

**Telephone** 08459 33 55 77

**Website** [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

14 August 2012

Dear Consultee

## **Consultation on Marine Licensing: Navigational dredging and other exemptions**

1. I am writing to invite your views on proposals for a number of modifications to the list of activities that are exempted from the requirement for a marine licence under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. The current list of exemptions can be found in the Marine Licensing (Exempted Activities) Order 2011 No. 409<sup>1</sup>.

This consultation is of particular interest to you if you are involved with the following activities:

- Deposits of substances or objects;
- Removing objects and substances from the seabed;
- Dredging;
- Constructing, altering and improving works.

We expect this consultation to be of interest to business, operators and individuals that carry out these activities and conservation bodies and environmental groups that are concerned about their effect on the marine environment, navigational matters and human health. Many other people and groups are also concerned about what takes place on our coasts and in the seas around us and may therefore have an interest in these proposals.

2. The following documents may be found on Defra's website:

[www.defra.gov.uk/consult/open/](http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/open/)

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/409/contents/made>

- A copy of this letter
  - List of Consultees
  - The consultation paper
  - Annex on Navigational Dredging provided by Cefas and Eunomia Research and Consulting
3. We welcome your views and comments on the proposals. If you wish to obtain a copy of this consultation, please contact Neeta Parmar, Sustainable Marine Development and Climate Impacts Team, Defra, Area 2D, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR. Tel: 020 7238 3221.

## Responses

4. Please send responses to either: Neeta Parmar, Sustainable Marine Development and Climate Impacts Team, Defra, Area 2D, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR; or to email: [Marinelicensing.Consultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Marinelicensing.Consultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk)
5. Responses should be received by 22 October 2012.

## Consultation Criteria

6. This consultation is in line with the Code of practice on Consultations. This can be found at: <http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/bre/consultation-guidance>
7. When this consultation ends, we intend to put a copy of the responses in the Defra library at Ergon House, London. This is so that the public can see them. Also, members of the public may ask for a copy of responses under freedom of information legislation.
8. If you do not want your response - including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, that won't count as a confidentiality request.
9. Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for this information under freedom of information legislation. But, because of the law, we cannot promise that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.
10. We will summarise all responses and place this summary on our website at [www.defra.gov.uk/consult](http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult). This summary will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details.
11. To see consultation responses and summaries, please contact the library at:

Defra  
Information Resource Centre  
Lower Ground Floor  
Ergon House  
17 Smith Square  
London  
SW1P 3JR

Telephone: 020-7238-6575  
Email: [defra.library@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:defra.library@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

12. Please give the library 24 hours' notice. There is a charge for photocopying and postage.
13. If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to Defra Consultation Co-ordinator, Area 7B Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR, or email [consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk).
14. Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any queries please contact us as above.

Yours faithfully

*Neeta Parmar*

**Neeta Parmar**  
**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**