

## Press Release     Chairman's Statement Year Ending March 2007

The Commission has had a successful year primarily due to an increase in tonnage handled by the port and with no significant increase in overheads.

In a period when much of the publicity focused on the personnel issues surrounding the Harbour, time should be taken to look back over a successful operating year. The £5m ABP quay development which underwrites the future of Teignmouth as a successful short sea port was officially opened in August 2006 . Coupled with this the Commissions work in maintaining the channel has continued to enable the port to handle larger ships as well as providing a greater flexibility of working. The increase in tonnage is associated with import cargoes generally and particularly blast furnace slag for the cement industry which is new business generated through the development of the new handling facility and is supplied to the South West construction industry. This has significantly reduced road traffic volume to, and from South Wales.

In the current year the Commission continues to review its cost base whilst maintaining its ever increasing operational requirements and has taken direct control of the Teign C and the dredging operation which was previously subcontracted. It is hoped that significant cost savings will be realised as well as improved utilisation of its resources.

The number of drying moorings has been increased in the current year although these still remain short of the number indicated by Teignbridge at handover. The Commission is in the process of installing a GPS-linked database which will drive greater efficiencies, as well as providing improved services to its customers.

The two pontoons have again proved popular with visitors, with increased numbers using them, and the personal watercraft registration scheme has had a good take-up.

The Commission has re organised its operation resulting in the recruitment of two new harbour staff and after a painstaking search has recently appointed a new Harbour Master Commander David

Vaughan who will take up the role when he retires from the Navy in the New Year.

The Harbour Commission recognises the hard work carried out by its staff throughout the year and looks forward to continued success in the forthcoming year.

Note-The full version of the Chairman's Statement can be found on the website News & Events page and follow link to Press Releases.