

## PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

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21<sup>st</sup> February 2018

To: All Members of the Partnership

### **MARINE, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM PARTNERSHIP**

Dear Member

You are hereby summoned to attend a **MEETING** of the **MARINE, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM PARTNERSHIP**, to be held in **PETER TRIM HALL, ST. GEORGE'S CENTRE, REFORNE** on **WEDNESDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2018**, commencing at 7.00 pm when the business set out below will be transacted.

It is the Council's intention that all meetings of the Council and its Committees be recorded aurally.

Yours sincerely

Ian Looker  
Town Clerk

## AGENDA

1. **Chairman's Welcome**
2. **Apologies for Absence**
3. **Declarations of Interest** – to receive any declarations from Councillors or Officers of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests regarding matters to be considered at this meeting, together with a statement on the nature of those interests
4. **Minutes of the Meeting Held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017** – to approve and sign (see attached)
5. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**
6. **Public Participation** – to allow questions or comments from the public on any item on the agenda
7. **Neighbourhood Plan** – to receive a report from Mr Matthews
8. **Public Rights of Way** – to receive updates
9. **Portland Resilience Plan** – to receive a report from the Assistant Clerk (attached)
10. **Litter**
  - a) Clean-up at the Grove – to receive notice from Cllr. Wild
  - b) General Complaint from a Member of the Public – to consider a recent complaint (attached)
11. **Future Direction of the Partnership** – to consider a report from the Clerk (attached)
12. **Events Diary** – to receive notice from Cllr. Wild
13. **Flood Warden Newsletter** – to receive a report from the Assistant Clerk
14. **Dorset Coast Forum** – to receive notice of its current activities (attached)

**15. Standard Agenda Items (by exception)**

- (a) Disused Quarries (Portland Town Plan 2B)
- (b) Litter and Fly-Tipped Material (PTP 2C)
- (c) Run-Down Areas (PTP 2I)
- (d) Open Spaces, Hedgerows, Footpaths and Dry-Stone Walls (PTP 2E, 2F)
- (e) Cycle Paths

**16. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Marine, Environment & Tourism Partnership date to be agreed, (provisionally 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018) starting at 7.00 pm, the venue yet to be decided.

**MEMBERSHIP:-**

Cllr. Sue Lees (Chair)	Portland Town Council
Cllr. Lucy Grieve (Deputy Chair)	Portland Town Council
All Town Councillors	Portland Town Council
Simon King	Economic Regeneration, Weymouth & Portland Borough Council
Derek Luckhurst	Agincare
Jen Reeves-Grey (?)	CRAB / Agincare
Cllr. Sue Lees	Chesil Equestrian Centre
Jane White	Crown Estate
Tara Hansford	Dorset Local Access Forum
Jess Tilley	Dorset Wildlife Trust
Alison Smith	Jurassica
Victoria Webbon	Land Trust
Geoff Peters	National Coastwatch Institution
Ruth Carpenter	Natural England
Andy Matthews	Portland Community Partnership
Sandie Wilson / Frank Cox	Portland Port Ltd
Hannah Sofaer / Paul Crabtree	Portland Sculpture and Quarry Trust
Cllr. Rod Wild	Portland Seafarers Support and Association for Portland Archaeology
Mike Deadman	Portland Tourist Information Centre
Rowena Riley	The Churches Conservation Trust
Paul Glover	The History Society
Peter Allam	Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy
Peter Staddon	Working for a Better Portland

Requests for agenda items are welcome from all members of the Partnership. They should be sent to the Clerk no less than two weeks before the date of the meeting.

