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**A Review of the Current State of
Environmental Knowledge of the
Milford Haven Waterway**

**Commissioned by the
Milford Haven Waterway Environmental
Monitoring Steering Group**

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**October 1992
FSC/RC/5/92**

Summary

Following recent concerns about the state of environmental monitoring in the Milford Haven Waterway, a steering group has been formed to investigate the need for such activities and to co-ordinate any resulting programme. As the first step toward this goal, this review of existing information was commissioned.

The review covers the waters and shoreline of Milford Haven, the Daugleddau estuary and the tidal reaches of the Eastern and Western Cleddau Rivers. Individuals and organisations known or suspected to hold information were canvassed and the information thus gathered was collected together with published material to form the basis for the review. All information sources have been entered onto a computer database running on a desktop PC; this should prove to be an invaluable data resource for future projects.

The review comprises three basic parts. The first of these covers the natural environment of the waterway. It commences with a consideration of the physical and chemical environment, followed by accounts of the geology, geomorphology, sediments, hydrography and climate and the major inputs to the Haven, their fates and effects. This part concludes by examining the flora and fauna of the waterway.

The second major part of the review is based around man's use of the Haven and also covers the provisions set in place to care for and protect the environment. The exploitation of natural resources within the Milford Haven Waterway is considered and industrial, commercial and other uses are reviewed. Nature conservation and the roles of the Local Authorities and other statutory bodies with interests in the Haven are then considered, along with contingency plans and procedures for the control of pollution incidents. This section also includes a discussion of the development potential of the waterway as derived from local plans.

The final part of the review covers research and monitoring studies carried out in the Haven. It gives a summary of work carried out to date and identifies gaps in existing knowledge. It is the aim of this review to be a starting point for further study of the Milford Haven Waterway leading to a greater understanding of our local environment and an increased ability to foster this natural resource for the benefit of all users.