



**POOLE HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS' MAINTENANCE DREDGING POLICY**

1. This policy will be implemented by the Poole Harbour Commissioners subsequent to the carrying out of the "Poole Harbour Approach Channel Deepening and Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Project". This project is described in the Environmental Statement dated November 2004 (ES).
2. It is anticipated that the Sediment Management Plan (SedMP) and Monitoring Plan already complete will be used by the consenting Authorities to condition the works and the subsequent maintenance dredging of the harbour.
3. Subject to continued compliance with the above Plans and compliance with relevant legislation present and future, the Commissioners will:-
  - a) Continue the policy of hydrographic monitoring of the whole harbour, using this information to inform adjustments and revisions to harbour marks for the safety and convenience of all users.
  - b) Continue maintenance dredging of the commercial channels using processes and procedures generally as set out in the Environmental Statement and the SedMP. The following channels are considered to fall into this category:-
    - Swash Channel
    - Middle Ship Channel
    - Turning Basin
    - Little Channel
  - c) Continue to grant Licences to operators of marinas, havens, and other facilities, to carry out necessary maintenance dredging of their basins and approach channels from time to time. These operators will be expected to promote proposals which fall in line with the requirements of the SedMP for retaining suitable fine material within the harbour. These Licences following, consideration against existing criteria, will be granted on the basis that dredging remains the entire responsibility of the operator and the operator will obtain any other approvals required as at present. As these proposals will initially be conducted on a trial basis in accordance with Sediment Management Plan, the Commissioners will provide assistance with technical advice and monitoring until new processes are satisfactorily established.
  - d) Ensure as far as possible that "minor" channels are maintained in a manner to allow the continued safe use by vessels of a similar nature and size to those at present using them. Any loss of depth in these channels that is caused as a result of actions under the SedMP will be managed to avoid constraint to existing navigation as far as is reasonable. This will be achieved by increasing the frequency of monitoring and adjustment if appropriate and by minor dredging or clearance subject to any necessary statutory approvals (which will have to include consideration of effects on conservation interests)

being obtained and within the framework of the SedMP. The following channels are considered the most likely to fall into this category, but all minor channels including those in the southern part of the harbour will continue to be monitored:-

North Channel – whole length  
Wych Channel to Pottery Pier  
Wareham Channel to 82 Buoy  
Rockley Channel to Rockley Point  
Backwater Channel upstream of the site of the Second Harbour  
Crossing works

- (e) There are framed shellfish beds within certain of the channels highlighted in d above. It is likely that they are located in areas not susceptible to accretion. However the sites will be monitored and appropriate measures taken by adjustment to the detail of the SedMP, in the event of adverse changes being detected that are associated with the actions taken under the SedMP.
4. This policy to be reviewed in consultation with relevant harbour user groups on a 6 yearly cycle following completion of the Channel Deepening Project.

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