

Cefas' Role as Technical Advisors to the MMO

Andrew Griffith (Project Manager and Advisor)



Who are Cefas?

- The Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science.
- An executive agency of Defra. Bases in Lowestoft and Weymouth.
- “A world leader in marine science and technology, providing innovative solutions for the aquatic environment, biodiversity and food security”
- Diverse range of customers including:
 - UK government and UK Overseas Territories
 - international governments
 - public and private sector organisations
 - research institutions
 - non-governmental organisations



Cefas as Technical Advisor to MMO

- Cefas are not a statutory consultee but a Technical Advisor.
- Role is to provide independent scientific / technical advice on an application to help the Licensing Authority make a decision, ensuring:
 - environmental risks associated with application are identified
 - the application and its supporting studies provide evidence to back up the prediction of impact
 - the application has enough robust information upon which to make a decision
- We work with other Government advisors (NE / JNCC etc) but we provide independent advice to MMO to support their decision making.
- We have no statutory responsibilities. Our advice is to assist the regulator and is therefore not binding on them.

Project Management

- Cefas' advice to the MMO is administered under a Service Level Agreement (SLA1) contract which is part of an overall Partnership Agreement between the MMO and Cefas. The terms of this are reviewed every three years.
- Our contract is to provide advice to the MMO (not applicants or consultants)
- We provide advice 'on demand' and case specific
- We only provide the advice requested from us
- Our costs for providing advice are charged back to the MMO who in turn apply charges to the applicants via licencing fees. Therefore we only work at the explicit request of the MMO.

Cefas Role in Marine Licensing



Specialist advice

Specialist advice from within Cefas:

- Benthic ecologists
- Fish biologists
- Shellfish biologists
- Underwater Noise specialists
- Physical Processes specialists
- Impact assessment advisors – dredging & disposal
- Plus Environmental chemists, Sedimentologists, Plankton, and more

Knowledge and
understanding from:
Research and Development
work
&
Marine monitoring
programmes

What advice do we provide?

Pre-Application/Application

- Screening advice – is an EIA and/or AA needed?
- Scoping of new applications – what is needed in the EIA?
- Advice on issues identified during consultation and responses from consultees
- Review of the submitted application, supplementary information, EIA and identify gaps
 - Identify additional mitigation measures
 - Advice on licence conditions

Post Application (mainly renewable energy and marine aggregates)

- Advice on proposed monitoring schedule and specifications
- Advice on issues arising from ongoing licences
 - Assessment of ongoing monitoring
 - Advice on any necessary changes to monitoring

Advice Process (MMO)

- Advice request from MMO (via MCMS)
 - MMO decide what specialist advice is required and formulate request accordingly
- Open MCMS consultation
- Specialist Review
- QA by another advisor
- Advice response submitted to MMO via MCMS

Transaction / Reference	Subject / Topic	Company	Status / Date	Info	Actions	Priority
SAM/2017/00076	Sampling Gosport Marina - Endeavour Quay Link Pontoon Dredge SU 62356 00006 Gosport Marina	Mr Graham Bristowe PREMIER MARINAS (GOSPORT) LTD MUMBY ROAD GOSPORT PD12 1AH	Status Submitted (Consultation open) 06 NOV 2017	SEAL (L1)	Take Ownership View Review	

Advice Request from MMO

- Context
- Specific Questions
 - Targeted to specific receptors e.g. fish or shellfish, benthic habitats.
 - E.g. 'Are the relevant fish receptors scoped in' or 'is the benthic survey specification fit for purpose'
- MMO provide us a time budget (to manage costs).

Performance management

- Advice responses are expected within contractual deadlines (typically 30 days, but some types are shorter)
- 90% to 100% on-time delivery KPIs
- Previous years = 98-99% delivery with deadlines
- Fast turn-around responses can *sometimes* be accommodated

Summary

- Cefas provide technical advice to the MMO
- We provided case specific responses at the request of the MMO. We will attend meetings with applicants when requested too
- Our response deadlines are defined contractually. Typically 30 days.
- Example of Fisheries advice