



Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

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Luella Williamson
MMO

23/07/2019

**Licence Application: MLA/2017/00259/1 L/2018/00100/1 Noss on Dart Marine
Dartmouth**

Dear Luella

I am writing on behalf of D&S IFCA with a few comments on the licence application listed above.

The main concerns for D&S IFCA are the potential impacts on the bivalve fisheries in the Waddeton Regulating Order and shellfish waters and harvesting areas outside the Waddeton Order area. The fisheries scoping report does not detail the oyster production area and mussel beds and the potential impacts to them. Most of the production area lies within the Waddeton Regulating Order area, but some lie outside this area e.g. Longwood. D&S IFCA leases the Waddeton Order area from the Duchy of Cornwall and shellfishermen lease plots from D&S IFCA to cultivate and harvest oysters and mussels. The report plays down the importance of the shellfisheries on the Dart. There are three main oyster production areas in Devon and in South Devon the Teign and the Dart are the main oyster producing estuaries. In 2010 it was estimated that the about 30% of the oysters produced in Devon were from the Dart. The shellfisheries are regionally important. On P.21 there is reference to fish and shellfish landings into the ports in the D&S IFCA's district. These figures included landings of wild caught fish and shellfish from large vessels working all around the UK and should not be compared to the mariculture figures for the Dart.

Within the report the possible impact of toxic pollutants, organics compounds, sewage and suspended sediments from the construction phase of the development. This is the area of real concern. Oyster and mussels are filter feeders so can accumulate toxins and organic matter and microbes from sewage which can affect their quality. Monthly testing may highlight changes in flesh quality which could lead to temporary closures of the beds which will have a financial impact on the shellfishermen working in the Dart and also on their reputation of producing good quality shellfish. The effects of smothering would also be significant as this can kill the shellfish – which has been seen on other estuaries in Devon where development work has been undertaken. D&S IFCA believes the significance of these potential impacts should be better reflected and considered in the report. The ABPmer Marine Hydrodynamic and Sediment Assessment considers all the tidal and flow regimes in the estuary around the area of construction. Whilst it would appear that eddies manifest themselves around the site there may still be the possibility of sediment being carried up the river on the first few hours of the flood tide which would likely reach the shellfish beds. Is there any planned mitigation to not dredge during the first few hours of the flood tides to prevent dredged material into the water column? I believe this mitigation

measure has well used in developments in tidal waters e.g. the development of Teignmouth Harbour under the Port Revision Order.

Impacts to the finfish using the estuary may also be significant. As recognised in the report the Dart is a bass nursery area but is also an area where other juveniles fish species can be found. It is good that the impacts to this species and other have been considered and there is proposed mitigation put in place to introduce seasonal restrictions on dredging and piling.

Since the application was submitted the Dart MCZ was designated , on 29th May 2019 and therefore this should be considered in the technical reports and assessments.

I hope these points raised will be considered during the licence application process.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Clark', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sarah Clark
Deputy Chief Officer