritime Volunteer Service to cover the Taw Torridge Estuary and the North Devon area. The MVS is a recognised national maritime training organisation, involving a uniformed body of civilian volunteers. The service exists to keep British Maritime skills alive, and to train others in seamanship, navigation, marine engineering, radio operation and operational support. MVS operates as a registered charity.

If you are interested in learning more about MVS, or in becoming a member, please contact Captain Paul Fronteras by phone on (01271) 860460. Paul will also be giving a report on the MVS at the next TTEF meeting.

Further information on the MVS can also be found on the websites: [www.mvs.org.uk](http://www.mvs.org.uk) and [www.ttef.org.uk](http://www.ttef.org.uk)

## ENGLISH NATURE: REPORT ON GRAZING REGIME AT BRAUNTON BURROWS:

James Diamond has forwarded to me a copy of English Nature's Research Information Note on the effects of a mixed grazing regime on sand dune vegetation communities at Braunton Burrows (C. FitzGibbon, S. Albon and P. Robinson. 2005)

English Nature's viewpoint is: "the results indicate that a mixed grazing regime will help achieve 'favourable condition' status at Braunton Burrows. However, it is

unlikely that such a regime alone, in the absence of other management practices, will be successful in achieving 'favourable condition' status, primarily due to its limited impact on some scrub species. This may have been due to the relatively low levels of grazing in some years. Higher grazing densities may increase the habitat quality. We suggest a combination of extensive mixed grazing and mechanical control of established scrub stands as the most appropriate management technique to reduce scrub frequency and maintain species-rich sand dune communities."

A copy of this Research Information Note is **attached**. Further information is available on English Nature's website: [www.english-nature.org.uk](http://www.english-nature.org.uk) and a printed copy of the full report can be obtained from EN's Enquiry Service on (01733) 455100/101/102 or e-m: [enquiries@english-nature.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@english-nature.org.uk)

#### NATURAL ENGLAND

From 1st. October 2006, English Nature, the Rural Development Service and the landscape, access and recreation elements of the Countryside Agency have now combined as an integrated agency under the title "Natural England".

#### DEFRA: ACCESS NEWSLETTERS 19 & 20:

Newsletter 19: Lessons Learned Review – CROW Act  
CROW Act Guidance  
Draft Diversity Action Plan

Newsletter 20: Consultation on Access to English Coast  
Draft Diversity Action Plan

Copies of the above newsletters can be found on Defra's website: [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

#### DEFRA: CONSERVATION OF LOBSTERS:

Defra is consulting about a proposal to increase the minimum landing size (MLS) of lobsters from 87mm. to 90mm. carapace length, and whether this should be undertaken in one stage or in incremental steps. It is also asking for views on additional measures such as setting a maximum landing size.

The closing date for this consultation is Friday, 17th. November 2006 and more information can be obtained from the Defra website: [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

#### DEFRA: BASS MEASURES:

On 10th. August 2006, Ben Bradshaw announced his decision to increase the minimum landing size for bass from 36cm. to 40cm., with an accompanying minimum mesh size increase, when targeting bass, from 90mm. to 100mm. These measures will come into effect from 6th. April 2007, and apply to commercial and recreational fishermen. It is also intended that the landing size will be further increased to 45cm., but this will be subject to a review in 2010 of the measures announced on 10th. August 2006.

More information is available at:

<http://defra.gov.uk/news/2006/060810a.htm>

#### INVASIVE WEEDS SYMPOSIUM:

The Westcountry Rivers Trust is organising a joint, one-

day Symposium, in conjunction with the Cornwall Knotweed Forum, at The Eden Project on Thursday, 26th. October, 2006. For anyone, who is interested, the registration form can be downloaded from:

<http://www.wrt.org.uk/projects/invasiveconf.htm>

or e-mail: [mark@wrt.org.uk](mailto:mark@wrt.org.uk)

#### BARNSTAPLE WESTERN BYPASS:

Newsletter 15(June/July) can be found on the website:

[www.barnstaplebypass.com](http://www.barnstaplebypass.com)

#### NORTH DEVON VOLUNTARY MARINE CONSERVATION AREA NEWSLETTER:

This newsletter can be found on:

[www.devonwildlifetrust.org](http://www.devonwildlifetrust.org)

#### FULLABROOK DOWN WINDFARM PUBLIC ENQUIRY:

I have been notified that the Public Enquiry for this proposal is to commence on 28th. November 2006 at The Guildhall, Barnstaple.

If you have already expressed an interest in the application, and wish to either speak at the enquiry or to submit written evidence, you should contact:

Ms. Diane Walker  
Programme Officer  
Fullabrook Windfarm Public Enquiry  
C/o Room 2121  
Department of Trade and Industry  
1, Victoria Street  
London. SW1H 0ET

#### DATES OF TTEF MEETINGS FOR 2006/7:

Monday, 16th. October 2006 – Civic Centre, Barnstaple  
Monday, 15th. January 2007 (AGM) – Town Hall, Bideford  
All meetings begin at 7.00 p.m.



Rose Day  
Chairman  
Taw Torridge Estuary Forum  
The Crow's Nest  
Marine Parade  
INSTOW  
Bideford,  
North Devon. EX39 4JN  
Telephone: (01271) 860686  
e-mail: [Geoff.Rose.Day@ukgateway.net](mailto:Geoff.Rose.Day@ukgateway.net)  
website: [www.ttef.org.uk](http://www.ttef.org.uk)