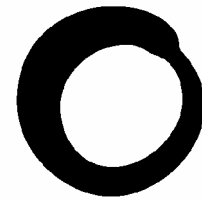




Marine Information Network
www.marinet.org.uk



**Friends of
the Earth**

Allington House
Allington
Chippenham
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Tel. 01249 653972

8th January 2007.

For the attention of: Mr. Nigel Bayliss, Dept. for Communities and Local Government,
Minerals Planning, Division B, Zone 4/B1,
Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU.

Dear Mr. Bayliss, Marine Aggregates : Areas 401/2 and Areas 202/436.

Thank you for your letter of 21st December 2006 which replied to our queries about the GV status for Area 401/2, but which failed to address our outstanding queries regarding Areas 202/436.

Area 401/2.

In your reply of 21st December you state that your office issued a temporary favourable GV for Area 401/2 on 31st March 2006 (covering the period from 1st April 2006 to 31st December 2006), and that a further temporary favourable GV has been issued on 21st December 2006 for Area 401/2 for the period 1st January 2007 to the end of June 2007.

Given that we informed Mr. Matthew Louis of your office on 18th February 2006, upon the enquiry of your office as to whether we were happy that the applicant had resolved all our concerns in relation to this application, that *“The short answer to your question is that MARINET still has substantial concerns, and that these have been expressed to the applicant’s consultant, Emu Ltd, and that these remain unresolved”* and that we then detailed our concerns in full, we are surprised that your office has failed entirely to notify us of the GV decisions of 1st April 2006, and only notified us of the GV decision relating to 1st January 2007 following two specific enquiries from ourselves.

We understand that it is the practice of your Department to inform consultees in the GV decision process of decisions arrived at by your office. Could you therefore please confirm that this understanding is correct and, if being so, why we were not informed of the 1st April 2006 decision and only inadvertently of the 1st January 2007 decision.

In addition, could you please supply us with a copy of the GV decision document and licence relating to the period 1st April 2006 to 31st December 2006, and also the same for the period 1st January 2007 to end June 2007.

You also state in your letter of 21st December 2006 that the decision on the HAML application to dredge in Area 401/2 up until the end of 2013 will be issued in the New Year. We would welcome your response on the following:

1. Given that we have major unresolved concerns, about which we have notified your Department, and that your Department has not discussed these concerns with us, do you intend to make this GV decision relating to the 2013 application without discussing our unresolved concerns with us ?
2. Will you supply us with a copy of the GV decision relating to the 2013 application when it is made ?

Areas 202 and 436.

As we advised you on 10th October 2006, we have outstanding unresolved concerns relating to Areas 202 and 436, and we detailed these for you in our letter of 10th October 2006.

Despite our request, you have not acknowledged your receipt of our letter of 10th October 2006, nor have you acknowledged receipt of our letter of 14th December 2006 (copy enclosed) which informed you of this outstanding matter.

Accordingly, we would be grateful for you early advice on this overdue matter.

We are grateful to you for your assistance.

Yours sincerely

S. D. Eades
On behalf of
MARINET, Marine Network
of Friends of the Earth Local Groups.