

## Minutes of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Fleet Study Group Meeting

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2011

**Present:** Don Moxom, Ed Harland, John Dadds, Emma Perrin, Alan Holiday, Jonathan Cox , Rachel Waldock, Angela Scott

**Apologies:** Steve Feist, David Buck, Richard Edmonds, Sue Eden

**Minutes of 101<sup>st</sup> Meeting** – apologies were received for the lateness of the minutes

### **Reports from Groups**

1. DCF meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> May 2011. Topic ‘Coastal and Marine Recreation’. Nobody present at the meeting had attended but Ed reported that it had included a presentation by ENECO on the proposed Wind Park. Alan had attended a previous presentation by them and commented that the French were not putting any wind farms near Mont St Michel (W H Site) and suggested that this should also apply to the Jurassic Coast
2. PHCC meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2011.
  - Environment Management Plan is still progressing
  - No site work by Portland Gas until after the Olympics
  - The new high speed ferry link between Portland and France is to start in April 2012 and to operate through the holidays and over the summer
  - There was a site visit to the piling works on the new pier and extension of the old pier
3. Dorset Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Group – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2011. The main topics covered in the meeting were:
  - A new name for the group!
  - Dredging in Poole Harbour
  - DWT’s seafood campaign
  - iCoast
4. Spirit of the Sea Festival 2 -11<sup>th</sup> July
  - Don commented that the photo competition was being judged in the coming week
  - The lerret boat had been launched from Chiswell after being displayed at various locations in the area
  - Alan commented that the cost of having a stand around the harbour for the final weekend event was £150. This meant that the majority of sites were occupied by food and drink outlets, with little else for people to look at
  - The Mulberry Gallery had had a display on coastal erosion by the DCC Coastal Pathfinder team

- David Attenborough had been at the Dorchester County Museum to unveil the Pliosaur skull

### **FSG 100<sup>th</sup> Meeting follow up**

1. Need to prepare and publish proceedings of Closed Meeting
2. There have been some requests for a CD of the 3 speakers
3. Most of the posters from the Open Meeting are available on the Website ([www.chesilbeach.org/FSG/FSG100](http://www.chesilbeach.org/FSG/FSG100))
4. Don and John D are storing the posters at the moment and they are available to be displayed at suitable venues

### **Group activity 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011**

The meeting deemed this to have been a great success and that the 'Bioblitz' had fulfilled the aims put forward at the 100<sup>th</sup> meeting of FSG. Twenty four people attended the day at Clouds Hill and Chesil Beach. As well as members of the FSG, there were divers from NE and DWT, as well as some people from CEFAS. Ed will send round a list of participants and reports when they are complete and reported that most groups had responded with, at least, preliminary data. The range of topics studied on the day included: birds, moths, small mammals, plants, water life, abiotic factors in water, water movement/tidal cycle, acoustics, underlying geology & landscape, land use, archaeology and fossils

Some of the groups gave brief presentations of their findings

1. **Geology and landscape** – Alan described some of their findings and showed some of the samples that they had collected
2. **Water data** - sent by Lynn. Ed presented the information that had been sent
3. **Palaentology** – Alan resented the data sent by Steve Feist
4. **Mapping** – John outlined some of the data they had collected on a feature across the Fleet that he had noticed on aerial photos. He had roughly mapped the feature using canes and there was a close correlation with the photos and seemed to represent a linear structure, under the water, across the Fleet.
5. **Zostera survey** – Rachel (on behalf of the diving team) showed the meeting on a map where the 2002 and 2011 Zostera surveys had been carried out. No data analysis was presented.
6. **Moths, plants and small mammals** – Jonathan briefly reported on their findings. He commented that the only small mammals recovered from the traps were woodmice
7. **Sound survey** – Ed reported that the area of study on the Fleet was completely silent!!!

### **Where to now**

1. Ed requested that the data recorded on the Activity Day on the 1<sup>st</sup> July be sent to him by the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011.
2. Ed plans to produce a document of the data on the FSG website, on a CD and as a single hard copy to go into the FSG archive
3. There was general agreement that it would be valuable to repeat the activity next year. There was discussion on how to organise the event
  - Repeat at the same site but at different time of the year
  - Repeat at the same time of the year but at a different location
  - Repeat at the same site and time of the year
  - Repeat at a different site and time of the year
  - Do we try and involve more people?
  - Do we focus on a single topic and explore all aspects of that topic?
4. Alan suggested that another part of the Fleet should be studied as the geology of the area studied in 2011 would not change much by 2012!
5. Ed said that he would put out a discussion document about what people would like to do next year, after he has liaised with Don re the Swannery
6. Don suggested that groups should try and compare their data to that already published and to include historic data in the write up.

### **Little Tern Project**

John discussed the successes/failures of this year's Little Tern Project. He said that they had had the highest number of fledglings since 2000 but that there had been a failure of large numbers of eggs to hatch. He wondered whether this was due to the amount of cold wind blowing up through the pebbles on Chesil Beach this year. Ed commented that, although the temperatures are constantly recorded, the data is not stored.

### **AOB**

There was no AOB

### **Date of next meeting**

To be arranged

Minutes recorded by Angela Scott and sent to Ed Harland on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2011

