

Raymond J Hawkins

17th October 2017

Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Dear Sirs

Re: Native Oyster Permit Bylaw Consultation

Regarding the recent consultation document, I consider that riverbed owners should have been involved in the stakeholder meetings from the start.

I have fished out of the Crouch for 50 years and co-own around 50 acres in the Crouch and Roach. I am now retired and rent out 40 acres of riverbed for shellfish farming.

I have recently received a copy of your chart showing the prohibited areas for trawling in the Crouch, Roach, Colne and Blackwater. My particular concern is for areas 5 and 6 on the oyster fisheries map which includes the 40 acres rented out long term to fisherman to farm shellfish and have already invested heavily in mussel cultivation. I would like to know how your current plans affect my right to lease my beds to whom I wish and ensure that the stock laid down by the tenant holders is protected. Serious damage to their investment could occur if licences for dredging encroach upon their layings.

I should also like to register my protest at rushing this bylaw through without consultation with riverbed owners such as the Crouch Harbour Authority and myself.

Regards,

Ray Hawkins