

**CS/26/101478 MERCURY YACHT HARBOUR, SATCHELL LANE, HAMBLE-LE-RICE,
SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 4HQ**

**Consultation Request. Marine Management Organisation Maintenance Dredging and Disposal -
Continuation of maintenance dredging with increase in maximum allowance of silt to be dredged
in any one year from 7,500m³ to 10,000m³ (no increase in total volume over 10 years).**

Thank you for consulting Ecology, my observations are as follows:

Given that this is an application for the continuation of a dredging and disposal regime for a further ten years, the ecological considerations are broadly unchanged. The main difference here appears to be that the new licence would allow for potentially more dredging in any one year (but with no change to total volume of the ten-year period). The MMO should consider this amendment in terms of a Habitats Regulation Assessment to ensure there are no implications for ecology (especially wintering waders and waterfowl) due to this minor change.

Any dredging under a new licence would still adhere to the agreed timing window (September to May) and the agreed Zone of Influence for backhoe dredging of 25m to avoid impacts to migratory fish, namely migratory salmonids.

I have no ecology concerns beyond those considered in the submitted licence application which will be considered by the MMO.

Paul Howe MCIEEM

Ecologist

Date 24th June 2026