



# Tay Estuary Forum Annual Conference Report 2014

## *Creative Coasts*

### 4/4/14 West Park Conference Centre, Dundee

©Jean Duncan



Over 50 delegates, representing a wide range of coastal and marine stakeholders, attended this year's Tay Estuary Forum Annual Conference in Dundee, entitled *Creative Coasts*. The event brought together scientists, artists, environmentalists and engineers with a common vision of illustrating innovative ways of engaging communities with our local coastal and marine environments. Three sessions looked at key current issues for the Tay Estuary and coastline of east-central Scotland and are as follows:

#### Session 1: Flood Defence: Impacts of Storms on Coastal Sites and Assets

Rob Duck set the scene using images of storm damage from Jan 2014 along the Angus coast and the south coast of England including examples of damage to infrastructure at Dawlish and to sea defences at Monifieth (opposite). Kate Wade (University of St Andrews) then discussed people's willingness to pay for coastal flood defences in the Eden Estuary, and how the value of flood defence varies depending on the type of land being protected, type of defences installed and the extent of the defences. Kate's survey in collecting local opinion is available at: <http://synergy.st-andrews.ac.uk/edensurvey/>. Alan Ross, Director of Route Asset Management for Network Rail (Scotland) then outlined Network Rail's policy and approach to managing coastal defences, with reference to the Tay Estuary. Alan described the challenges faced in adapting to climate change and outlined Network Rail's adverse weather procedure as one of the measures put in place to deal with storm events. Finally, Ellie Graham (The SCPAPE Trust) assessed recent storm damage to Scottish coastal archaeological sites and explained how citizen archaeologists can help record and monitor changes to newly exposed sites at: [www.ssharp.co.uk](http://www.ssharp.co.uk)

©Rob Duck



#### Session 2: Onshore and Offshore Sustainable Development

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Geoff Squire (James Hutton Institute) chaired this session which looked at examples of onshore and offshore sustainable developments within the TEF region. Roddy Yarr (University of St Andrews) outlined plans to make the University of St Andrews carbon neutral for energy by 2016. This target includes development of a 6MW biomass district heating scheme at Guardbridge, a site recently acquired by the University on the site of a former paper mill. Together with a proposed wind farm at Kenly, a combined carbon reduction potential of 27,000 tonnes of carbon is forecast.

David Pratt, Marine Scotland then gave an update on planning for Offshore Renewables around the Scottish coast. Representatives from Glasgow 2014 Ltd, Alastair Duncan (Venue Development and Overlay Manager) and Gareth Talbot (Environment and Sustainability Manager) discussed venue development at Barry Buddon (above), for the Games' shooting competitions, alongside respecting the site's ecological integrity. A timelapse sequence of Dundee Waterfront was provided for display by John Gray, Dundee City Council.

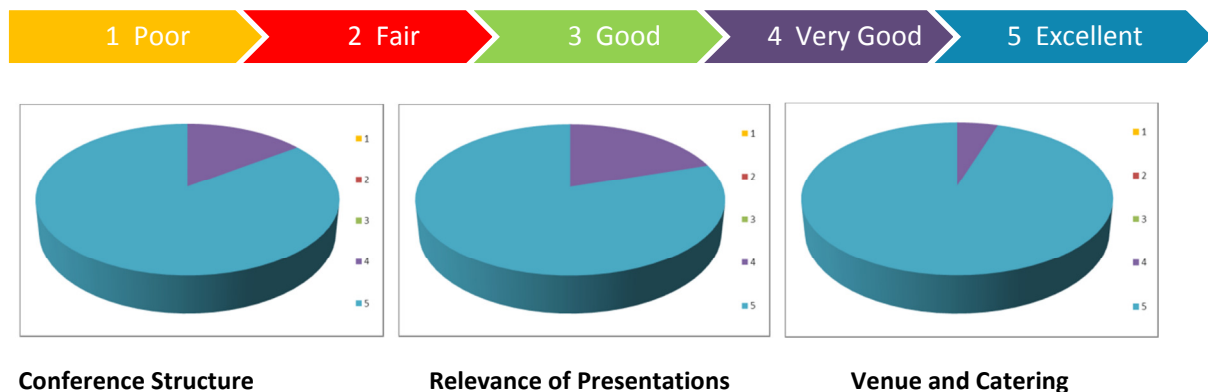
### Session 3: Celebrating Local Biodiversity

©Derek Robertson

The third session, chaired by Anton Edwards (Scottish Aquaculture Research Forum), saw internationally recognised artist, Derek Robertson, talk about his artist residency at Tentsmuir for the Year of Natural Scotland, 2013. He illustrated his talk with some fantastic examples of his work, more of which can be viewed at: [www.memoryoftides.com](http://www.memoryoftides.com). Johanna Willi (Fife Biodiversity partnership) looked at ways of protecting and enhancing biodiversity on the Tay alongside promoting the revised Fife Local Biodiversity Action Plan. Johanna described various examples of good practice, from which to learn from, such as a dune restoration project at St Andrews. The final presentation of the day was by the University of Dundee's Centre for Environmental Change & Human Resilience's artist in residence, Jean Duncan. Jean's talk illustrated the benefits to creatively combining artists' and scientists' perspectives in recording change at the coast. Jean talked about work she is collaborating on with Fraser Milne and Tracey Dixon (University of Dundee) at Montrose Bay. Timelapse sequences of the eroding coast were provided by Tracey Dixon. More can be viewed at: [www.montrosebay.org](http://www.montrosebay.org).



The event received publicity from local papers, and STV news. Feedback from the event has been positive. Of the 50 delegates in attendance, 21 feedback forms were returned, the results of which are as follows (1-Poor, 5-Excellent):



Suggestions for future topics are as follows:

- Coastal Development Plan
- Marine Surveying
- The Tay as a tourist resource and economic driver of national significance
- Dundee's Coastal Protection Study
- Current and future threats to the estuary
- Combined Tay/ Forth topics
- Coastal vulnerability and climate change adaptation in Tay communities
- Implementing ecosystem services
- Best practice soft coastal engineering
- EU Directive on Integrated Coastal Zone Management
- Poster sessions

Delegate comments: "Excellent: Of national/ international value", "fantastic merge of science and art", "enjoyed the breadth of subjects covered, and felt the artistic angle was refreshing and interesting, great balance!" "Particularly impressed with the range of presentations, it was an enjoyable day!"