Mr Brian Reeve
Marine & Technical Director
Port of Tyne Authority
Maritime House
Tyne Dock
South Shields
Tyne and Wear
NE34 9PT

Cc: Mr Keith Wilson, Managing Director

6th November 2007

Dear Mr Reeve,

**Port of Tyne Authority Licence 31995/04/1 – Confined Disposal Of Contaminated Dredge Material from the Port of Tyne docks to the sea at Souter Point**

The Marine Conservation Society (MCS) is the charity dedicated to the protection of UK seas, shores and marine wildlife. Since 1987, MCS has campaigned to improve coastal and estuarine water quality in the UK, to stop the degradation of the marine environment from pollution, and to protect vulnerable marine species and habitats.

I am writing on behalf of MCS with regard to the above disposal operation. MCS has been particularly interested in this operation since the Port of Tyne Authority (PTA) was granted a licence in October 2004 to undertake the work as a trial to establish UK best practice.

The trial has now been running for about three years, and MCS would be interested to know the Port of Tyne Authority's view on the progress of the trial. We would be particularly grateful if you could tell us whether this dredging operation has directly benefited the docks in question - Wallsend Dry Docks, Neptune Quay, Swan Hunter (Slipway Ends) – or been of general benefit to the port?

We also request that the PTA forward us copies of the post placement monitoring reports that have been carried out as a condition of the licence, and reports on work undertaken to remediate the capping material.

With thanks for your time and attention in this matter,

Yours Sincerely,

Thomas Bell
MCS Coastal Pollution Officer
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