



MARINE AGGREGATE DREDGING

2007

**THE AREA INVOLVED – 10th ANNUAL REPORT**





## An industry committed to responsible management through continual development

*In March 1999 The Crown Estate and the British Marine Aggregate Producers Association (BMAPA) issued a statement of intent committing themselves to reviewing all licences over a rolling five year period, surrendering areas no longer containing useful resources of sand and gravel and publishing an annual report detailing the extent of dredging within the licensed areas.*

*This year's report is the tenth in an ongoing series, and its content reflects the continued commitment to this initiative by both The Crown Estate and the members of BMAPA.*

This report contains summary information relating to The Crown Estate area of seabed licensed, dredged and surrendered during 2007, based on data from their Offshore Marine GIS and from analysis of dredger Electronic Monitoring System records.

Information on dredged area and intensity has been derived from variable grid analysis.

A set of regional charts have been prepared to show the extent and intensity of dredging operations. Additional facts and figures on marine aggregate dredging activity by region are also presented.

The figures for the active dredge area – the area actually available to be dredged at any one time – have been updated for 2007. While the limits of these areas are not presented on the charts associated with this report, detailed regional zoning plans (updated on a bi-annual basis) are available from either The Crown Estate or BMAPA websites, or by contacting the addresses on the reverse of this report.

### Summary information

- a total of 23.09 million tonnes\* of sand and gravel were dredged from Crown Estate licences in England and Wales during 2007 (24.18 million tonnes\* in 2006)
- the total area of seabed licensed in 2007 increased to 1344 km<sup>2</sup> (1316 km<sup>2</sup> in 2006)
- dredging took place within 134.7 km<sup>2</sup>, 10.0 % of the licensed area, compared to 140.6 km<sup>2</sup> (10.7 %) in 2006
- the area of seabed dredged for more than 1 hr 15 minutes per year (high intensity – red on charts) increased to 10.16 km<sup>2</sup> (8.66 km<sup>2</sup> in 2006)
- 90 % of dredging from Crown Estate licences took place from an area of 49.95 km<sup>2</sup> (49.19 km<sup>2</sup> in 2006)

\* Excludes rivers and miscellaneous tonnages which are included in The Crown Estate Annual Dredge Area Statistics

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# Summary statistics for 2007

Region	Total area licensed during 2007 (km <sup>2</sup> )	Total active dredge area* for 2007 (km <sup>2</sup> )	Total area dredged during 2007 (km <sup>2</sup> )
Humber	483.68	143.91	24.60
East Coast	268.00	153.94	50.01
Thames Estuary	103.05	69.75	11.93
East English Channel	78.11	19.51	7.55
South Coast	214.93	93.51	26.31
South West	141.11	55.45	13.46
North West	54.95	19.96	0.81
<b>Total (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>1343.83</b>	<b>556.03</b>	<b>134.67</b>

\* Total area actually available to be dredged during 2007, calculated on a cumulative basis

## Area of seabed licensed increased by 28 km<sup>2</sup> during 2007

Area of seabed licensed (km<sup>2</sup>), 2003–2007

Year*	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
0-6nm**	450	443	385	428	431
6-12nm**	469	469	449	493	492
>12nm	345	345	345	395	421
<b>Total area licensed (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>1264</b>	<b>1257</b>	<b>1179</b>	<b>1316</b>	<b>1344</b>
<b>Total active dredge area (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>556</b>

\* Annual figures are calculated as of the 31st December, and therefore incorporate any changes that may have occurred through the year

