

# ASERA

ASSOCIATION OF SEVERN ESTUARY RELEVANT AUTHORITIES

## **The Management Scheme for the Severn Estuary European Marine Site**

### **Update to ASERA Management Group 24th May 2011**

# The Management Scheme for the Severn Estuary European Marine Site

- Updates 2004 Management Scheme
- Readable online and as a hardcopy (hyperlinks)
- Should not go out of date
- Enables Relevant Authorities to understand the impact of their activities and implement their action plans.
- 20 page document with 10 Appendices

- **Appendix 1 - Legislative Background**
- **Appendix 2 - Summary of Notified features of each designation and the interrelationship between them**
- **Appendix 3 – The activities and operations undertaken by each relevant authority during the first iteration of the management scheme in 2004, and those which have been reported in 2010**
- **Appendix 4 - Summary descriptions of nature, locations, and current management of activities**
- **Appendix 5 - F- Code Guidance derived for 2004 Management Scheme and revised for 2011 scheme**
- **Appendix 6 - Table of F Codes for each activity, relevant authority and feature**
- **Appendix 7 - Whole site actions plan - Table identifying management actions and timetable of works for all activities**
- **Appendix 8 - Individual RA action plans (Tables 1-31)**
- **Appendix 9 - ASERA action plan**



# Results of NE and CCW review of proformas

- **F1 Activities constitutes a plan or project.** Activities that are actually ‘plans or projects’ have been included in the list of activities within this management scheme, as they have been submitted on the activity proformas by the relevant authorities.
- **F2 activities have no possible impact :** No action is required under the Management Scheme for relevant authorities carrying out these activities.
- **F3 activities have unknown impacts, and therefore the potential to cause deterioration or significant damage to a feature (s), but there is currently insufficient information to determine if it is causing deterioration or significant disturbance:** Action is required under the Management Scheme by the relevant authorities carrying out these activities and Appendix 5 provides a list of options.

- **No has been impact identified for F4 activities**, therefore they still have the potential to cause deterioration or significant damage to a feature (s), but current information shows that it is not causing deterioration or significant disturbance at present: No action is required under the Management Scheme for relevant authorities carrying out these activities.
- **Significant impact (managed) occurs for all F5 activities**, i.e. they have been identified as causing known deterioration or significant disturbance to a feature(s), and the mechanism(s) for this is known: Action is required under the Management Scheme by the relevant authorities carrying out these activities and a range of measures have been identified (in Appendix 5).
- **F6 Unmanaged activities identified as having a significant impact:** At the time of writing, none of the activities carried out by the relevant authorities within the Severn Estuary European marine sites, fall into this category.

# Appendix 4 - Summary descriptions of nature, locations, and current management of activities

ACTIVITY	Mechanism (s) for/ and potential impact (s)	Location, Key Concerns and Current Management
<b>RECREATION ACTIVITIES</b>		
<p><b><u>Airborne sports</u></b></p> <p>This activity covers the informal use of mainly beaches for kite flying, kite surfing, para-motoring, model aircraft flying. While a component of these activities is linked with "land based recreation" it is the potential for the airborne component to disturb birds that sets these activities apart.</p> <p>(Note: Any formalised arrangements for the running and promotion of these activities would be expected to be subject to planning and consenting arrangements. They would therefore be 'Plans and Projects' and would require a Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) under the Habitats Regulations rather than action under this management scheme.)</p> <p><i>Linked activities: Land based recreation</i></p>	<p><b>Mechanism:</b> Noise, Visual Presence</p> <p><b>Potential impact:</b> Disturbance to feeding and roosting birds in winter/ passage, but impact dependent upon location and time of year.</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> Local. This is a restricted activity within the estuary with the key area identified as the beaches of <del>N. Somerset</del> / Sedgemoor.</p> <p><b>Key Concerns:</b> The potential for bird disturbance and uncertainty about the impact of the current levels of activity.</p> <p><b>Management:</b> None at present.</p>
<p><b><u>Land based recreation</u></b></p> <p>This activity includes many forms of informal recreation occurring on beach areas and Rights of Way (e.g. Severn Way) within or adjacent to the estuary (beach use, walking, bird watching, dog walking, cycling, horse riding, sand yachting) and some specific facilities immediately adjacent to the estuary e.g. golf courses.</p> <p>It also takes account of some motorised vehicle access</p>	<p><b>Mechanism:</b> Abrasion, Noise, Visual Presence</p> <p><b>Potential impact:</b> 1) Damage to habitats from trampling. 2) Disturbance to feeding and roosting birds in winter/ passage. Birds are highly sensitive to disturbance from people movement, land yachting/ motor cycling/ hovercraft etc. Impact dependent upon duration of activity, location and time of year. 3) Litter, pollution damaging habitats and birds. Birds may become entangled/ ingest</p>	<p><b><u>General Recreation</u></b></p> <p><b>Location:</b> These are widespread activities with RAs identifying high levels of use particularly close to urban centres and at key beach/ resort locations at Burnham, <del>Benbow, Bysay,</del> Cardiff, Newport and Penarth but with significant levels of activity occurring throughout and adjacent to the EMS on the Public Rights of Way (ROW) network.</p> <p><b>Key Concerns:</b> physical impacts on habitats and disturbance of birds, particularly at key roosting and feeding areas, on which research is required. In England there is some encouragement of these activities through ROW</p>

