



SCOPING REPORT FOR AN INTEGRATED FAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK & LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS

Outputs 3.2 & 3.1 of the Cornwall 3Cs Project
V1 FINAL

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PREFACE

This report is one of several outputs for the project entitled “Coordinating Cornwall’s Coastal Recovery: coast and marine nature recovery action plans to achieve 30 by 30” project which ran from January – April 2023.

This is the second phase of the project exploring the feasibility and options for establishing a Coastal Partnership in Cornwall.

The partnership taking this phase of the work forward is hosted by Cornwall Wildlife Trust and includes Cornwall Council, Cornwall Catchment Partnership, Environment Agency and Natural England. The project is funded through the Environment Agency’s Water Environment Improvement Fund under the banner of ‘Championing Coastal Collaboration’ (3Cs).

The work has been carried out through Kaja Curry Consulting and Services for Cornwall Wildlife Trust.



All reports are available at:

<https://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/what-we-do/our-conservation-work/at-sea/coastal-partnerships>

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1 INTRODUCTION

Please note

This document was an output of the Cornwall 3Cs Project as described in the preface. The document will form the basis for further discussion and refinement with the emerging partnership subject to funding.

As part of the “Coastal Partnership for Cornwall” Project, work was undertaken to identify the issues relating to the Fal and Helford study area. Work from last year had already identified the complexities of this site, particularly relating to environmental designations, nature recovery, flood protection, port management and recreation. Whilst the site does benefit from a SAC Management Forum, the report did conclude that there was further potential for bringing the key stakeholders together to manage the estuary as a whole and to find resource so that more integrated management could occur.

To take this further and as part of the Phase 2 work; a workshop was held to understand the key priorities and projects of the partners, to identify the management issues facing the Fal and Helford areas. This was held on Wed 8 February 2023 and was part of the Fal and Helford SAC Management Forum Meeting. The proceedings are described in Appendix I: Proceedings from workshop with Fal & Helford SAC Management Forum.

This report then takes the findings from the workshop, and combines them with an emerging framework described in more detail in OP1.2 Draft Workplan for Coastal Partnership, to propose an integrated Fal Estuary Management Framework. Due to restrictive timescales, it has not been possible to test this with the Fal Estuary Management Group so this would need to be done as part of the next steps.

2 WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The Fal and Helford SAC Management Forum was well attended with representatives from the key organisations, including the local authorities, statutory bodies, landowners, partnerships, and harbour authorities.

Although time was restricted to one hour, the workshop was designed to do the following:

- update participants on the key findings from the previous year and progress with the project;
- explore the key priorities and projects that were taking place in the Fal and Helford Estuaries over the next 6 years;

- identify any other projects that stakeholders knew of;
- identifying which projects the stakeholders were keen to cooperate on;
- explore the barriers that prevent the stakeholders from working more collaboratively.

3 PROJECTS COMING FORWARD

The project identification exercise identified 36 projects, as listed in the Appendix, across the length of the two estuaries with everything from nature conservation and recovery projects; pollution management, recreational management, and broader integrated management projects.

Most of them were identified as requiring collaborative working and for some this was already well-established, whilst for others much work was still needed.

Further opportunities were also identified around offshore wind and the impact this would have within the Fal Estuaries for laying-up of kit as well as impacts arising from the cable linkages from sea to land for connection to the grid.

4 INTERDEPENDENCIES AND BARRIERS

Many interdependencies were acknowledged between the projects for example water quality is required to support the seagrass restoration activities, and for some there was frustration that funds were going to restore these habitats whilst not enough was being done to solve the issues that might be impacting their health such as nutrient input from upstream.

