

Environmental Management Annual Review 2009 - 2010 (to September '10)



Fowey Harbour Commissioners



INTRODUCTION



It is the Fowey Harbour Commissioners primary objective to manage and operate the harbour whilst safeguarding the beautiful and diverse estuary environment. Located in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), it is essential that the environmental management of the harbour and its surrounding area is of the highest standard.

The Commissioners operational policies and practices are targeted to ensure standards of environmental management are maintained. They consider the effects of port operations on the environment, the health and safety of their staff and harbour users whilst ensuring that the harbour fulfils its role in the commercial and leisure sectors.

The Harbour Commissioners work closely with many other organisations through groups such as the Fowey Estuary Partnership, for which they are the lead body. It is through collaborative working that holistic management of the estuary can be achieved.

This document is supplementary to the Fowey Harbour Commissioner's Annual Report and provides an overview of the Commissioners environmental performance over the past year and reaffirms their commitment to environmental management in the future.

Capt Mike Sutherland
Chief Executive
Fowey Harbour Commissioners

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Mike Sutherland'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the right of the printed name.



FOWEY HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY STATEMENT

It is the Harbour Commissioners policy to maintain the balance in the Harbour between commercial, recreational and environmental interests, whilst ensuring a sustainable and commercially viable Port.

The Harbour Commissioners are committed to achieving high standards of environmental performance and management through a framework of setting and reviewing environmental objectives and targets relating to conservation and regulation of the Port and Harbour and complying with relevant UK, European and International legislation.

The Commissioners are determined to do all it can to ensure that the environment is passed to future generations in a better condition than it is today

In implementing this policy, the Commissioners aim to do this by:-

- Considering environmental factors when setting policies and formulating plans in managing the harbour.
- To use The Port Environmental Review System as the environmental standard in the implementation of an Environmental Management System.
- Endorse the principles contained in the European Sea Ports Organisation Environmental Code of Practice.
- To work towards continued achievement of high environmental standards, similar to those of the Blue Flag initiative and participate in other environmental standards for southwest ports and marinas.
- To work closely with other bodies and interested parties in protecting the environment of the harbour and estuary.
- Report annually on environmental performance, making all information available to the employees, harbour users, contractors, regulators, stakeholders and the general public.
- Continue to monitor key environmental indicators e.g. resource consumption and waste.
- To minimise waste and actively participate in recycling programs, meeting agreed targets.
- Ensure that contingency plans and controls are in place and regularly reviewed, and endeavour to minimise any risks of environmental pollution.
- Having distributed the policy, to communicate with, and educate employees, harbour users, contractors, regulators, stakeholders and the general public to ensure their awareness of their roles and responsibilities, and competence in performing them.
- Develop policies where costs and availability allow and when ever possible apply best available technology to goods and plant acquisitions, facilities and activities to reduce emissions and energy consumption and that can be disposed of in a safe way.
- To regularly check environmental performance and review of the Environmental Policy to ensure its continued suitability and effectiveness in achieving the Environmental Objectives of the Harbour Commissioners.
- To use the Estuary Partnership as a consultative body on all environmental matters.

As a regulator, provider of services and a key player in the local community, the Commissioners aim to implement its policy by:

- Enforcing regulations and legislation in as effective and fair a way as possible in the interests of the environment and the quality of life of people in the locality.
- Continuously monitoring the environmental impacts of its services (including energy, water; transport, and natural resources) to help it find ways to improve its service delivery.
- Considering the environmental impact of policies and services.
- Encouraging better waste management practice in the organisation and the local area through waste reduction, reuse and recycling, through partnerships with the community, local organisations and business, and other local authorities.
- Encouraging the use of more environmentally friendly transport options and, through working with others, secure improved facilities and promotion of these forms of transport. The use of less environmentally damaging fuels for transport will also be encouraged. Appropriate commissioners policies will be employed to ensure that the authority leads by example in these areas.
- Reducing pollution by monitoring the quality of the environment of the Harbour and then taking prompt action or assisting others to, where possible against water; air; land, and noise pollution, the inappropriate use and disposal of hazardous chemicals, and the general degradation of the local environment.
- Working with the community to maintain and improve existing wildlife habitats and to create new ones.
- Encouraging sound environmental practice in the local economy by welcoming "green" businesses into the harbour area and by supporting established businesses to adopt good eco-management practices in the interest of their business and of the local environment.
- Raising awareness about environmental issues and encouraging good environmental practice by users, residents and the business community.
- Providing the lead role in the Estuary Management Committee.

