

Appendix 1 to Agenda item B7

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Clerk: Mr P Sass

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To: 2015 Licence Holders  
Information Letter No. 2

18<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Dear Sirs

THAMES ESTUARY COCKLE FISHERY ORDER 1994  
NOTICE OF CHANGE IN FISHING ALLOCATIONS

Following concerns from licence holders relating to the quality of the cockle meats, and after consideration of stock management options, it has been agreed to amend specified fishing allocations as shown below. The fishery will be **closed for a period of two weeks** re-opening on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2015. The season will be extended by one week and additional trips added in the peak part of the season to ensure the number of allocated trips remains the same as the initial allocations.

The fishing season will be divided into weekly specified fishing periods which will run from 21.00hrs on Sunday to 12.00hrs on Friday and during these periods licence holders will be permitted to make the following specified numbers of landings (Reg. No. 7). This will maximise production when meat yields and quality are at their best.

Specified Landings per Specified Fishing Period

14 <sup>th</sup> June – 19 <sup>th</sup> June (1 week)	2 specified landings per period
21 <sup>st</sup> June – 3 <sup>rd</sup> July (2 weeks)	NO SPECIFIED LANDINGS
5 <sup>th</sup> July – 10 <sup>th</sup> July (1 week)	2 specified landings per period
12 <sup>th</sup> July – 31 <sup>st</sup> July (3 weeks)	3 specified landings per period
2 <sup>nd</sup> August – 28 <sup>th</sup> August (4 weeks)	4 specified landings per period
30 <sup>th</sup> August – 16 <sup>th</sup> October (7 weeks)	3 specified landings per period

The maximum quantity of cockles that may be landed or carried on board will remain at 13.6m<sup>3</sup>/500 baskets per fishing trip (approx. equivalent 11 tonnes).

As is usual sections of Areas 1, 2 and 3 are closed at all times during the period June - September inclusive. These areas are defined as inshore sections of Areas 1, 2 and 3 from Two Tree Island at Leigh-on-Sea in the West to The Coastguard Station at Shoeburyness in the East and also within the area of Shoeburyness East Beach. (This closure applies only to the area inside the moorings and where there are no moorings no closer to the shore than a distance of 300 metres measured from mean high water mark.)

Yours faithfully



Dominic Bailey  
Assistant Chief IFCO