



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Date: 14 January 2015

Dear Consultee

Consultation on changes to procedures for recovery of certain marine licence decisions for Secretary of State determination

I am writing to seek your views on a proposal to introduce a policy for a change to marine licensing as operated by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) on behalf of the Secretary of State.

The proposal is to introduce a mechanism whereby the Secretary of State can recover certain marine licence decisions for her own determination.

The aim is to strengthen democratic accountability by enabling locally accountable bodies (i.e. local authorities, (LPAs) and Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) to seek an independent inquiry into marine licensing cases with potentially significant effects with the final decision taken by Ministers directly accountable to Parliament.

This change is expected to only apply to a limited number of cases that meet specified criteria.

The consultation applies to English waters and the offshore areas of Wales and Northern Ireland where the Secretary of State is the licensing authority.

Questions:

A. Do you have any comments on the Government's proposal to enable the Secretary of State to recover certain marine licence applications for her own determination?

B. Do you have any comments on the proposed criteria for recovery?



C. Do you have any comments on the estimates of costs and benefits alongside related data and assumptions; and particularly information on type, size and value of projects potentially affected by this proposal, if any?

The following documents relating to this Consultation may be found on the .GOV.UK website: [insert link]

- A copy of this letter
- The Consultation document
- A list of consultees

If you wish to obtain a hard copy of this consultation, please write or email using the addresses below, or you can contact us on the telephone number above.

Responses:

Please either email your response to:

Marinelicensing.consultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Or send it to the following address:

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Area 8B
9 Millbank
c/o Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR.

Responses should be received no later than 25 February 2015.

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. Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, that won't count as a confidentiality request.

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.

We will summarise all responses and place this summary on our website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/protecting-and-sustainably-using-the-marine-environment>.

This summary will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details.

Consultation Criteria

This consultation is in line with the Consultations Principles. This can be found at:
<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/consultation-principles-guidance>

Yours Faithfully

Philip Stamp

Marine Environment Strategy and Evidence