A partnership to care for the Clyde: its environment, its people and its visitors

Clyde Breakers

FIRTH OF CLYDE FORUM NEWSLETTER

Summer 2015
Issue 18

This Issue:

- Industry and business on and around the Clyde
- Spreading the word on biosecurity
- Regional Marine Planning for the Clyde

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Front cover photograph: Largs Marina © Largs Yacht Haven

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Firth of Clyde Forum News

Welcome to the Summer 2015 edition of Clyde Breakers!

In this edition we are focussing on business in and around the Firth of Clyde and taking a look at the diverse economic activity happening all around the region from a variety of sectors. A few highlights include articles on the work of the British Marine Federation Scotland, an article from local Arran boat tour operators Ocean Breeze and a look at the work of The Scottish Salmon Company.

We also have project updates from Fiona Mills on the ongoing Sea Level Rise Project, which is examining the effects of sea level rise and storm surges on flood defence planning and environmental resilience in the Firth of Clyde region. The final report of the project will be published on our website in the coming weeks, so keep an eye out for this. Fiona's description of the project can be found on page 4.

The Forum is embarking on a brand new project, intending to fill a current knowledge gap in the National Marine Plan and will be examining marine tourism and recreational use of the marine environment on a national level. Sarah explains more on page 3. The data gathered through this project will create an accurate picture of how surfers, sailors, kayakers, windsurfers and others are utilising Scotland's marine environment and will shape marine planning processes for the benefit of all users of the marine environment.

In this issue, we are also announcing a new addition to the Forum team, Sinéad Sheridan. Sinéad has joined the Forum as a new Marine Planning Co-ordinator. She will be assisting in the development of the new Clyde Marine Plan, as well as providing organisational and administrative support to the forum team as a whole. Read more about Sinéad on page 3.

Additionally, we have updates on Clyde 2020 and Regional Marine Planning for the Clyde….so, read on!

Best wishes,

Isabel Glasgow
Firth of Clyde Forum Chair

Fiona Mills, Sarah Brown and Sinéad Sheridan – Project Team

Thanks go to Danielle Casey for pulling together this edition of Clyde Breakers.

A Tribute to Ken Clark, a colleague who will be sorely missed.

The Firth of Clyde Forum Core Group members, Chair and staff would like to extend their condolences to the family and friends of Ken Clark who passed away unexpectedly in May 2015.

Ken had a long history of valuable contribution and involvement with the Firth of Clyde due to his work with the Ministry of Defence and Peel Ports Clydeport. Ken was involved with the Firth of Clyde Forum on many projects such as the Scottish Sustainable Marine Environment Initiative (SSMEI) and more recently the Clyde 2020 and the Sea Level Rise projects.

Ken's knowledge, ebullient style and valuable contribution will be greatly missed within the Forum and within the West of Scotland marine community as a whole.

Image © Sinead Sheridan

Welcome aboard, Sinéad Sheridan, our new Marine Planning Co-ordinator

In April, the Firth of Clyde Forum welcomed a new member of staff to the team – in the new role of *Marine Planning Co-Ordinator.*

Sinéad Sheridan studied Zoology at the University of Glasgow before moving to Botswana, Southern Africa to work for an international fisheries consultancy company. There she worked on a range of projects aimed at promoting sustainable fisheries practices through development and governance work. This included projects ranging from issues such as industrial scale Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing, Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS), identifying climate change adaptation needs in the fisheries sector and a small amount of work in the freshwater sector, looking at the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to food security and nutrition. Having returned to live in Scotland, Sinéad is excited to be involved in a new chapter of integrated coastal zone management in Scotland, and eager to get to work with the FoCF in developing the new Marine Plan for the Firth of Clyde.

Firth of Clyde Forum Project Updates

Marine Tourism and Recreation – Data Collection Project

The draft National Marine Plan identified a number of gaps in our knowledge about how we use the marine environment in Scotland. Detailed data is always hard to generate especially in the marine environment where surveys are expensive and difficult, often requiring support vessels and state of the art technology.

One area that particularly concerned Marine Scotland was the lack of data about marine recreation and tourism in Scotland. Who is out there, where do they go, how long they go for, how much they spend and so on?

The Clyde Forum, with marine tourism and recreation being such an important part of the economy of the Clyde, seemed the ideal body to take on co-ordination of a project designed to fill this data gap.

Answering these sorts of questions doesn't mean I need to charter expensive support vessels, as much fun as that would be, but they do mean I need a very good questionnaire and a keen eye for detailed analysis and so, we let the contract to LUC (Land Use Consultants) late in 2014. Already they have completed a literature review of more than 140 reports and data sets about marine tourism and recreation in Scotland and this has informed the development of a methodology which will determine how we go about gathering data across Scotland.

The process from here sounds simple, finish designing the questionnaire and the online mapping tool and then send it out to the 2000+ people on our stakeholder database and wait for them to reply. Like I say, it sounds simple but a user friendly GIS based website for gathering mapped information about where people go is quite a challenge!

One by one the challenges are being overcome and in the next few weeks we hope to have the website up and running and by July be out there collecting vital information to inform marine planning all around Scotland for years to come. We will also be running a series of workshops so look out on our website and in your local press for information about these events.

For more information about the project contact sarah@clydeforum.org.

Clyde 2020 – Setting a Vision for the Ecosystem of the Clyde

In April last year the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and Environment, Richard Lochhead MSP, kicked off the Clyde 2020 project at a Summit organised by the Clyde Forum. The aim is to work with individuals and organisations who know and work in and on the Clyde to identify practical actions and research projects which will help to support the healthy development of the ecosystem of the Clyde.

A year on from the Summit and after a lot of engagement with people who have a deep and long involvement with the Clyde especially fishermen, environmental groups and business representatives, we have a Vision for the Clyde (see box) which, along with the Action Plan, has been signed off by the recently convened Steering Group. Before long we hope to see the formation of a Science Sub-Group who will advise the development of the Action Plan and ensure that we use the existing data to best effect.

