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Thursday, 19 January 2023

To Whom it may Concern

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

I have been the owner of Whitstable Marine and The Dinghy Store based in Whitstable since 1987, providing sales of marine chandlery, Fishermans Foul Weather clothing and safety equipment. During this time, I have seen the growth and development of a highly valued and well-managed cockle industry in the port of Whitstable.

Cardium Shellfish, Trevor Lineham Shellfish and Renown Fisheries are an integral part of Whitstable harbour's fishing fleet and provide highly valued custom to our business all year round. We rely on their orders and purchases on a weekly basis, and are shocked and worried that this may come to an end with the current proposals to change the Fishing Order which regulates the industry at present. A reduction of business provided by these companies would have a major negative effect on our company.

The loss or reduction of such a well-managed and community focused business will be greatly felt here in Whitstable and locally. Employment and investment will decline, not only in our business, but many other local suppliers, will also be affected.

I do hope our thoughts will be shared and taken seriously.

Kind regards

Jeremy & Louise Fry

Partners

Whitstable Marine