

## 1 Thames Estuary (AYC of Southend on Sea/Interclub area)

1.1 The next meeting of the PLA Thames River Users Consultative Forum (Estuary & Lower) is scheduled for Gravesend on 21<sup>st</sup> May. CE will attend.

## 2 Crouch and Roach (CAYF area)

2.1 The next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

## 3 Blackwater and Colne Estuaries (BaCASA area)

3.1 CE attended a meeting of the Mersea Harbour Protection Trust at WMYC on 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

Items of interest were:

- The purpose of the Trust is to produce a project plan, business case and raise funds, so as to use beneficial dredgings from Harwich Harbour to recharge the seaward side of Cob Marsh, Packing Marsh, Old Hall Point and the East of Tollesbury Wick, and thus provide protection from rising seas of West Mersea Harbour and the route into Tollesbury Harbour.
- The recharge banks will be created by pumping gravely spoil some metres in front of the walls so that natural processes will fill in the intervening space with mud and or saltmarsh.
- RYA East will provide moral support as the aim is consistent with our remit to promote Recreational Boating in the Region.
- The project launched in January 2014 has been granted charitable status and this meeting was to report on progress.
- Some £49k has been raised and a further £15k is being sourced from local grants and or European funds. In addition some £42k of pro bono work has been promised by the University of Essex, the RSPB and EWT for the required ecological and bird surveys, and monitoring.
- Very detailed site surveys of the proposed recharge sites have been undertaken and charts produced that can be overlaid on historic charts.
- Discussions have been held with local MPs and Councillors, and Regulators including the MMO the EA and Natural England.
- Consultants have been appointed for the complex Local Planning and Marine Licence application processes.
- Some problems of ownership of the reclaimed land remain to be resolved between parties including the RSPB and the Crown Estates, but these are not seen as insurmountable.
- There is time pressure because this is the last dredge programme for Harwich that will provide the necessary gravely spoil. An official expression of interest for this spoil has been registered with HHA's consultants.

3.2 The next meeting of the Brightlingsea Harbour Leisure Users is scheduled for 26<sup>th</sup> March at Brightlingsea. CE will attend.

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

4.1 CE was unable to attend the meeting of the HWMC at W&FYC on 5<sup>th</sup> March.  
The minutes are not yet available.

4.2 CE attended the meeting of the Stour & Orwell Estuary Management Group in Ipswich on 16<sup>th</sup> January  
Items of interest are:

- Regulatory Authorities Monitoring meeting to be absorbed into the S&OEMG Meeting and the Group will aim to produce a single Management Plan and one Action Plan; (*sensible move to reduce overall number of meetings*);
- A Bird Disturbance Working Group is to be set up to examine this particular aspect on the Estuaries; (*CE is a member of this WG to ensure a balanced view is taken of alleged disturbance of birds by recreational vessels*); *Post Meeting Note*: First meeting will be on 24<sup>th</sup> March at Ashbocking.
- CE was assured that monitoring of speeding by vessels is to continue, mainly by ABP;

- There are plans to put new 33kv electricity cables under both the Orwell and the Stour as part of the updating of the National Grid;
- The next meeting is scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> May and the Annual Forum will be held at Suffolk Food Hall on 14<sup>th</sup> July.

4.3 CE attended a meeting of the Alde & Ore Estuary Partnership at Orford on the 5<sup>th</sup> February as an observer. The main item of interest to us:

- Slaughden Bend the weak point on the Ore/Alde where the coast is very thin between the river and the sea. A breach here would be catastrophic for both Aldeburgh Y C and Slaughden S C and indeed for all boating on the Ore/Alde. (*but see MLA2015-00067 under item 11 below*).
- Currently shingle is being bulldozed along the beach to thicken the coast here. There is a project in place to create groynes, as exist further South down the coast, but these new ones will be made of deposited rock.
- This should hold for some years once the beach has also been built up between the groynes. A longer term solution is being studied.

4.4 The next meeting of the Sunk VTS Users Group is scheduled for 29<sup>th</sup> April at PLA Offices, Gravesend. CE will attend.

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

5.1 Nothing new to report.

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

6.1 Both CE and David Woodcock (AERPEC) were unable to attend the meeting of North Norfolk Conservation Advisory Group at Wells on 26<sup>th</sup> February. The Minutes are not yet available:

## 7 Cambridgeshire (B&CAA area)

7.1 Nothing new to report.

## 8 General Flood Management, Shore Line Management Plans and Water Framework Directive Issues

8.1 The River Basin Management Plans for 2015 have now been released for consultation on:

[www.gov.uk/government/consultations/update-to-the-draft-river-basin-management-plans](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/update-to-the-draft-river-basin-management-plans)

CE has received a copy of the Ports input to this consultation and will be submitting additional comments for the Anglian RBMP to those in Hamble's overall response.

## 9 Marine Conservation Zones

9.1 Tranche 2 assessments and recommendations are out for consultation. MCZs in Eastern Region to be considered in Tranche 2 are:

- Cromer Shoal (rMCZ NG02) recommendation is to maintain the feature; principal risk is seen as plans for OWFs;
- Blackwater & Colne (rMCZ BS03) new item sub-tidal biogenic reefs; conservation of which could conflict with protection for the native oyster.

No indication of any future measures in these areas to affect recreational boating.

## 10 Offshore Wind Farms

10.1 A recent announcement has been made that the East Anglian One project is to proceed but with half as many towers as originally proposed, however as they will use much larger machines the overall generating capacity will be as planned. The main impact for us is that the larger towers will be spaced much further apart.

10.2 The same announcement states that among others the Gabbard project which was to extend the existing Greater Gabbard to the North East will not proceed. This extension would have required a similar extension to the NE of the Sunk VTS.

## 11 Marine Licensing Applications

Reference/Item	Action/Response	Date
MLA2015-00067 Slaughden Coast Defence Groynes	No Objection	150306
MLA2014-00504 Melton Boatyard Disposal of Dredgings onto Loder's Cut	No Objection	150306
MLA2014-00498 Waldringfield Dredge Disposal onto Eroding Saltmarsh	No Objection	150306
MLA2014-00596 Burgh Castle Marina Maint Dredge	150311	BW 150226
MLA2014-00581 Wallasea Wildcoast Project Crouch	No Objection	150118
MLA2014-00525 Conservation Offshore Pile Purfleet	No Objection	150102
MLA2014-00566 Thames Oilport Jetties Maintenance	No Objection	150102
MLA2014-00535 Two Tree Island Slipway Repairs	No Objection	150122
MLA2014-00326 Woolverstone Marina Maintenance Dredging	No Objection	141211
MLA2014-00552 Aggregates Area 501 Thames Estuary	No Objection	150101
MLA2014-00501 Wells Inner Harbour Pontoon Ext	No Objection	141114
MLA2011-00099 Scroby OWF Scour Prot Extension	No Objection	141107
MLA2014-00500 Lowestoft Redundant Tide Gauge Removal	No objection	141116
MLA2014-00410 Wallasea Wild Coast Project Cell 5	Some concerns **	141124
MLA2014-00457 Port of Tilbury RoRo Berth Extension	No objection	141116
MLA2014-00451 Harwich Hbr Dredgings Disposal	No objection	141104
MLA2014-00341 Lagoon & Toilet Block Westcliff on Sea	Strongly object. Would block AYC Slipway	With Hamble 150303
MLA2014-00344 Ipswich Flood Barrier	OYC concerns	With Hamble 150303

\*\* indicates some concerns stated in the response that qualify 'no objection'