

Date: 06 January 2022  
Our ref: 379003  
Your ref: Morecambe Bay Cockle Fishery Habitats Regulation Assessment Review



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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Anna Plumeridge

Morecambe Bay Cockle Fishery Habitats Regulation Assessment Review

Thank you for your consultation dated 20 December 2021. The following constitutes Natural England's formal statutory response.

**The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)**

**Appropriate assessment**

We note that your authority, as competent authority under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations, has undertaken an Appropriate Assessment of the original proposal in accordance with Regulation 63 of the Regulations. It is this Appropriate Assessment which has been proposed for review on the basis of factors concerning the industry as outlined in your letter.

Natural England is a statutory consultee on the Appropriate Assessment stage of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process. NE provided advice (Ref: 359004, 6th September 2021) on the original appropriate assessment which confirmed that the Pilling Sands cockle bed may be fished, but that the Newbiggin cockle bed should remain closed as a mitigation measure.

Natural England concurs with the NWIFCA's view that the environmental concerns and evidence have not changed sufficiently to alter the conclusion outlined above.

**Other Relevant Matters**

Natural England welcomes the proposal to address outstanding research concerns and develop agreed parameters for future decision making and looks forward to further engagement on this work.

For any queries relating to the content of this letter please contact me using the details provided below.

Yours sincerely  
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