

Sustainability & Falmouth Harbour Newsletter



Falmouth Harbour are continuously working towards understanding our impacts so that we can start to really contribute positively to the sustainability of Falmouth Harbour and beyond. This newsletter will touch on a few projects we are working on or are relevant to harbour users.

This newsletter will focus on the following:

- Marine microplastics
- Flushing seagrass regeneration
- Sensational Seagrass Snorkels & Falmouth Marine Conservation Group
- Advanced Mooring System Trial

Marine Microplastics

In July I was lucky enough to go out on the water with [AK Wildlife Cruises](#).

During the trip Emily Stephenson (Beach Guardian) completed some trawls from the stern of the boat to help gather data for her PhD exploring the [adherence of harmful bacteria associated with sewage outflows to microplastics](#) in the marine environment.



Within the sample pots you can see the incredible abundance of life in the otherwise seemingly clear seawater. Amongst the tiny animals and plants within the sample you can also see small particles of plastic.

Emily is working hard to quantify these plastic particles in the laboratory. These microplastics now make up part of the plankton in the water which is food for a great number of animals within the sea. Because of this microplastics have been shown to build up in the food chain and have been found in humans.



Flushing Seagrass Regeneration

The great news is the Seagrass where 11 swinging moorings were removed in May 2021 is showing signs of regeneration. We would like to thank all of the harbour users who have worked with us on this project to raise awareness and reduce further impacts by choosing not to anchor within the regeneration area.

A huge thanks also to Dr. Chris Laing from the University of Exeter, Matt Slater from Cornwall Wildlife Trust and volunteer Seasearch Divers in monitoring the seagrass regeneration.



We aim to continue with the monitoring to learn more about how this important habitat can regenerate in our waters and what else we can do to look after other areas of Seagrass through initiatives such as the Blue Meadows partnership with the Ocean Conservation Trust.

For more information please take a look at our [Seagrass regeneration webpage](#) and [leaflet](#).

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Falmouth Marine Conservation Group (FMC)- Seagrass snorkels



I have been volunteering for FMC recently helping with some Sensational Seagrass Snorkels funded by [Seachangers](#).

They have been great fun and a brilliant opportunity to chat to locals and visitors about the amazing seagrass bed at Flushing and what we have been doing to try and minimise our impacts. [More information available here.](#)

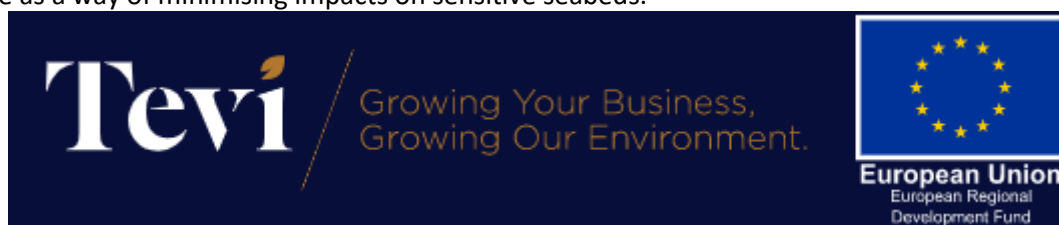
Advanced Mooring System Trial

The Advanced Mooring System (AMS) in place off Flushing Beach has been designed by naval architect & engineering firm [MOREK](#), working with Falmouth Harbour's marine operations team, with floats along the length of the mooring chain to lift it off the seabed.

We are now monitoring how the AMS sits in the water – in all weathers and tides - to gauge how safe and practical the system is for wider use in a commercial and leisure harbour environment.



We were successful in gaining £3000.00 for the trial from the EU-funded TEVI (Cornish for “grow”) – a venture set up to create economic and environmental growth in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Over the next two months we will be monitoring the boat's movement around a central point and also cleat forces to increase understanding of the AMS and whether they can reliably be used in the future as a way of minimising impacts on sensitive seabeds.



How you can get involved

We would like to understand your thoughts on the above information and also on the local Falmouth Harbour environment and how it can / should be sustainably managed. You [can contact Vicki](#) or give the office a call to discuss further.