



# TAY VIEWS

A PUBLICATION BY THE TAY ESTUARY FORUM: PROMOTING THE WISE AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE TAY ESTUARY AND ITS ADJACENT COASTLINE

ISSUE 33: Summer 2012

Thanks to those who attended this year's TEF Annual Conference, *Dynamic Coasts*, held at West Park Conference Centre, in Dundee on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Feedback from delegates has been positive, in particular by noting appreciation towards the speakers on the day, who delivered their talks with passion and enthusiasm. Our conference report can be read in Item 3, or downloaded from the TEF website. As summer progresses, we will continue to publicise local events/ initiatives to encourage participation around the local region, so keep an eye on the TEF website for details. Please get in touch to find out more about any of our featured articles, either with the individual organisation or the TEF.

Best wishes,

Laura Booth (Project Officer)

## In this Issue...

1. TEF Update
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## 1: TEF UPDATE

- Last TEF Steering Group meeting **March 9th** 2012 at University of Abertay, Dundee.
- Sectoral Interactions Matrix Report complete. Read more in Item 4 for preliminary findings.
- Next Steering Group meeting **June 15th** 2012 at University of Dundee
- TEF involved with Angus SMP II development
- Ongoing work to update TEF website

**Tay Estuary Forum  
New Occasional Paper 6  
In next issue:**

**Water Quality in the Tay Estuary  
D. Blackwood, University of Abertay**

## 2. More UK bathing beaches receive top water quality award

### Marine Conservation Society recommends highest number of beaches in Good Beach Guide's 25-year history

The silver anniversary edition of the Good Beach Guide, launched online in early May 2012 by the Marine Conservation Society (MCS), has recommended 516 out of 754 (68%) UK bathing beaches tested last summer as having excellent water quality – that's 8% more than last year and the best in the Guide's 25-year history.

MCS Coastal Pollution Officer, Rachel Wyatt, says the latest figures will be a boost to UK tourism, but it's not a reason for complacency: "This is a milestone for coastal resorts to be proud of and shows the impact of the Guide over the last 25 years. However, this summer will see the first samples taken under the revised Bathing Water Directive which will replace the current standards with far more stringent ones from 2015. It's really important that local authorities, water companies and environmental regulators don't become complacent and take their collective feet off the pedal of continued environmental improvements. If that happens we could see a drop in the number of beaches recommended by us in the future, which could pose a risk to the great reputation that British beaches have."

Despite an encouraging number of recommended beaches this year, the picture around the UK is still varied. In Scotland the Good Beach Guide recommended only 45 out of 110 (41%) bathing beaches tested last summer – 5% less than the previous year which had been one of Scotland's best in the Guide. Water quality at Scotland's beaches has been impacted by heavy summer rains and above average rainfall in many areas.

440	Elie (Ruby Bay)	Fife
441	Roome Bay, Crail	Fife
442	Kingsbarns	Fife
443	Tentsmuir Sands	Fife
444	Broughty Ferry	Dundee
445	Monifieth	Angus
446	Easthaven	Angus
447	Arbroath - West Links	Angus
448	Arbroath - Victoria Park	Angus
449	Lunan Bay	Angus
450	Montrose	Angus
451	St. Cyrus	Aberdeenshire

Good Beach Guide recommended beaches in TEF area

Rachel Wyatt says, "We still need to see more investment from water companies to ensure increased monitoring of Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO's). After heavy rain, CSOs divert untreated sewage away from overloaded sewers and treatment works and discharge it directly into rivers and coastal waters. Last year we discovered that there are around 31,000 of these overflows in operation in the UK, but less than a quarter of them are monitored to see how often they are allowing raw sewage to enter the sea. It's vital that improvements are made, so that we can fully understand what impact these pipes have on our bathing waters."

In its 25-year history, the MCS Good Beach Guide has been used to improve the safety and quality of bathing water around the UK, by:

- Providing an interactive online resource ([www.goodbeachguide.co.uk](http://www.goodbeachguide.co.uk)), which has become the first point of call for anyone looking for information about bathing water quality - giving free advice to around half a million people a year
- Improving public understanding of the health risks associated with poor bathing water quality
- Lobbying water companies and environmental regulators to improve sewage discharges around the UK coast
- Working with local councils and other stakeholders to tackle local sources of bathing water pollution
- Helping to ensure new bathing water standards were adopted through the revised Bathing Water Directive.