## **PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MARINE, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD IN PETER TRIM HALL, ST. GEORGE'S CENTRE, REFORNE ON WEDNESDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Sue Lees (Chairman), Jo Atwell, Jim Draper, Charlie Flack and Rod Wild, together with Cllrs. Katharine Garcia (Dorset County Council), and Paul Kimber (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council), Raina Summerson (Agincare), Jane White (Court Leet and Crown Estate), Paul Glover (History Society), Andy Matthews (Portland Community Partnership), Hannah Sofaer (Portland Sculpture & Quarry Trust) and Mike Deadman (Weymouth & Portland Tourist Board)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ian Looker (Town Clerk) and one member of the public

#### **1210 – CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

Cllr. Lees welcomed all to the Partnership meeting and gave fire safety directions.

#### **1211 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Susan Cocking and Lucy Grieve, together with Geoff Peters (National Coastwatch Institution), Sandie Wilson (Portland Port) and Peter Allam (Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy)

#### **1212 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr. Lees declared a pecuniary interest in the Chesil Equestrian Centre and Mr Matthews non-pecuniary interests in Weymouth College and the MEMO project.

#### **1213 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017**

The minutes were formally agreed and signed as a correct record.

#### **1214 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

#### **2115 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Cllr. Kimber announced a public meeting to discuss the new local railway timetable.

Paul Glover expressed concern about fly-tipping at St. George's. Cllr. Flack said Dorset Waste Partnership were willing to collect such rubbish if advised.

#### **1216 – PORTLAND ECONOMIC VISION**

Raina Summerson described the recent work of the Vision Board. One emphasis had been to try to orientate the skills of young people on the Island to the needs of local employers. The Board was also investigating the economic possibilities that would arise from major new developments on Portland.

Paul Glover drew attention to the increasing tourism activity and tourists indicating they would make return visits to the Island.

Miss Summerson also mentioned meetings with tour companies, particularly discussing local tourism opportunities among people who had not committed themselves by advance bookings.

Andy Matthews thought more emphasis should be laid on the Island's level of deprivation in order to secure more financial support.

A member of the public, Chris Wakefield, mentioned the possibility of creating a Portland app. As with many IT functions keeping the information on the app up-to-date was an issue.

Cllr. Draper asked about the Vision Board's targets. Miss Summerson said these could be viewed on the Portland Community Partnership website.

### **1217 – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Andy Matthews said the Plan had now reached the informal consultation stage on the draft of the intended Plan. The hope was to obtain the views of as many residents as possible, partly to avoid the possibility of fresh issues being raised at the last minute.

### **1218 – JURASSIC COAST HIGHWAY**

Cllr. Flack advised members of the Council's response to the Chickerell consultation on the highway. The Island had a long-standing problem with its single road access from the mainland and a fundamental transport review was needed to assess the problems in the locality.

### **1219 – PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**

Andy Matthews outlined the unfortunate loss of the map supplied to the County which he had to resend. The South West Coast Path Team had been seeking funding for the Merchants' Incline. Some of the issues had been included in the Neighbourhood Plan. He hoped there would be discussion of the proposals with the County shortly.

Cllr. Lees asked about the footpath from the dockyard along the old railway line which had been blocked with a fence. Who could remove the obstacle? Mr Matthews said it had been shown on the footpaths map as an aspiration to bridge this missing link.

Cllr. Kimber queried whether one of the Borough's practical "Walking for Health" courses might be held on the Island.

### **1220 – BROWN-TAILED TUSSOCK MOTHS**

Cllr. Wild reported that publicity for an autumn cull of the moths had appeared in both the Echo and Free Portland news. Unfortunately this initiative had been undermined by a Borough Councillor advising the use of a professional pest controller.

Cllr. Garcia said there were areas near the Atlantic Academy that had not been treated.

### **1221 – PORTLAND RESILIENCE PLAN**

Cllr. Wild commended the value of having a resilience plan. The Council's new Assistant Clerk would be updating the plan for the Island, which would then be published on the Council website.

**1222 – STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS (by exception)**

**b) Litter and Fly-Tipped Material**

Cllr. Flack commended the use of the My Street app for dealing with fly-tipping. He had helped a resident recently to take photographs and give a grid reference with it to send to Dorset Waste Partnership, who had then removed the rubbish. The My Council app was mentioned as an alternative.

