

Working Together Agreement between the Environment Agency and the Association of Sea Fisheries Committees

Environmental Permitting Regulations (England and Wales) 2010

This is a Working Together Agreement as described in *Working together: your role in our environmental permitting*, our public participation statement made under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010.

What we want to achieve by working together on permitting decisions

- Protection of the environment and the general public in relation to activities prescribed under the Regulations.
- A risk-based approach to permitting and to requests for further information.
- Shared information on permitted activities and any potential impact on the food chain.

Roles and Responsibilities (of each participating organisation)

- The Environment Agency is one of the regulators under the Environmental Permitting Regulations in England and Wales and has responsibility for the permitting of certain industrial, waste management, radioactive substances, discharges to surface water and groundwater activities specified in the Regulations.
- Under the Environmental Permitting Regulations, the Environment Agency has responsibility for regulatory measures contributing to the implementation of a number of European Directives.
- The Association of Sea Fisheries Committees represents the national interests of the Sea Fisheries Committees and promotes those interests to Government and to stakeholders connected with inshore fisheries management and inshore marine environmental management.

How we will work together

Generally, we will:

- Work together to ensure protection of fish and shellfish beds.
- Share relevant information.
- Use electronic media rather than paper.

Specifically, the Environment Agency will:

- Consult with the local sea fisheries committee on applications for bespoke permits for installations, waste operations, mining waste operations, water discharge activities or groundwater activities specified in the Regulations that might affect surface water within their boundaries.
- Consult on matters of concern identified by Environment Agency or the local sea fisheries committee staff.

- Consult the local sea fisheries committee on all applications for a variation (from operators) and regulator-initiated variations which entail a change to any of the bespoke permits mentioned above for a discharge to surface waters within the boundaries of a local sea fisheries committee which may have a significant negative effect on the environment or the general public; or where we otherwise consider there should be consultation.
- Take account of comments that are received within the agreed timescale.
- Seek to improve the current joint working agreements.

Specifically, the local sea fisheries committee will:

- Respond on matters within their remit with clear, concise views concluding whether, in their opinion, the Environment Agency should approve the application, approve it with specific conditions or reject it.
- Respond within 20 working days.