Eight key issues that prevent increased collaborative working were identified as the following:

1. **Knowing who to contact:** it was recognised that the success of the Management Forum lay in the ability to build relationships with other named officers and individuals which acts as the foundation for collaborative working.
2. **Priorities:** some felt that sometimes the focus lies too much in one area (for example seagrass) when there are so many critical actions needed whilst others spoke of the importance of agreeing joint priorities as a group.
3. **Time constraints and frequency of meetings:** Some of the participants felt that the partnership did not meet sufficiently often, and that if it met more, then the momentum would build up to deliver projects with more focus. Others felt that there was not enough time to focus on a single issue in depth and that maybe consider use of themed single issue sub-groups e.g., water quality.
4. **Other key partners absent:** Notable partners identified as absent included South West Water and local landowners such as Tregothnan Estate.
5. **Cost of environmental permitting:** old abandoned vessels were seen as a high risk for the port authorities and the cost of environmental permitting to carry this out as an

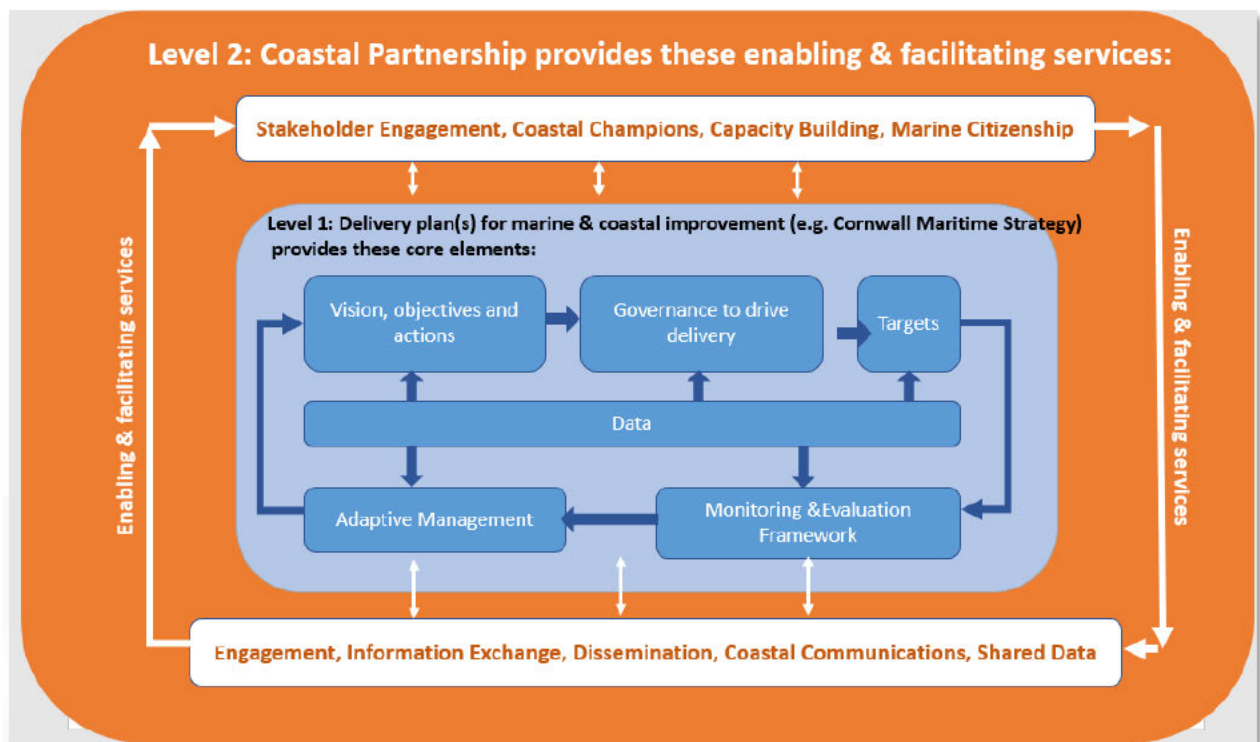
unwelcome burden on top of the disposal costs; with estimates of the permitting costs accounting for up to 25% of the total costs.

