

## **Working Together Agreement between the Environment Agency and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas)**

### **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 public in relation to activities prescribed under the Regulations.
- A risk based approach to permitting with requests for further information only when it is essential.
- Shared information on permitted activities and any potential impact on the marine environment, fisheries and shellfisheries.
- Better public awareness of the relationship between the Environment Agency and Cefas.

#### **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.
- Cefas is an internationally renowned scientific research and advisory centre working in fisheries management, environmental protection and aquaculture. It is an Executive Agency of Defra.
- Cefas provides advice to the Environment Agency on behalf of Defra in relation to pipeline discharges to water permitted under the Environmental Permitting Regulations where these activities have the potential to impact on tidal waters.
- “Tidal waters” for the purposes of this document includes “coastal waters” and “relevant territorial waters” as defined in the Water Resources Act 1991, Section 104.

#### **How we will work together**

##### **Generally, we will:**

- Work together to ensure protection of the marine environment, fisheries and shellfisheries.
- Share relevant information.

- Use electronic media rather than paper.

**Specifically the Environment Agency will:**

- Consult with Cefas on all applications for bespoke permits for installations, waste operations, mining waste operations, water discharge activities or groundwater activities specified in the Regulations that might affect tidal waters.
- Consult on matters of concern identified by Environment Agency or Cefas staff
- Consult Cefas 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 tidal waters which may have a significant negative effect on the environment or the general public; or where we otherwise consider there should be consultation.
- Alert Cefas where further information is submitted which we consider pertinent to their interests.
- Take account of comments that we receive within the agreed timescale.
- Notify Cefas of appeals by the operator against a new or varied permit for a discharge to tidal waters, on which we have consulted Cefas.
- Provide Cefas with a list of the standard and bespoke permits, as above, issued for discharges to tidal waters every six months, until they are routinely available on the Environment Agency website.
- Seek to improve the current joint working agreements.

**Specifically Cefas 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.
- Provide further advice in relation to appeals by the operator where Cefas has previously provided advice on the original application for the permit or permit variation.