# Action Plans

- Whole site action plans i.e. Action Plans listed by activity. (Appendix 7)
- Individual RA action plans - for each RA to use and report on. (Appendix 8)

# Appendix 7 - Whole site actions plan - Table identifying management actions and timetable of works for all activities

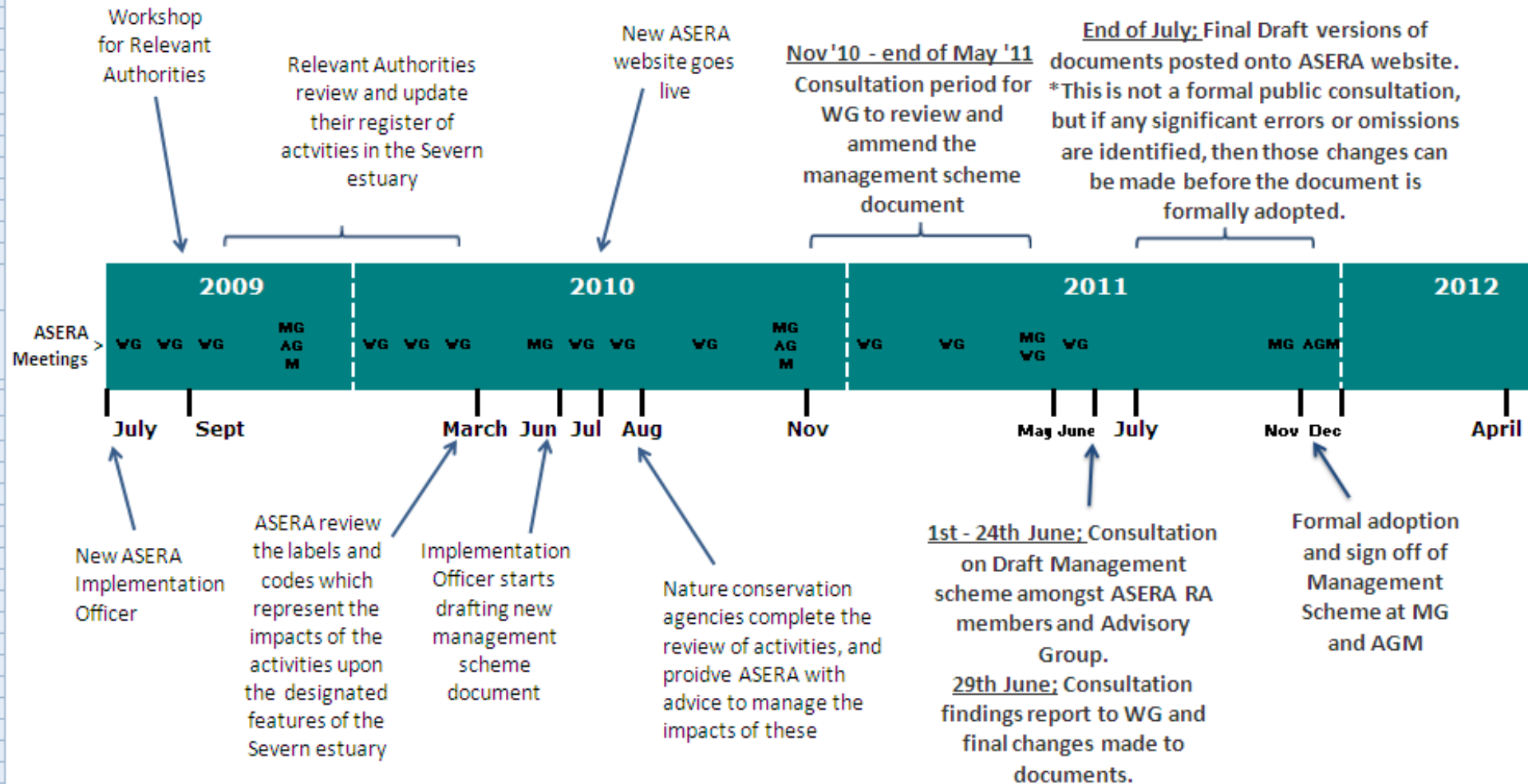
Activity	Proposed Management Measures		Relevant Authorities and their internal departments / functions to whom this applies	Timescale for completion
	Relevant Authority Actions	Other Actions required		
Practices resulting in Agricultural run-off	RAs need to have measures in place to protect the EMS from impacts – i.e. ensuring that tenants and occupiers comply with all relevant legislation and adhere to relevant Codes of Practice/incentive schemes and requirements.	None in this capacity	CCW, NE, EA, WW-DC, WW, GCC, MCC, SCC, SGC, BCC Relevant RA dept: Environment, Property, Critical Infrastructure & Planning (drainage), Transport (waterways).	
Airborne sports	Surveillance of the extent of the activities is needed. RAs to establish the extent, intensity and timing of these activities to define whether the impacts are significant	None in this capacity	NSC, SGC, SDC Relevant RA dept: Recreation, Property, Leisure and Tourism, Environment, Planning.	
Angling (recreational)	Clarification is needed from the EA on the legal requirements for authorisation of this activity in all parts of the estuary and of the role of enforcement in respect of unauthorised activity.	Development and trialling of operational limits. NE / CCW needs to review current consenting position regarding angling activities. Review and possibly amendment of existing management regimes / procedures Newport Wetlands - CCW action needed. Where impact of unauthorised activity is determined to be damaging control by landowners, NE / CCW and EA is needed including enforcement action if necessary. Zoning of activities	D&S IFCA, CCW, NE, EA, BWY, ABP (Cardiff & Newport), CHA, NHQ, MCC, NSC, SGC, SgDC, CC, NCC, (D&S IFCA?) Relevant RA dept: Recreation, Leisure and Tourism, Operational (Harbour Master, Marina Manager), Planning (Licensing and Consents), Environment.	
Anchoring (Commercial and Recreational)	None in this capacity ASERA have produced Guidance Notes about "Mooring", including Codes of Practice on mooring and anchoring within the EMS. Ports and Harbours in the estuary have their own byelaws and procedures.	See also "Mooring" – guidance (Code of Practice) from ASERA / ports on mooring and anchoring within the EMS should be considered particularly in respect of <i>Sabellia</i> reef – possible identification of a vulnerable zone restricting all but emergency anchorage For all new facilities: CAs need to have measures	ABP (Cardiff), BWY, EA, GHT, NHQ, PoB, TBPC, NSC, EoD, SDC, CC, THLA (D&S IFCA?)	