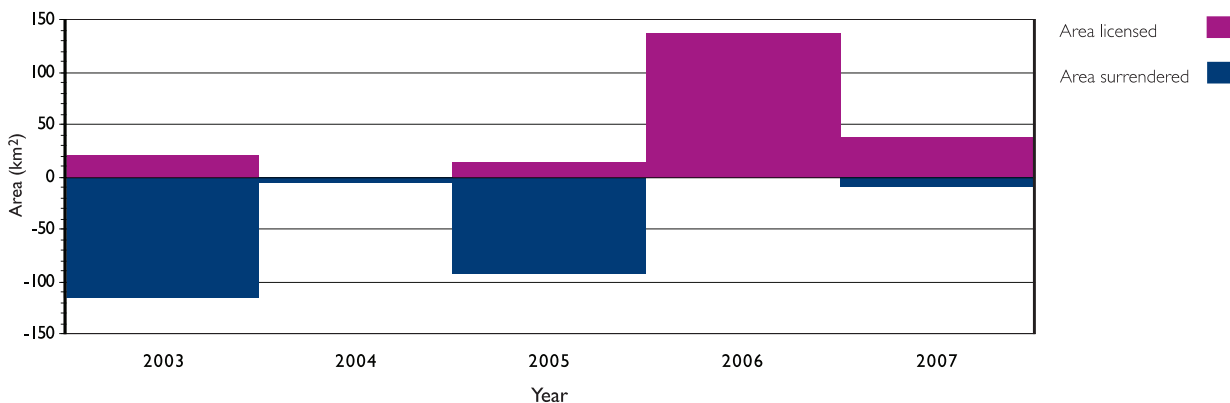
\*\* 6 and 12nm as issued by UKHO on 1st January 2007

## Area of seabed dredged decreased by 5.9 km<sup>2</sup> during 2007

Area of seabed dredged (km<sup>2</sup>), 2003–2007 (from EMS variable grid analysis)

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
0-6nm	72	71	67	73	67
6-12nm	45	43	43	44	43
>12nm	27	20	28	24	25
<b>Total (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>Area dredged &gt;1 hr 15 mins (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>11.81</b>	<b>10.18</b>	<b>9.50</b>	<b>8.66</b>	<b>10.16</b>
<b>90% of dredging (area in km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>45.68</b>	<b>42.67</b>	<b>45.42</b>	<b>49.19</b>	<b>49.95</b>

## New area licensed v. existing area surrendered 2003–2007



## Background

Dredging offshore for aggregates began in the early Twentieth Century but it did not reach a significant scale until the 1970s, as markets for marine aggregates expanded and dredging technology improved. More information about the history of dredging is available in a paper by Dr Sue Gubbay on The Crown Estate Website located at [http://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/aggregates\\_history](http://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/aggregates_history).

Almost all UK marine aggregate extraction takes place from licences on seabed owned by The Crown Estate. Dredging companies follow a strict tender and application process in order to exploit offshore areas of resource. An application for a Dredging Permission is made to either the Marine and Fisheries Agency [Environmental Impact Assessment and Natural Habitats – Extraction of Minerals by Marine Dredging (England and Northern Ireland) Regulations 2007], the Welsh Assembly Government [The Environmental Impact Assessment and Natural Habitats – Extraction of Minerals by Marine Dredging (Wales) Regulations 2007] or the Scottish Executive Office (once the regulations are enacted). If the application is successful then the Permission is first issued to The Crown Estate, who then issue a production licence to the applicant.

## The Crown Estate

The Crown Estate is a landed estate including more than 120,000 hectares of agricultural land in England, Scotland and Wales, substantial blocks of commercial property (primarily in London) and an extensive marine estate covering 55% of the foreshore and almost all of the seabed out to the 12 mile territorial limit. Its origins date back to the reign of King Edward the Confessor. The Crown Estate is part of the hereditary possessions of the Sovereign 'in right of the Crown' managed under the provisions of The Crown Estate Act 1961 by The Crown Estate Commissioners who have a duty to maintain and enhance the value of the Estate and the income derived from it. The net revenue surplus is paid to the exchequer.

## BMAPA

The British Marine Aggregate Producers Association (BMAPA) was formed in 1992 and comprises members of the Quarry Products Association with a marine interest. Marine sand and gravel is supplied to home markets, as well as contributing to the balance of payments through exports to Continental Europe. In addition, marine aggregates are fulfilling an increasingly important role by supporting beach replenishment schemes. The marine aggregates industry operates over 25 vessels on 80 production licences around the UK. The vessels are almost entirely British registered.

BMAPA membership is comprised of Brett Aggregates Ltd, Britannia Aggregates Ltd, CEMEX UK Marine Ltd, DEME Building Materials Ltd, Hanson Aggregates Marine Ltd, Kendall Bros. (Portsmouth) Ltd, Lafarge Aggregates Ltd, Northwood (Fareham) Ltd, Norwest Sand and Ballast Company, Sea Aggregates Ltd, United Marine Dredging Ltd and Volker Dredging Ltd.



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