6. **Funding:** A strong need for funding was identified and questions were asked whether it is possible to secure it from the private sector using through their Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Strategy.
7. **Commercial sensitivities:** Commercial confidentiality and sensitivity around some matters was discussed as sometimes it could be a barrier to more open working.
8. **Wider engagement needed:** need to engage with the wider community and local businesses, using ESG agenda. Also, members suggested considering an annual forum potentially in parallel with the Fal Harbour and Estuary Safety Committee.

5 PROPOSED FRAMEWORK FOR FAL ESTUARIES MANAGEMENT

As part of this project, a generic coastal partnership management framework has been developed and is described in more detail in **OP1.2 Draft proposal including framework, business case and workplan**. Informed by active stakeholder engagement, the emerging framework recognises that effective delivery of improvement plans requires not just a well-structured improvement plan, but also critically, requires a wrap-around service of enabling and facilitating services such as stakeholder engagement, coastal champions, capacity building, marine citizenship and shared data and information as shown in Figure 1: Framework for Coastal Partnerships in Cornwall: "A Wrap-around service".

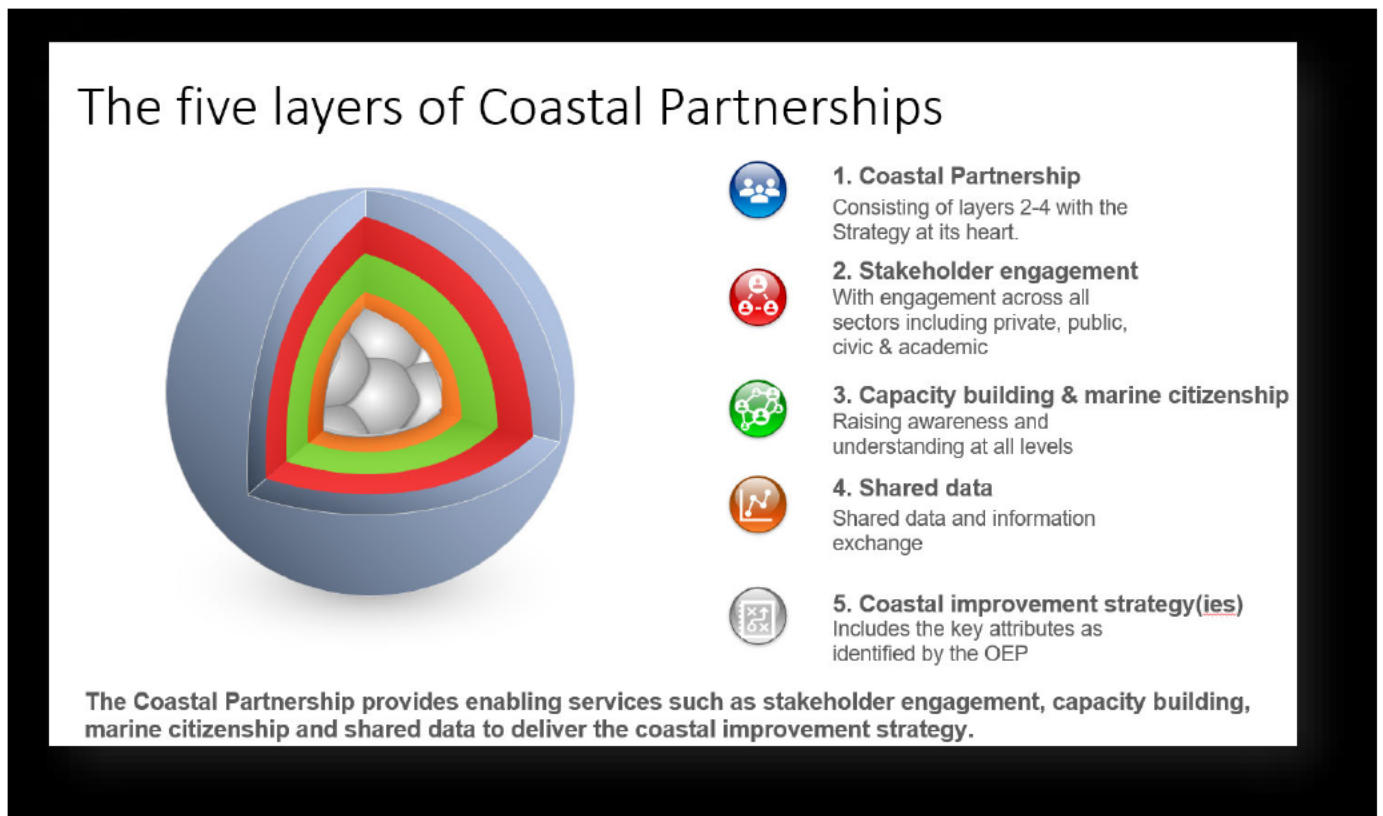
Figure 1: Framework for Coastal Partnerships in Cornwall: "A Wrap-around service"



