

**From:** [Mike Wier](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Carium Shellfish  
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To Whom it may Concern

I understand that fundamental changes are being proposed to the current management of the cockle industry.

I have been Whitstable's Harbour Master for the past 20 years and during this time I have seen the growth and development of a highly valued and well-managed cockle industry.

Cardium Shellfish are a company that began work here in Whitstable on a small scale but have grown into a bigger and more established business over the past two decades. The company has become one of our most valued operators in the harbour.

Cardium Shellfish transferred to new ownership in 2011. The new owners increased their investment in Whitstable by purchasing two additional cockle boats, introduced new shellfish landing facilities, improved safety procedures and established new offices and workshops in the harbour.

The change of ownership was a smooth transition and there has been continued investment locally and support for Whitstable Harbour. Two years ago a second cockle company entered into an agreement with Cardium to land their catch from their cockle boats in the harbour, once again using local services to support their operations.

The support offered by Cardium to local fishermen is strong and both young and experienced fishermen are employed to work on the cockle boats as skippers and crew. Importantly, the local family element which existed before 2011 continues today and is an integral part of the current operation.

There is a mutually respected relationship between Cardium Shellfish and our local fishing community here. The company's staff have

become involved in many aspects of harbour life. This is particularly important when working with Canterbury City Council officers and myself as Harbour Master. A recent example of this relationship is Cardium Shellfish's role in helping to establish our new fishermen's compound.

The loss or reduction of such a well-managed and community focused business will be greatly felt here at Whitstable. A reduction in Whitstable's cockle fleet will have significant repercussions locally. Employment and investment in our facilities will decline and a number of local suppliers, contractors and fishermen who rely on this industry will be affected.

I do hope these factors will be kept in mind in your future decision-making.

Regards

Mike Wier

Port Manager and Harbour Master