**Reviewed and adopted 30th July 2010
Chief Executive**

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

The Fowey Harbour Commissioners are committed to minimising their impacts on the environment in everyday operations; this is achieved through proactive management and following the environmental standards set out in their Environmental Policy Statement. This approach forms the basis of an Environmental Management System (EMS).

The Harbour Commissioners will continue to work towards the objectives of the PERS (Port Environmental Review System) initiative, a voluntary EMS initiative accredited by the Lloyds Register. The main goal of this project was to harmonise the environmental management of European Ports through the exchange of experiences.

OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN

The Fowey Harbour Oil Spill Contingency Plan is a statutory requirement under the Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Convention) Regulations of 1998.

The plan details how the Harbour Commissioners will manage an oil spill originating either within the harbour, from the open sea or the land. The response utilises the Harbour Commissioner's own oil spill response equipment which is kept aboard a dedicated barge, or this equipment may be supplemented by that of their Tier II contractor, Adler & Allan Ltd., Exeter, in the case of a more serious incident.

In addition to the response equipment on the pollution barge, there are smaller kits kept aboard most of the FHC's working vessels and at strategic sites to respond to small-scale operational spillages.

The oil spill response equipment is inspected quarterly to ensure that the kits are complete and in good working order.

All Fowey Harbour Commissioners staff has received accredited training, and oil spill exercises are carried out regularly which involve FHC staff and personnel from other authorities. The training and exercise of the oil spill response is important to maintain a high level of familiarisation with the equipment and assess the effectiveness of the equipment in different response scenarios.

Where an incident involves a full response and deployment of the Commissioner's equipment, this may count instead of an exercise.



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Exercise, training and equipment schedule completed 2009-2010 and proposed 2010-2011

Date	Action
Autumn 2009	Update of the Oil Spill Contingency Plan
November 2009	Update of the Oil Spill Response/Port Emergency Contact List
January 2010	Submit report of incidents to ACOPS survey
14th April 2010	Harbour Incident Sinking of vessel in Pont Pill Containment and absorbent booms deployed Full response and deployment incident counted as exercise
Spring 2011	Refresher course for MCA 2/3 Oil Spill Pollution, Prevention and Response



Update of the Oil Spill Contingency Plan

The plan was fully reviewed and now only includes Fowey Harbour as Par Harbour no longer requires an Oil Spill Plan to be in place, although Imerys personnel and equipment may be called upon if an incident required.

Oil Spill Reporting

As part of the FHC's reporting process, a record of reported spills is sent annually to the Advisory Committee On Protection Of The Sea (ACOPS) in order to research and quantify marine pollution to inform and encourage international agreements to reduce marine oil pollution.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

An important part of harbour management is dealing with waste. The Harbour Commissioners have a statutory responsibility to provide waste disposal facilities, and the production of a Waste Management Plan is required through an MCA Merchant Shipping Notice.

The Fowey Harbour Waste Management Plan outlines the disposal facilities for commercial, leisure and FHC-generated waste.

The strategic aim of the plan is to promote the efficient and practicable disposal of all waste generated within Fowey Harbour' in accordance with current waste disposal legislation.

The Waste Management Plan is reviewed regularly to ensure current waste legislation is met, along with recognising the changing needs for the facilities required for disposal of waste generated in or landed in the harbour area.

Commercial

Imerys Minerals Ltd. operate the commercial areas of the jetties and produce a Waste Management Plan to cover this area; this information is included in the overall waste management arrangements. Waste disposal facilities for commercial ships are provided by Imerys and the Shipping Agents and the cost of these facilities is covered in port charges. The location of the waste disposal facilities are communicated to the ship's personnel on berthing.

