



Marine Management Organisation

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Stephen Eades
Director, Marinet Ltd
Cedar Lodge
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Chippenham
SN14 6LN

Your reference:
Our reference: E1186

14 March 2016

Dear Mr Eades,

Magnox Limited and Blackwater Estuary Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)

I write in response to your further enquiry regarding Magnox Limited and Blackwater Estuary MCZ, which was received on 29 February 2016.

You are correct in that the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has statutory responsibilities in contributing to the management of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs). However, the MMO is one of a number of public authorities under the Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009) which has such responsibilities. The Environment Agency (EA) is an example of a public authority that needs to comply with section 126 of the Act, in relation to making decisions on authorisations, which involves consultation with the appropriate statutory nature conservation bodies.

You also refer to the MMO and Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority's (IFCA's) powers to make byelaws to further the conservation objectives of the MCZ. Byelaws can be used to control activities which do not fall under section 126 considerations. Whilst the MMO has the power to develop byelaws, we are not a statutory advisor on individual projects. In addition, as the Blackwater Estuary MCZ lies within 6nm from the coast, it is usual for the relevant IFCA to lead on byelaws to control fishing activities in order to protect inshore features.

We would of course engage with the EA if consulted as part of any relevant consultation process. However, we consider that it would fall under their responsibility to assess any potential impacts when reviewing an application for a discharge permit and take a decision on whether consultation with any other organisation, including the MMO, was necessary. As such, whilst the MMO does work closely with partner organisations, including the EA, we do not have overriding obligations to oversee and investigate other public authorities' management actions.

I do hope that you have found this response helpful. However, if you require any further



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assistance in this matter please feel free to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Garry Dando', written in a cursive style.

Garry Dando
Customer Manager

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