

The Leigh Port Partnership Ltd
Thames Estuary Fishermans Association

16th September 2022

Attention Of:
The Chairman & Authority Members
Kent & Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
Paragon House
Albert Street
Ramsgate
Kent
CT11 9HD

Via email

Response to Consultation 2

Dear Chairman and Authority Members

This response also covers the request from the Chief Fishery officer in his letter to the Association Dated the 14th September 2022

In response to consultation 2 of the Thames Estuary Cockle Fishery Reviews, we would like to point out the following.

At the meeting of the 14th June 2022 held in Chelmsford 3 options were voted forward and the final option of the Bermuda having the full support of the Cockle Industry with a follow up letter as requested by the Vice Chairman to the Chairman of the Authority Dated 4th July 2022 that if this option was taken forward in its entirety the 14 named vessels would not apply for permits on any of the new permit fishery areas. Mr Rattley in his Oral evidence did state that he was shocked that no provision in the Bermuda 28 had been made for additional licences, as in our letter of the 4th July the industry had stated if the New Haiti option was chosen then

The 14 would commit to abstain in the following area's **7. 10. 14. 17. 18. 19. 20.** if the proposed extra licences were only granted one at a time once the TAC has sustained **8624 tons** for 5 consecutive years For any further licences to be issued the Tac would again need to be stable for 5 consecutive years ie: 2nd licence The TAC would need to be **9270 ton** 3rd **9500 ton** 4th **9965 ton** 5th **10712 ton** 6th **11515 ton.**

Mr Rattley was referring that he thought this should have been included in the Bermuda 28 option instead of the stark 14 licences only and the comment that there would be no flexibility in licences issued.

Clearly the Current TECFO fleet understand that they are seen as being fortunate, and yes have invested heavily in the vessels and gear to ensure that the fishery is sustainable and are able to meet their environmental impact, hence the gaining of the MSC certification for the TECFO cockle area.

