



## Tay Estuary Forum and Forth Estuary Forum Annual Conference Report 2017

15<sup>th</sup> September 2017

West Park Conference Centre, Dundee

### *Preparing in Partnership for Marine Planning on Scotland's East Coast*

Over 70 delegates, representing a range of environmental, coastal & marine stakeholders, attended this year's Forth Estuary Forum and Tay Estuary Forum joint Annual Conference in Dundee. 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 topics for the Tay and Forth Estuaries & the coastline of South East Scotland.

#### **Session 1: A Developing Coastline (Chaired by Professor Rob Duck, TEF)**

Robert Mason (Head of Cruise, Forth Ports Scotland) began proceedings with an optimistic presentation of Cruise traffic data for both the Tay and Forth Estuaries, both of which are experiencing a current boom. He detailed knock-on potential benefits to the cities and surroundings of the deep water harbours and discussed future potential of the sector. Tom Young (Red Rock Power Ltd. and conference sponsor) then followed, to update on latest developments with Offshore Development plans for Inch Cape Wind Farm, an area of development that lies directly offshore from both TEF and FEF regions. Helen Riley and Simon Stephenson (RPS Group) then concluded the session from the perspective of assessing noise disturbance to birds as a result of coastal works and development, giving food for thought about impacts of development that are sometimes difficult to see or quantify.

#### **Session 2: Our Iconic Coasts- Redesign and Reinvention (Chaired by Nik Scott-Gray, Montrose Port Authority)**

Session 2 focussed on two major development projects for both Firths, firstly the Forth Replacement Crossing, for which Lawrence Shackman, the Forth Replacement Crossing Project Manager gave a detailed timeline, from planning, through construction, to recent completion, showing fly-overs and animations of the incredible build. Jennifer Caswell (Dundee City Council) then drew attention northwards to Dundee's Waterfront where she updated on the rapid and ambitious transformations underway along the city's waterfront, its city quay area, riverside drive and airport. Jennifer also updated on progress with the V&A Museum and illustrated how the area is starting to make the most of its improvements with successful 2017 summer concerts at Slessor Gardens.

