

Cefas' role in the licensing of marine activities



Licensing Advice

Cefas provides marine scientific and technical advice to Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA), Defra, Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) and other Government Departments on potential risks and impacts to the marine environment from a wide range of human activities licensed under:

- ▶ Food & Environment Protection Act
- ▶ Coast Protection Act
- ▶ Marine Works Regulations
- ▶ Marine Mineral Regulations
- ▶ Electricity Act
- ▶ Transport & Works Act
- ▶ Forthcoming Marine and Coastal Access Bill

Relationships

In providing evidence-based advice and undertaking research needed to sustainably manage human activities in the marine environment Cefas liaise and work closely with other bodies and stakeholders including:

- ▶ MFA and WAG (central and regional staff)
- ▶ Natural England
- ▶ Countryside Council for Wales
- ▶ Joint Nature Conservation Committee
- ▶ Environment Agency
- ▶ Crown Estate
- ▶ NGOs



Policy Advice and Research

Cefas are directly involved in advising on UK and international legislation, in developing marine environmental policy and research to underpin our advisory role through regional sea, international and national fora and conventions:

- ▶ OSPAR Commission
- ▶ London Convention and 1996 Protocol
- ▶ International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES)
- ▶ PIANC
- ▶ Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF)
- ▶ Collaborative Offshore Wind Research Into The Environment (COWRIE)

Assessment

Cefas uses a 'weight of evidence approach' utilising expertise from a wide range of disciplines in assessing licence applications, recommending licence conditions, and mitigation and monitoring to ensure sustainable use of the marine environment and its resources. Some of the issues covered are:

- ▶ Impacts on designated conservation areas
- ▶ Population level effects (i.e. on benthos, fish etc. and food chain effects)
- ▶ Impacts on fishery and shellfishery resources
- ▶ Coastal processes and sediment transport
- ▶ Chemical contamination
- ▶ Cumulative impacts and in-combination effects
- ▶ Methodology assessment

