

THANET FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

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28.05.19

Thanet Extension Offshore Windfarm. Planning Inspectorate-Application by Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd for an Order Granting Development Consent.

The Examining Authority's third written questions and requests for information (ExQ3)

ExQ3: 3.12.20: Para 124:

A downward, or static trend is also evident in recreational and fishing vessel activity categories in the area, and therefore no uplift to account for future growth has been included. This is evidenced in national trends for recreational craft (boat ownership trends show static numbers between 2007 and 2017) and fishing vessels (pg 13 of UK Sea Fisheries Statistics 2017 – MMO - shows <=10m vessel no. at 2014 – 2,573, 2015 – 2,598, 2016 – 2,569, 2017 - 2,512). Thanet Fisherman's Association have stated that due to economic industry impacting fishing.

The paragraph above correctly mentions that Thanet Fishermen's Association has stated that there has been a decline in the inshore fleet in the Thames Estuary region over recent years, due to cumulative economic, legislative and industrial factors, as supported by the MMO figures for the under 10m fleet in the UK Sea Fisheries Statistics 2017.

However, the MMO document also mentions the potential uplift in shellfish landings for the inshore fleet, and the potential for the inshore fleet to improve, as below:

UK Sea Fisheries Statistics 2017 MMO. Page 229. 6 to 20 year projection

Under BAU, stocks are stable but landings are below 2017 levels, due to declines in shellfish stocks. Efforts to manage local stocks and prioritise the inshore fleet under LS result in the redistribution of catches from larger to smaller vessels, and reduction of shellfish landings by under-10m vessels results in rebuilding of the stocks and higher levels of landings overall compared to BAU. Stock recovery under N@W results in the highest level of landings of the three scenarios. The implementation of MPAs and windfarms affects where mobile demersal fishing can take place, reducing

the spatial footprint of seabed abrasion pressure. This is most pronounced under N@W, with the operation of the London Array and Thanet extension areas, as well as MPAs. Some effort would likely be redistributed to fishing grounds outside of the affected areas where intensity would increase. Under LS, the increasingly local focus of economic activity and decline in international markets potentially has the greatest impact on the fisheries sector under this scenario, resulting in reduced exports for fish and shellfish. However, this is offset to some extent by increasing local consumption of fish and shellfish, particularly in combination with increased tourism, and development of local markets.

With the potential repatriation and redistribution of quota for the inshore section, improved regional management and the drastic reduction in international pulse beaming etc, it is hoped that the Thames Estuary and Thanet inshore fleets will see an uplift in vessel numbers and increased stability over the coming years.

EXQ3: 3.12.21:

Paragraph 135: Shipping and Navigation Liaison Group (already adopted by the Applicant)

TFA is not averse to becoming a part of this group and is already a part of similar groups for other purposes, although as a voluntary organisation, this is an additional burden. The concern about this as a mitigation measure is whether it manages to function as a pro-active rather than reactive measure.

General overview of Hazard ID Workshop and Risk Assessment results.

Thanet Fishermen's Association attended the Hazard workshop in March in the hope of gaining a better understanding of how risks to Fishing vessels had been assessed and consequences had been scored. However, it was clear that there was a general lack of understanding on a number of points including how scoring worked, why Fishing vessels were grouped with recreational vessels, why consequences for vessels in collision were separated etc. As an association not used to dealing with these kind of assessments, TFA has to be guided by the knowledge of the other IP's in attendance but would maintain that any change to navigation in this area must have an impact on the small commercial Fishing vessels that work here and the risks to those vessels.

Yours Sincerely,

TFA Chairman: Peter John Nichols

TFA Secretary: Thomas H Brown MBE

TFA Treasurer: Merlin W Jackson