

BOSTON FISHING ASSOCIATION

Dear sir

We are contacting you regarding the ongoing consultation on the renewal of your cockle fishery order. We understand that your authority has chosen the NEW JAMAICA management framework to progress your cockle fishery, as we are sure you are aware the cockle fishery in the Wash is also undergoing a new regulation framework, this is very likely to include permits being issued to some of the fishers involved in the existing TEFCO cockle fishery as many of these fishers have been able to exploit our local fishery as well as their own for many years, we feel it is only right that the right for cockle fishers from Boston to have a similar opportunity in the Thames under the new regulations. We understand it may be difficult to increase the numbers of fishers in the TEFCO, but those who fish the TEFCO in future should not be determined by those who are already in the fishery or their locality. We believe both the TEFCO, and the outside area should be available to genuine cockle fishers from Boston. The Fisheries Act (section F), THE EQUAL ACCESS OBJECTIVE. We believe this prevents any regulation prioritising fishers due to locality alone, as some other fishers have argued should be the case. In recent years it has been noted that many of the Thames vessel have been bought by large companies, which we feel has monopolised the first sale cockle market, while we understand that this process was within the rules allowed at the time we hope that this would not be allowed in any future management, thus enabling others to join the fishery as an when a permit came available rather than being sold to the highest bidder, we have already heard of companies getting ready to buy out any one who is fortunate enough to be granted a permit in the TEFCO. In summary the Boston cockle fishers would like the opportunity to be considered for a permit in both the TEFCO and the outside area, with equal consideration to anyone else local or not, as some of the TEFCO fishers have had, and will continue to have in the Wash cockle Fishery, and the prevention of any permit being sold to the highest bidder, which would then give a possibility of gaining a permit in future years. Many Boston fishery worked the Thames cockle fisheries before the existing regulating order was brought in and they would like that right reinstating.

BOSTON FISHERMANS ASSOCIATION, Representing 23 boats and 60 fishermen

Ken Bagley CHAIRMAN