# Appendix 8 - Individual RA action plans (Tables 1-32)

Table 26. The Bristol Port Company (TBPC)

Activity	F-Code	Proposed management measure	Action (s)	Timeframe for completion	Progress
All listed activities	As listed		End of year reporting to ASERA of any significant changes in this activity or its management.  Review and update of activity proforma where necessary.	Nov 2011 and annually thereafter	
Anchoring (commercial)	F4 Habitat	No impact identified to the habitat features. No possible impact to the bird or fish features.	No action is required for activities that are not known to have an effect subject to the continuation of current management.	Nov 2011 and annually thereafter	
Anchoring (recreational)	F2 Birds F2 Fish				
Barge and sluice operation	F4 Habitat	No impact identified.	No action is required for activities that are not known to have an effect subject to the continuation of current management.	Nov 2011 and annually thereafter	
Commercial shipping and cargo operations	F4 Birds F4 Fish				
Discharge / exchange of ballast water					
Lock gate and dock water management					
Navigation					
Moorings	F2 Habitat F2 Birds F2 Fish	No impact identified.	No action is required for activities that do not have an effect on the site subject to the continuation of current management.	Nov 2011 and annually thereafter	
Water based recreation	F4 Habitat F3 Birds F4 Fish	Impacts on birds are unknown. No impact to the habitat and fish features identified.  Further information is required to understand whether there is an impact on birds.  Appropriate precautionary management measures should be considered to protect birds.	TBPC to undertake surveillance of the extent of water based recreation and assess any growth of this activity since 2004 EMS SOM.  NE/ TBPC to identify any cause and effect relationships.  TBPC to establish precautionary management measures for water based recreation, as appropriate	Nov 2011 and annually thereafter	

# Project timeline



# **Onward program of work for ASERA ...**

1. Re-engage member RA's with the management scheme.
2. Encourage the RA's with the implementation of their action plans, and facilitate reporting of these.
3. Assist RA's with the reporting of new/changed activities.
4. Fill the information gaps within the RA activity proformas.
5. Remind RA's to implement the appropriate management measure for their Plans or Projects and consult/involve EA, NE, CCW where appropriate.

# For the Management Group to consider....

1. Can the proposed timescales be met?
2. Advisors for the Advisory Group?
3. The document will be primarily web based. Do we need any hard copies? Does it need translating?
4. Online matrix with hyperlinks to RA proformas (see quote from SEP for work)
5. How do we launch the document?
6. How do we maintain the momentum for implementing the management scheme and action plans?
7. Timescales for reviewing and updating the management scheme? and reporting on Action Plans?
8. Onward program of work for ASERA i.e. Meetings? Frequency?

# Implementation reporting

## **What?** RA's to report annually on:

- For specific actions in the action plan: what is the status of the action?
- General actions for all RA's: Are there any significant changes to an activity or its management? If yes, has a proforma been created or updated and submitted to ASERA?
- For projects and plans relevant to the action plan: has a management plan/policy or document been updated? have the implications on the EMS been considered/addressed?
- Any activities outside an RA's area of jurisdiction that need to be brought to ASERA's attention

## **How?** Options are:

- keep the existing word form and email system
- simplify /reduce the form and email it around
- on line reporting in the digital action plan
- Others options?

## **When?**

- Proposed that RAs should report to ASERA by the beginning of November every year, which allows review of progress at the AGM.