**d) Open Spaces, Hedgerows, Footpaths and Dry-Stone Walls**

A dry-stone wall had been damaged on Weston Road from Pound Piece.

**1223 – TOURISM (additional item)**

Mike Deadman gave an update on various issues. Jurassica had merged with the MEMO project to become The Journey.

**1224 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018, starting at 7.00 pm, to be held at Peter Trim Hall, St. George's Centre, Reforne.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm.

Signed ..... (Chair) Date .....

## **PORTLAND RESILIENCE PLAN**

The Assistant Clerk (AC) met with the Clerk and Andy Matthews for advice and contacts to help update plan Dec 2017.

### **The distribution list is currently being updated.**

All the names/groups on the list have been approached to check if the contacts are correct at the time of this update and whether they wish or need to be included on the new distribution list.

Key changes are as follows:

Emergency Planning, Environment Agency Coastal Flooding, Schools as Refuge centres, Animal health.

### **Update to local skills and resources list**

All supermarkets on the island have been contacted by letter the w/c 12/2/18– Only Tesco have replied so far and wish to be included as a resource for supplies.

Atlantic Academy have agreed to be included instead of Southwell and Royal Manor sites.

AC still waiting replies from other resources and skills on existing list.

Brackenbury School has been taken off at present while awaiting outcomes of bid.

AC has contacted DORSAR, (missing persons, search and rescue team) and they have agreed to be included as a resource and skill for emergencies.

DORSAR also suggested meeting with AC/MET.

AC emailed DCC Local Resilience Forum re becoming a member and/or included in news, emails, meetings etc

### **Emergency Contact List updated**

At present there are no significant changes. AC will discuss with the Council whether anyone else needs to be added e.g. Coastguard, Police and Fire Station, Grove road etc.

### **Ongoing tasks**

AC has made enquiries to the DCC Resilience Forum whether there are new formats for Resilience plans locally or nationally that need to be used for our plan.

To continue with updating Resources and skills list.

To continue with updating helpful community organisations re. vulnerable residents.

AC is updating the First meeting suggested agenda.

AC is updating language and references in plan.

Any suggestions from members of the MET would be gratefully received.

## LITTER – GENERAL COMPLAINT

From: [Redacted]  
Sent: 19 February 2018  
To: Portland Town Council

[...]

Comments: Location - Cheynes Weares

Dear Portland Council. I am a tourist. And a disappointed tourist. I would like to let you know that I visited your island and I have visited literally over a hundred places in the UK and every place is beautiful and well maintained. But Portland Island in general and Cheynes Weares in particular were shockingly filled with litter. I am not talking about the random sandwich wrapper or tissue paper thrown after wiping a nose. I am talking like huge amounts of garbage and litter and even what looked like big piles of human faeces all over the place. Absolutely disgusting. This bit of the coast could easily have been Lagos, Nigeria or the Dharavi Slum in Mumbai. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE have enough resources to clear the litter. It is absolutely disgusting and makes people wonder why they should visit your place and spend their hard earned money here.

## **FUTURE OF THE PARTNERSHIP**

The Partnership has undergone several changes of name over the years to accommodate slightly differing perceptions. Back in 2002 it was known as the Marine & Environmental Committee and its Terms of Reference were defined to be:-

- (1) To co-ordinate the interests of all people who use the waters surrounding the Island for boating, fishing, diving, swimming and water sports.
- (2) To make recommendations on all matters relating to the promotion of good environmental management, both on land and sea.

In anticipation of the Olympic Games being hosted in Britain, including the Sailing Academy at Portland, it became the 2012, Marine & Environment Partnership, partly to help preserve a local legacy. In the wake of the event "2012" was removed from the title and more recently Tourism has been added to the remit, although it should be noted the Council also has an Events & Tourism Working Group.

