



Marine
Management
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Mr Stephen Eades
(email only)

Ref: MLA/2013/00119

20 August 2013

Dear Mr Eades,

Application for a Marine Licence to Extract Aggregates, Ref: MLA/2013/00119

Thank you for your further correspondence dated 2 August 2013 concerning the above application for a marine licence.

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) can provide firm assurance that all representations received within consultation timeframes are taken into account in the decision making process on all marine licence applications. In reaching impartial decisions based on the best available evidence, the MMO takes a risk-based approach that allows for uncertainty, recognising the need to use sound science responsibly. The use of best available evidence is core to our decision making; all evidence that we receive is quality assured to the same standards regardless of its origins.

The Marine Aggregates Regional Environmental Assessments (MAREAs) form a significant proportion of the evidence base used by applicants when applying for marine licences for aggregate extraction. The MAREAs have been robustly peer reviewed by independent advisors and coastal processes experts from Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, Natural England, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Maritime and Coastguard Agency, and English Heritage in order to ensure that the evidence they provide is appropriate, complete, consistent, auditable, and accurate. MAREA data used in an Environmental Statement to support a marine licence application must be supported by additional information and references in order to place the conclusions into context and give good scientific confidence in the results.

The Anglian MAREA employs wave modelling by HR Wallingford that uses a conservative range of 'worst case scenario' assumptions to establish an envelope of wave variability. These studies utilise state of the art SWAN wave model methodology that is widely accepted as being the most appropriate tool for this type of modelling. The assumptions made in these studies have been validated by comparing results obtained with



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observations from Horsey Acoustic Wave and Current (AWAC) data. The results presented in the MAREAs give a precautionary, yet realistic, prediction of the impacts of aggregate dredging on wave height. These conclusions provide a useful comparison between the effects of dredging and natural changes in wave and tidal current conditions over time.

I hope that this letter assures you we have considered your views and representations in assessing this licence application. I also hope that I have provided you with an increased level of confidence in the MAREAs and have furthermore demonstrated the MMO's commitment to ensuring that the best evidence base is used to assess licence applications.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'L. Huggins'.

Lindsey Booth-Huggins
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