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Mr Stephen Eades
(email only)

Ref: MLA/2013/00119

2 August 2013

Dear Mr Eades

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

Thank you for your correspondence dated 8 July 2013 concerning the application for a marine licence to dredge aggregates off the coast of Great Yarmouth in Areas 240, 212, 328B and C.

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) values the concerns and objections raised in your letter. All representations received during the consultation period will be taken into account in the decision making process.

Each aggregate extraction application is considered carefully. Along with our advisers, the MMO scrutinises every application and all the supporting documents to ensure that no unacceptable impacts will arise as a result of any permitted aggregate dredging operations.

All applications must, therefore, contain sufficient data on which to base an informed decision. A number of studies, including an Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Coastal Impact Study (CIS), are undertaken to support aggregate dredging applications. The CIS assumes a “worst case scenario” and includes information on wave modelling, sediment transport and an assessment of the possibility of adverse effects on the coastline.

Should a licence be granted, the site will be subject to a programme of monitoring throughout the duration of the licence in order to validate conclusions from EIA and CIS. Should any unacceptable environmental impacts be identified during monitoring, the licence can be varied, suspended or revoked.

In addition to the Marine Aggregates Regional Environmental Assessments (MAREAs) mentioned in your letter, there is substantial independent research relating to sediment



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transport. The Southern North Sea Sediment transport study (www.sns2.org) and the South Coast Sediment Mobility Study (www.thecrownestate.co.uk/mrf_aggregates) both analyse the impact of aggregate dredging on coastal erosion. In addition, along each coastline Shoreline Management Plans (www.eacg.org.uk/smp6.asp for the region from Kelling Herd to Lowestoft Ness) are used to assess any impacts from human activity on the coastline. The Environment Agency has an extensive programme of shoreline monitoring, including trends analysis reports that show the high natural variability of erosion/accretion along the Norfolk and Suffolk coast.

Although a consent decision has not yet been determined for the above application, the MMO will make a decision based on the evidence presented by the applicant and any advice or representations made. This decision will be published in local newspapers and on our public register.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Booth-Huggins', written in a cursive style.

Lindsey Booth-Huggins
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