

Charlotte Johnson
Senior Specialist
Natural England
Area 1C, Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR

David Levy and Stephen Eades
Directors, Marinet Limited
Cedar Lodge
Allington
Chippenham
Wiltshire SN14 6LW

11th December 2015.

Dear Charlotte, Marine Aggregate Dredging : The Alternative.

We are writing in response to Andrew Sells' letter of 19th November 2015 to Stephen Eades. He gave your contact details as the person specialising for Natural England on marine aggregate and strategic policy and engagement.

As we are not certain whether Andrew forwarded our paper on alternatives to marine aggregate extraction, we enclose a copy.

Those people that Andrew indicated you are involved with (MMO, Crown Estate, the Industry) in your role of strategic engagement all have the purpose to maintain business as usual.

Therefore we would welcome your observations about sourcing aggregates via recycling. We would also welcome your advice concerning your initiatives and discussion with your colleagues which have addressed the question of the sensitivity of virgin aggregates as precious habitat for spawning and nursery ground of fisheries.

This was the purpose behind sending Andrew the paper, and also applies to the copy for yourself.

We have to say that so far the reaction by those with a vested interest has been predictable, as it has been intransigent. So your observations are of particular interest.

Marinet is trying to assess those agencies who are genuine in their regulatory role and those who stand up for the environment.

Are you able to bring 21st Century thinking to sourcing from recyclables, and preserving aggregates for the future generations when alternatives exist?

Are you able to say that the 6% national figure of aggregates sourced from marine sites is a target figure well able to be replaced by alternatives. Or, do you support 6% derived from virgin marine sources and so part of the existing problem?

Indeed, to take a very contemporary case, are you prepared to say to the MMO that extracting aggregate from the Kingmere MCZ, as currently proposed by the application before the MMO in respect of marine aggregate licence Areas 453 and 488, is wholly unacceptable ?

Area 453/488 is the socio economic solution currently promoted by the aggregate companies for sourcing the UK's need for building materials which, incidentally, also involves selling some of this dredged virgin sand and gravel (around one quarter of the amount extracted) to the European continent.

Do you believe that the UK as a nation deserves better; and, that these companies could do better by sourcing our aggregate by the means proposed in our enclosed paper ?

We would welcome an opportunity to meet with you to discuss this matter further.

Please contact David either by phone 0117 382 2977, or by post 27 Chipperfield Drive, Kingswood, Bristol BS154DP, or via the address at the head of this letter.

Yours sincerely

David Levy
Marinet, Chairman

Stephen Eades
Marinet, Director