

# 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:

- Listening for dolphins
- Disturbance
- The buoys are back in town
- MMO monitoring survey

## Listening for dolphins – Cetacean Acoustic Trend

We are really excited to help [Falmouth Marine Conservation](#), [Research Development UK](#) and [Chelonia](#) with their project to monitor dolphin and porpoise calls around Cornwall in partnership with local marine conservation groups. Sound travels really well underwater, much better and further than in air. Many marine animals use sound for communication, hunting etc. This includes fish, octopus, squid and also marine mammals including whales, dolphins and porpoise (cetaceans). Cetaceans use clicks and calls to communicate with each other. Scientists have learnt they even have [unique names for each other](#).

Researchers have recorded cetacean calls and noted that calls vary between species allowing us to understand whether the recorded sounds which consist of clicks and whistles are from [dolphins or porpoise species](#). This knowledge can be used to differentiate between dolphins and porpoises. Research Development UK are working with records of visual sightings located near to their receivers to be able to learn more about which species are responsible for which click type and potentially also what behaviour they are exhibiting i.e. hunting.

This data will be used by the parties above to:

- Improve our understanding of where these very mobile species go
- Develop conservation strategies that work towards protecting these valuable species
- Raise awareness of the amazing animals we share our marine environment with

For more information please follow this link [Dolphin Acoustics | falmarine \(falmouthmarineconservation.co.uk\)](#)

## Disturbance



We are incredibly grateful to the [WiSe Scheme](#) team for training the majority of Falmouth Harbour employees on the WiSe adventure course. We are now proud to display stickers and flags on our boats.

Our employees now understand how best to deal with wildlife encounters when on the water and also how to advise others on how we can act to minimise disturbance of our wonderful marine wildlife we are lucky to share our local environment with.

For best practice on how to minimise disturbance please take a look at [new guidance](#) available from DEFRA. [Radio Cornwall](#) also have a great piece on the new guidance.

# Sustainability & Falmouth Harbour Newsletter



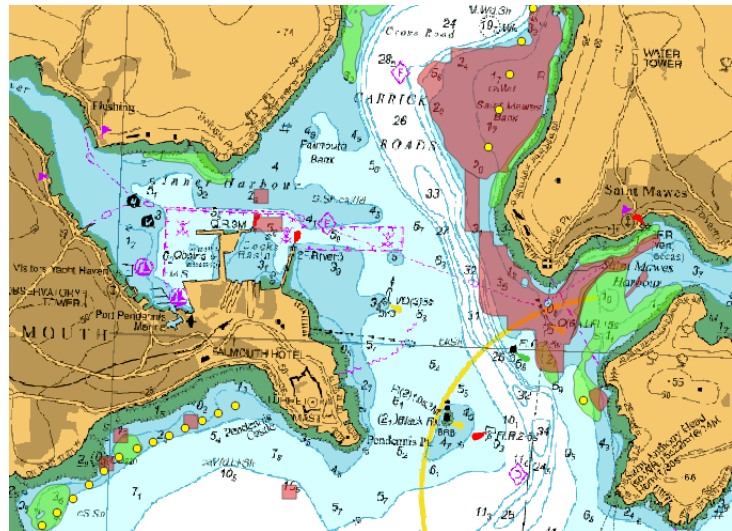
FALMOUTH  
HARBOUR

UK's Atlantic gateway.

## The buoys are back in town



The sensitive seabed markers are back across the beaches and other areas of the harbour marking areas of seagrass and maerl which are both sensitive to anchoring. These buoys are funded by the [Ocean Conservation Trust Blue Meadows initiative](#).



© UKHO. Not for Navigation

If you can, please avoid anchoring in these areas. We would like to understand the effectiveness of these interventions so if you would like to help us monitor you can provide feedback [through this link](#).

## Marine Management Organisation (MMO) monitoring surveys

The MMO Marine Planning team would like your support in collecting data to inform the monitoring and reporting of England's marine plans. Monitoring surveys are one method used to provide data on the use of the marine plans in the decision-making process and support our understanding of the influence marine plan policies have in those decisions. Information shared is used to support a three-yearly report to Parliament on the effectiveness of marine plans.

- [South West Marine Plans monitoring survey](#)

You can complete the monitoring surveys as an individual or on behalf of your organisation.

## How you can get involved

Falmouth Harbour 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.