

## SOLENT FORUM RESEARCH GROUP

BOAT HOUSE SIX, UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH

9 SEPTEMBER 05

### NOTES

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#### Attendees:

Gemma Conway (SF)

Tim Goodhead, chair (UoP)

Tracey Hewett (SF)

David Lowthion (EA)

Jan Gillespie (HWTMA)

Tim Golding (ABP MER)

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#### Apologies

Jenny Anderson (SI)

Andrew Colenutt (NFDC)

Steve Fletcher (Southampton  
Solent University)

Natalie Frost (ABP MER)

Alan Inder (HCC)

David Johnson (Southampton  
Solent University)

Chris Pirie (EN)

Claire Marriott (IoWC)

Julie Satchell (HWTMA)

#### 1. WELCOME

Tim Goodhead, chair of the Research Group, welcomed all the meeting.

#### 2. MATTERS ARISING

The two matters arising to be discussed were the progress of the Special Solent Issue of Marine Policy Journal and the review of group membership.

TG updated the group on the progress of the Marine Policy special issue. Steve Fletcher is organising this and most of the papers to be included have been submitted in draft form. It is likely that the special edition will be slotted into Marine Policy Journal later this year.

GC updated the group on its membership. This has been reviewed and details updated. It was suggested that if anyone knows of colleagues who they think would be interested in sitting on the group to pass their details to Solent Forum office.

#### 3. RESEARCH GROUP WORK PROGRAMME

##### (a) DISC

At the last meeting members were informed of how the Solent Forum's metadatabase, DISC, was going to be updated. Work is ongoing on implementing this change and should be finished by March 06.

### **(b) Solent Forum Dissertation Prize**

GC updated the group on the winners of the Solent Forum Dissertation Prize. This is awarded every two years and there is both a post and undergraduate prize.

There were 10 nominations, 7 postgraduate and 3 undergraduate. We were very pleased with the range of topics covered in the projects and all the entrants were of a high standard.

The winner of the postgraduate prize was Nicky Horter, University of Bournemouth, and the undergraduate winner was Michelle Hodge, Southampton Institute. The prizes will be awarded at the Forum meeting on the 27 September and the abstracts are available on the Solent Forum website.

### **(c) Cultural Heritage Event**

At the meeting in February 05 it was agreed that the Research Group would concentrate on organising a conference around the topic of cultural heritage. The group discussed the timing, suggested working group members and suggested themes/sessions.

It was agreed that the conference would take place in March 2007 and the working group should first meet December 2005, this would ensure a lead in time of over a year.

Suggested members of the working group include: Wessex Archaeology; HWTMA; University of Portsmouth; Hampshire County Council; English Heritage; National Trust; Ron Wilson (Gosport); The Submarine Museum; Alison Fowler (Chichester Harbour Conservancy).

It was suggested that the event could take place over a Friday and Saturday. This would encourage interest amongst the general public. It was noted that the aims of the event need to be agreed and the customer identified so that it can be tailored to ensure that these aims are met.

<i>ACTION 3.1 SFO to meet with TG and the working group in December</i>
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### **(d) Indicators for the Solent**

The group were updated about the workshop being run by the Solent Forum on behalf of the EU Expert Working Group on Indicators and Data. The workshop will look at the work underway in calculating the sustainable development indicators of the coastal zone. The afternoon session will invite delegates to use their expertise to add to local, regional and national assessments of the implementation of ICZM using the indicator developed by the EU Expert Working Group on Indicators and Data.

There has been a very positive response to the event and we expect it to be well attended and successful. A copy of the flyer is attached.

#### **(e) Recreation Action Plan**

TH updated the group on the work being taken forward on the back of the Solent Recreation Study done by Geodata.

There is approximately £5000 available to start implementation of the study recommendations. A project was worked up with the EA in May 05 where it was suggested that workshops should be held with users to assess their needs. However, with further consideration it is now suggested that this may just lead to us feeding back what users want to the statutory authorities and nothing really being achieved. It has been highlighted through the SF Nature Conservation Group that there is still a need for baseline recreational data. It was agreed that instead of trying to write a Recreational Action Plan which may not be implemented that a recreational working group be set up to look at ways of collecting recreational data in a consistent way across the Solent.

It was suggested that this topic remain as a standing item on the Research Group agenda to allow members to feed into the work of the recreational working group.

DL noted that this work would be of interest to the EA re the numbers of boats in the water and the links with the elevated copper levels measured. The Water Framework Directive may have an impact on recreation as limits may be placed on the number of boats allow in certain areas if they are having a negative effect on the water quality.

It was agreed that a recreation working group be set up to establish a work programme to include a recreational survey to provide baseline information for all parties. This group will prioritise the data collection. It was suggested that the SEMS Management Group may provide additional funding for this database.

<p><i>ACTION 3.2 SFO to contact Solent Forum members to ask who would like to sit on the recreation working group.</i></p>
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#### **4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

DL raised an issue which the EA had this summer with a bathing water quality problem in Cowes. In June there was a high count (failure) which when followed up with additional sampling still showed elevated results. Southern Water were contacted but had had no operational problems which would cause this. The next week the sampling still showed high results and it was considered to be an ongoing pollution problem. The local authority were contacted and asked to consider if they felt it was a public health issue. The EA and LA agreed to do a joint press release which was drafted, agreed and sent out. When the EA returned to the beach to do further sampling it was found that the LA had put signage on the beach warning the public about the decline in water quality. However, the sign was worded saying the EA were

advising the public of the situation. This had not previously been agreed by the EA. DL felt that this sort of signage was bad practice and the issue needs to be investigated further.

It was also noted that the permanent sign giving the water quality information on Cowes Beach does not have the correct phone number for the public to ring if they become aware of a change to the water quality.

It was suggested that the wording of temporary signs should be developed by health professionals. Portsmouth City Council have done some work on this, which was lead by Paul Hunt.

It was felt that this problem highlighted the importance of the project being proposed through the Solent Water Quality Association (paper 2).

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TG informed the group about the MarMu project with which the University of Portsmouth is involved. This is an INTERREG IIIC project which aims to create a business model that introduces commercial marketing techniques and tools to public institutions. Further information on this project is available from Tim Goodhead, University of Portsmouth.

TG also introduced the EMBARC project for information. This project has been running for 5 years and finished in June. The goals of the project were:

- To encapsulate the requirements/needs of VTMISS (Vessel Traffic Management and Information Services) stakeholders through the exploitation of current and emerging technologies within Vessel Traffic Management: the set of measures, provisions, services and related functions which intend to minimise risks for the safety and the environment, whilst maximising the efficiency of waterborne transport;
- To examine appropriate measures and to realise the benefits for waterborne transport, e.g. the mitigation of risk in specific maritime regions and the enhancement of transport efficiency;
- To explore the possibilities of enlarging the scope of VTMISS to hitherto unused or underused applications.

Further information on the project is available from the website, [www.euro-embarc.com](http://www.euro-embarc.com).

## **5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be confirmed, most likely February 2006