If you would like to know more about the Clyde 2020 project you can read the report from the Summit and subsequent workshops by visiting the Scottish Government website, http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/marine-environment/Clyde2020

Clyde 2020 Vision - The Firth of Clyde is a healthy and thriving marine ecosystem that is capable of adapting and mitigating for the challenges of climate change and supports sustainable fishing, tourism, leisure and other sustainable developments while offering protection to the most fragile species and habitats. This will enhance the quality of life for local communities and contribute to a diverse and sustainable economy for the West of Scotland.

Stormy sea with Calmac in background © Sarah Brown

Sea Level Rise and Storm Surges in the Firth of Clyde

This report is in the final drafting stage and will be available shortly on our website at www.clydeforum.com under 'projects'. It covers the following:

- **Executive Summary**
- **Legislative Framework – a review of the main legislative context**
- **Methodology and technical context – including calculations of sea level rise and data gaps**
- **Mapping of sea level rise and identification of areas at risk**
- **Case studies for Managed Realignment opportunities**
- **Discussion, summary and 'making it happen'**
- **Conclusions and recommendations**

The rise in sea level (including negligible storm surge changes) by 2080 under a High Emissions scenario has been calculated as 47cm across the whole of the Firth of Clyde. This increase has been mapped at both a 1 in 1 year and 1 in 200 year likelihood (i.e. a storm event that is likely to happen every year compared with one that may happen once in every 200 years). These maps were then used to identify areas at risk of flooding. Local Authority land use plans were also overlaid. Ultimately the project aims to inform future long-term strategies (development plans, development work, flood risk management, regional marine planning) with regard to flooding and erosion which affect the built and natural environments. It is important to note that the maps produced as part of this project are indicative and of a strategic nature and should not be used to assess flood risk to an individual property.

The project also looked at four case study areas to assess suitability for Managed Realignment (MR). MR is a 'soft' engineering technique where river, estuary and /or coastal waters are deliberately allowed to extend beyond current flood defences. This can be through removal, breach or realignment of defences or through controlled tidal restoration or managed retreat.

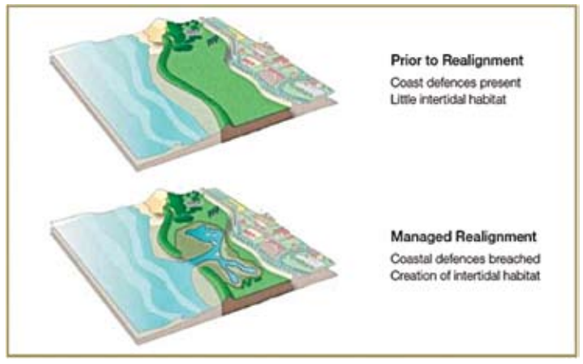


Fig 1: Illustration of managed realignment reproduced from Linham and Nicholls (2014)

Coastal systems provide a raft of ecosystem services on which we rely and the loss or degradation of these habitats negatively impacts their ability to provide these key services. Salt marshes provide raw materials and food, coastal protection, erosion control, water purification, nursery habitat which helps maintain fisheries, carbon sequestration, education and research, tourism and recreation. A reduction in the provision of these services relates to real economic losses. They play a key role in flood defence through attenuating wave energy.

Managed Realignment	
Benefits	**Issues**
Flood defence by providing an intertidal buffer zone	Loss of land – often agricultural
Carbon sequestration – climate change mitigation	Loss of habitat due to saltwater incursion
Improving habitats for valuable and protected species	Habitat quality can be lower than natural intertidal habitat.
Habitat offsetting for internationally designated coastal sites	Negative stakeholder or public opinion due to lack of consultation
Positive impacts for recreation and tourism	

Fig 2: Table showing the benefits and issues associated with Managed Realignment

Three of the case studies in this project are in the Clyde estuary at Dumbarton to Bowling on the north side, Erskine and Newshot Island on the south side. The fourth is at Holy Loch.

The Dumbarton to Bowling coast has limited potential for MR due to a combination of factors including prolonged and active erosion of existing marshes, industrial land use which has led to severe contamination, compaction and/or covering of soil by made ground, and limited potential to re-route existing essential railway and canal infrastructure. The other three sites have good potential for MR in 2/3 stages.

Fig 3: Example of an area with potential for managed realignment at Erskine

Fig 4: Armoured bund defence at Erskine which is already breached at certain points.

Whilst MR provides a local solution to potential flood risk and has other benefits per the above table, it must be noted that this does not lower the risk of flooding due to sea level rise in other parts of the Firth of Clyde as the overall volume (tidal prism) of water is not significantly reduced.

We would like to thank SNH, GCVSDPA, Peel Ports Clydeport and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority for their support, funding and patience in bringing this project to a satisfactory conclusion.

'The Class' © Sarah Brown

Spreading the word on Marine Biosecurity Planning

Firth of Clyde Forum Project Manager Sarah Brown and Robin Payne, independent consultant on Invasive Species, delivered a training course on Marine Biosecurity Planning in February this year.

The course was based on the biosecurity planning guidance that the Clyde Forum released last year, see www.clydeforum.com/projects/invasive-species for more information, and was held in February in Pembrokeshire.

The two day event was set up to help build the skills and awareness needed to develop and implement marine non-native species biosecurity plans for marine operations and was funded by Natural Resources Wales. Designed primarily for marina and port managers the course was also relevant to anyone managing marine based assets or events.

Sarah said, "The course was extremely popular and well attended. We used a combination of presentations, workshops and a site visit to Milford Haven marina to keep people engaged and to help show real life examples of the issues with marine biosecurity."

With places limited to 30, a number of applicants were turned away and a similar course run in North Wales or England is being considered. Sarah went on to say, "Already we have run another one day course with SEPA staff in Scotland. They found it very useful and the discussion about practical applications of the biosecurity planning guidance were great!"

Attendees on the NRW course were from a wide range of sectors including ports large and small, marinas and local authorities. By the end of the course all of the attendees were well on their way to writing a biosecurity plan for their asset. The accommodation and teaching facilities at Orielton (http://www.field-studies-council.org/centres/orielton.aspx) were excellent and ideally located close to the busy Milford Haven Waterway and Port.

