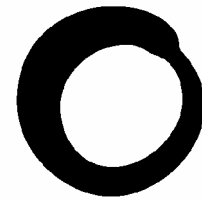




Marine Information Network
www.marinet.org.uk



**Friends of
the Earth**

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24th May 2006.

For the attention of: Richard Stocks, Project Manager, Metoc plc,
Exchange House, Station Road, Liphook, Hampshire GU30 7DW.

Dear Mr. Stocks, Scoping Document : Area 430, East of Southwold.

Thank you for a copy of the Scoping Document relating to Area 430. Please accept our apologies for the delay in replying to your letter of 24th April 2006.

Our comments are as follows:

Physical Impacts on the Coastline and Near Shore Banks.

We should like to see a full bathymetric study of the dredged site, recording changes that have occurred since the original licence was granted.

We should like to see a full bathymetric study of the near shore sand banks, recording changes that have occurred since the original licence was granted.

We should like to see a wave model, based on current bathymetric data and current meteorological data.

We should like to see a full record of changes to the profile of the coastline since the original licence was granted., and this record should contain a record of changes to beach profiles.

The Physical Resource.

We should like to see a full statement of the physical resource available at Area 430, and the changes that have occurred to this resource since the original licence was granted.

Impacts on Benthic Ecology.

We should like to see a clear statement of the extent of benthic knowledge recorded at Area 430 and its surroundings at the time of the application for the original licence.

We should like to see a full and thorough sampling of the benthic nature of Area 430 at the present time, and for this to be cross-referenced to the data at the time of the original application.

We should like to see a full and thorough examination of the ecological structure of the site, with an analysis of whether the benthic order (hierarchy of species and food chain) has been in any way affected by dredging in the area. This ecological structure should reflect all species, from meio- and microfauna to marine mammals.

Impacts on Fish and Shellfish.

We should like to see a clear statement of the extent of knowledge of fish and shellfish recorded at Area 430 and its surroundings at the time of the application for the original licence.

We should like to see a full and thorough sampling of fish and shellfish living through the full yearly cycle in Area 430 at the present time, and for this to be cross-referenced to the data at the time of the original application.

We should like to see a full and thorough examination of the ecological structure of the site, with an analysis of whether fish and shellfish have been in any way affected by dredging in the area.

Impacts on Birds, Marine Mammals and Elasmobranches.

We should like to see a full historical record (extending from the time dredging first commenced in the Great Yarmouth area) of the use of near and offshore sandbanks by birds and marine mammals both in the dredging area and its surroundings, and a study of the changes that have occurred during this historical period up until the present time.

We should like to see a record of the changes that have occurred to the populations of elasmobranches during this same historical period.

Impacts on Conservation Habitats and Species.

We should like to see a full statement of the habitats and species relevant to the area which are afforded protection under UK, European and International law, accompanied by a record of the occurrence of those species and habitats within Area 430, and in the surroundings capable of being influenced by dredging in Area 430.

All of the above areas of study need to be assessed for cumulative impact.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit these observations, and we would be happy to elaborate on any aspect.

Yours sincerely

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