Ships are required to pre-notify the port of the amounts of waste they hold on board and that which they intend to offload at the jetties, this ensures adequate waste reception facilities are provided.



The Fowey Harbour Commissioners continue to liaise with Imerys on matters involving cargo handling, relating to waste management and other potential forms of pollution.

Leisure and FHC generated waste

Most of the activities taking place in the harbour create some sort of waste and if not disposed of correctly, it could have a detrimental effect on the estuary environment. It is therefore essential that



adequate waste reception facilities are provided for all waste streams. All sources of waste production in the harbour area have been identified and the volumes of waste being removed have been recorded since 1996. The data allows a working estimate for volumes of waste anticipated and this forms the basis of a constant review of facilities to ensure that future requirements are met.

The Harbour Commissioners encourage the environmentally safe disposal of all waste materials and therefore provide a wide range of facilities and will assist wherever possible. The cost of providing these waste facilities is covered by an element within the Harbour dues, under the heading of environmental waste disposal.

An increasingly important part of waste management is the efficient segregation of waste and recycling. The Harbour Commissioners work closely with the local authorities to provide an afloat recycling scheme for yachtsmen, the recycling facilities have been enlarged in recent years and their usage has steadily increased.

The Harbour Commissioners will continue to promote recycling and waste minimisation opportunities.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Current leisure waste reception facilities

In a constant review of their facilities, the Harbour Commissioners have altered some of the waste disposal arrangements in localised areas due to improper use of the facilities.

Location	Facilities *
On the water	Floating skip, capacity 10 cu yds General waste bins on each major pontoon area Recycling bins for cans, plastic bottles and glass on each major pontoon area ® Recyclables collection point, capacity 4 cu yds for each waste type ® Rubbish collection service in the summer period
Albert Quay	General waste bin on pontoon Recycling bins for cans and glass ® International Catering Waste bin
Berrills Yard	General waste bin on pontoon Recycling bins for cans and glass on pontoon ® Waste oil collection point ® Battery collection point ® Sewage pump-out facility
Penmarlam	Closed skip for general waste Recycling bins for cans and glass ® International Catering Waste bin
Brazen Island	Brazen Island may take the following waste by prior arrangement with the Harbour Office: Waste Oil ® Batteries ® Hazardous Waste
Polruan	General waste bins on the pontoon Recycling bins for cans and glass ®
Old Station Yard Car Park	Wheelie bin for general waste Skip in boat storage area in winter for general waste Hazardous Waste collection available on request

* Some wastes other than general household waste may incur a charge for disposal

® This waste is recycled



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

ENERGY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Harbour Commissioners monitor their energy and resource consumption with a view to reducing the emissions and energy consumption of their plant, facilities and activities where costs and availability allows.

A number of resource saving alterations have already been made including replacing light fittings to more efficient and motion-sensored versions, replacing the hot water system with individual water heaters which deliver hot water as it is required and wind generators and solar power used in the navigational aids.

The best available technology will be applied to future facilities and plant acquisitions.

DREDGING

Maintenance dredging remains an essential activity in the harbour in order to guarantee the safety of navigation in terms of published depths. Annual hydrographic surveys indicate that the accretion rate of sediment through natural sedimentation continues to require an annual systematic dredging programme. The last dredging campaign was carried out in November 2009 by Westminster Dredging Company's vessel the *Sospan-Dau*, which targeted the commercial jetties and navigational channel. There has also been some smaller scale dredging carried out adjacent to quays and pontoons in the lower harbour.

The Harbour Commissioner's policy where conditions permit, and scientific evidence supports, is to reduce and target dredging more effectively in order to reduce the environmental impact of this activity. The quantities of material dredged have reduced dramatically over the last two decades due to a better understanding of the sediment regime of the estuary and modern dredging methods.

Hydrographic surveys and studies of the sedimentary regime of the harbour are undertaken in order to gain a better understanding of the erosion and accretion of sediments in the estuary and delivery of material from the wider River Fowey system.



