

Dear Martin Peverley,

Thank you for your consultation response regarding MLA/2020/00506 Variation 2.

The MMO license and regulate marine activities in the seas around England so that they're carried out in a sustainable way that do not impact upon the environment, public health and other legitimate uses of the sea.

We have also consulted with several of our primary advisors including the Environment Agency, local Marine Management Organisation colleagues, Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Trinity House, Teesport and Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas).

The MMO note your disappointment regarding the significance of the variation and we have reviewed Natural England's previous advice as per your response. The MMO is satisfied that the proposed changes are within the scope of the Environment Statement. Variation 2 is primarily a change in the method of disposal and as such MMO have decided that it is within the scope of the original EIA report.

Cefas have advised that no additional sampling is required. The MMO note that the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs independent panel published its findings on the shellfish mortality and determined that dredging is not a cause. It is very unlikely that maintenance dredging was the cause. It is exceptionally unlikely that capital dredging on the Tees caused the crab mortality seen in the region.

The MMO will consider all consultation responses to aid our decision on whether to grant a licence for this application or not.

Any responses received can be used to secure conditions upon any licence.

We appreciate you taking the time to contact us.