

Please reply to: Cllr John Carter, Chairman Salcombe Harbour Board  
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Mr K Harvey  
Chairman South West Water  
Peninsular House  
Rydon Lane  
Exeter  
EX2 7HR

Our ref: IG  
13 July 2011

Dear Mr Harvey

At our Board meeting on 12 July 2011 we reviewed, within our performance management scorecard, the number of pollution incidents within the Estuary during the first quarter of this financial year. It was reported that there have been a number of overflow events from the Malborough sewage treatment works and or the storm overflows close to South Sands Beach, three of which have been in the last week.

The pollution events in the lower estuary coupled with the 'Polluted Waters (eutrophic)' status of the water body in the upper estuary, which is currently strangled with an excess growth of thick green algae over the mudflats and a red algal bloom, are extremely worrying for the health of the Estuary

The Harbour Board is concerned by the fact that these pollution events would not have been made public had we not been part of the "Beach Live" trial programme. We understand that there are severe pressures on the sewer infrastructure in and around the Salcombe Estuary but would like some reassurance that South West Water has a realistic plan to tackle these problems in the short and long term.

Yours sincerely

Cllr John Carter  
Chairman Salcombe Harbour Board

Information:

AONB Estuaries Officer  
Environment Agency  
Natural England