

FINAL COMMUNIQUE:

THE PORTLAND OYSTERMEN PROJECT:

Several and Regulating Orders Management Plan

23 February 2017

Portland Oyster men S.O. Limited – Portland Harbour Fishery

Order 20162017

1. INTRODUCTION:

Following many hours of research I feel I have exhausted all lines of enquiry into this project and the following is offered for information only to those who have interests in the Leisure Industry of Portland Harbour.

2. Background:

There is no doubt that a revival of Oyster farming in the UK is undergoing a major review and is an Industry worth many £millions with the potential of many jobs however in all the research I have done I have found it difficult to find any issues associated with biological risks. That said I have read in a Guardian report

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/apr/20/millions-of-native-oysters-to-be-returned-to-the-solent>

“However, another test cage in Langton harbour was all but wiped out due to a toxic algal bloom, possibly connected to sewage overflows after storms. “

It is also very difficult to find out impacts at this time on any other interests and so any points made to date in my research are purely speculative. That does not however stop concerns raised by other interests about what impact such a project as this may have on the Leisure Industry which has taken over 20 years to build up since MoD left in 1996. The Olympics and its legacy also helped in boosting the revival of Portland's commerce and anything that puts this at risk must be questioned.

3. **Conclusion:** It is clear to me that the risk to the Leisure Industry is the main point of contention and basically the location of this project is wrong. Other issues will need to be addressed but will require the use of qualified personnel to ensure the ecological impact of such a project can be assessed as safe to proceed. I would suggest an alternative site is located for the Farm such as Balaclava Bay.

4. Final Comment on the Consultation Paper:

The consultation report used in my research was dated February 2017 and it contains many inaccuracies wrt to Interested Party views, Out of Date references and incomplete Information. and these should be addressed or corrected before presentation to DEFRA. My biggest concern is where the shore based processing plant will be for purification and packaging. It would seem to point to Ferrybridge based on the planned area for the Farm. This would be either a change of use of the site or additional use of the site and as such may require planning and the residents of Wyke must be consulted. I am also concerned about the Legal side in that Plans and charts must be fully defined.

5. The Future:

It would appear that I misunderstood the chain of authority as given to me by Natural England and it is DEFRA who will deal with the granting of the Order and so all objections should be passed to them.

Contact:

DEFRA Contacts:**Name** Mike Gubbins, Grant Stentiford**Position** Fish Health Inspector Team Leader Pathology and Molecular Systematics**Contact****Address**

Barrack Road

The Nothe

Weymouth

Dorset

DT4 8UB

Telephone 01305 206 682 01305 206 600Michael.Gubbins@defra.gsi.gov.uk

I consider DEFRA must call a public meeting at a time when the Oystermen have provided much more information in an updated report. At such a meeting all parties must be given a chance to speak just as they would do at a Land Based planning meeting.

6. Final Comment:

To date I have seen activity from four interested Groups and although I stated I did not wish to get involved in direct comms I have tried to assist and steer those groups that have contacted me and advised them based on my experiences of the past. It would seem that each group is acting independently and it might be time to form yourselves into a group. Ask yourself this question. "If you had a planning letter dropped through your door stating that an application has been received for a waste recycling plant in your residential area what would you do."

Your interests are at risk. I believe you need to form yourselves into a group so that a unified case can be put to DEFRA. To help you this paper is circulated by email with full addresses so that contacts can be established.

As I have said before I have nothing against the Oyster men but not in the location stated.

7. Goodbye:

I feel it is time for me as a private individual to withdraw from this so that I do not become an annoyance to senior personnel in the Harbour industries who have a much better grasp on the group business interests.

Kind regards to you all

Brendan Moore: Member of RNSA Portland, WPNSA and WPCA though not speaking for any of these groups.