

Appendix 2 to Agenda item B4
69 St Peters Road
West Mersea
Colchester
CO5 8LN

Monday 5th January 2015

Dear Sirs,

We understand, that anglers have suggested to you the concept of a 'no go' area drift netting for bass in the Middle deeps and the top of the Swin.

We strongly oppose such a measure that would severely restrict our member's ability to gain a living, as the spring fishery in that area is vital to our livelihoods and our survival.

Can we point out that there are closed areas already in place around the location of the wind farms. The London Array on the Longsand excluded us from a large prime Bass fishing ground, this being one example and constitutes a significant conservation measure.

Furthermore, to suggest excluding one method of fishing only, is discriminatory and unenforceable, therefore, we trust that you will not adapt such an ill-conceived and unfair suggestion.

Also, we understand that a mesh size increase to 100mm is being suggested. We have already pointed out in previous correspondence that some of our members already use 95mm which is already 5mm over the current minimum mesh size seen as adequate by the MMO.

Can we ask again for consultation about any proposed mesh size increase, as we cannot easily or quickly change mesh size. Can we also be present at these BASS PROPOSAL meetings as this is our livelihoods in jeopardy here!!!

As you know we are currently still fighting a EU proposal banning the use of drift nets in all EU waters and would welcome any support you could give us in this respect

Yours sincerely,

Andrew French & Johnny French
On behalf of West Mersea Fishermen's Association