



Tay Estuary Forum Annual Conference 2007 **In Partnership with the Tay Advisory Group Forum:** **An update on River Basin Planning**



Friday 27th April 2007, West Park Conference Centre Perth Road, Dundee

Report

Approximately 70 delegates attended this year's annual conference in Dundee, held for the first time in association with SEPA's Tay Area Advisory Group Forum. The day was split into 3 sessions focusing on Estuarine-Coastal-Marine issues with a final River Basin Planning Update from 3pm till close. Feedback has been positive with delegates generally preferring a variety of topics as opposed to one over-riding theme. There was good geographical coverage of speakers covering both rural and urban topics.

The Project Officer's Update illustrated work done to date by the Forum and future plans.

Session 1: Estuary

Julian Inglis (Fife Coast and Countryside Trust) gave an interesting account of the potential of an Inner Estuary Pathway and the steps required to achieve this. Another Inner Estuary heritage issue followed with Steven Timoney (Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust) updating on the 3000 year old recently-excavated Carpow logboat. Finally, the declining seal population in the Tay was discussed by Dave Thompson from St Andrews University with the issue gaining coverage from an STV news crew who were in attendance.

Session 2: Coast

Bryan Spears from St Andrews University gave a detailed talk on Catchment Linkages in the Eden and Tay which contrasted well with a talk from Scottish Enterprise Tayside's Steve Carter updating on Dundee's Waterfront development. Audience members highlighted the need for harmony between city developers and those working in the environmental research sectors in such a multi-use area as the Tay and adjacent coast.

Session 3: Marine

Focus was placed on Dundee's Port and its role within the NorthSEAFaring project by David MacDougall from Dundee City Council. This was followed by a talk by Matt North, Forth Ports, who presented the port position statement alongside an interesting account of the evolution of Dundee's Port. David Taylor gave a vivid account of the past, present and future of Bell Rock Lighthouse and emphasized the importance of preserving such important maritime treasures.

Soapbox Session

Ann Lolley gave an inspiring insight into the workings of the Broughty Ferry Environmental Project and the various projects it is working on at present showing the value of community involvement into such ventures. Niall Loblely (Perth and Kinross Council) similarly highlighted the aims of the Inner Estuary Nature Reserve Panel and its hopes in working in partnership with the Forum and other organisations interested in the environmental issues on the Tay.

River Basin Planning

This was a free session aimed at introducing the work of the AAG and encouraging public participation by Lynda Gairns, SEPA. As Chair of the Tay Estuary Forum, Rob Duck explained the Forum's involvement with the AAG and gave examples of the two groups working together. Finally the longer-term RBMP objectives were laid out by Lynda as a 2020 Vision.