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23rd March, 2011

Councillor Lamb
Chairman
Greater Thames Fisheries Action Group
Thames Estuary Partnership
UCL – Environment Institute
Pearson Building
Gower Street
London WC1E 6BT

Dear John, Gill and Rebekah,

Thank you very much for the invitation to present at the Greater Thames Estuary Fisheries Action Group on Friday, 25th February, 2011 and for the subsequent issue of the meeting minutes from this event. The following information is presented to close out the London Gateway actions (Section 6) from this meeting.

Please feel free to distribute this information to the members of Greater Thames Estuary Action Group for their consideration – London Gateway will, of course, be happy to discuss the content of this correspondence at future meetings of the Greater Thames Estuary Fisheries Action Group. For reasons of inclusivity and openness, and to ensure that communications are appropriately documented, it is requested that all related correspondence between the Meeting Members is channelled via the Thames Estuary Partnership.

Monitoring Update

- Firstly, please find enclosed a copy of the London Gateway Presentation given to Meeting Members on 25th February. The following points are largely submitted as a formal response to questions raised during the meeting:
- London Gateway confirms that the dredging and reclamation project and associated works remain on programme and that the marine monitoring systems and Fisheries Liaison and Compensations Schemes will remain in place for the duration of the works and beyond. To date over 11 million m³ of material has been placed on the site of the new London Gateway Port.



Photograph of the reclamation works (taken end January, 2011)

- London Gateway would like to confirm that the red line monitor situated nearest to the reclamation (Monitor 'RL3') has dual monitors; one installed at a depth 0.3m above the bed level and the other 1.0m from the surface. This monitors dissolved oxygen and suspended sediment concentration levels and the dual installation is designed to provide the best coverage of sediments concentrations emanating from both the dredging works and from the reclamation itself.
- The remaining ten monitors have sensors located 0.3m above the bed level. The plume from the dredgers is typically 5m below the surface from where it moves downwards towards the bed of the estuary. Having the monitors at this depth will thus best capture this downward movement of sediments.
- The number of times the dredger has been issued with 'Stop' events, caused by suspended sediment or dissolved oxygen levels exceeding the limits set by the regulators due to natural causes and or dredging activity accounts for 1.4% of all monitoring hours.
- Mr. Matt Smith, whilst fishing in the vicinity of Sea Reach 2 at 13.00hrs on 25th February, 2011, reported a 'large plume from the dredger'. Mr. Smith subsequently made contact with the VTS and noted that the dredger then relocated. Mr. Smith received no further contact from the VTS. A review of the monitoring data shows that 'Caution' and 'Stop' events were recorded at Monitors RL3 and RL4 at 00:15hrs and 00:25hrs respectively. However, these monitors are located near to the reclamation works and not near to Sea Reach 2. There were no 'Caution' and/ or 'Stop' events recorded on the monitors in Sea Reach 2 (RL 8 and RL9) on 25th February, 2011.
- London Gateway confirms that the turning circle and anchorage which originally featured as part of the dredging programme has now been removed from Zulu III and will not be created anywhere else.
- As requested, an updated copy of the latest outline dredging programme will be presented in the April, 2011 Fisheries Newsletter, and is included as attachment to this letter. It should be noted that the precise dates of the dredging locations cannot be given as these vary due to the status of the monitoring stations and logistical requirements such as nature and extent of required materials for a particular area of the reclamation works.

