

# Harrison Clark

Our reference: PS.WAS0039-0001.SG

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5<sup>th</sup> September 2016

CAN ALL ENQUIRIES RELATING TO THIS LETTER BE SENT TO THE DIRECT E-MAIL QUOTED ABOVE.

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**LICENSING AND REGULATORY DEPARTMENT**

Dear Sir/Madam

## **Fishery Order Application – The River Stour Mussel Fishery Order**

Further to the letter which we sent to you in February this year, we are pleased to confirm that the new consultation package has now been finalised and has been posted on our web-site. As we mentioned this further information about the proposals of Wash Mussels Limited for a 5 year trial fishery for the cultivation of mussels in the estuary of the River Stour consists of:

- 1 An introductory document prepared by Peter Scott, now a consultant with this firm.
- 2 A supplementary ecological report addressing potential implications for species and habitats covering the additional areas suggested by stakeholders.
- 3 A supplementary fishery report considering representations based on existing fishery operations in the estuary and any potential conflicts in relation to gear fishing techniques etc.
- 4 A report to confirm estimated noise levels of the mussel dredger in operation, which will be useful in establishing any potential disturbance to protected species.
- 5 A legal report prepared by Mr Scott in consultation with DEFRA on the legal position arising from the fishery order if confirmed by the Secretary of State, and the text of an amendment suggested by DEFRA for the reassurance of statutory undertakers.

This is a non-statutory consultation, the purpose of which is to ensure that in making a decision on the application DEFRA will have the benefit of all available information and views not only on the proposal as originally prepared (the statutory consultation on which is closed) but also on the clarifications and further information provided in the new consultation package.

You are therefore asked to consider the further reports and provide all relevant comments and views to DEFRA and to ourselves.

The consultation package is available for reference on our web-site at this address:

<https://www.hcrlaw.com/river-stour-mussel-fishery-order-2016/>

It can also be accessed through links on the web-sites of the Kent and Essex and Eastern IFCAs.

All comments views and representations received by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016 will we are advised be taken into account by the Secretary of State, and should be forwarded to either DEFRA or ourselves at the following contacts addresses or emails:

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