The Harbour Commissioners are currently involved in the EU funded SETARMS (Sustainable, Environmental Treatment And Reuse of Marine Sediments) project which is being led by Brighton and Exeter Universities in the UK and involves various French partners covering all regions bordering the English Channel. The aim of the project is to find sustainable, economical and environmental solutions to the management of dredged sediments. Fowey will be specifically involved in the sediment characterisation element of the project and will provide sediment samples; this will inform other aspects of the project investigating alternative uses for dredged material. The findings of the project will inform the dredging protocol.

HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Shellfish Harvesting

The Harbour Commissioners actively allow the growth of mussels on various structures within the harbour and ropes are hung underneath many pontoons to support the growth of these commercially important shellfish. The ropes and structures are regularly harvested and the mussels are processed by a local shellfish company. The growth of these shellfish and others harvested in the estuary relies on a high water quality standard which the Fowey Harbour Commissioners endeavour to maintain and protect.

Illegal Fishing

The Harbour Commissioners work closely with the Environment Agency to ensure that all illegal fishing operations reported to them are investigated.

The Commissioners also promote and support voluntary codes of conduct for bait digging and display information about fishing regulations.

Hall Walk Woods

The Harbour Commissioners own and manage just over 6 hectares of woodland bordering the estuary from Pont Pill to Polruan. These woods form an important part of the largely wooded setting of the harbour and the footpath that runs within the woods is a valued and well used local asset.

This woodland is made up largely of overgrown hazel coppice with standards and oaks. There are also several veteran trees within an area of oak woodland at the estuary edge.

The Harbour Commissioners undertake path clearance and woodland maintenance including clearing some of the views from the benches along the path.

Lostwithiel Marshes

The Shirehall and Madderly Moors are located at the head of the estuary at Lostwithiel, although called 'moors' the areas are made up primarily of estuarine salt marsh and a reed/rush wetland respectively. Such habitats are of great ecological value and are of increasing rarity in the UK.

The area was previously owned by the Commissioners whilst being registered as Common Land. The Commissioners transferred their title to Lostwithiel Town Council to enable access to funds to manage the site.

The area is included in the Voluntary Marine Conservation Area and is also a potential Local Nature Reserve, a management plan has been formulated for the area, although works must still be approved by the Harbour Commissioners.

Penmarlam

The tree planting and landscape work is under constant review to accommodate the changing requirements of the boat storage facilities. Non-native screening was removed and in spring 2010 was replaced with slower growing native species including oak, sweet chestnut, hazel and holly. The sapling trees were provided by the Silvanus Trust and planted amongst the existing trees; they will form a new screen and a native habitat for wildlife.



Fowey in Bloom

The Harbour Commissioners have been recognised in the Fowey in Bloom Awards, winning prizes for the floral displays at Albert Quay, Berrills Yard and Old Station Yard. Areas of Penmarlam are also planted and maintained under a similar management programme.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

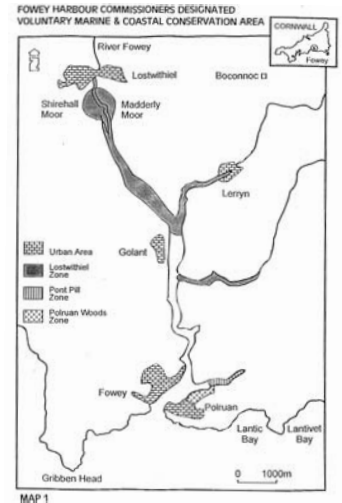


FOWEY ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP

The Harbour Commissioners continue to be the lead body of the Fowey Estuary Partnership and continue to work towards the aims and objectives of the Fowey Estuary Management Plan.

The Harbour Commissioners also continue to host and administer bi-annual meetings and produce a monthly estuary newsletter.

The Voluntary Marine Conservation Area (VMCA) was designated by the Estuary Partnership to encourage community involvement with the marine environment and raise awareness of the value of marine and coastal life around the estuary.



Fowey VMCA & the 'Your Shore' project

In December 2009 the Cornwall Wildlife Trust (CWT) was successful in their bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding to support VMCA's and the 'Your Shore' project was officially started in March 2010.

The coastal and marine environment of Cornwall is recognised both locally and internationally for its incredible diversity of marine habitats and wildlife; this is showcased across the five VMCA's around the county's coast - St Agnes, Polzeath, Helford, Looe and Fowey.