A pack to enable others to run similar courses will soon be available on the Marine Pathways web pages (www.nonnativespecies.org/projects/marinepathways).

Regional Marine Planning for the Clyde

The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 have begun a new era for the management of Scotland's Seas. These Acts set out a tiered approach to developing marine planning in the UK and Scotland which flows from the UK Marine Policy Statement to the Scottish National Marine Plan down to Regional Marine Plans.

The UK Marine Policy Statement was published in 2011 and set out a common vision across the UK of having clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas. A National Marine Plan for Scotland has recently been adopted and published and covers sea areas extending out to 200 nautical miles, both reserved and devolved issues. This can be seen online at http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/seamanagement/national . This National Marine Plan sets the wider context for planning within Scotland, including what should be considered when creating local Regional Marine Plans. It is proposed that 11 Scottish Marine Regions will be created which will cover sea areas extending out to 12nm. Regional Marine Plans will be developed by Marine Planning Partnerships, allowing more local ownership and decision making about specific issues within their area. Whilst it will take some time to set up Marine Planning Partnerships and develop Regional Marine Plans for all 11 regions, Clyde and the Shetland Isles will be the first Partnerships.

Work has already begun at a regional Clyde level:

The Firth of Clyde Forum has been working with its Core Group and other stakeholders to develop a proposal to set up a constitution for a future Clyde Marine Planning Partnership. Under the Marine (Scotland) Act, Scottish Ministers could delegate powers to the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership to develop the Regional Marine Plan.

The Forum has also begun work in conjunction with the NAFC in Shetland,

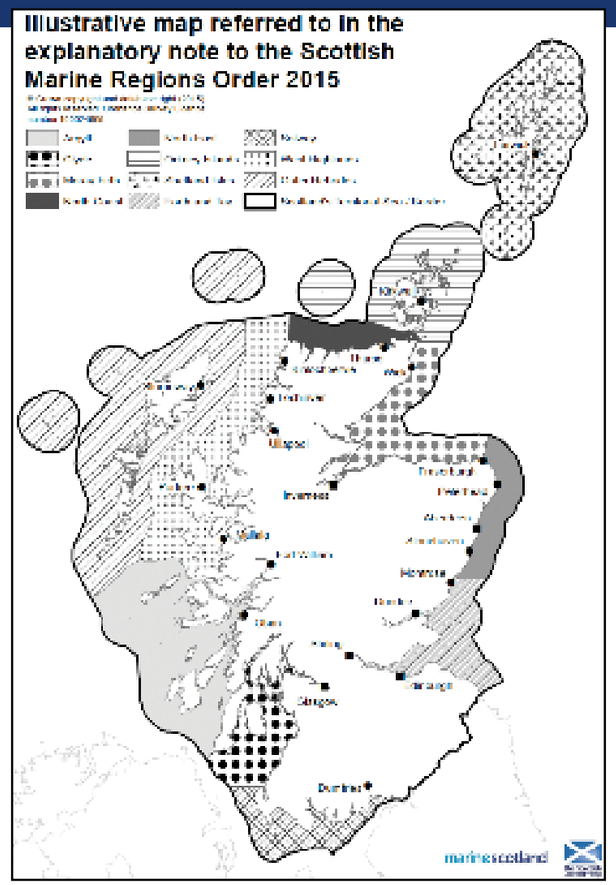


Fig 1: the proposed Scottish Marine Regions

Marine Scotland, SNH, SEPA and SAMS on the first step in developing a Regional Marine Plan. This is an Assessment of the condition of the region and includes a summary of significant pressures and the impact of human activity on the region. This will help inform the development of economic, social and marine objectives and also objectives relating to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. Ultimately it will inform development of the Regional Marine Plan. Since the non-statutory SSMEI Firth of Clyde Marine Spatial Plan was published in 2010, the Firth of Clyde Forum has been undertaking projects to deliver that plan and to inform future plans. This has included the Biosecurity Plan, Biosecurity Guidelines and awareness-raising of Non-Native Species around the Clyde; the Recreational Access work; the Seascape/Landscape Assessment; Marine Litter report and Guidelines; the Sea Level Rise project; and the Recreation and Tourism Data Collection project. See www.clydeforum.com – projects, for further information.

Stop Press – Marine Planning

The Scottish Marine Regions Order has been published on 13 May 2015 and designates the 11 Scottish Marine Regions for the purpose of regional marine planning per the map above. Rhona Fairgrieve, Manager of the Scottish Coastal Forum, has recently returned to her post after a 2 year secondment to Brussels from the Scottish Government. Rhona was helping as an expert with the drafting and content of the EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive. The recently published Scotland's National Marine Plan has been prepared in accordance with the new Directive. Welcome back to Rhona, one of our Core Group members.

Staff from Ardmaleish celebrate completion of their latest project © Ian Giles

Queen scallops in lantern net being produced as part of the IMTA project © David Attwood

The Scottish Salmon Company – the business and the importance of the Clyde area

Article courtesy of The SSC

For The Scottish Salmon Company (SSC), the rural Scottish communities in which they operate and their staff live and work are absolutely vital to the success and development of the business. Ensuring the long term sustainability of those areas and communities is an essential part of the company's ethos, and is reflected in much of the activity they undertake.

Scotland provides an abundance of natural resources, as well as a very established skill base, that has helped raise the profile of Scottish salmon to that of the highest quality, premium fish around the world. Salmon is now Scotland's largest food export, providing £571million to the economy in 2013. They are the only salmon farming business with operations solely in Scotland and now export to over 23 countries worldwide.

The communities where The SSC operates are vital to the future of the business, and the Clyde area specifically is of real importance. They have one site in Arran which employs six staff and a further 18 sites and processing plants across Argyll and Bute which employ approximately 160 staff. "The skills and knowledge of the locally-based workforce are paramount to successful operations of each site; the company recognises the importance of sustaining this core expertise by supporting education initiatives across secondary and primary education in the local communities where we are based," explains Craig Anderson, Managing Director at SSC. Some of the ways they do this is through providing work placement experience to students at local colleges, such as Argyll College UHI in partnership with Campbeltown Grammar School and Barony College to help them achieve their key qualifications and find employment in the area.