At the same meeting in 2002 when the Terms of Reference were determined it was agreed that "land based" organisations "with an interest in conservation issues" should be included in the membership. This reflects the strong emphasis of the Partnership to work in consultation with local organisations. There is a small difficulty associated with this, that representatives of these organisations are not clear of their membership rights, whether they are entitled to vote on issues or not.

In fact very few matters are brought to a vote, which could lead to the charge that the Partnership is little more than a talking shop with only a small amount of real Council "business" transacted. That may be a reason why a sizeable number of Councillors have regularly been absent from Partnership meetings over the years. A key factor in that lack of business may simply be that the Town Council since 1974 has had few property assets with the accompanying responsibilities. The nearest equivalent to the Council's Partnership in other places would probably be an Amenities Committee, but in Portland's case that remit would probably only include Cheyne Weares and West Weares. More property is likely to come shortly to the Council in the latest local government reorganisation and this change in circumstances may necessitate a fresh approach.

One of the positive benefits of the Partnership is the opportunity it provides for representatives of local community organisations to interact with members of the Council, to share information and views. This helps to avoid misunderstandings and generate more and speedier beneficial actions.

Finally some questions to reflect upon:-

- \* What do you see as the benefits of the Partnership?
- \* How could we improve its operation?
- \* If the Partnership was wound up what would be the effect?
- \* Could the benefits of the Partnership be achieved in a different way?

## **DORSET COAST FORUM**

### **ENews, February 2018**

If you have an article for the DCF ENews, or wish to unsubscribe, please email [dorset.coast@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:dorset.coast@dorsetcc.gov.uk)

#### **DCF NEWS**

DCF and Litter Free Coast & Sea held a coastal bin workshop last month to discuss and share knowledge on this issue. The workshop focussed on particular challenges that attendees face in their area, allowing them to discuss potential solutions with others with similar issues along the coast.

DCF have received funding from the Dorset & East Devon FLAG, Dorset AONB Sustainable Development Fund and the Fine Foundation to produce a series of short films, which will showcase opportunities for young people to get involved with the fisheries industry and wider fishing related industries across the Dorset and East Devon FLAG area. We will be working with Jo from Butterfly Effect Films on this, who has produced the Boat Stories series which you can view [here](#).

#### **Dorset Coastal Connections (DoCC)**

A Christchurch Borough Council member-led Task and Finish Group has been analysing potential solutions for rebuilding the zig-zag path at Highcliffe Castle, and is expected to recommend to full council on 20<sup>th</sup> February that the project, slightly revised to make substantial cost savings, proceeds with additional funding sourced from within the Council. We're pleased to see this project coming back on track and are working with council officers to make sure the recommendations from last summer's public engagement sessions are taken into account with the revised plans.

Three design studios have been shortlisted for the Weymouth Promenade Lighting Scheme; Bounce Back Arts will be supporting the studios in the next stage of their applications, with appointment of the successful studio expected by Easter 2018.

Volunteers have been helping Dorset Wildlife Trust staff at the Fine Foundation Marine Centre at Kimmeridge with their refurbishment this month. Volunteers have removed the old, tired interpretation and been freshening up the centre with new paint and flooring, ready for the new interpretative exhibits to arrive later this month.

The Poole Seafront Development team have appointed artist Amanda Moore to enhance two public spaces along the promenade at Shore Road and Branksome Chine in Poole. Amanda's designs will create a greater sense of arrival and welcome at these prominent areas on Poole Seafront.

Works are continuing at Bournemouth, with excellent progress made on the western side of Pier Approach. As well as surface and landscaping works, the new semi-submerged bins are currently being installed.

DCF hosted a workshop to look at the future development of iCoast. More than 50 stakeholders joined the team to discuss the site and improvements which can be made, particularly to benefit local businesses.