Level 1: Delivery Plan(s) for Marine and Coastal Improvement actually consists of several plans and strategies, which as we saw in the work carried out last year, are actually quite numerous for the Fal and Helford Estuaries.

Level 2: Enabling Services: are described as the services that are particularly needed at the coastal and marine interface due to the complexities of working at the marine-coastal interface, and these services could in this case be provided by an extended Fal and Helford SAC Management Forum or other coastal partnership. Without these enabling services for these projects that require such a high level of collaboration, delivery becomes more difficult as stakeholders are not sufficiently engaged to make this happen. The Fal and Helford SAC Management Forum could, with a little more resource, be used to 'oil the wheels' by effectively wrapping around the existing plans to provide the lubrication to support friction-less delivery.

Figure 2: The five layers of Coastal Partnerships



This 'wrap-around' structure is further shown in Figure 2: The five layers of Coastal Partnerships where the strategies all sit at the core, with the enabling services provided by a management forum or partnership shown as layers around it.

6 APPLYING THE FRAMEWORK TO FAL AND HELFORD

There is therefore a clear need to implement this management framework in order to address these issues so that a more collaborative and integrated approach can be taken to support the delivery of resilient marine and coastal ecosystems in the Fal and Helford and also the growth they can deliver through nature-based solutions and community-capacity building.

Table 1: Status of the five layers
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Table 1 assesses each of the five layers with respect to their current status and is based on the findings from last year (Kaja Curry Consulting & Services & Cornwall 3Cs Project, 2022) and those from the workshop this year. It is worth noting that each of the five layers will be considered in reverse order as this is more logical in building a picture of what is currently in place.

