

Date of implementation: March 2016

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## **Marine Management Organisation (MMO)**

### **Regional seabed monitoring for benthic ecology**

**RPC rating: validated**

#### **Description of proposal**

The MMO has adopted a regional approach to sea-bed monitoring, which allows individual dredging companies to coordinate monitoring requirements across a region. This in turn reduces the requirements placed on individual companies for expensive monitoring and sampling. It also reduces reporting requirements for individual businesses that were previously required to report on monitoring at an individual site level.

#### **Impacts of proposal**

The change affects 11 dredging operators that operate in England and Wales. The MMO estimates:

- Savings of £400,000 per annum as a result of reduced monitoring and reporting requirements, based on feedback from industry;
- Savings of £11,640 as a result of reduced requirements for scrutiny of reports by MMO and the Centre for Fisheries Management, Environmental Protection and Aquaculture (Cefas), the costs of which are passed through to industry.
- Transitional costs totalling £32,000 as a result of the need to vary licence conditions and to set up arrangements for regional monitoring.

It expects that there will be no familiarisation costs, as all the relevant firms have been involved in the development of the regional arrangements.

#### **Quality of submission**

The submission is generally clear and proportionate; the MMO has also helpfully appended a joint note from the affected businesses, setting out their estimates of savings. The discussion of transitional costs could be clarified, as the description of these costs suggests they are one-off, but they are treated as being recurrent annual costs within the IA calculations. However, the rounded EANDCB remains the same under either approach and the RPC is therefore able to validate the EANDCB presented. The submission does not discuss wider impacts, and in particular whether there is any increase in risk to the ecology of the sea-bed as a result of the

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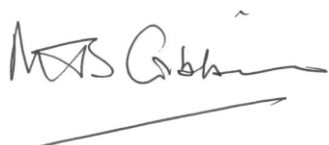
change; a brief discussion of how the monitoring data are used to mitigate risk would have been helpful.

### **Departmental assessment**

Classification	Qualifying regulatory provision
Equivalent annual net direct cost to business (EANDCB)	-£0.4 million
Business net present value	£3.27million

### **RPC assessment<sup>1</sup>**

Classification	Qualifying regulatory provision
EANDCB – RPC validated	-£0.4 million
Business impact target score	-£2 million



**Michael Gibbons CBE, Chairman**

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<sup>1</sup> For reporting purposes, the RPC validates EANDCB and BIT figures to the nearest £100,000

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