#### **Dorset and East Devon Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG)**

The FLAG has funded four more projects across Dorset and East Devon. These include

- Health and safety equipment for a small-scale fishing boat

- A report analysing the needs and options for facilities for the Weymouth commercial fishing fleet to ensure that they are considered as sites around the harbour are developed.
- Production of a series of short films on Dorset and east Devon's fishing and fishing related industries and potential career pathways.
- Renovation of a currently disused commercial fishing boat for a local fisherman

The six English FLAGs held a conference call last month discussing how we can all work together on a collaborative project to help fishing communities across England.

After the success of the Aquaculture workshop held at CEFAS last month a report analysing the results and highlighting how funding could benefit the local aquaculture sector will soon be published. The report will help to turn some of these ideas into projects for FLAG funding.

The next FLAG board meeting is on the 20<sup>th</sup> February. This is the first meeting of 2018 and as well as reviewing seven new projects, the board will hold chair elections and review the Local Development Strategy.

### **Litter Free Coast and Sea (LFCS)**

The Great Dorset Beach Clean will be taking place again this year the weekend of April 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you have previously run one of these beach cleans, or would like to run one this year, then please get in touch with the Litter Free Coast & Sea team at [litterfreecoastsea@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:litterfreecoastsea@dorsetcc.gov.uk)

### **Litter Free Dorset (LFD)**

Litter Free Dorset's latest campaign, #LoveYourVerge will be launching March 1<sup>st</sup>. This aims to highlight the diverse wildlife and flowers that can be found in the road verges and that litter is not welcome in these areas as can be dangerous, unsightly and costly. Large road signs of different creatures will be making their way around the county's roads – there's a hedgehog, bees and a giant stag beetle to look out for! You can follow the campaign on social media by using the hashtag #LoveYourVerge – this is not a bin.

There are many events going on for the Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean (March 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>). If you want to set up a litter pick in your local area you find out how by visiting: [www.keepbritaintidy.org](http://www.keepbritaintidy.org)

## **LOCAL NEWS AND CONSULTATIONS**

### **South West Tourism Awards**

The South West Tourism Awards 2018 took place earlier this month. The South West Coast Path Association was awarded Gold for International Visitor Experience of the Year and Swanage Information Centre won Gold for Visitor Information Service. South West Protected Landscapes were awarded for Outstanding Contribution to Tourism. For more information on the awards visit the South West Tourism website [here](#).

### **Poole Community Infrastructure Levy**

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a locally set charge which can be applied to development to help fund infrastructure required to accommodate growth in Poole. The infrastructure projects that are to be funded through CIL are identified on an approved Regulation 123 List which is in the process of being updated. Borough of Poole are consulting on the proposed list which can be found [here](#). **Consultation closes 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018**. The second round of bidding for funding to support local

infrastructure projects through the CIL Neighbourhood Portion closes at **5pm 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018**.

### **Funding for community and voluntary organisations**

Income from weekly car boot sales held in Dorchester and West Bay is distributed annually to local community and voluntary organisations in and around Dorchester and Bridport. **Closes 30<sup>th</sup> April**.

Apply to the Dorchester fund [here](#)

Apply to the Bridport fund [here](#).

### **Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership's Business Conference**

Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), in association with Dorset Business Alliance, is hosting its free business conference to discuss and debate the county's economic ambition and vision. The conference takes place on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April 8am – 10.30am at Bournemouth University. Find out more and book tickets [here](#).

### **Poole Bridge reopened**

Poole Bridge has reopened following 16 months of refurbishment. The bridge now benefits from wider approach spans and walkways, easing traffic congestion and creating a safer experience for pedestrians and cyclists.

### **Flaghead Chine seaside garden**

Portland stone shell sculptures will be the focal point of a new Seaside Garden at Flaghead Chine, Poole. The garden is funded by the Coastal Communities Fund as part of the Dorset Coastal Connections project. The garden will allow younger visitors the opportunity for sensory play and the garden will be surrounded by flowers to soften the transition between the Chine and the beach.