The SSC is committed to creating a sustainable future for the business and for the local economies where they work. A key part of this is working with colleges and schools to ensure that the training and achievement of qualifications are maximised as much as possible. This benefits not only the existing staff but also helps us to identify future employees in the long term.

As well as sustaining the company's business development, they recognise that investment in local business and utilising skill sets in these water-based communities is key. In the past four years, the company has built three boats with the Ardmaleish Boat Builders on the Isle of Bute. With an investment of over £1.7million, the acknowledgement of the level of skill and expertise that the team at Ardmaleish provides, as well as the strong connection to the local community, this continues to prove a very positive and sustainable relationship between the two businesses.

"It is not just about contributing to the local economy, but also about maintaining a sustainable environment through responsible husbandry and innovative methods for farm management," explains Craig Anderson. A new initiative that is currently underway, and is a first of its kind in the UK, is Companion Farming, the integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA) project which has been initiated and supported by The SSC at Loch Fyne. It introduces farming of different aquaculture crops, such as seaweed and mussels, alongside the salmon to create a self-contained ecosystem. This seeks to achieve a greater natural balance of water systems with the exchange of nutrients as part of our ongoing commitment to best practice.

The Scottish Salmon Company is very proud of its Scottish provenance, and the extremely high quality of their salmon that is recognised globally for its great taste and healthy credentials. They recognise that this is due to both the natural surroundings, but also fundamental are the knowledge and skills of their staff working in local communities. They respect and value this symbiotic relationship and are committed to sustaining it through long term investment and developments at their sites and beyond.

Seafra © Sarah Brown

British Marine Federation Scotland

Article courtesy of BMFS

British Marine Federation Scotland (BMFS) is the Scottish regional association of the British Marine Federation (BMF), the trade association for the UK's leisure, superyacht and small commercial marine industry. BMFS is one of 12 regional associations covering the UK and together, they represent over 1,500 marine businesses. The regional associations allow a local focus on each area and this is particularly important in Scotland given its devolved Government status and also its geography and coastline – Scotland has the longest coastline in Europe!

BMF provides a wide range of advice, services and support to its members covering areas such as legal, technical, public affairs and market research. In addition to its regional association structure the BMF also supports 16 group associations that are specific to each sector within the industry. Each BMF member company also becomes a member of the group association relevant to that particular business.

BMFS currently represents about 60 member companies in Scotland, many of whom are in the Clyde area, ranging from marinas and boatyards to chandlery and service sector companies. The waters of the Clyde represent the highest concentration of marinas, moorings and boating activities in Scotland.

New strategy to boost Scotland's marine tourism

A huge part of the work of BMFS in recent months has been preparation of the Marine Tourism Strategy for Scotland. BMFS is one of the leading members of the Marine Tourism Development Group which has pioneered this ambitious new strategy to 'awaken the giant' of Scotland's marine tourism sector and bring even more visitors to the nation's coastlines and canals.

The five-year plan, was launched by Tourism Minister, Fergus Ewing and ocean adventurer, Mark Beaumont in March, and aims to boost Scotland's reputation as a world class marine tourism destination by improving the experience of visitors, building facilities and skills within the sector, and promoting the huge range of events and activities available on and around the nation's sailing grounds. The strategy hopes to grow the total value of the sector by 25%, from £360 million to £450 million, by 2020.

Scotland boasts the longest coastline in Europe, varied wildlife, rich heritage, breathtaking scenery and some of the world's most beautiful and varied sailing waters. The strategy, titled 'Awakening the Giant,' looks to build upon those strong foundations, promoting and growing the vibrant sector to offer visitors, whether they're sailing the majestic waters of the West Coast, dolphin watching in the Moray Firth or kayaking through the Great Glen, a world-class experience.

The strategy, the first of its kind, was developed by industry organisations,

Mark Beaumont, Richard Millar (Scottish Canals), Simon Limb (BMFS), Howard Pridding (CEO, BMF), Nigel Hamilton (BMF Tourism), Martin Latimer (BMFS) on board the Youth Trust Scotland's ketch 'Alba Venturer' © Mark Turner

British Marine Federation Scotland, Sail Scotland and RYA Scotland as well as Scottish Canals, The Crown Estate, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Development International, VisitScotland, EventScotland and Scottish Tourism Alliance, with input from a public consultation.

The calibre of Scotland's sailing and boating experience is consistently ranked in the top 3 internationally. Sailing and boating affords access to many remote mainland and all our island communities affording unique regeneration opportunities. The true value of Marine Tourism to the Scottish Visitor Economy is not just its overall economic potential but that it can bring additional business, jobs and prosperity to Scotland's more remote and island communities – around the entire coastline of Scotland. Further the jobs it creates are not just seasonal but can also be of a longer term technical and support nature. BMFS and the other MTDG partners are now committed to driving forward this strategy by creating a clear Action and Delivery Plan.

Simon Limb, Chairman of British Marine Federation Scotland, said: "The marine industry is a leading and valuable contributor to the tourism sector. We believe that from this foundation so much more can be achieved. This strategy creates a framework and a path forwards for growth, it seeks to work in collaboration at every level and is relevant to all businesses.

Let's grasp the opportunity to move forwards together to unlock the future success of our industry and realise our important contribution to growing Scotland's economy."

The Clyde Fishermen's Association – supporting industry at home and abroad

Article courtesy of the CFA

The Clyde Fishermen's Association is a productive and supportive organisation reflecting fishermen and fishing communities' interests in the West of Scotland. The association was established in 1934 under the Chairmanship of Archibald D Macnair, JP, Provost of Campbeltown. Kenneth MacNab is the current Chair.

Currently the CFA have more than 50 member vessels working on the West of Scotland waters. Many of the current members have family connections with the association stretching back to the organisation's birth, but new members are actively encouraged and welcomed at any time.

