

Tay Estuary Forum Annual Conference 2010

In association with the Committee of Heads of Environmental Sciences (CHES)

Friday 23rd April 2010, West Park Conference Centre, Dundee

65 delegates attended this year's TEF Annual Conference in Dundee. The day was split into 3 sessions:

A: The Evolving Nature of Coastal Management explored Marine Scotland's consultation on Scottish Marine Regions; Tim Stojanovic gave a valuable insight into the Severn Estuary Partnership, its management strategy and comparisons with the TEF; and Peter Shaw highlighted outcomes from a CHES study assessing graduate employment needs in the coastal and estuarine sector. Peter's findings will be presented in a TEF Occasional Paper shortly.

B: Human Impacts on the Natural Environment included presentations from the Dolphin Space Programme, promoting sustainable wildlife tourism amongst wildlife tour boat operators; Carol Raeburn from the RNLI gave an interactive talk on the many roles of the RNLI within the TEF area, and sea safety issues. This summer, the TEF and RNLI will collaborate in delivering sea safety and beach cleaning workshops to local schools, groups and clubs. Murray Scott and Stefan Morrocco detailed work being done as part of the review of Fife's Shoreline Management Plan, illustrated by some images of local storm damage at Anstruther on March 30th 2010 (right).



SEPA explained their strategy in monitoring and mitigating effects of diffuse pollution within the Tay and South Esk catchments, and hosted a well-attended, **environmental** workshop on understanding Diffuse Pollution's General Binding Rules. Two other 40 minute workshops addressed both **social** and **economic** issues in the TEF area: Sarah Brown, from the Green Blue was promoting sustainable boating and Julian Inglis led a Sustainable Coastal Development in Practice (SUSCOD) discussion.

C: Sustainable Economic Development & Renewable Energy: John Stevenson, (The Crown Estate) outlined plans for the offshore wind developments at Bell Rock and East Scotland's coast. South East Scotland's Inshore Fisheries representative, Nick Main (left) summarised aims to protect and promote sustainable fishing communities. Pamela Ewen highlighted the challenges, and rewards involved with producing a Strategic Development Planning Authority, TAYplan across Fife, Angus, Dundee and Perth & Kinross local authorities.



A progress report on Year 1 Actions from the TEF Management Plan (launched last year) was given, which will be regularly updated online. The Project Officer laid out 2010 plans for the Forum, including a guided walk at Friarton Ponds and Tay Boat trip (hosted by Tay Salmon Fisheries) in May, as part of Tayside Biodiversity's calendar of events for Biodiversity Festival.

The event received good press coverage from local papers and radio interviews with the BBC. 2010 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:

