

Re Consultation on the proposed restoration box in the Blackwater MCZ.

From: merseafreshcatch@btinternet.com

Sent: 16 October 2017 20:58

To: Info

Subject: Re: Consultation on the proposed restoration box in the Blackwater MCZ.

> Dear Sirs

> Firstly I would like to ask why KEIFCA have not notified the fishing industry about this issue, which has been brought to our attention.

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> The West Mersea Fishermen's Association oppose any form of closure to fishing within the restoration box shown on page 17 of the KEIFCA report. This small area is not heavily fished and it is very important to the local industry for our small boats to fish with nets and pots and light trawling, as it can often be fished. Especially when we cannot reach other areas as it is protected.

> The local fishermen are being pushed out and stopped from fishing in more and more areas. Our options are starting to run out.

> This is a localised area that we NEED, to support the local catch and supporting the stall that many of the local fishermen rely on.

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> The local oysterman give their full support to the local fishing industry to continue fishing in such a small area, as the light fishing methods used are not considered harmful to the local oyster stocks.

> We would hope you would give our comments some consideration.

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> Kind regards

> Frances French

> On behalf of

> West Mersea Fishermans Association

> &

> Mersea Island Fresh Catch Ltd