Cockling Industry

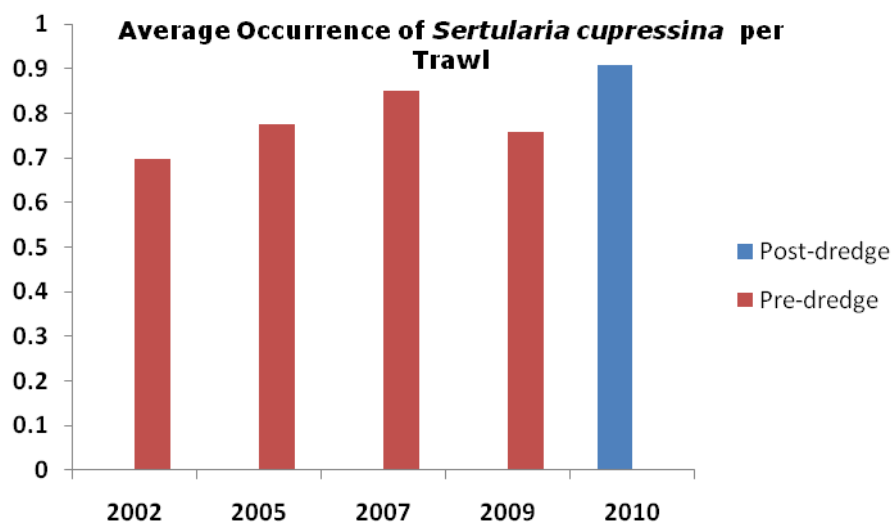
- London Gateway remains in regular communication with representatives of the Thames Estuary Cockling Industry. London Gateway collected net cockle weight and biomass weight data prior to the commencement of the dredge (baseline data) and will continue to collect this data both during and post-dredge. The samples are collected at appropriate, agreed locations and dates. To date the results of this work have shown statistical correlation between the 2008 data and 2010 data, with the 2009 season producing an overall greater net weight and biomass than these preceding and following years. These data have been presented to both regulators and representatives of the cockling industry.
- London Gateway collects and monitors data on potential elevated contamination concentrations in water and sediments as well as in the flesh of the cockles themselves. To ensure that the integrity of these data the subcontracted laboratory was recently subject to a full audit conducted by Marcus Pearson (Environment Manager of London Gateway), Daniel Leggett (Environment Manager of LORDI) and Mark Lee (Senior Consultant of HR Wallingford). The laboratory analysis comprises a range of suites including metals and hydrocarbon compounds and to date has not identified concentrations of concern within the samples taken. Again these data have been presented to both regulators and representatives of the cockling industry.
- London Gateway would like to confirm that the turnaround time of the laboratories analysing the water quality samples are in line with the best available techniques. This data is passed onto the regulators and London Gateway will endeavour to inform

stakeholders as soon as practicable in the event that concentrations considered to be of concern are detected.

- It was noted during the meeting that representatives of the Cockling Industry may have collected their data for analysis. London Gateway would like to confirm that our collected data was presented to representatives of the Cockling Industry in 2010 and London Gateway is happy to continue to do so in the future.
- London Gateway would like to confirm that the London Gateway Fisheries Liaison Officer (Ed Willsteed) attended a site visit to Marsh End Sands (Area 1) with members of the Cockling Industry and that his subsequent report on his observations was passed to Mason West and Joss Wiggins on 23rd November 2010.
- As requested a copy of the non-technical summary booklet 'London Gateway Port and the Marine Environment' was posted to a member of the Cockle Industry (of Leigh Cockle Sheds) on 9th March, 2011.

Fish Stock Monitoring

- To date London Gateway has received positive results from the surveys conducted on Stanford Wharf Nature Reserve (formerly known as Site A) which indicate the presence of a possible Dover sole spawning ground. The survey data will be shared with our Stakeholders and the next London Gateway Ecological Advisory Group meeting at which Balanced Seas are a member.
- The fish and epibenthos surveys first commenced at 40 sites in the Thames Estuary in 2001/2002 are continuing. The 2010 surveys continued to show species stability with year-on-year variability in population densities with the mean abundance of populations in the Mid-Estuary in April and June 2010 (during the dredge) slightly elevated in comparison with corresponding months in previous pre-dredge years.
- The average occurrence of white weed (*Sertularia cupressina*) per trawl can be seen in the figure below. This figure is based upon data provided by the Marine Management Organisation. The average occurrence of white weed per trawl during each year of survey across the outer Thames Estuary shows relatively stable occurrence in recorded years since 2002. These data do not show that the dredging activity has had a negative impact upon the occurrence of white weed.



I hope that the above points fully answer the questions raised during the Thames Estuary Partnership Fisheries Action Group Meeting of 25th February, 2011. However, please do not hesitate to contact myself, or the London Gateway Environment Team, should you require further information or clarification of any of the above points.

Yours sincerely,



Marcus Pearson
Environmental Manager

Enc.
Copy of Presentation Given on 25/02/2011
Outline Programme

cc.

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