



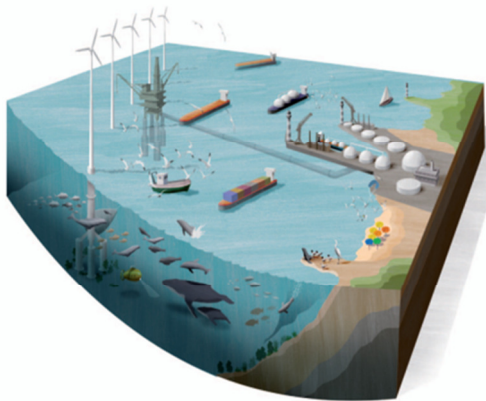
Tay Estuary Forum Annual Conference Report 2016

Seascope: A Coast of Contrasts

22/4/16 West Park Conference Centre, Dundee

Over 60 delegates, representing a range of environmental, coastal & marine stakeholders, attended this year's Tay Estuary Forum Annual Conference in Dundee, *Seascope: A Coast of Contrasts*. The event unites researchers, artists, environmentalists and engineers, sharing a common vision of communicating sustainable practice at various scales within regional coastal and marine sectors. Three sessions explored current issues for the Tay Estuary & coast of east-central Scotland. Professor Rob Duck's opening address announced the event as the TEF's 19th Annual Conference and introduced several overlapping themes in the day's programme, under the banner of *Seascope*.

Session 1: Capturing the Coast (Chair Rob Duck, Tay Estuary Forum)



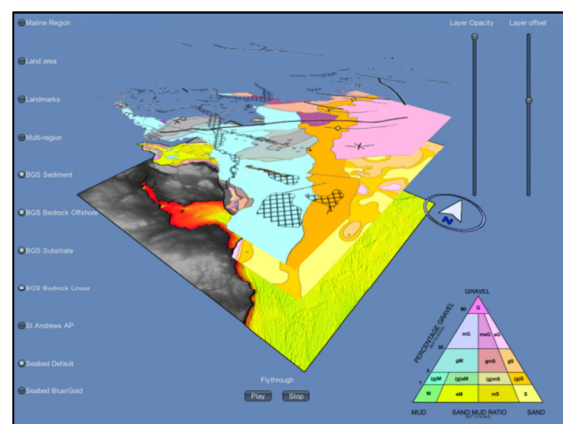
Sea section: Image courtesy of European Commission

James Fitton (University of Glasgow) gave an update on the National Coastal Change Assessment (NCCA), a pan-government project which classifies Scotland's erodible coast for the first time. The project is due to finish in September 2016 and will inform statutory advice across Agencies and Local Authorities alike in support of strategic planning areas. It particularly highlights where erosion may influence flood risk – an aspect currently not identified within flood mapping. Rhona Fairgrieve (Scottish Coastal Forum) then followed with an outline of Scottish Coastal Forum activities and Marine Scotland priorities for the coming year, alongside the results of the Marine Tourism and Recreation Survey, published in March 2016. The study

estimates marine recreation and tourism expenditure in Scotland to be worth £3.7 billion per year. Finally, Hannah Grist (Scottish Association of Marine Science) illustrated new opportunities in marine citizen science within the Capturing our Coast project, which trains volunteers to survey foreshore habitats and species.

Session 2: Characterising the Coast: Seascope (Chair Dan Gilmour, University of Abertay)

Seascope characterisation can be defined as “the process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the seascope, and using this information to assist in managing change in the seascope”. Tim Stojanovic (University of St Andrews) reflected on the policy background of Seascope, and the project which aims to summarise considerations which might support future seascope characterisation for the Forth and Tay estuaries. Vlad Stojanovic (University of Abertay) then gave a demo of the 3D Visualisation model of the Tay and Forth estuaries, which helped collect opinion and data for the project. He showed how layering of data layers (e.g. subsurface geology, beneath the present (and past) geomorphology) can help to depict change over time. (see figure opposite, coastline shown in dark grey).



Forth-Tay Seascope Model Screenshot.
Image courtesy of Vlad Stojanovic, University of Abertay.

