

Background Information for Chairs and speakers

Professor Laurence Mee – Marine Institute, Plymouth

Professor Laurence Mee is a highly experienced and respected figure internationally in the marine and environmental science fields. He is currently Director of the Marine Institute, School of Earth, Ocean & Environmental Sciences and Chairman of the Devon Maritime Forum. Laurence has many other roles within the academic and marine sciences field, including Leader of the Framework Six European Project 'European Lifestyles and Marine Ecosystems' and Leader of the ESRC/NERC Seminar 'Human Development and the UK's Marine Environment'. Laurence has many teaching interests and research interests and was the founder/leader of the MSc/MRes pathway in Coastal and Ocean Policy. He is also interested in environmental education and sustainability in all its forms. Laurence lives with his family in Totnes where he pursues his other hobbies of sailing, canoeing and walking when he is not travelling the globe as an ambassador for the wise use of our marine environment.

Adam Corney – Marine South West

Adam Corney was born and bred near Birmingham. He joined the Royal Navy in 1989 where he trained as a submarine officer and served as a navigation and warfare specialist in various ships and submarines. In August 2000, Adam was appointed by the South West Marine Sector Task Force to the new post of regional co-ordinator for the marine industry. Marine South West, now a not-for-profit company, is principally funded by the SW Regional Development Agency and is concerned with business development of the marine sector in areas such as skills, communications, careers, networks and productivity improvement. The aim is that "By 2010 the Marine Industry in the South West will be regarded as the most competitive, innovative and coherent region in Europe." Adam lives near Launceston in Cornwall with Tammy, his partner and 3 cats; during his spare time, he enjoys sailing, walking and cooking.

Michael Huntingford – Farm Energy

Michael Huntingford has a financial background and has been involved with offshore wind development in the UK and particularly in the Thames Estuary since 2001. Prior to this he worked in a range of countries including Zambia, Malaysia, Italy and Belgium and specialised in agriculture and IT. Michael is a director of Farm Energy, a small independent wind power developer based in the South West. Farm Energy was the originator of the London Array offshore wind project in the Thames Estuary.

Caroline Chambers – Entec Ltd.

Caroline Chambers is a Senior Consultant at Entec Ltd, based at their Bristol office. She specialises in a variety of issues associated with the coastal and estuarine environment, including physical processes, water quality and management. She has managed several projects through the Water Framework Directive concerned with setting standards for freshwater flows to transitional waters and the design of monitoring systems. With further involvement on other policy lead work (Habitats Directive, Environmental Impact Assessments), Caroline now integrates this background within a current project on Coastal Partnerships and financial benefit to partners. Caroline is widely experienced in oceanographic surveying and analysis, with projects as far a-field as New Zealand, Tunisia and Denmark.

Andy Bell – Biosphere Reserve Manager

Andy Bell is the manager of North Cornwall District Council Countryside Service and the Co-ordinator of the UK's first UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and has been doing this particular job for 4 years. He was originally appointed as the Estuary Officer for the Taw Torridge Estuary 11 years ago and has also been the North Devon AONB Manager in the interim. Although coming from a forestry background, most of his professional life has been in coastal zone management. He is currently the chairman of the UK element of UNESCO's intergovernmental science programme for "Man and the Biosphere".