

# 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:

- Stash your butts & tackle
- Habitiles and Arc Marine Blocks
- Indikon filter

## Stash Your Butts & Tackle

Our local estuary officer has provided us with "Stash Your Butts and Tackle" tins for distribution. These tins come in two sizes and are designed to hold waste cigarette butts and broken fishing tackle while you're out and about. Using these tins helps keep harmful waste out of the water, protecting marine life.



Cigarette butts are a major source of toxins and microplastics in the marine environment. If you're a smoker, you can carry one of these handy tins during your land or sea adventures to ensure you dispose of your butts responsibly and prevent harm to the marine ecosystem.

Feel free to collect your free tins from the Falmouth Harbour office, Marina Hut, or Boat Park office.

For more information on how cigarette butts harm the environment, please watch this video: [How Cigarette Butts Harm the Environment](#).

## Indikon Filter Installation

In our ongoing effort to reduce pollution, we have installed an industrial-sized Indikon filter, made by the local organization Cleaner Seas Group, in the washing machine at our Amenity Centre. This filter captures the microfibres released in large quantities every time you wash your clothes.

Research by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has found that microfibres from synthetic fabrics are the largest source of primary microplastics in our oceans.



For more information, including a great explanation and an interview with the Cleaner Seas Group, please visit the Generation SeaChange YouTube channel: [Spin Cycles and Life Cycles | Cleaner Seas](#).

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FALMOUTH HARBOUR

UK's Atlantic gateway.

## Habitiles and Arc Marine Blocks



We have been fortunate to collaborate with several partners to install tiles and blocks designed and manufactured by Arc Marine to enhance biodiversity. The tiles were installed in October last year, and the blocks were put in place on May 15th.

The primary purpose of this initiative at Falmouth Harbour is to deter harbour users from using the area to dry out and lay up yachts and other vessels against the harbour wall. This practice is discouraged due to safety, visual, and environmental concerns, such as reports of effluent from boats and the safety risks associated with attaching lines to car park handrails.

Additionally, these nature-friendly blocks and habitiles offer secondary benefits by increasing biodiversity in intertidal areas. This installation also provides an opportunity to monitor and gain a better understanding of how habitiles and reef blocks can enhance biodiversity.

For more information, please visit our [website](#) and / or take a look at the interpretation boards which have been installed.

### Enhancing a marine habitat

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#### What is the reef cubes® & Habitiles project?

Harbour walls are generally quite flat with few places for animals to attach to and live within. Habitiles and reef cubes® have been designed to create more places for animals and plants to live and grow. It is expected this will increase the number of different plants and animals that can inhabit the wall and its surroundings, therefore increasing biodiversity, which is important as diversity within ecosystems increases their resilience.

#### Why is it important?

Falmouth is home to a wide variety of habitats including seagrass, maerl, sand, mud and rocky shore. These Habitiles and reef cubes® most resemble that of the rocky shore habitat, which is sometimes replaced by man-made structures and may be increasingly lost due to sea-level rise. As the surface texture of these structures resembles the rocky shore it will be interesting to see whether they attract similar plants and animals.

#### How do reef cubes® and Habitiles contribute?

Habitiles and reef cubes® are designed to withstand tidal forces whilst creating greater habitat complexity than traditional harbour walls. reef cubes® also feature a central chamber which provides shelter for marine life and a built-in rockpool on the top, which helps retain water at low tide.

They encourage settlement and colonisation to increase intertidal and marine biodiversity. Both structures are made from carbon-neutral concrete and have been tested to ensure they do not harm the marine environment. Both interventions have been installed on and around the Harbour wall here.

#### Monitoring

A baseline biodiversity survey of the unaltered harbour wall and surrounding foreshore was undertaken in March 2023 to allow us to track the impact of these biodiversity-enhancing measures. We plan to complete regular surveys. The results of these surveys are available on the Falmouth Harbour website.

#### Can you help?

You can complete your own survey. To record your findings use the following QR code. Please ensure you take care accessing the shore to view the Habitiles and reef cubes® as it is slippery underfoot.

You can also help the marine environment in so many other ways, including:

- Putting your litter in a bin so it doesn't end up in the sea
- Reducing waste by using a refillable bottle; there is a water fountain at the other side of the car park!
- Avoiding harming sensitive habitats
- Reducing your carbon footprint

Here are some common animals and plants to look out for:

- Shore crab
- Cushion star
- Flat periwinkle
- Limpet
- Sea lettuce

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Sponsors: NATURAL RESOURCES, ARC Marine, FALMOUTH HARBOUR, FALMOUTH HARBOUR, FALMOUTH HARBOUR, Gwynn BLAS, SEA-CHANGES

## 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.