CFA helps to nurture the local industry including processers, local shops and restaurants; it firmly places community issues at the heart of its work, but on a larger scale it also contributes nationally and internationally. The fishing industry in Scotland continues to be an important economic and social driver for the country, competing strongly on the world market. Statistics show that world sales have increased by 2.5% annually in recent years, and it is estimated that annual demand for fisheries outputs will grow from the current level of around 70 million tonnes to 90 million in the next decade. In a global climate which has witnessed many industry downturns this is a huge positive for Scotland and indeed the West Coast around the Clyde. "In a very complex industry facing very difficult times the CFA has managed to support and maintain economic viability for its members. Sustainability in the fishery is of vital importance to the CFA and so far it has been achieved by negotiation and compromise with the relevant stakeholders. Our key aim is to secure a successful future for the fishing industry in Clyde waters for many years to come", say the Chairman Kenny MacNab. Elaine Whyte, the Executive Secretary of CFA, adds "The CFA is very proud of the significant contribution they make to Scotland's Fishing Industry and the employment, trade and communities which it supports. A recent Scottish Government report demonstrates the continued importance of fishing to Scotland revealing that the industry is worth 7 times more per person in Scotland than in the UK. In regional coastal communities along the Clyde this figure is likely to increase greatly in real terms. The Scottish fishing industry employed 45,700 workers and contributed £4.5 billion to the GVA in 2012. The Clyde area contributes well to these overall figures and keeps otherwise fragile communities thriving and sustainable, a great achievement indeed".

Fishing is an industry which truly reaches out and connects Scotland with European and International trading partners, making partnerships between the Clyde and Madrid, Paris, Rome and beyond. Scotland's seafood brand and reputation worldwide is a hallmark of quality, which the CFA works hard to maintain.

The CFA have a long history of contributing to the social and economic wellbeing of the West Coast and indeed the country. It was initially established to support ring-net herring fishing

Packing prawns © CFA

around the Clyde area, whilst this remained the priority for around 40 years the fishing industry witnessed huge changes in the way in which it operated which refocused its priorities. A move away from the ring-net herring fishing towards prawn trawling and an active scallop industry has been a key factor of change in recent decades.

The alterations in fishing techniques and catch are by no means the only changes the CFA have witnessed in over 80 years. More recently the industry has experienced an increase in fisheries management techniques, more policy development at Scottish, UK and EU levels, the introduction of fish farming, the downturn in many coastal communities, variations on seal numbers and changes in sea water temperatures including alterations to the Gulf Stream. These are just some examples which have led to many fishermen attending more business meetings than ever before with various bodies such as the Scottish Government, NGO's, Academics and new fisheries sectors. The face of the industry is rapidly changing and the CFA and its members have made every effort to respond to these developments and engage positively wherever possible. It's an increasingly busy and diverse job.

The future will continue to offer changes and challenges, particularly in relation to changing legislation in regards to landing obligations and discards, the development of Marine Protected Areas, changes to EU programmes and policy, the ongoing engagement with NGO's and the outcomes of the Smith Commission for example. The CFA will continue to positively and actively represent the issues which fishermen face, always working to achieve fair, sustainable outcomes for this valuable asset to Scotland and the industries and communities it supports. As an example current projects which the CFA are involved with include environmental improvement through fishing for rubbish schemes, helping to clean the waters around the West Coast and employability schemes helping people to train and gain long-term employment in the industry. "The CFA actively engage in the Fishing for Litter scheme in a recognised effort to sustainably clean Scotland's Marine Environment. This scheme has been highly successful in the Clyde area and beyond. In approaching its 10th anniversary a total recorded number of 800 tonnes of sea litter has been collected by 212 vessels in 14 ports across Scotland. The CFA hope to continue and develop on these positive results for the, Clyde and beyond, well into the future", explains Elaine Whyte.

Keep an eye out for their new website coming soon at www.clydefish.com.

Who you gonna call? – Coastworks!

Article courtesy of Coastworks

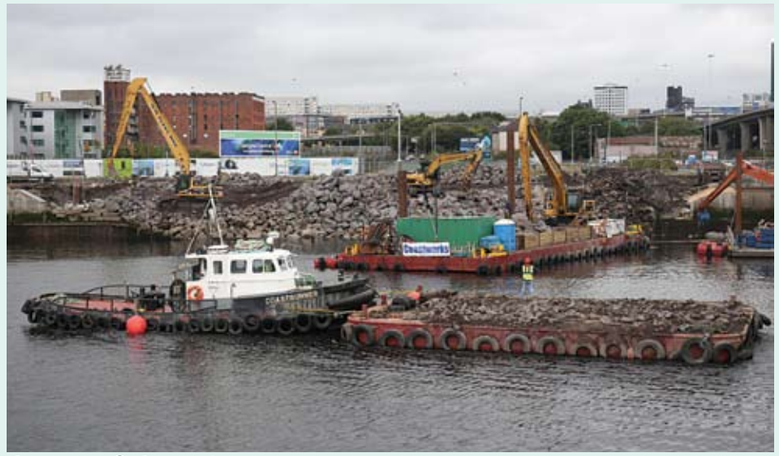
Coastworks is a Clyde-based workboat and barge supply company established in 1994. Located in Fairlie, the company currently employs around 15 staff, and with several major capital investments under consideration at the moment, they may be looking to employ more staff in the near future. Presently, the company is upgrading its fleet with much of this work taking place locally, especially at Ardmaleish Boatyard on Bute, which has recently expanded its slipping facilities. Coastworks has an annual spend within the local area of around £1 million.

They supply floating plant to support the marine infrastructure of the UK and the Clyde in particular. "This is an endlessly challenging and varied task. No two jobs are the same, weather and tides are always different and the logistical hurdles can be huge," explains Howard Smallwood of Coastworks.

Recent projects include the laying of fibre optic cables across the Clyde and providing temporary pontoons for the flotilla berthing and fireworks displays – all for the Commonwealth Games. During the same year split hoppers, tugs and spud barges were supporting dredging projects on the River Cart, in Arklow and the Cromarty Firth and the larger spud barges were being used constructing new jetties in Orkney, Ullapool and Stornoway.

Much of the company's work consists of supporting the maintenance of existing facilities – on rivers and canals, in reservoirs, under jetties, moving linkspans, plough dredging channels, salvaging and in dive support. Coastworks is also heavily involved with plant for site investigation and new major capital construction projects throughout the UK.