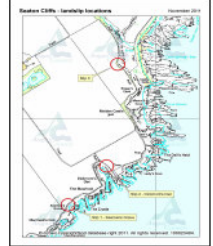
# Tay Estuary Forum Annual Conference 2012

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2012, West Park Conference Centre, Dundee

## Dynamic Coasts

Thanks to the 14 Speakers, 7 Exhibitors, 3 Session Chairs and 50 Delegates who attended this year's TEF Annual Conference.

**Session A: Dynamic Coasts (Chaired by Rob Duck, TEF Chair)** Fraser Milne (University of Dundee) explored morphodynamic processes at Montrose Bay, assessing the extent of anthropogenic impacts on natural processes, before laying out coastal management options for the beach. Joanna Hambly previewed The SCAPE Trust's new website, aimed at encouraging individuals to edit and add to a database of coastal heritage sites, promoting a sense of ownership amongst the public. Finally Roy Madden (Angus Council) presented a visual trail along Angus Coastal Path, providing a continuous path for walkers, and cyclists, throughout the length of the Angus coast. Roy highlighted areas of recent slips at Dickmonts Den, Carlingheugh Bay and Seamen's Grave, and outlined plans to restore these path sections by Scottish Wildlife Trust.



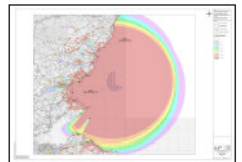
## Session B: Sustainable Management of our Catchments, Coasts and Seas (Chaired by Tim Stojanovic, University of St Andrews)



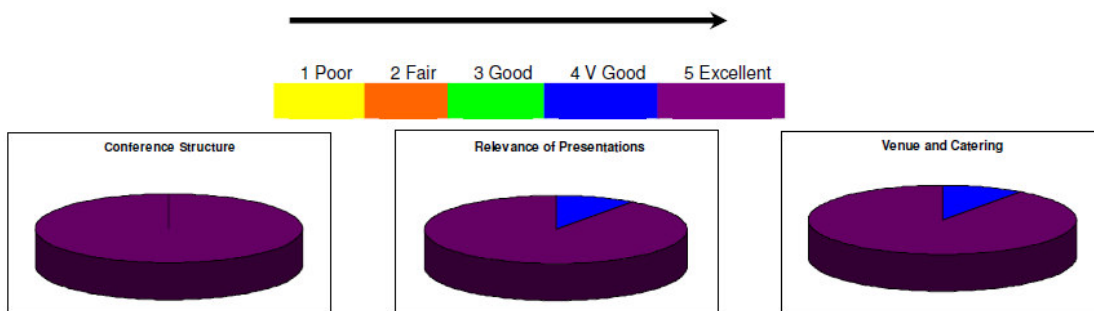
TEF Project Officer, Laura Booth explained results from a recent survey carried out by the Coastal Fora, on behalf of Marine Scotland, in assessing the nature, extent and intensity of interactions between users of the TEF coastal zone, in the form of a Sectoral Interactions Matrix. Tavis Potts (SAMS) outlined ways of linking coastal and catchment management in Scotland, and the importance of doing so. With recent legislative changes in marine and coastal management in Scotland, there are timely opportunities to mesh the two spheres, providing mutual benefit. Julian Inglis (Fulcrum Environmental Management) and John Isaacs (University of Abertay) gave an update on the SUSCOD project, with current deliverables such as dune stabilisation at West Sands. John displayed their interactive 3D visualisation tool FLEX (Fife Landscape Explorer), which is under development in partnership between Fife Coasts and Countryside Trust and University of Abertay, used in one instance to model storm damage at St Andrews. Johanna Babbs outlined plans for the Tay Landscape Partnership and its aims to improve interpretation of and access to the Inner Tay countryside, celebrating and conserving archaeological and cultural heritage sites.