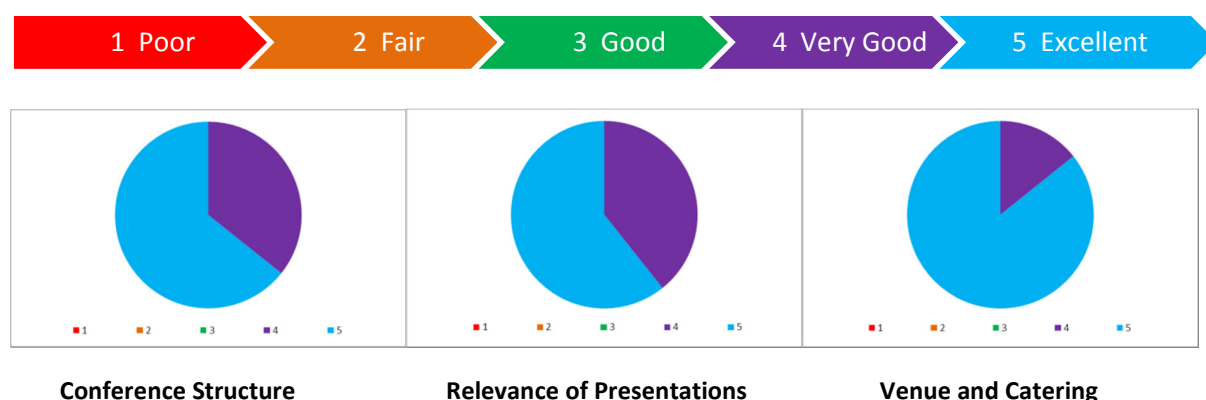
The final report for the Seascope project is now available on the TEF website as a TEF Occasional Paper: www.tayestuary.org.uk/

Lunchtime exhibits included displays from Angus Shoreline Management Plan II; Artist in Residence for CECHR at the University of Dundee, Jean Duncan showing recent work depicting Tsunami deposits at Montrose Basin; Seascape paintings by Dundee-based artist, Penelope Anstice; Marine Conservation Society; Tayside Biodiversity; East Haven Together; Ties to the Tay project; Student posters and Marine Scotland's National Marine Plan interactive (NMPi).

Session 3: Changing Coasts (Chair Geoff Squire, James Hutton Institute)

Jim Densham (RSPB Scotland) spoke about the loss of protective habitats in the coastal/ inter-tidal zone, using Nigg Bay as a Case Study site. He explained the need for a Scottish blueprint for coastal adaptation and change, emphasising the importance of identifying areas suitable for managed realignment. Kelly Ann Dempsey (Angus Council) presented the new Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan, Coastal and Marine Section 2016-2026, reflecting on landscape scale coastal conservation in Tayside. Kelly Ann also covered the work of Marine Life Angus and East Coast cetacean recordings. Catherine Gemmell gave a rallying cry for assistance in keeping our beaches clean and presented information specific to Tayside from results of the Great British Beach Clean 2015. Finally, Nikki Christie (Repsol) discussed progress with the Inch Cape Offshore Wind Farm and voluntary efforts of the Inch Cape team in conservation and beach cleaning on the Firth of Forth island, Inchkeith.

Closing comments by Rob Duck rounded off the day, summarising insights from 3 earlier discussion sessions, and outlining TEF perspectives and priorities for the year ahead. Feedback from the event has been positive. Of the 60+ delegates in attendance, 28 feedback forms were returned, the results of which are seen below. (1-Poor, 5-Excellent):



Suggestions for future topics:

- Forth-Tay Marine Planning Partnership
- Management of Land-Sea interface-conflict resolution and streamlined governance
- Commercial fishing interests in the Tay Region
- How local authorities plan to include marine planning in their areas of jurisdiction
- Coastal development and defences
- Role of commercial activity/development in the Tay
- Tourism- use of the Tay
- Methods for engagement, or empowering public in marine planning/management at local level
- Decline of botanical biodiversity in coastal and estuarine habitats

2016 delegate comments: "The quality of the speakers and participants was outstanding"..."very informative presentations, a good range of topics, something for everyone, even if the topic is not in your area of expertise there was still something to learn"..."fabulous catering"..."interesting theme which offered a variety of perspectives: good to hear from academia to industry"..."a great networking opportunity for all delegates and participants with a very relaxed and friendly atmosphere"..."great to involve local communities"..."interesting exhibitions"..."right mix of presentations and Q&A".