With the generally soft ground conditions found in Glasgow, quay walls and bridge foundations can be undermined and Coastworks has undertaken several projects supporting the heavy civil engineering required to stabilise the situation. They recently supplied two



Coastrunner © Coastworks

Challenger splithopper barge © Coastworks

spud barges and tugs to repair sections of Andersons Quay. This project involved moving several hundreds of tonnes of armour stone and placing it at the toe of the quaywall.

With the redevelopment of the Clyde's commercial docks the shoreside facilities to support such projects are becoming increasingly scarce. With the threats of sea-level rise, increasing storm surges and heavy river flows this is a factor that planners should maybe prioritise so that suitable vessels can be based in the area and future emergency repairs do not become prohibitively expensive and time consuming to undertake.

"The ability for Scottish companies to base floating plant locally is a saving that gets passed on directly to the client, often ultimately to the public purse. The alternative to using local plant is generally to mobilise from the continent at huge cost and with no gain to the local economy," says Howard Smallwood.

Over the past forty years Scottish companies have become major players in the international workboat market, undertaking contracts throughout the world. This has been a major success story for the UK economy, employing hundreds of crew, and with Scottish expertise pioneering developments in the renewables and inshore construction industries. Huge advances have been made in the training and certification of crews but there is still room to support this growth industry and the career opportunities that it offers.

"We understand that weary looking barges moored in the corner of a dock may not be the most inspiring sight in the neighbourhood, however, remember that the next time a quaywall collapses, a sewer outfall needs replaced or a linkspan needs to be repaired, then, that barge may be exactly what you need, and if it's not there, then who ya goina call??", asks Howard.

For further information on Coastworks please take a look at their webpage on www.coastworks.co.uk or follow them on Facebook.

Grocery delivery © Russ Cheshire

Ocean Breeze Rib Tours

Article courtesy of Russ Cheshire, Ocean Breeze Rib Tours

Since 2008, Russ & Elspeth Cheshire have operated 2 RIBs (Rigid-hull Inflatable Boats) from their base on the Isle of Arran, situated at the heart of the Firth of Clyde. Initially run as an adjunct to their other businesses (a village shop/post office and bed & breakfast accommodation), since 2010 they have concentrated solely on the boat operation.

"The boats used are a 6.3 metre Humber Ocean Pro "Cowal" with a single 150HP Suzuki 4-stroke engine, and a 9 metre Ribcraft Ocean "Bennan" powered by twin 175HP Suzuki engines. The vessels are inspected and certified in accordance with the MCA Code of Practice for Small Commercial Vessels - "Cowal" to Category 4, "Bennan" to Category 3R (for night-time operations)," explains Russ.

Normally running wildlife and sightseeing tours from Lamlash, they have also maintained a flexible approach so that such diverse activities as Stag and Hen Parties, private and corporate charters, relief services for the Holy Isle Ferry, fast transfer services to and from the mainland, dive cover, film platform work and support services to other marine sectors can be provided as required. "If the need arises to operate at maximum capacity, one or two part-time staff can be recruited as necessary – either in a shore-based role or as boat crew," says Russ.

In 2013 they were awarded a contract with the Northern Lighthouse Board to provide zoned boat services throughout the Firth of Clyde, transporting NLB engineers and other staff safely to island lighthouses and navigation buoys – Ocean Breeze (http://obrt.co.uk/) sees this as a way of contributing to the safety of all sea-users.

Loch Ryan NLB © Russ Cheshire

2014 was their busiest year to date, with their larger vessel covering over 10,000 nautical miles around the Firth of Clyde; from Loch Ryan to Upper Loch Fyne and from Sanda to Loch Long!

Fuel is acquired mainly from garages on Arran – at a burn rate of circa 1 litre per mile per engine a significant amount of turnover is disposed of locally! "Naturally a chance to refuel from a pontoon pump in a marina is seldom passed up – currently petrol is only available this way in 2 places in the Clyde. Carrying jerry cans does however provide a form of exercise – and custom for the island chiropractor!" explains Russ. Routine maintenance and servicing is carried out in-house, with most spares being sourced from Clyde-oriented businesses, such as Yampower (www.yampower.co.uk) in Glasgow.

In 2014 Ocean Breeze were approached by Tarbert Harbour Authority (www.tarbertharbour.co.uk) with a view to providing occasional tour services from their marina in East Loch Tarbert; 2015 is seen as an opportunity to expand on this and generate more "brand exposure" for the business, as well as providing another "draw" for the village of Tarbert.

While carrying out their normal business, Ocean Breeze take the opportunity to discuss the state of the marine environment with their passengers; both firm supporters of the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (www.arrancoast.com), Elspeth and Russ can see the potential advantages resulting from careful stewardship of the Firth of Clyde as a natural resource by such means as well-managed Marine Protected Areas and No-Take Zones. Sightings of the unusual (such as the sunfish [Mola mola]) or seasonal (basking shark, or even swarms of jellyfish) are reported to bodies such as the Marine Conservation Society (www.mcsuk.org) ; and water opacity and temperature readings are reported to the Secchi Disk Project (www.secchidisk.org) from various points around the Firth of Clyde.

Ocean Breeze has also provided adventure/educational services to a variety of youth organisations, such as Scripture Union, Scouts, Boys Brigade and several schools. This is a means of telling young people all about the Firth of Clyde and the land that encloses it, with its amazing range of wildlife and its natural and man-made scenery – and thousands of years of human history.

The Puffer Preservation Trust

Article courtesy of Nick Walker at Save The Puffer

Nick and Rachel Walker found the 'VIC 32', a coal-fired steamboat, laid up in Whitby, Yorkshire in 1975. She had worked in Barra during the war, Scapa Flow in the Orkneys and Rosyth Naval Dockyard before coming to rest in Whitby.

Built in 1943 'VIC 32', short for Victualling Inshore Craft, is a Puffer - an onomatopoeic name imitating the sound made as steam left over from the engine comes up the funnel with the smoke from the furnace and creates a puff-puff-puff sound.

