

[REDACTED]

South East Anglia Link

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to comment on documentation you have received from an adjacent commercial fishing association their reference RR-5373 outlines also our concerns.

Our association is made up of 27 commercial vessels all apart from one , are under 10 metres if length, mostly single handed operated by their owners, some of whom have fished this area for 50 years.

All the comments are equally relative to our members who over the last 15 years have been impacted by off shore development and have had to adjust their commercial activities on far too many occasion, because of ongoing activities linked to similar off shore projects. I personally have been in all the numerous consultation and have to report that this particular project has fallen well below all others, with regards to engagement and consideration of the impact of their project. There is a current Commercial Fishing Working Group that the Sea Link have failed to engage with, leaving Fishers struggling to obtain information on the projects pre laying operations within their regular fishing areas. This I believe is a deliberate strategy by their team to be able to ignore stakeholders who fish in this area, to compare Sea Link teams efforts with other similar project they would score a miserable one out of ten!

There is not a single point made in RR-5373 submission that we disagree with or do not endorse by our members, however there is one issue that our association have never been confronted with, that the Sealink cable cannot be fished over for entirety. Fishing method do not allow for that, as nets and trawls have to be lifted approximately 500mtrs before the cable and redeployed when well clear, making that area unfishable!

This must be addressed as it will set a preference for all other projects to follow. If the applicant does what they should, the cable will be buried to such a depth no fishing activity would come in contact with their asset.

Should you wish me to attend the next planning session please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Secretary

Harwich Harbour Fishermens Association

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