

THE AREA INVOLVED – 7th 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 seventh 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 on the area of seabed licensed, dredged and surrendered during 2004, based on data from The Crown Estate Offshore Marine GIS and from analysis of dredger Electronic Monitoring System records.

Information on dredged area and intensity has been derived from the variable grid analysis. This report builds upon the variable grid base data and results as presented in the 6th Annual Report.

In the process of compiling this report a full review of licence area changes has been undertaken. In the most recent brochures the quoted licence area figures were adjusted to the end of the year rather than the start of the following year. This standardisation has now been completed throughout the figures*.

To aid comparison between years, all data presented for areas dredged or licensed from 0-6nm, 6-12nm and >12nm has been retrospectively adjusted to the 6nm and 12nm lines as provided by UKHO dated 1st January 2005.

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 2004. 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 21.45 million tonnes of sand and gravel were dredged from Crown Estate licences in England and Wales during 2004
- the total area of seabed licensed in 2004 decreased to 1257 km². (1264 km² in 2003*)
- dredging took place within 134.5 km², 10.7% of the licensed area, compared to 143.75 km² (11.4%) in 2003
- the area of seabed dredged for more than 1 hr 15 minutes per year (high intensity – red on charts) decreased slightly to 10.18 km². (11.81 km² in 2003)
- 90% of dredging from Crown Estate licences took place from an area of 42.67 km². (45.68 km² in 2003).

Summary statistics for 2004

Region	Total area licensed (km ²) during 2004	Total active dredge area ¹ for 2004 (km ²)	Total area dredged (km ²)
Humber	483.68	266.12	24.48
East Coast	270.11	202.00	50.09
Thames	149.86	136.07	15.81
South Coast	201.41	101.44	28.92
South West	54.41	54.23	12.85
North West	97.92	19.96	2.34
Total (km²)	1257.39	779.82	134.49

¹ Total area actually available to be dredged during 2004, calculated on a cumulative basis

Area of seabed licensed decreased by 6 km² during 2004

Area of seabed licensed (km²), 2000–2004

Year ¹	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
0–6 nm	484	470	439	450	443
6–12 nm ²	578	535	517	469	469
>12 nm	402	403	403	345	345
Total area licensed (km²)	1464	1408	1359	1264	1257
Total active dredge area (km²)		972	896	890	780

¹ Annual figures are calculated as of the 31st December, and therefore incorporate any changes that may have occurred through the year

² 6 and 12 nm as issued by UKHO in January 2005

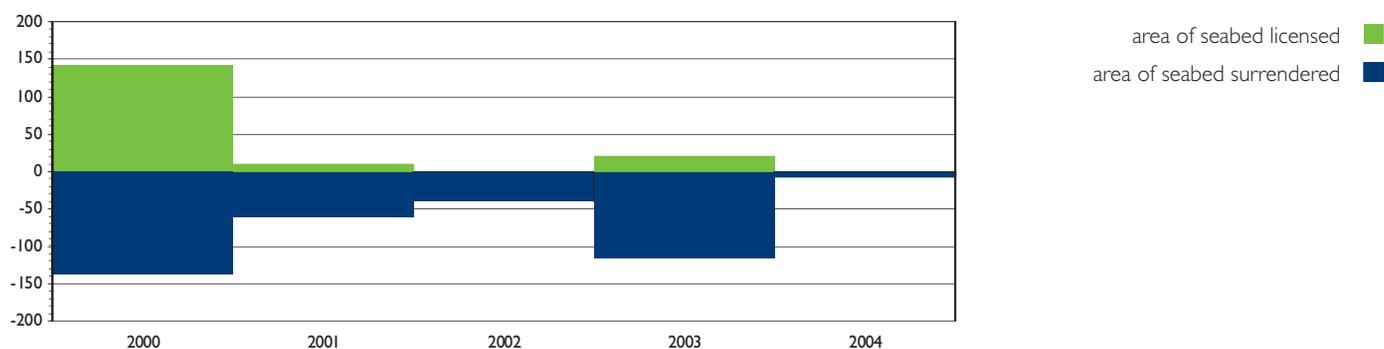
NB Figures for the active dredge area are only available from 2001 onwards

Area of seabed dredged decreased by 9.3 km² during 2004

Area of seabed dredged (km²), 2000–2004 (from EMS variable grid analysis)

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
0–6 nm	79	74	70	72	71
6–12 nm	59	55	58	45	43
>12 nm	17	21	21	27	20
Total (km²)	155	150	149	144	134
Area dredged >1 hr 15 mins (km²)	11.54	12.33	11.88	11.81	10.18
90% of dredging (area in km²)	48.97	48.55	51.57	45.68	42.67

New area licensed v existing area surrendered 2000–2004



Background

Dredging offshore for aggregates began in the early Twentieth Century but it did not reach a significant scale until the 1970's, as markets for marine aggregates expanded and dredging technology improved. Almost all marine aggregate extraction takes place from licences on seabed owned by the Crown Estate. Planning permission is granted by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister or the Welsh Assembly Government/Scottish Office under the Government View Procedure. The Crown Estate will only grant a licence following a favourable Government View.

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 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 30 vessels on 70 production licences around the UK. The vessels are almost entirely British registered and carry British crew.

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



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