



Marine Information Network
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1st July 2007.

For the attention of: Professor Mike Cowling, The Crown Estate, Marine Office,
16 New Burlington Place, London W1S 2HX.

Dear Prof. Cowling, Severn Estuary Aggregate Working Group.

I write on behalf of MARINET, the Marine Network of Friends of the Earth Local Groups concerning the Severn Estuary Aggregate Working Group, and following our conversation on the telephone.

I have spoken with Rhys Morgan, Environment Agency Wales, and he has advised me that the Working Group has had two meetings since September 2006, the first of which has been minuted.

I also understand that the Working Group is studying the aggregate dredging activity located in the Welsh Grounds, Severn Estuary, and that this study has been premised on the need to consider the assertion that no significant impact from dredging upon the South Wales coast from Cardiff to Chepstow has not been proved. The sand banks in the Welsh Grounds are believed to afford shelter to the foreshore from erosion by the wave regime in the estuary; and, the fact that it is believed that no significant impact from dredging upon the South Wales coast has not been proved, is currently preventing new applications to dredge in this area from being approved. Hence, the need for study of this matter by the Severn Estuary Aggregate Working Group.

I would be grateful if you would confirm whether the above statement of the position is correct. In addition, could you please advise on the following points:

1. The full list of whom form the membership of the Working Party.
2. The full list of aggregate dredging applications in the Welsh Grounds currently awaiting determination, and the who the applicants for these licences are.
3. When the Working Party next expects to convene.
4. Whether MARINET may attend future meetings of the Working Party.
5. Whether you can supply us with minutes of the two meetings so far held by the Working Party.
6. Whether the Working Party has engaged any professional consultants to advise on the issues being considered by the Working Party.

We are grateful to you for your assistance with these matters

Yours sincerely

S. D Eades
On behalf of MARINET.

cc. R. Morgan



**Friends of
the Earth**