## Session C: Planning for the Future (Chaired by Derek McGlashan, Forth Ports Ltd)

Victoria Powell (University of Dundee) discussed initial results from her PhD, assessing sea level change in the Tay, based on a unique, local record of sea level change for the region, compiled from tide gauge data. John Stevenson, (The Crown Estate) gave an overview of the Scottish Territorial Waters Offshore Wind Programme before handing over to each of the three local developers in the Tay and Forth. Updates were provided by Martina Gassner (Repsol), for the Inch Cape site; Zoe Crutchfield (Mainstream Renewable Power Ltd) presented progress with the Neart na Gaoithe site, and Kate Berry (Seagreen) discussed the Firth of Forth development. Finally, Linda Rosborough (Marine Scotland) discussed the National Marine Plan, formation of Marine Planning Partnerships who are to have formal delegated planning responsibilities, and Scotland's Marine Atlas.



The event received press coverage from STV News, Radio Tay and the Dundee Courier. 2012 delegates represented a wide range of statutory and voluntary organisations and feedback has been positive with attendees rating the conference structure, relevance of presentations and venue as follows: ranging from (1 Poor- 5 Excellent)

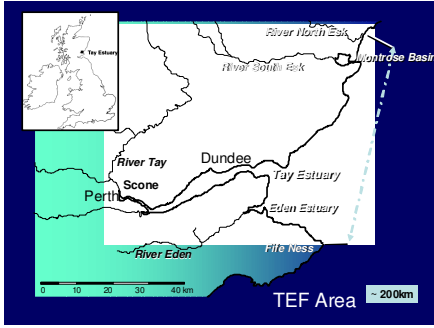


Delegate comments: "Innovative presentations delivered with "oomph" by people who had a passion for their subject....One of the best TEF Conferences I have attended- excellent presentations of a high calibre from very enthusiastic presenters... This was very helpful and informative for my course and dissertation topic".

Delegate suggestions for future conference topics: Regional marine planning, operation and delivery; Wind farms; Integration of land and marine planning; Land use planning interface with the coast; SEPA coastal flood risk warning system; Exploration of tidal energy, existing opportunities, existing limitations; Flooding issues and solutions; Future plans at Dundee Port; V&A; Proposed river 'cruises' on Tay from Perth and Broughty Ferry.



## 4. Sectoral Interactions on the Tay Report



Between September 2011 and March 2012 the Tay Estuary Forum, on behalf of Marine Scotland, has collected information on the nature, intensity and spatial extent of interactions within the TEF area (Map 1). By interviewing coastal stakeholders, user groups and individuals either face-to-face or by phone; representatives from a range of organisations spanning both statutory and voluntary spheres, including commercial and recreational perspectives, have been given a chance to contribute to the study. It is hoped the resulting Matrices, compiled by the Local Coastal Partnerships, will inform creation of regional Marine Spatial Plans.

