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Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Date: 11 July 2007

Dear Mr Eades

MARINE MINERALS DREDGING – AREA 202 & 436

Thank you for your letters of 3 and 10 April 2007. I am sorry I have been unable to reply before this. As you know, responsibility for marine aggregate dredging proposals has now transferred here from the Department for Communities and Local Government.

As I explained in my letter of 29 September 2006, when at the Department for Communities and Local Government, the dredging occurring in Area 202 will be subject to the conditions as set out in the Schedule appended to the Marine Ecological Surveys summary Consultation Report (May 2006).

I would re-iterate that monitoring for the new 5 year licence on Area 202 should be undertaken in accordance with the penultimate paragraph of my letter of 30 June 2006 to Hanson Aggregates Marine Limited. And, as I have stated before, the Schedule of Conditions referred to in that paragraph can be found at Appendix 5 of the Marine Ecological Surveys 'Summary of Consultation' Report of May 2006 which is already in your possession. *That Schedule does, of course, include the condition requiring the operator to "ensure that a minimum depth of 0.5 metres of aggregate resource remains in those parts of the area from which material has been dredged."*

My letter of 30 June 2006, which was copied to the Crown Estate Commissioners, did invite them to impose conditions on any subsequent licence that they issued to be in conformity with the aforementioned Schedule.

I would also take this opportunity to remind you that the updated Environmental statement prepared by Marine Ecological Surveys in December 2005 contained a number of Appendices that covered a variety of monitoring reports undertaken in Area 436/202 over a number of years. Monitoring work in the future will be undertaken in accordance with the Schedule of Conditions appended to the Marine Ecological Surveys Report of May 2006 that I refer to in the third paragraph of this letter.

I hope that you find this information to be helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Bayliss', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

NIGEL BAYLISS

MARINE MINERALS CASEWORK ADVISER (Marine Environment Team)