The Fowey VMCA is one of the five areas in Cornwall involved in the 3 year project. It supports a wealth of wildlife along its length, from the beautiful Lostwithiel salt marshes to the secluded creeks, home to herons and little egrets that feed below the steep wooded banks. The rich mud banks are feeding grounds for wading birds. The lower estuary has steep rocky sides, home to limpets, barnacles and a diversity of seaweeds. A bed of seagrass is found in Polruan pool which is a nursery area for juvenile fish and is a possible home to the illusive seahorse. The sandy beach of Readymoney Cove is not only popular with people but with wildlife too. The estuary has a designated Bass Nursery Area and is used by migratory sea trout and salmon.

The large numbers of visitors to Cornwall, from land and sea, combined with the valuable and vulnerable wildlife, makes marine conservation important, encouraging sensible and sustainable use of our marine environment.

The project aim is to enable communities and visitors to learn about and develop an understanding and appreciation of Cornwall's marine environment by increasing access to VMCA's. Engaging a range of stakeholders encourages active participation and nurtures responsibility for the well being of the marine environment. It also gives an appreciation of its importance as a wildlife and an economic resource.

The project has an annual programme of events which includes working with schools and training teachers for longer term education of the marine environment, it also provides environmental events for the general public, such as rockpool rambles, river cruises and guided walks. The project has brought together an active group of volunteers within the VMCA and through the provision of practical opportunities they are able to develop specialist skills in marine identification and survey techniques, which are essential to maintain regular survey data in the future.

The project will also initiate the formation of a VMCA steering group made up of local residents, businesses and organisations and community members that will continue the appropriate management and co-ordination of the area after the life of the Your Shore project.

The project will also support the development of links between the VMCA's in Cornwall so each can support and provide resources to the others.

The activities run so far include a rockpool ramble at Readymoney Cove which was attended by local and visiting families.

There was also a river cruise exploring the whole estuary up to Lostwithiel which was very interesting and informative and was very well attended.

The events programme for the coming year promises to be very exciting, adding to the list of local volunteers and future guardians of our wonderful and diverse marine environment.

Environmental Objectives

Target	Actions	Status of target
Environmental Management		
Environmental Policy Statement	Continue to review and update the Environmental Policy Statement	Ongoing
Environmental Codes of Practice	1. Continue to follow the ESPO code of practice	Ongoing
	2. Continue to promote bait digging code of practice and environmental accreditations	Ongoing
	3. Continue to promote fishing in the estuary codes of practice.	Ongoing
Environmental Management System	Continue to assess environmental performance as part of an EMS	Ongoing
Environmental legislation	1. Continue to review relevant legislation 2. Continue to review the compliance of all significant activities	Ongoing Ongoing
Oil Spill Contingency Plan	1. Continue to exercise, update and maintain the Oil Spill Contingency Plan	Ongoing
	2. Continue to record all incidents in the estuary	Ongoing
	3. Continue to keep all staff oil spill training up to date	Ongoing
Waste Management	1. Continue to review Waste Management Plan 2. Continue to record all waste volumes 3. Maintain recycling programme in the harbour	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing
Energy and resource consumption	1. Continue to record energy and resource usage of FHC facilities and craft	Ongoing
	2. Continue to apply best technology when sourcing new plant and facilities	Ongoing
Sewage discharges into the estuary	Promote use of onshore facilities by yachtsmen and the fitting of sewage holding tanks	Ongoing
Dredging	Continue projects to understand the sediment dynamics of the estuary, making dredging more efficient	Ongoing
Environmental Quality		
Woodland Management	1. Continue to implement the Management Plan at Hall Walk	Ongoing
	2. Continue to review current and future needs for tree planting at Penmarlam	Ongoing
Lostwithiel marshes	Continue to give advice and support for projects	Ongoing
Fowey Estuary Partnership	1. Continue to implement aims and objectives of the Estuary Management Plan	Ongoing
	2. Continue to host meetings and administer group	Ongoing
Voluntary Marine Conservation Area (VMCA)	Continue to support project work within the VMCA	Ongoing

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