

ND Biosphere Report - 15th July '24

- Critter Project; working with 4 landowners. Exploring c50 ha habitat enhancement for freshwater and grazing marsh habitats.
- Clean Maritime Network; established by TDC in support of the development of an economy based on the clean marine centre and development of green technologies in the marine environment. They have just approved a new vision for the network at TDC.
- Shared Outcomes funded project with CEFAS; developing a catchment monitoring model using a mix of all the continuous sensors in the Taw Torridge catchment including the Biosphere owned ones. The purpose is to explore the monitoring of a range of stressors on the marine environment.
- Marine working group/forum has had 2 meetings; the latest to develop the marine plan road map to set out the projects for the next 5 years and a basis for funding applications
- Sand Issues; Instow dunes and beach will have the benefit of a beach management plan to ensure that it is clear about the projects and how they will be maintained.
- Sand extraction: sand had been removed from a high point in the main channel by the shipyard to allow deeper draft vessels to pass from Bideford. However local are concerned that more than the prescribed amount was removed by the contractor who also appears to be operating from the Instow oil jetty without the benefit of planning consent. MMO and the district council have been informed.
- Allis shad has been identified on the Taw as far upstream as the Mole river. It is a protected and rare migratory fish therefore there will be some conservation actions developed to ensure critical habitats for the fish are maintained and enhanced.