#### **Session 3: Planning our Future Coasts (Chaired by Chris Cutts, Forth Estuary Forum)**

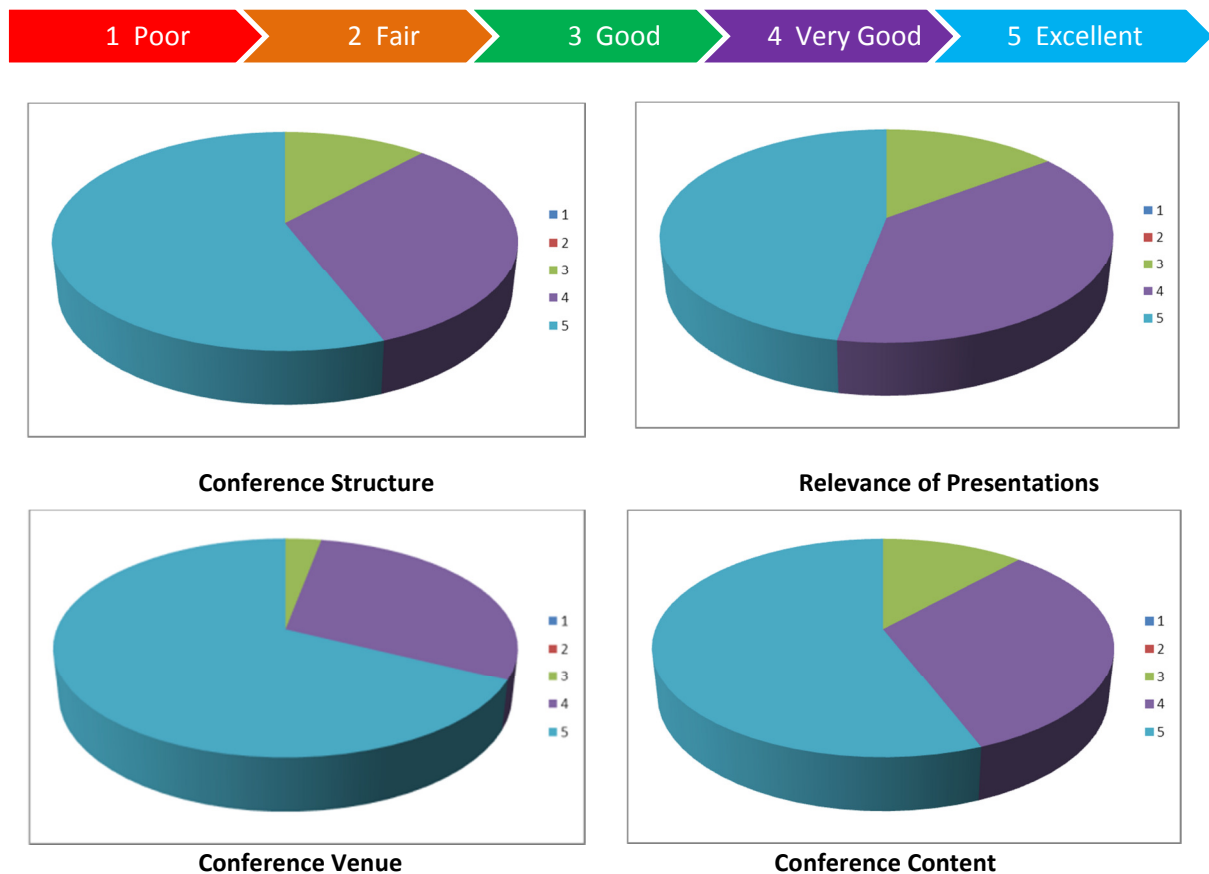
David Pratt, Head of Planning and Strategy at Marine Scotland introduced the session with perspectives from Marine Scotland as an overarching and strategic element to delivering marine planning around Scotland's Coast. The specific South East Scottish Marine Region, within which the TEF and FEF geographically sit, was then explored in more detail with a panel discussion. The audience could address questions to the two Forth Chairs, Rob Duck (TEF) and Ruth Briggs (FEF), Tim Stojanovic (University of St Andrews) and David Pratt. The discussion was overseen by Anton Edwards (University of the Highlands and Islands).

#### **Session 4: Social Drivers for a Changing Coast (Chaired by Dan Gilmour, University of Abertay)**

The final session lent a different balance to the programme in concentrating on social science at the coast and building engagement, relationships and meaningful stakeholder interaction. Paula Duffy (University of St

Andrews) outlined her PhD work looking at census data for coastal communities to assess change and sustainability. She was followed by Esther Carmen (CECHR, University of Dundee) who described her work in the Scottish Borders building resilience in terms of flood risk specifically. Both speakers gave a more practical/ methodological approach to understanding engagement with coastal communities and delegates' feedback reflected appreciation of this.

Feedback from the joint event has been highly positive, with nearly 100% of responses encouraging further joint events between FEF and TEF. Of the 70 delegates in attendance, 34 feedback forms were returned, the results of which are seen below (1-Poor, 5-Excellent):



**Some suggestions for future topics:**

- Forth and Caledonian Canal
- Celebrating and conserving the landscape
- Integration of land, coast and sea
- National Coastal Change Assessment
- Marine Litter
- How both TEF and FEF are preparing for marine planning
- Business reliant on tourism/ visitors to Tay area
- Harbour development
- Shetland/ Clyde MPP
- Health and place-making
- Biodiversity and Citizen Science
- City deals in Tay and Forth Region

**Delegate comments:** "Programme was both very varied and informative with a very pragmatic focus including academic contributions"... "particularly enjoyed breadth of topics and inclusion of social science presentations".... "excellent presentations- progressive and informative"... "did a lot of networking"... "Good-showed diversity and inter-connection"...."I always learn something!"... "some top class presentations of highly topical interest"...."really excellent presentations and a great mix"... "An excellent opportunity to think and reflect on our shared environmental responsibilities"... "the panel is good as it presents exchanges of ideas to the whole audience"... "as always the Forum brings together very interesting topics. I enjoy this and look forward to the next"... "excellent- broadened my knowledge of marine and environmental issues".