



Falmouth Harbour  
Commissioners

**- Press Release-**

## **PROGRESS MADE ON DREDGING FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR FALMOUTH**

The Falmouth Harbour Commissioners have reported that crucial work towards investigating the feasibility of dredging a deeper approach channel to Falmouth Docks in preparation for accommodating larger cruise liners is well underway, with plans to present an update to public on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) at an exhibition on 28<sup>th</sup> November.

The strategic project has been driven by Falmouth Harbour Commissioners and A&P Falmouth Limited and would see many more cruise liners, up to 340 metres long, berthed alongside the Docks, providing a significant economic benefit to Falmouth and Cornwall while promoting sustainable tourism.

Work on the Environmental Impact Assessment got underway in March by the Exeter based environmental consultancy Royal Haskoning to make a comprehensive study of any environmental impacts that may result from the deepening of the approach into the Harbour and the construction of a new section of wharf and a cruise terminal building.

A number of field studies have been completed and a substantial modelling exercise is currently underway looking at any possible changes in water and sediment quality, waves and tidal flows. The design of the channel has also been reviewed to ensure that the channel will be safe to navigate yet minimises the amount of dredging required.

The channel is planned to be deepened to -8.3m Chart Datum (CD) with the berths dredged to -9.5m CD to ensure that it is available for navigation 75% of the time by modern cruise vessels. It is predicted that approximately 600,000m<sup>3</sup> of material will

require dredging. Potential disposal options (including beneficial use) are currently being investigated.

During the summer, a vibrocore survey has been completed to determine the nature of the sediments that will require dredging and to collect samples from the seabed for chemical analysis. These are currently being analysed. In addition a detailed diver survey has recently been completed to investigate the plants and animals that are currently living on and in the seabed to determine the effect of the project on the natural environment.

An archaeological assessment is also underway to investigate the effect of the dredge on the historic environment. This has comprised an analysis of existing information and carrying out geophysical surveys by boat to detect the presence of anomalies on the seabed.

A major element of the EIA, that is now being completed, is numerical modelling to investigate the effect that the dredging and disposal will have on sediment and water quality, waves, tidal flows and coastal processes.

Whilst the full report is not expected until the spring, an exhibition for the public will be held in November to explain the work undertaken to date and answer queries on the project.

The public exhibition will be held on Wednesday 28th November in the foyer of Falmouth Library from 12 noon until 6 pm.

Falmouth Harbour Commissioner Captain Mark Sansom is pleased with the progress being made on the port's EIA report: *"The Falmouth Harbour Commissioners have commitment and responsibility for the economic well being of the port and believe this project will help secure a sustainable future for the port and local businesses as well as further afield in Cornwall. I'm delighted that we are moving closer towards our ambition becoming a reality and welcome anyone interested in finding out about the progress that has been made on the EIA to visit the public exhibition in November. "*

The £410,000 EIA project is being jointly funded by The South West of England Regional Development Agency (RDA) and the Objective One Partnership for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

**Ends**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> October 2007**

**Editor's Notes:**

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