Nick and Rachel took the boat under her own steam in 1976 down to St Katherine's Dock in London and spent the next 2 years restoring the vessel and converting the hold to passenger accommodation. She was brought back to Scotland in 1978 and, over time, the 'Highland Steamboat Holidays' was born.

'Highland Steamboat Holidays' operates for 17 weeks of the year carrying 12 passengers at a time on 5-day holidays around the west of Scotland. They also provide 4 x 1-day charters per year; and "free trips round Crinan Bay" where you don't pay to get on but you have to pay £10 to get off! They have open days during the summer months when you can explore the boat for free. As well as the 250-odd passengers each year, many people like to simply stand by and watch the spectacle of the puffer passing by and if they're lucky, staff will let them come aboard to explore the engine, the wheel house, and the passenger accommodation.

There are 5 members of staff – the skipper, chief engineer, mate, cook and galley slave. However, Nick and Rachel are 2 of the many unpaid volunteers who are generous and kind providing time and money to keep 'VIC 32' afloat. Some of them take part in the fortnight 'work parties' each March. These 'work parties' are fully booked each year AND the cruises are fully booked too for 2015

'Highland Steam Holidays' and the 'VIC 32' could not operate without working in partnership with others companies and authorities around the west of Scotland, namely Garvel Clyde at the James Watt dock, the Titan Crane, Glen Lee Tall Ship, and the kind directors of the Riverside Museum who all provide free berths, Crinan Canal authorities, many harbours and piers, MoD, Admiralty Police, and Glasgow City Council.

VIC 32 © The Puffer Preservation Trust

THE PUFFER PRESERVATION TRUST, CO. LTD.

A Company approved for charitable status. No. SC032793

"Recently the congregation of our local church were asked by our minister what had been the greatest experience of 2014. Without hesitation I told him that it was being waved to by 100,000 Glaswegians from the riverbank, balconies of flats, houses, ships and yachts in the flotilla of the Commonwealth Games, as we progressed in state up the River Clyde. Our steam whistle became hoarse with all its exuberant efforts. Without doubt that was one of the most enjoyable experiences of my life and will be remembered for ever.

I understand that Glasgow City Council thought the same thing. The success of the numerous yachts all tied up in the very heart of Glasgow has encouraged them to permanently open a 'marina' in the Prince's Dock. What a brilliant idea. Most European cities that have a major river flowing through the very heart of their centres celebrate the fact and use it to their advantage. I am certain Glasgow will benefit from visitors from all over the world actually being able to tie up their yachts and step ashore to enjoy the culture, museums, art galleries, restaurants and fun of the town." – Nick Walker

The crew is looking forward to coming up the river again this coming summer.

For more information on the 'VIC 32', holidays, open days and much more, you can visit their website at www.savethepuffer.co.uk.

Fuelling VIC 32 © The Puffer Preservation Trust

MV Caledonian Isles on a crossing to Arran © Caledonian MacBrayne Ltd

CalMac - serving the Clyde and beyond for 160 years!

Article courtesy of Caledonian MacBrayne Ltd.

For the past 160 years the UK's largest ferry network has sailed the coast of the Firth of Clyde.

Now permanently headquartered in Gourock, Caledonian MacBrayne has in various guises provided a lifeline service to communities up and down the west coast since 1851. Better known by its abbreviated name CalMac, its 32-strong fleet last year carried 4.65 million passengers and 1.1 million cars to 50 destinations.

Seven of these routes serve the communities of the Clyde: Wemyss Bay to Rothesay, Ardrossan to Brodick, Colintraive to Rhubodach, Claonaig to Lochranza, Ardrossan to Campbeltown, Tarbert to Portavadie and Largs to Great Cumbrae. The Gourock to Dunoon route is operated by CalMac's subsidiary Argyll Ferries.

The greater Clyde routes carry more than 50% of CalMac's total passenger traffic and is home to the network's two busiest routes, Ardrossan to Brodick and Largs to Cumbrae, both carrying more than 700,000 passengers every year. In addition CalMac's subsidiary Argyll Ferries provides up to 128 crossings a day on the Gourock to Dunoon route which facilitates an easy commute via train to Glasgow.

With a total of 1300 employees the company is one of the largest headquartered companies in Scotland.

"We are an integral part of the economies of the communities we serve. Not only are we a major employer but we carry in the goods and services businesses need and carry out the goods they need to sell to be viable communities. Our experience of working with these communities over the past 160 years gives us an unrivalled insight into the particular challenges and issues living on an island or a peninsula brings. This local knowledge means we can respond flexibly and effectively to meet the needs of our customer. We pride ourselves in being part of the fabric of these communities," said managing director, Martin Dorchester.

Carrying more than 93,000 commercial vehicles every year the company brings in everything needed for modern life and takes out some of the highest quality products the country has to offer.

But it is not just local people CalMac serves – tourists' pounds are vital to the economy of Arran, Rothesay and Cumbrae, the Kyle peninsular and the Mull of Kintyre and they arrive via a CalMac ferry in their hundreds of thousands every year.

A fortnight 'doon the watter' may no longer be the only holiday of choice for the majority of Glaswegians anymore, but the undisputed charms of the Firth of Clyde are attracting a whole new generation of visitors and not just from the west of Scotland but from across the globe.

Presenting Arran Whisky to John, Doug & Susie Goldman © Lesley Wood

Arran marine conservationist wins prestigious Goldman Prize for Europe

In April of this year Howard Wood, co-founder, with fellow diver Don MacNeish, of the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST), became the first Scottish recipient of the Goldman Prize. The prize is a prestigious award recognising grassroots environmental campaigners; a very significant achievement for Howard, and also for the COAST team, its many volunteers, and for the Arran community which has long supported the cause. Established in 1990, the prize is awarded annually to six individuals from the six geographic regions of the world and intends to draw attention to global issues of critical environmental and social importance and to inspire others to follow the examples set by the recipients.

Sinéad Sheridan, the Clyde Forum's new Marine Planning Co-ordinator, spoke to Howard about winning the award and to find out more about COAST's future work.

Sinéad Sheridan: What was it that stood out to the Goldman Prize team about your and COAST's work which made them award the prize to someone in the UK for the first time in 21 years?

