

**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****Report**

<b>Committee</b>	River Hamble Harbour Board
<b>Date:</b>	23 September 2011
<b>Title:</b>	Environmental Update
<b>Reference:</b>	3219
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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## 1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this update is to provide a summary of issues relevant to the environmental management of the Harbour.

## 2. Topics

### 2.1. Marine Licensing System

- 2.1.1 The River Hamble Harbour Authority (RHHA) attended a meeting with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to discuss the new marine licensing system on 11 August. A new system of marine licensing was introduced on 1 April 2011 and these licenses regulate construction, removal and deposition below the mean high water mark. The MMO are obliged to recover their costs through a system of license fees. The cost of a Marine License depends on the type and the overall capital cost of a project. The License fees range from £158 for very minor works such as laying of moorings up to £7200 for large projects costing between £5-10 million. For complex and/or non-routine works, the License fee is calculated on an hourly basis at a cost of £80 per hour.
- 2.1.2 When considering an application, the MMO will take into account the impacts upon the environment, human health, other legitimate users of the sea and any other matters they consider to be relevant. The MMO will make decisions in line with the new Marine Policy Statement and within the framework established within the new Marine Plans (once complete).
- 2.1.3 The aim of the meeting was to make the MMO aware of some of the concerns that the RHHA had regarding the requirements for a marine license and the costs of applying for a license. The meeting was also

attended by John Berry (Opus International) and Paul Tosswell (Lymington Technical Services) so that they could speak on behalf of marine businesses.

- 2.1.4 The meeting proved to be useful to all parties. A detailed overview of the marine licensing system was provided and this helped to clarify several points of confusion. The RHHA were assured that our concerns would be taken into account when the marine licensing system is reviewed in April 2012. Our concerns have also been raised with the British Marine Federation, the Royal Yacht Association and the Solent and Southern Harbour Masters' Association.

## 2.2. Streamlined Consents Meeting

- 2.2.1 The latest Streamlined Consents Meeting was held on 11 August at Warsash Sailing Club. This meeting allows those wishing to carry out development on the River to meet with the various consenting bodies to receive free and confidential advice on the different consents required, their timescales and their costs.

- 2.2.2 Two projects were presented at this meeting and the applicants received advice from Fareham Borough Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Natural England, the Environment Agency, the MMO and the RHHA.

## 2.3. Hamble Estuary Partnership

- 2.3.1 A meeting of the Hamble Estuary Partnership (HEP) was held on 27 July at Warsash Sailing Club. The HEP meets twice a year and is administered by the RHHA and is now chaired by Dr Anthony Gallagher of Southampton Solent University. The HEP gives an opportunity for those with a statutory or voluntary interest in the Hamble and its surroundings to meet to increase and share understanding and discuss management. The previous chair, Dr Steve Fletcher, stood down following the HEP meeting on 29 March 2011 as he had taken up a new post at Plymouth University.

- 2.3.2 The HEP has produced a guide to the location, ownership, condition and management of the public slipways and hards on the River Hamble. The HEP will now be collecting more information so that this guide is complete. The HEP is also looking to facilitate a project to investigate the differing rates of electrolysis which occur within the River.

- 2.3.3 The RHHA have been working with Sarah McAuliffe, a Master's student at the University of Portsmouth, to investigate her thesis topic, the attitudes of recreational boaters based in the River Hamble to Marine Conservation Zones. Sarah presented her initial findings to the HEP and submitted an application for the HEP Student Research Fund. The members of the HEP considered this application and decided to fund her application to the amount of £263. A copy of her thesis will be made available on the HEP website once it is completed.

## 2.4. Marine Conservation Zones

- 2.4.1 Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) are a new form of Marine Protected Area designated under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. MCZs will protect nationally important marine wildlife, habitats, geology and geomorphology and will be designated by the end of 2012.
- 2.4.2 MCZs can also take social and economic factors into account and so stakeholders from all marine sectors have been asked to contribute data so that this information can be taken into consideration. The MCZs are being delivered by 4 regional projects, in the South East this project is called Balanced Seas.
- 2.4.3 Balanced Seas has now identified the locations of several draft MCZs. There are no MCZs proposed for the River Hamble although there are several sites proposed around the Isle of Wight including Osborne Bay and around Bembridge. It is not known at this stage what the management measures will be at these sites so it is impossible to say what activities will be restricted or prohibited within these sites.

## 2.5. River Hamble Maintenance Dredge Plan Update

- 2.5.1 The River Hamble Maintenance Dredge Plan has now been completed by ABP Marine Environment Research Ltd (ABPmer). This document has been funded by the River Hamble Harbour Authority and members of the Hamble River Boatyard and Marina Operators Association. This document strategically considers the impacts of maintenance dredging upon nature conservation sites within the River Hamble.
- 2.5.2 This document has met the requirements of the Department of Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Maintenance Dredge Protocol and its findings have been formally endorsed by both Natural England and the Environment Agency. The MMO will use this document when they are considering whether to issue a Marine License for maintenance dredges in the River Hamble.

## 2.6 River Hamble Annual Crabbing Competition

- 2.6.1 The River Hamble annual crabbing competition was held on 18 June 2011. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all those who took part. All of the money raised by the competition was donated to Simon Says, a charity based in Eastleigh which helps children and young people cope with bereavement.

## 3. Recommendation

**It is recommended that this report is noted.**

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:****Links to the Corporate Strategy**

<b>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Maximising well-being:</b>	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Enhancing our quality of place:</b>	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

**The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)**

DocumentLocation

None

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

### **1. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

- 1.1. A full Equalities Impact Assessment for the River Hamble Harbour Authority's compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code (including environmental responsibilities) has been carried out and this report does not raise any issues not previously covered by that Assessment.

### **2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

- 2.1. This report does not deal with any issues relating to crime and disorder.

### **3. Climate Change:**

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption? The contents of this report have no impact on carbon footprint or energy consumption
- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts? Not applicable to this report.