

All-Party Parliamentary Maritime and Ports Group

Tackling Marine Litter

Tuesday 7th June, 17-18:00

Committee Room 7, Lower Committee Corridor



Attendees

Jim Fitzpatrick MP (Joint-Chairman)
Kerry McCarthy MP
Dr Tania Mathias MP
Lord Wrigglesworth Kt

Viscount Simon
Baroness Wilcox
Baroness Miller
John Stevenson (Secretariat)

Stuart Collins
Julia Hunt, DEFRA
Ros Finney, Marine Conservation Society
Francisco Morcillo, British Plastics Federation
Helen Jordan, British Plastics Federation
Tom Conroy, Port of London Authority
Pat Fitzsimons, Thames Estuary Partnership
Kimberley Holt, Thames Estuary Partnership
Chris Adams, Steamship Insurance
Management Services Ltd

Robert Kimber, General Stevedoring Council
John Caton, Conservative Transport Group
Tim Clarke
Rachel Haylock-Jones, DPW London Gateway
Thomas Coulter, DPW London Gateway
William Barker, EDF Energy - Hinkley Point C
Domenic Donatantonio, Plastics & Rubber
Weekly Magazine
Chris Baldwin, IMCA

Apologies

Lord
Greenway (Joint-Chairman)
Dr Alan Whitehead MP
Lord Berkeley OBE
Kelly Tolhurst MP
Lord Fairfax of Cameron
Margaret Ritchie MP
Carol Monaghan MP
Alex Cunningham MP
Stephen Hammond MP
Richard Benyon MP
Mary Creagh MP
Barry Gardiner MP
Melissa Moore, Marine Conservation Society
Glenys Jackson, Merchant Navy Training
Board
Robert Keen, BIFA
Sue Terpilowski OBE, Image Line
Jon Price, Trinity House
Terry Lawrence, Port of London Authority /
UKHA
Daniella Horton, LMAA

Jeremy Penn, Baltic Exchange
John Murray, Society of Maritime Industries
Roger Barker, Trinity House
Robin Mortimer, Port of London Authority
Neil Glendinning, Harwich Haven Authority
Karen Levy, Moffat Nichol
Jonathan Paine, CMA CGM
Tim Waggott, Port of Dover
Vicki Jago, Port of Dover
Dag Pike
Janet Fallon, Port of Workington
Frances Baskerville, CIRM
Alex Baskerville, CIRM
Paul Ridgway, IAIN
Andrew Moffat, Port of Tyne
Jim French, PD Portcentric Logistics
Peter Moth FNI, UK Harbour Masters'
Association
Simon Robinson, SIMRO
Capt Don Cockrill, UKMPA
William Dorrington

Minutes of the previous session were proposed and approved.

Presentations

- Dr Sue Kinsey, Senior Pollution Policy Officer, Marine Conservation Society (SK)
- Dr David Morritt, Reader in Aquatic Ecology, Royal Holloway, University of London (DM)
- Tanya Ferry, Environment Manager, Port of London Authority (PLA) (TF)

SK gave a presentation on the quantity, type and trends in national marine and aquatic litter, the effects on the marine environment and the domestic and international regulatory framework and possibility for change to that regime.

DM outlined the reasons for and the findings of a study into the prevalence of plastic fibres and fragments in fish in a mid river section of the tidal Thames. He explained that the next stage of the study had widened the scope of the investigation to include a greater number of types of fish and a comparison between the Clyde and the Thames to increase the understanding of the depth and breadth of the trend identified in the first study (the flounder contained up to 75% plastic fibres in its gut).

TF explained the scope and role of the PLA, covered the environmental well-being of the tidal Thames and the scale of the discarded material found at surface and foreshore collection points i.e. the increased presence of plastics in the river and the estuary.

Q&A

*Jim Fitzpatrick MP (JF) probed the scale of the problem.

*Lord Wrigglesworth Kt asked about the work undertaken with school children to change behaviour and enquired whether the increase in cruise holidays was having an impact on the quantity of plastic waste in the oceans.

*Baroness Miller echoed the point about awareness campaigning and enquired whether sewerage systems could be modified to remove sanitary products.

*Dr Tania Mathias MP asked for views on the modification of labelling or the outright ban of micro beads from skincare and other products.

*Baroness Wilcox asked about the PLA's partnership working with riparian local authorities.

TF outlined the PLA plan to extend the driftwood and waste material collectors westward, the need for greater information on the effects of plastic in the tidal Thames eastwards beyond Greenhithe and the nature of the partnership working through the Thames Litter Forum and the Greater London Authority.

DM confirmed that plastics in the marine environment is a growing problem. He agreed that behavioural change is key.

Expanding on DM's point, SK suggested that behavioural change needs to be secured from both the manufacturers of products and consumers in both the use and disposal of items. She suggested that cruise ships are governed by tight port state control measures. While calling for an outright ban of micro beads, either at domestic or EU level, as per the USA lead.

Calendar

JF flagged up the next session: Reinvigorating the UK Ship Register, with Sir Alan Massey and Simon Barham, Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Tuesday 19 July, 17-18:00.