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To: All interested parties:

**CONSULTATION ON THE POOLE HARBOUR SEVERAL ORDER 2015 MANAGEMENT PLAN (2020 REVISION)**

**References**

- a) The Poole Harbour Fishery Order 2015.

**Notice**

Notice is hereby given, to any interested parties, of proposed changes to the Poole Harbour Several Order 2015 Management Plan, under a 2020 revision.

**Background**

The objective of the Poole Harbour Several Order 2015 Management Plan, 'the Management Plan,' is to demonstrate how Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) manage aquaculture activity within a defined area of Poole Harbour under The Poole Harbour Fishery Order 2015 ('the Order').

In accordance with Section (1) of the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967, the Order confers on Southern IFCA the right of several fishery for the cultivation of shellfish of any kind for a period of twenty years from the 1st July 2015.

Under Section (3) of the Order, the Authority must manage the aquaculture in Poole Harbour in line with the Management Plan.

Under Section (4) of the Order, the Authority are required to undertake an annual review of the Management Plan. If, during this review any changes are made to the Management Plan, then the Authority must notify, in writing to any interested parties of any proposed changes to the Management Plan at least four weeks before the date of its publication. The Authority must, prior to publication of the updated Management Plan, take account of any representations it receives in writing from any interested party on the proposed changes.

The management of aquaculture within Poole Harbour must have specific regard to Southern IFCA's responsibilities, as defined in sections (153), (154) and (166) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act (MaCAA) 2009.

In addition, Southern IFCA is a Relevant Authority in the management of European Marine Sites (EMS) designated under the Habitats Directive and has a statutory responsibility to ensure that fishing activity does not damage, disturb or have an adverse effect on the wildlife or habitats for which a EMS has been designated; this includes the governance of the conservation interests of the Poole Harbour Special Protection Area (SPA).

Under sections (28G) and (28I) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, IFCA's are required to have consideration of any Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) with marine components giving protection to species and habitats of national importance when carrying out its duties.

## Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

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This includes the governance of the conservation interests of the Poole Harbour SSSI. The Management Plan also has regard to the Poole Harbour Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention.

### Proposed Changes to the Management Plan

The Management Plan has undergone a full review in order to incorporate the following key considerations:

- a) The pending expiration of the first tranche of lease bed allocations on the 30th June 2020;
- b) A reallocation of lease beds grounds (where relevant) under a Lease Bed Reallocation Programme, in order to reflect the changes in conservation designations in Poole Harbour, specifically with regard to the expansion of the Poole Harbour SSSI in 2018 and the extension of the Poole Harbour SPA in 2017;
- c) A review and update of the conditions under the terms of lease allocation in line with advice received from Natural England (NE) regarding the farming of Pacific oysters in Poole Harbour;
- d) A review and update of the conditions under the terms of lease allocation in line with advice received from the Poole Harbour Commissioners (PHC) with regard to the leasing of grounds within a designated area for personal watercraft.

In Section 7.0 of the Management Plan there are five specific plans which document the actions that have been taken by Southern IFCA since 2015 in response to the advice received from Natural England; namely the management of aquaculture in Poole Harbour to ensure compatibility with marine nature conservation designations as well as the advice received with regards to the species specific measures and mitigations (Management Plans 1-4).

Management Plan 5 comprises a risk assessment undertaken in collaboration with Poole Harbour Commissioners (PHC), which assesses the interaction between aquaculture activity and water users operating in an area designated for Personal watercraft.

The Management Plans are:

- a) Management Plan 1: Aquaculture and the Poole Harbour SPA Designation.
- b) Management Plan 2: Aquaculture and the Poole Harbour SSSI Designation.
- c) Management Plan 3: Aquaculture and the Poole Harbour RAMSAR site.
- d) Management Plan 4: Aquaculture and species interaction.
- e) Management Plan 5: Aquaculture and water user interaction.

### Consultation

A period of formal consultation will take place between the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020 and the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020. During this period you are invited to submit, in writing any specific objections on the proposals to the address provided at the top of this letter, or alternately via email to [enquiries@southern-ifca.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@southern-ifca.gov.uk). The outcomes of the formal consultation will be presented to The Authority on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020 in order to take account of any representations received in writing from any interested party on the Management Plan and any proposed changes to it.

Under the current Government restrictions (COVID-19), it is the intention for the Management Plan to be advertised on the Southern IFCA website, as well as all social media platforms to which Southern IFCA subscribe. In addition, an email distribution list of 'interested parties' has been formulated from:

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- a) The original list of consultees to the Order in 2015;
- b) Additional parties as identified by the Authority;
- c) Additional parties as identified by the Poole Harbour Commissioners;
- d) Additional parties as identified by the Poole Fisherman's Association.

Given the current Government restrictions, may I ask that you circulate the Management Plan and accompanying cover letter to any person(s) that you consider may be affected by the Management Plan or the changes contained within.

I thank you in advance for helping Southern IFCA to engage with all interested parties, as far and wide as possible during these unprecedented times.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Gehring Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name "Clark".

Robert Clark  
Chief Officer

Enclosures:

1. Poole Harbour Several Order 2015 Management Plan (2020 Revision)