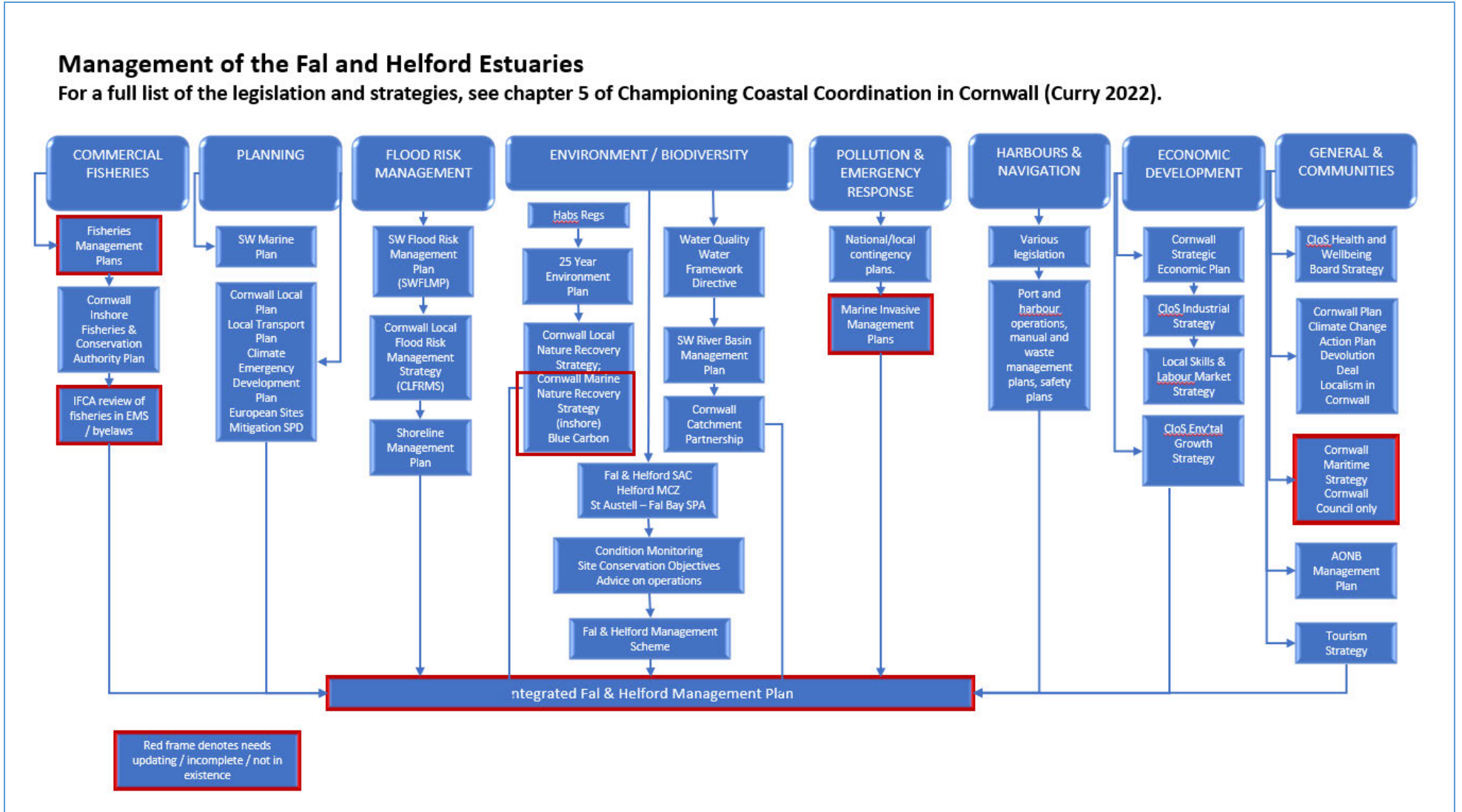
There is therefore a clear need to implement this management framework in order to address these issues so that a more collaborative and integrated approach can be taken to support the delivery of resilient marine and coastal ecosystems in the Fal and Helford and also the growth they can deliver through nature-based solutions and community-capacity building.

Table 1: Status of the five layers

Partnership component	Description	Status
Coastal improvement strategies	<p>There are many strategies that impact, at least in part, on the Fal and Helford Estuaries, as shown in Figure 3: Management of the Fal and Helford.</p> <p>However, there is no overarching strategy or plan which brings them all together to ensure that the site is managed in an integrated manner.</p>	<p>The Fal and Helford SAC Management Scheme is the closest to a single document that sets out the management to deliver the conservation objectives for the site. Unfortunately, this has not been updated since 2005 and therefore is very out of date and does not reflect the latest condition assessments for the site's designated features. Nor does it include the Special Protection Area or the Marine Conservation Zones, which have both been designated since then. With so many statutory designations, it is important that the site has a single integrated approach to management.</p> <p>URGENTLY NEEDS UPDATING</p>

Shared data	It is important that partners know what data is available and where it can be sourced, particularly relating to GIS data and monitoring data.	There is no single repository for the data, although this is currently being addressed through this project which is seeing a data hub being developed for Cornwall and hosted by ERCCIS. IN HAND
Capacity building and marine citizenship	There are numerous groups active in the area including Your Shore Groups, Community Flood Groups, tourism groups, business groups and plastic free community groups. There is also a SAC Advisory Group.	The SAC Advisory Group is no longer meeting regularly and is not considered active as there is no functioning secretariat. URGENTLY NEEDS ADDRESSING
Stakeholder engagement	The SAC Management Group is active and does undertake work to deliver effective stakeholder engagement.	Members commented on that they did not always know who to contact to progress their projects and that some stakeholders were not engaging. NEEDS ADDRESSING
Coastal Partnership	The existing Fal and Helford SAC Management Group oversees the management scheme of the Marine Protected Area.	The group is the logical choice to take on the wider partnership role but would need to extend its membership somewhat and to broaden its remit. NEEDS ADDRESSING

