



Tay Estuary Forum Annual Conference and Management Plan Launch Report 2009

Thursday 30th April 2009, West Park Conference Centre, Dundee

70 delegates attended this year's Tay Estuary Forum Annual Conference in Dundee. The highlight of the event was the launch of the TEF Management Plan: a non-statutory document aimed at promoting future sustainable management in the Tay Estuary and along the adjacent coastline. The plan was drafted over 2008/9 following discussions at last year's conference and a period of consultation, attracting input from a wide range of stakeholders and individuals.

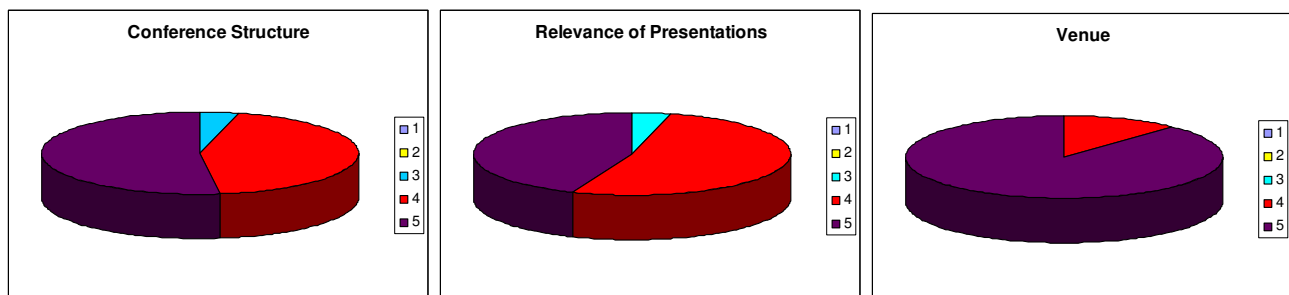
The Management Plan covers the region from the River North Esk on the Angus Coast to Fife Ness; including the Tay Estuary to Scone. It aims to unite the many initiatives operating along this diverse stretch of coast into a sustainable framework, ensuring future vitality of the region. Each delegate at the 2009 conference received a copy of the Management Plan with others being widely distributed in the forthcoming months in and around the TEF region and beyond.

The day was split into 3 sessions following the format of the Management Plan: Society, Environment and Economy. Speakers highlighted subjects raised during the TEF Management Plan consultation and review process, such as local management initiatives, renewable energy schemes, sea level change, addressing coastal access issues and beach litter, assessment and protection proposals for natural habitats and species, preservation of cultural heritage and coastal enhancement schemes. Delegates were also invited to contribute to SEPA's consultation on the Tay Area Management Plan.

The event and Management Plan received good press coverage from STV news, BBC, The Scotsman, Courier and Evening Telegraph Newspapers, radio stations Wave 102 and Tay FM.

2009 delegates represented a wide range of statutory and voluntary organisations and feedback has been positive with attendees rating the conference structure, relevance of presentations and venue as follows:

(1-Poor, 5- Excellent)



Over the next year, Year1 Actions from the Management Plan will be implemented and reported on at next year's conference.

Suggestions for topics at future events:

- Fisheries
- Broughty Ferry Vision Project
- Riverside Nature Park
- Sea planes
- Marine Bill and Marine Management Organisation
- Saltmarsh habitat in the Tay
- Flooding Bill