



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

T: 020 7238 6830
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www.gov.uk/defra

**Date: 24 September
2013**

Dear Consultee

Consultation on changes to marine licensing fees and charges

I am writing to seek your views on proposals to revise the fees structure for marine licensing as operated by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) on behalf of the Secretary of State.

These proposals seek to recover a higher proportion of the costs the MMO incurs in dealing with marine licensing applications whilst at the same time minimising the impacts on businesses through efficiency measures and, for certain smaller projects, by providing a public subsidy.

The MMO administers marine licensing under Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA) on behalf of the Secretary of State. The current fees are set out in the Marine Licensing (Applications Fees) Regulations 2011 which are made under Sections 67(3) and 316(b) of the MCAA. Subject to the consultation, it is proposed that the new fees structure will come into force on 6 April 2014.

The consultation applies to English waters and the offshore areas of Wales and Northern Ireland where the Secretary of State is the licensing authority.

Questions:

Please consider the following questions below:

- A. Do you have any comments on the Government's approach to charging for issuing of marine licences?
- B. Do you have comments on the effectiveness of the current charging system?
- C. Do you have comments on the details of the Government's proposals?



D. Do you have comments on the proposed transitional arrangements?

E. Do you have comments on the estimates of costs and benefits; do you have alternative evidence related to the data or assumptions used in the analysis?

The following documents relating to this Consultation may be found on Defra's website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/protecting-and-sustainably-using-the-marine-environment>.

- A copy of this letter
- The Consultation document
- A list of consultees

If you wish to obtain a hard copy of this consultation, please write or email using the addresses below, or you can contact us on the telephone number above.

Responses

Please either email your response to:

Marinelicensing.Consultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Or send it to the following address:

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Area 8B

9 Millbank

c/o Nobel House

17 Smith Square

London SW1P 3JR

Responses should be received no later than 19 November 2013.

If you do not want your response- including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response. Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, that won't count as a confidentiality request.

Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for this information under freedom of information legislation. But,

because of the law, we cannot promise that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

We will summarise all responses and place this summary on our website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/protecting-and-sustainably-using-the-marine-environment>. This summary will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details.

Consultation Criteria

This consultation is in line with the Consultations Principles. This can be found at <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/consultation-principles-guidance>

Yours Faithfully

Philip Stamp

Marine Environment Strategy and Evidence