Figure 3: Management of the Fal and Helford



7 NEXT STEPS

Having identified the Fal management issues, the next steps will be to bring the Fal and Helford Management Forum back together to collectively work out how they might be addressed, whether the management forum needs to extend its remit and bring in other members and to support work in building an effective partnership.

8 REFERENCES

Kaja Curry Consulting & Services, & Cornwall 3Cs Project. (2022). *Championing Coastal Coordination in Cornwall; a report for Cornwall Wildlife Trust*.
<https://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/what-we-do/our-conservation-work/at-sea/coastal-partnerships>

APPENDIX I: PROCEEDINGS FROM WORKSHOP WITH FAL & HELFORD SAC MANAGEMENT FORUM

INTRODUCTION

These are the findings from a workshop held with members of the Fal and Helford SAC Management Forum at the Falmouth Port Health offices on Wed 8 February 2023.

Present

██████████ Fal Harbour Commissioner,
██████████ Falmouth Harbour,
██████████, Truro & Penryn Harbour Master,
██████████, Natural England
██████████, A&P
██████████, A&P
██████████, Cornwall Port Health Authority
██████████, Duchy of Cornwall
██████████, Duchy of Cornwall
██████████ Cornwall Council
██████████, Environment Agency
██████████, SAC Advisory Group
██████████, Marine Management Organisation
██████████, Cornwall AONB
██████████, Natural England
██████████ Falmouth Town Council / SAC Advisory Group

Kaja Curry, Independent consultant working for Cornwall 3Cs Project

Presentation

Kaja Curry gave a presentation on the “Coordinating Cornwall’s Coastal Recovery” Project which be working on*:

- Bringing people together to build a coastal partnership;
- Building a Marine and Coastal Data Hub for Cornwall;
- Developing a Marine and Coastal Nature Recovery Plan;
- Piloting the approach on the Fal an Helford Estuaries in 2023 followed by Munts Bay later;
- Working with community groups to deliver more for marine and coastal nature recovery.

* subject to funding.

Workshop

Q1. What priorities / projects in the next 6 years are you involved in?

Ref	Who	Where	What	Timing
1	EA	Catchment	Moving abstraction into Environmental Permitting Regulations	2023-2029
2	EA	Catchment	Improved water quality	2023-2029
3	EA	Upstream	Agricultural Regulatory Task Force	2023-2029
4	A&P	Falmouth Docks	Port development and maintenance	2023-2029
5	Port of Truro	Port of Truro waters	Disposal of end of life boats	2023-2029
6	Port of Truro	Port of Truro waters	Funded CWT and volunteers Pacific Oyster removal	2023-2029
7	Falmouth Town Council	Falmouth	Foreshore regulatory responsibilities	2023-2029
8	Cornwall AONB		See 12.	
9	Cornwall AONB	Section 08: Lizard/Helford	Farming in Protected Landscapes - multiple projects	2023-2029
10	Cornwall AONB	Lizard	Lizard Landscape Recovery Project, Farm for Nature	2023-2029
11	Port Health Authority		- To maintain shellfish classification across Fal, Helford and other locations in Cornwall - More collaborative work with SWW & EA to improve Water quality and improve the classification of shellfish beds.	2023-2029
12	Cornwall AONB	Upstream	AONB Farm Engagement Project to target specific farms to improve upstream water quality	Idea for a priority?
13	Falmouth Harbour Commission	Fal Harbour	Advanced Mooring System development and roll out	2023-2029
14	Falmouth Town Council	Falmouth Harbour Foreshore	- Beach ASBO - Boat and public ASBO	2023-2029