### **Dippy arrives in Dorset**

'Dippy' the Diplodocus has arrived at Dorset County Museum in Dorchester and will be exhibited there until May. Tickets are free and can be booked from the Dorset County Museum website [here](#). The Jurassic Coast Trust are running a variety of natural history activities across the county over the next few months to coincide with Dippy's visit, find out more [here](#).

### **RSPB Arne finalist in Countryfile award**

RSPB Arne has been selected as a finalist for the Countryfile 'Nature Reserve of the Year' Award. Voting is open [here](#) on the Countryfile website until **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March**.

### **National Trust Living Coast blog**

Living Coast is a new project from the National Trust that aims to inspire people to share stories and celebrate the Purbeck coastline. The project also explores some of the pressures facing the coastline, including sea-level rise. Read the blog here: <https://ntpurbeckcoast.wordpress.com/>

### **Dorset Wildlife Trust blog on marine plastics**

Simon Cripps from Dorset Wildlife Trust has published a blog post on the issue of marine plastics, read the blog post [here](#).

## **NATIONAL NEWS AND CONSULTATIONS**

### **Department for Transport Maritime Growth Study review**

This February 2018 review assesses the progress made against the recommendations of the Maritime Growth Study published in September 2015. It

also highlights 10 commitments, considering changes to the UK's economic and political environment, which focus on the immediate and long-term future.

### **Increased funding for maritime training**

A £15 million funding increase was announced earlier this month for the Support for Maritime Training (SMarT) scheme. This will allow the annual intake of cadets on the scheme to rise from 750 to 1,200, giving more young people the opportunity to gain experience and qualifications which are required for careers in the maritime industry.

### **2 Seas Funding – for South West, South East and East coast**

ETC, or Interreg, is the international strand of the European Regional Development Fund which co-finances projects on technological and social innovation, low carbon economy, climate change adaptation and circular economy, working with partners in other countries. The first step of the 6th Call for proposals will be open **from mid-February until 2 May 2018**. During this period, applicants will have the chance to submit a Concept Note of their project. If you wished to start your own project you would need to find an overseas partner as projects must demonstrate cross border co-operation. You can find more information on the [2Seas Interreg programme here](#). There is also a workshop on 22nd February in London on how to develop a project and do the first stage of the application form. Please contact Paula to book. Find out more by contacting Paula MacLachlan at [p.maclachlan@interreg2seas.eu](mailto:p.maclachlan@interreg2seas.eu) or [Paula.MacLachlan@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Paula.MacLachlan@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

### **Environment Agency fund Plastics and Sustainability team**

The Environment Agency has announced £750,000 for a new, dedicated team to tackle plastics pollution in Devon and Cornwall. The team will work with businesses, local councils, charities and community action groups with the aim of reducing the amount of plastic pollution across land, rivers and the coastline.

### **Heritage Lottery Fund Consultation**

HLF is consulting on its role, vision and funding priorities for 2019 - 2024. Take part in the survey [here](#). **Closes 22<sup>nd</sup> March.**

### **Litter and Littering in England 2016 – 2017 report**

DEFRA have published a report on the government's approach to understanding the extent of litter and littering in England. Read the report [here](#).

### **Building resilience in fisheries governance report**

Research undertaken by ABPmer on behalf of the Environmental Defence Fund (EDF) to consider future potential governance arrangements for the fisheries in the N.E. Atlantic region has been published. View the report [here](#).

### **Coastal and marine habitat creation database**

OMReg is an online searchable database of implemented coastal habitat creation and restoration schemes mainly in North West Europe. Each scheme entry includes the what, why, where and how of each project including photos. The site now has a more modern layout and improved search function, visit the site [here](#).

