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Project Number: P824
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Mr S Eades
MARINET
Allington House
Allington
Chippenham
Wiltshire, SN14 6LN

Dear Mr Eades

**Licence renewal of marine aggregate dredging Area 430 (East of Southwold) -
Scoping Report**

United Marine Dredging Ltd and CEMEX UK Marine Ltd (the applicants) are applying to the Crown Estate, the owner of the area of seabed in question, for a licence renewal of Area 430 East of Southwold. The existing licence expires in November 2007 and a new favourable Government View (GV) is required to support an application to the Crown Estate for a licence to continue to dredge marine sand and gravel at the site for a further 15 years.

Under the current Interim Procedures, applications are made to the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (formerly the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM)), which will consider all the information that is required to be submitted with the application in making its decision. Information will include an assessment of the environmental effects of the proposed dredging in the form of an Environmental Statement (ES), comments received in response to consultation with interested parties and comments received following advertisement of the application.

Metoc have been commissioned by the applicants to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposed dredging operations to be submitted with the application in the form of an ES. Under the Interim GV Procedures, an informal scoping exercise with key consultees and fishing industry representatives was undertaken in 2006. MARINET was consulted during this initial process and Metoc are now pleased to enclose a copy of the scoping report, summarising the exercise, for your further information.

The scoping report is set out in five sections and describes the stakeholder consultation that was undertaken and summarises the responses. A high-level overview of the existing environment in the vicinity of the licence application and the environmental components that will be considered during the EIA is given. Finally, the potential impacts of continued dredging, as identified by Metoc and key stakeholders, have been detailed and the manner in which these impacts will be assessed has been identified. In doing so, the scope of the ES has been defined.





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Following the submission of the scoping report to the DCLG and Defra, work will begin on the ES. If you have any further comments, following receipt of this document, we would be grateful if you could respond by the **28th February 2007** at the latest, so that your feedback can be incorporated in to the EIA.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Morton
Project Manager

Enc.