Ref	Who	Where	What	Timing
15	Cornwall Council	Fal & Helford	Estuary Officer workplan: - Infinite - Recreational impact mitigation - Education - Comms - Management	2023-2029
16	Cornwall Council	Cornwall	- Marine Nature Recovery Strategy: - work with partners - funding projects with partners	2023-2029
17	Natural England	Fal Estuaries and beyond	- Monitoring - Condition assessment - Bird Bycatch looming eye	2023-2029
18	Natural England	Fal Estuaries and beyond	- ReMeDies (maerl and seagrass) - Water quality monitoring (live) - Marine Nature recovery - Marine wildlife disturbance - maerl priority habitat - Policy - Connecting people with Nature	2023-2029
19	Falmouth Marine Conservation Group with Falmouth Harbour	Fal Harbour	Dolphin monitoring CATT Project (Cetacean Acoustic Trend Tracking).	2023-2029
20	Falmouth Harbour Commission	Falmouth Harbour & Bay excluding Penryn, Falmouth Docks, Truro Boundary & St Mawes	Creating a long term Master Plan for future including natural capital	2023-2029
21	Clean Ocean Sailing	All marine	Boat disposal and litter	2023-2029
22	Cornwall AONB	All AONB	Priority Aims: - Responding to planning applications, - To conserve & enhance landscape character and natural beauty - "light spill"	2023-2029
23	Cornwall AONB	All AONB	CAONB Management Plan: strategic priorities: People - Place - Nature - Climate	2023-2029
24	Sailors Creek CIC	Sailors Creek	Removal of detritus	2023-2029
25	Restronguet Sailing Club	Restronguet	Redevelopment of Restronguet Sailing Club	2024 +

Ref	Who	Where	What	Timing
26	Flushing Sailing Club	Flushing	Installations at Flushing SC	2023-2029
26	?	Penryn Creek	Reduce moorings	2024 +
27	Falmouth Marine Conservation Group	Fal Harbour	Pacific Oyster Rockpool SeaWatch (Dolphins, seals) Seagrass Outreach (school sessions) Dolphin monitoring (Acoustics) Connecting people with nature	2023-2029
28	Falmouth Harbour Commission	Fal Harbour	Raising awareness of sensitive seabeds with harbour users and with Ocean Conservation Trust	2023-2029
29	Falmouth Harbour Commission	Fal Harbour	Taking action to try and decarbonise harbour activities	2023-2029
30	Cornwall AONB	Section 09: South Coast Central	Farming in Protected Landscapes Project - multiple	2023-2029
31	MMO	Whole area	SW Marine Plan runs on 3 year cycle which puts us on now in the plan monitoring phase to see how successful the policies are. This means we're now reviewing data for the SW covering all plan policies to see how policies are being applied/if they work. Data collection is a project in itself which may have useful outputs.	2023-2029
32	Helford Marine Conservation Group	Helford	Communications	2023-2029
33	Helford Marine Conservation Group	Helford	Advisory Section	2023-2029
34	Helford Marine Conservation Group	Helford	Public Engagement & Education	2023-2029
35	Duchy of Cornwall	Helford	ReMeDIES Seagrass project	2023-2029
36	Duchy of Cornwall	Helford	Port Navas Oysterage	2023-2029

Q2: Are you aware of any other projects coming forward?

- Seal and recreational disturbance projects

- Offshore Wind Power: FLOW Project and Celtic Sea Power, also Marine Offshore Renewables (MOR) Group, Cornwall Marine Network (CMN) and Crown Estate. Includes resources and space needed for laying-up.

Q3: Are there any gaps? Any projects that you would like to see come forward?

- Tregothnan Estate land management and water management.

Q4. Which of these projects would you be interested in linking to and why?

- Many interdependencies: i.e. water quality is required to support restoration activities.
- Priorities are key as currently millions of pounds are going into seagrass restoration but not enough on solving issues that might impact it for example by implementing a whole site / catchment management approach.

Q5. What are the barriers that prevent you from working more collaboratively?

