

**RE: The Portland Harbour Several Fishery Order \*[2018]\* DRAFT Application Documentation**

**BRIEFING TO HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (HCC) MEMBERS BY PORTLAND HARBOUR AUTHORITY**

**1. Introduction**

- A package of the necessary documentation that will form the application for a Several Order to be submitted to Defra has been prepared
- The intention is to brief members before circulating package of documentation to ensure members have an understanding of the intention of the harbour authority and the content of the application.
- This documentation is currently in draft form and the intention in consulting members on this is to seek your comments and make any necessary amendments before submitting to Defra

**2. Overview**

- Timescales for submission – keen to do this as soon as possible although will be influenced by the dialogue with members
- The order will apply to our entire jurisdiction
- The relevant species include all crustaceans and molluscs
- We are taking on the responsibility for:
  1. Improving/ management of the fishery
  2. Doing that in such a way that recognises our users and the environment
- We are deliberately not placing any restrictions on fishing activity nor supporting any activity
- Instead putting in place a framework so that individuals and organisations can apply for consent
- The intention would be to treat each situation on a case by case basis and the HCC would be part of that decision-making process
- Draft package comprises in essence 6 parts:
  1. Covering email to Defra
  2. Legal order
  3. Application form/ management plan – 5 year plan reviewed annually
  4. Nature conservation assessment – considers the implications for designated sites and species
  5. Biosecurity Plan – this is about minimising the risk of introduction and spread of disease
  6. Report on aquaculture potential – important to stress that this is about potential only and by no means what will happen in practice, any decision would have to take stakeholder use and the environment into account

**3. Content**

- To briefly summarise each of the 6 parts:

1. Covering email to Defra – in sharing this it is about being transparent on all aspects of this application
2. Legal order –
  - Establishes us as having the responsibility over improving/ managing the fishery
  - Proposing a 20 year period
  - States the need to operate in accordance with the management plan
  - Need to review and who we should consult
  - Section on reporting income and expenditure
  - Protecting rights of statutory undertakers and the Crown
  - It currently doesn't reference the HCC as the legal team were instructed to mirror the Poole example
  - This will be changed in the draft submission so that the HCC are included as an interested party.
  - It is also the intention to issue licences not leases so this is a change that will also be made
  - The location to which the application applies is defined in a schedule as our jurisdiction
3. Application form/ management plan – includes following section
  - Applicant Details
  - Cultivation and Management Practices
  - Enforcement and Monitoring
  - Hygiene and Disease
  - The environment
  - Administrative essentials and data protection considerations
4. Nature conservation assessment
  - considers the implications for designated sites and species
  - in practice there will need to be an assessment for any applicant
  - part of the order requires us to consult NE which we are doing as they are already a member of the HCC
5. Biosecurity Plan
  - Each and every licence holder will need to have one of these specific to their licence
  - The port will have an overarching responsibility
  - Our version is based on the one the IFCA have done for Poole
  - Need some advice from the IFCA as to how this might work in practice
6. Report on aquaculture potential
  - Independent assessment of potential that would provide us and HCC members as an information source
  - Deliberately asked the consultant not to consider stakeholder interests
  - Content is as follows:
    1. Introduction – makes it clear that this is potential only and does not take into account stakeholder considerations
    2. Aquaculture Species and Gear Review
      - Molluscs
      - Crustaceans
      - Finfish
      - Macroalgae
    3. Annotated Aquaculture Map
    4. Aquaculture Preferences for Portland Harbour

#### **4. Summary and Next steps**

- Brief members at HCC and also brief those with an interest post meeting before circulating DRAFT documents
- Circulate draft to members
- Members to discuss with parties relevant to what they represent on the HCC
- Discussed response period of 21 days for comment (3 weeks)
- It would be helpful to get to a point that on considering the draft and having made any necessary changes following feedback if members can confirm their support
- If required we are happy to have 1 to 1 meetings and/ or convene a special meeting of the HCC to discuss – take the lead from members on this once they have considered the draft documentation
- Also need to follow up on some direct dialogue regarding the information requirements, technical detail e.g NE and IFCA
- A public meeting was discussed at the HCC meeting using Chesil Beach Centre as a venue
- All going well the intention would be to circulate the final package of documentation prior to sending to Defra with any changes clearly shown