

# SOUTHWOLD TOWN COUNCIL



Mrs. L. Beevor  
Clerk of the Council

Town Hall  
Southwold  
IP18 6EF

23<sup>rd</sup> December 2015

Ship to Ship Transfer Review stakeholder engagement exercise  
Maritime, Safety and Environment Branch  
Department for Transport  
2/31 Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Dear Sirs

We appreciate the opportunity to take part in the statutory consultation on Ship-to-Ship Oil Transfers. We are returning the questionnaire supplied by your Department.

However we wish to take the opportunity to ask for termination of the order permitting Oil Transfers off the coast of Southwold. Although there have been no major oil spillages on our beaches in the five years this order has been in place, you will agree that the chance of a major spillage is not zero. There have been two major oil spillages off the UK coast in the past 50 years. Such a spillage on the Suffolk Heritage Coast would be catastrophic for the major local industry, tourism. However small the risk of a major spillage, the consequence damage would be so great that they completely outweigh the benefits of continuing the order.

At the time the order was placed, the then Minister of Transport told us that one of the benefits of permitting transfers in UK coastal waters was that it would allow him, the Minister, to monitor and inspect transfer process. May we ask, of the over 700 transfers that have taken place under this order, how many were subject to a direct inspection by Ministry of Transport officials ?

A second benefit put forward by the MP for Waveney was that the oil tankers in Sole Bay generated servicing employment in the port of Lowestoft. Now that the number of

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