### **Mapping project reveals maritime history of England and Wales**

Researchers at University of Southampton have launched an interactive map and database which brings together information about medieval and Tudor maritime ports, trading centres and the individual voyages which set sail from them. Visit the site here: [www.medievalandtudorships.org](http://www.medievalandtudorships.org)

### **Crown Estate offshore wind leasing process update**

The Crown Estate has presented an update on potential new offshore wind leasing outlining their early thinking on a new leasing model design, as well as a process of engagement with the offshore wind sector, stakeholders and interested parties over the summer. The feedback from the engagement will form part of their consideration in determining to any new offshore wind leasing. If leasing is confirmed, a formal process could commence in late 2018 or early 2019. More information [here](#).

### **New Environmentally Friendly Moorings webpages**

New webpages have been published on the RYA website which provide more information on Environmentally Friendly Moorings (EFMs). EFMs are mooring systems designed to have less impact on the sea bed than conventional swing moorings, reducing the damage to sensitive habitats. View the webpages [here](#).

### **Devon & Severn IFCA wrasse fishery consultation**

Devon & Severn IFCA is inviting interested parties to provide feedback on proposed amendments to regulations within commercial live wrasse potting permits. Proposed changes include changes to the closed season period and a change in slot size for Corkwing Wrasse. Complete the consultation [here](#). **Deadline 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

### **MMO guidance on 2018 bass fishing published**

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has published guidance on bass fishing in 2018 for fishermen in England. Throughout 2018 commercial bass fishing from shore is prohibited. In addition, the guidance sets out the areas where commercial fishermen must not catch, retain, transship or land bass. Commercial fishing for bass in any restricted area is prohibited during February and March 2018. For those with a bass licence, the limit is now 5 tonnes per annum. View the guidance [here](#)

### **Environment Agency annual fisheries reports 2016 - 2017**

The Environment Agency have published their annual fisheries reports. Read the full report [here](#) and the Wessex report [here](#).

### **Animations show dangers of subsea hazards to fishing**

Kingfisher Information, run by Seafish, works with offshore industries to map the locations of surface and subsea structures to show potential fishing hazards. These animations show the dangers of subsea hazards and are being shown in fishermen's training courses. Watch the animation [here](#).

### **Coastal Challenge Event**

The Coastal Partnerships Network is hosting a Coastal Challenge Event on 24th April, in London. The event aims to bring together coastal networks and coastal champions – the people and organisations working together in coastal communities to strengthen social, environmental and economic conditions on the coast. More details to be released by the CPN.

### **Annual review of the Responsible Fishing Scheme**

Seafish is welcoming feedback on the Responsible Fishing Scheme. This is an opportunity for all interested parties to comment on how the standard may need to respond to changes from the past year. Visit their website [here](#) to comment.

**Deadline 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018.**

### **MMO marine planning consultation workshops**

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is inviting stakeholders to get involved in the next stage of the marine planning process for the North East, North West, South East and South West. These workshops are an opportunity for stakeholders to check progress towards the development of marine plans in their area. View dates and sign up [here](#).

### **Beyond the Coast conference 2018**

JNCC are launching 'Beyond the Coast'; a conference specifically focussed on progressive marine conservation in the UK's offshore marine environment. The conference will be held at the University of Hull on 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> June. View more information and book tickets [here](#).

### **Fishing for a future report**

Seafarers UK commissioner Cornwall Rural Community Charity to establish an overview of what is needed to address the socio-economic challenges in fishing communities. Read the report [here](#).

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS AND CONSULTATIONS**

### **Consultation on the EU's strategy on adaptation to climate change**

The consultation is one of the stakeholder consultation activities undertaken to gather evidence to support the 'Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change' evaluation. All citizens and organisations are welcome to contribute; contributions are particularly sought from professionals dealing with adaptation to climate change in all types of organisations. Respond to the consultation [here](#). **Deadline: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018**

### **MSC new requirements for assessment of fisheries**

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) have announced changes to their requirements, meaning that certified seafood will only enter MSC certified supply chains if it comes from fishing trips on which all activities on the target stock are certified. Currently the rule allows a vessel to catch fish from the same stock using both certified and uncertified fishing gear and catch methods. More information [here](#).