Howard Wood: "I think there was a common notable quality between myself and the other recipients. We all persevere and we are all stubborn; in fact we are all pretty determined. It's also interesting that in all cases, what started as an environmental campaign, expanded to include issues of social justice. When that comes into play it's pretty hard to give up. In the case of COAST, what drove us was our feeling that the Government didn't listen to all stakeholders. For instance, they listened to the concerns of the mobile gear fishermen, but not so much to those of recreational sea anglers or static gear fishermen. The seas are, after all, a public asset. On top of that, COAST is very heavily rooted in the local community, and although the award has been given to me as an individual, the work of COAST has been achieved through the drive and motivation of the community. It has really been a team effort, from Don coming back from New Zealand where he was inspired by the marine protected areas there, to the ongoing effort of all the volunteers who come and work with us and all the support we have from people on the island."

SS: Research findings from within the No Take Zone (NTZ) (Howarth, L.M (2013), A Summary of the research within Lamlash Bay No Take Zone) suggest that there appears to be a recovery of seafloor habitats and of the lobster population. Have there been any benefits of the NTZ to business on Arran?

HW: "Visit Arran conducted a survey where they asked people what their main reason for visiting Arran was. The top answer was to enjoy the scenery and the environment. Obviously, unless you are out snorkelling or diving you can't see underneath the sea and people struggle to understand what is going on and what's out there. COAST takes videos and photos of the seabed around Arran and this helps people learn about the environment and they understand and see what is happening. Ultimately, we want to improve the health of the sea to a state it was in 20 or more years ago when there was a thriving angling festival on Arran which brought revenue and many people to the island. We believe that this award has helped improve international recognition of Arran and of Scotland as a whole. As for the future, COAST continues to work with fishermen on scientific monitoring and research. It would be an amazing achievement if we could help to boost the area as a thriving food and drink based tourist hub. How great would it be if we could get more Spanish and French tourists over here, eating Scottish seafood in local restaurants instead of exporting most of it to Spain and France, as we currently are? The prize money will be used to build on these ideas, develop existing projects, and perhaps fund a research vessel in the future."

SS: You have recently returned from your trip to San Francisco to receive the award. What has been the highlight of the whole experience for you?

HW: "I've had some great experiences which included a tour of the White House, a helicopter tour of California's MPA network and meeting Sylvia Earle. I'd have to say the best thing was meeting the other five winners. I couldn't really believe I was in the same category as them – they all have such commitment to their campaigns in the face of real danger to themselves, their family and colleagues. These people have faced serious hurdles and I'm proud that the work of COAST and my contribution to that has been recognised amongst them."

For more information on COAST's work, please visit their website: http://www.arrancoast.com/. To read more about the Goldman Prize and learn about the other recipients, please see: http://www.godlmanprize.org/.

Group Portrait © The Goldman Environmental Prize

Glasgow's Green Year - From Steam to Green

article courtesy of Danielle Casey and Theresa Kewell, both of SNH

Throughout 2015, Glasgow is holding its first Green themed year, celebrating the aspiration to be one of the most sustainable cities around. Glasgow as a city has never stood still, and 2015 will be no exception, with a range of exciting events and activities throwing a spotlight on the ambition to be a green city pioneer. The 2015 programme brings together education, innovation, communities, and creativity in ways that help to strengthen local and international partnerships, putting the city firmly on the map as a champion of green. People make Glasgow greener, and they want to showcase The Dear Green Place and what's possible when the citizens of Glasgow come together to build a more sustainable future for the city.

There is a myriad of events from corporate and industry to celebration and science for everyone to get involved with and enjoy. View the calendar (http://www.greenglasgow.com/Calendar.html), follow on twitter (https://twitter.com/greenglasgow), or download the Green Year 2015 app (https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/green-glasgow-2015/id959682203?ls=1&mt=8) to get details of upcoming events.

'Clyde Reflections', by art-science team Hurrel & Brennan, running from Thursday 28th May – Friday 5th July, is a definite must for all Clyde Breakers readers. It's a meditative, cinematic experience based on the marine environment of the Firth of Clyde. Unique perceptions of this body of water are explored through interviews and presented within an immersive audio-visual installation, screened in Gallery 1 at GoMA – Glasgow's Gallery of Modern Art. The interviews offer scientific, philosophical, ecological, conservationist, fishing, underwater and spiritual perspectives. Visit www.greenglasgow.com for more information.

Also inspired by Glasgow's Green Year 2015 is a new map leaflet for West Glasgow, part of Scottish Natural Heritage's 'Simple Pleasures, Easily Found' series. With the aim of inspiring people to get out and about in their local area, the leaflet encourages people to use the newly resurfaced routes along National Cycle Route 7 and the Forth and Clyde Canal between Partick and Clydebank and beyond! At Clydebank the route takes you down by West College Scotland where you can get a real feel for the magnificence and mightiness of the Clyde. You can download a copy and see other reissued Glasgow route leaflets at snh.gov.uk/simplepleasures, or contact Scottish Natural Heritage at Caspian House, Mariner Court, 8 South Avenue, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank, G81 2NR, or phone 0141 951 4488 to request some copies of the leaflet. Breathe some fresh air into your life. Stay happy and healthy by visiting your local green spaces.

It's not too late to get involved in Glasgow's Green Year 2015 either! Contact the Green Year team at greenglasgow2015@glasgow.gov.uk for further information and opportunities.

Tell Us What You Think...

Clyde Breakers is your newsletter; tell us what you think of this issue and what you would like to see in the future. If you would like to receive an electronic version of Clyde Breakers rather than a printed copy, please send your email address to us. Many thanks to those of you who contributed to this edition.

If you would like to become involved in the Forum and its work, contact us at the address below.

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The Firth of Clyde Forum has a broad membership base with representatives from industry, local authorities, community groups and charities. The opinions expressed by members within this issue are not necessarily the opinions of the Forum or its Core Group.

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Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba
All of nature for all of Scotland
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad

marine scotland

GLASGOW and the CLYDE VALLEY strategic development planning authority

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