Map 1: TEF area

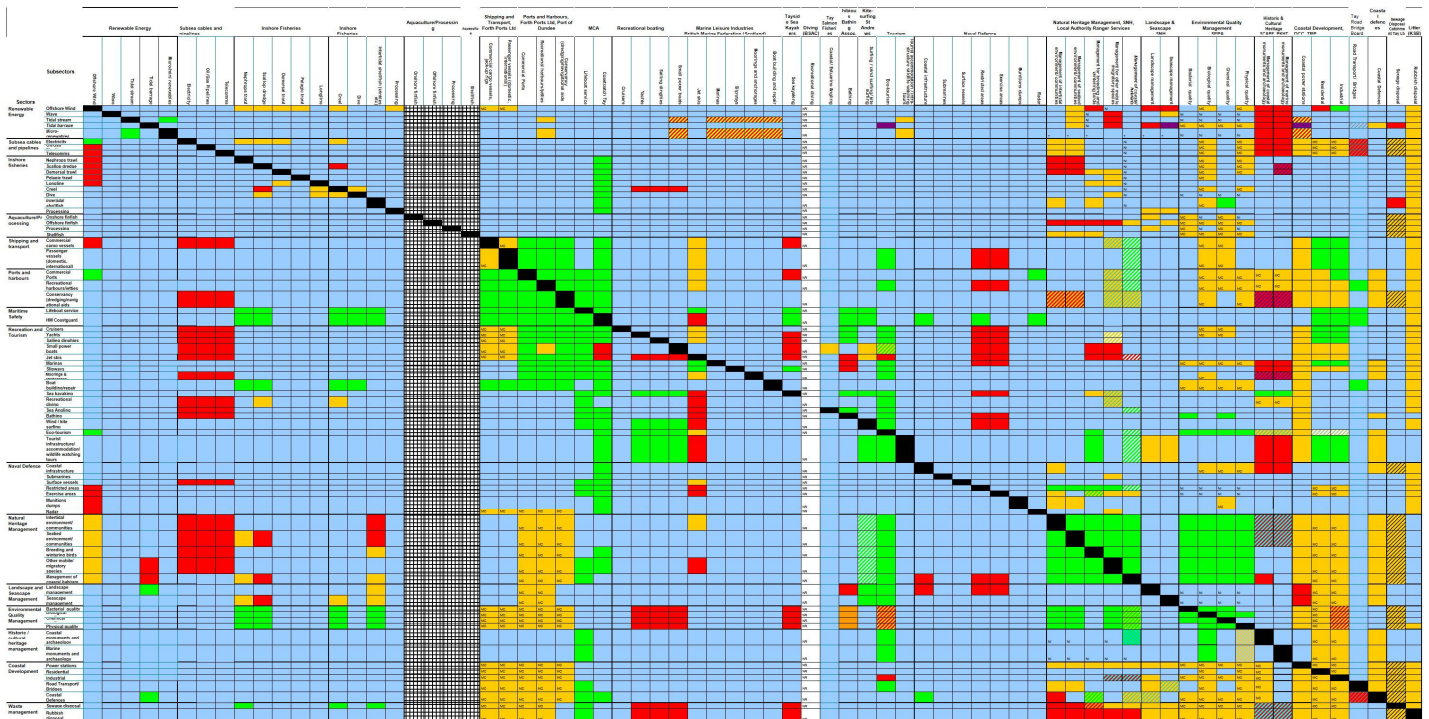


Fig 1: TEF Sectoral Interactions Matrix.

■ competition (MC managed) 
 ■ neutral 
 ■ conflict 
 ■ positive, 
 ■ Incompatible, 
  NI non-issue, Mix (hatched).

By colour-coding interactions between sectors as positive, negative or neutral, the result is shown in Fig 1: The TEF Sectoral Interactions Matrix. Preliminary results show that on the whole, interactions between Sectors within the TEF area are largely neutral (blue). There are areas of competition but these tend to be well-managed either by legislation, or pragmatism and effective communication between user groups. Inevitably some conflict arises, but it seems to be focused around certain specific issues, discussed in more detail in the report. The Matrix therefore displays a simplistic snap-shot of current activities in the TEF region, highlighting potential areas requiring legislative development in ensuring a sustainable future.

**The report and EXCEL file of the TEF Matrix will be available on the TEF website shortly. Please feel free to send in any comments. Thanks to all for their contribution and co-operation.**

## 5. Help us celebrate and conserve our unique landscape

The Tay Landscape Partnership would like your help to develop projects and events to inspire residents and visitors alike. A short and simple online survey has just been launched. It will only take a few minutes to do and will ask you questions about who you are, how you visit the area, and what you would like included in our programme. Follow the link below or visit our website, [www.taylp.org](http://www.taylp.org).



We are keen to hear from as many people as possible so please pass this link on to friends and colleagues. <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/914883/Tay-Landscape-Partnership-Survey>

The Tay Landscape Partnership has successfully secured funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to develop an exciting scheme of projects to conserve and enhance the landscape of the inner Tay estuary and lower Strathearn. Millions of years of Geological time, 8000 years of human habitation, and climate change have transformed this landscape and made it the unique mosaic of habitats seen today. Our ancestors have left behind evidence of their passing: flints, hillforts, clay buildings and orchards. The area is rich in biodiversity with many plants, animals and birds finding their niche here. Our cultural heritage is woven through the landscape. There is certainly a lot to celebrate!

This year, in consultation with the local community, businesses and other stakeholders, we are developing projects, events and activities to find out more about this landscape, conserve and restore important elements, improve access and learning, increase community participation and revive heritage skills. We aim to secure further funding to deliver a three year programme between 2013 and 2016. Keep up to date with our progress via our website, [www.taylp.org](http://www.taylp.org), find us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter.



### Inner Tay Estuary

Image and article courtesy of Catriona Davies and Johanna Babbs, Tay Landscape Partnership