9. **Knowing who to contact:** - names and individuals; who the key players are (the success of the Management Forum is the ability to build relationships with other named officers and individuals);
10. **Priorities:** maybe sometimes the focus is too much in one area (e.g. seagrass?)
11. **Frequency of meetings:** Does the Management Forum meet enough?
12. **Other key partners absent:** Can we get SWW representation?
13. **Cost of environmental permitting** for disposal of old vessels – 25% of disposal costs.
14. **Time constraints:** Not enough time to focus on a single issue in depth – maybe consider use of themed single issue sub-groups e.g. water quality.
15. **Funding:** Need for funding => is it possible to get funding from the private sector e.g. through their ESGCR agenda?
16. **Priorities:** Need to agree joint priorities as a group.
17. **Commercial sensitivities:** Commercial confidentiality and sensitivity around some matters.
18. **Wider engagement needed:** need to engage with the wider community and local businesses, using ESG agenda => consider an annual forum potentially in parallel with the Fal Harbour and Estuary Safety Committee?

APPENDIX II: LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS FOR FAL & HELFORD

The full list of stakeholders is available in the C3C2 Stakeholder Mapping Table which is held by Cornwall Wildlife Trust. The following represents those identified as relevant to the Fal and Helford Estuary. Individual names are not included for data protection reasons.

Category	Organisations	Category	Organisations
Access Recreation & Tourism	CC Cornwall Council - ex Beach Officer Coastlands (ex Windsport) Devoran Gig Club Duchy Divers (Truro / Fal) Falmouth Beach Users Group Falmouth Gig Club Falmouth Marine Conservation Group Flushing and Mylor gig club Flushing Sailing Club Greenbank Falmouth Rowing Club Helford River Boats Helford River Sailing Club Mylor Boat Hire Mylor Sailing School Mylor Yacht Club Mylor Yacht Club Penryn Gig Club Port of Falmouth Sailing Association Restronguet Sailing Club RNLI Roseland Gig Club Royal Cornwall Yacht Club (Falmouth) RYA - SW Region Sailors Creek CIC Seaways Dive Centre, Penryn SW Coast Path National Trail Partnership Truro Gig Club	Climate Change	CC - Flood & Coastal Env't Lead Cornwall Environmental Adaptation Team Environment Agency * Falmouth community climate network panel Transition Falmouth
		Coastal Partnerships	Fal & Helford SAC Management Forum (secretariat, officers, and chair)
		Community	Cornwall Council Localism Officers – Falmouth and Truro-Roseland. Falmouth Area Coastal Community Team Falmouth Community Network Panel Local councillors
		Fisheries & Aquaculture	Cornwall Fish Producers Organisation Cornwall IFCA Fal Fisheries Committee Fal Fishery Coop CIC Helford Oyster Farmer
Heritage & Culture	Cornwall AONB	Land owners	Duchy of Cornwall Helford River Moorings Lizard NNR National Trust

<p>Marine & Coastal Infrastructure & Development</p>	<p>Cornwall Council – Environmental Partnerships & Policy Marine Management Organisation</p>	<p>Marine economy</p>	<p>Cornwall LEP Cornwall Marine Network</p>
<p>Marine Conservation</p>	<p>Blue Marine Foundation Cornwall & IoS LNP Cornwall Local Nature Partnership Cornwall Local Nature Recovery Working Group Cornwall Marine Liaison Group CWT * Fal SAC Advisory Group Falmouth Marine Conservation Group Helford Voluntary Marine Conservation Group Natural England -Fal Wild Roseland</p>	<p>Ports, Harbours & Navigation</p>	<p>CC Cornwall Harbour Master Falmouth Harbour Port of Truro Harbour Master St Mawes Harbour (private)</p>
		<p>Research & Data</p>	<p>Cornwall College / Portsmouth University Exeter University Plymouth University</p>
		<p>Water quality</p>	<p>Cornwall Catchment Partnership Fathoms Free Plastic Free Falmouth South West Water Surfers Against Sewage</p>