

The application by the Cromarty Firth Port Authority for ship to ship transfer, of 8.4 million tonnes of crude oil in the Cromarty / Moray Firth is moving towards conclusion and concern for the marine environment remains high. 17,900 people have already signed a petition against this application.

The Contractor who compiled the application issued a statement recently in response to public alarm expressed in February this year, they are worrying Q&A's.

What about impacts on the bottle nose dolphin population? *"The application provides a summary overview and does not seek to provide a full scale research project on this single concern"*

What about the impact on tourism? *"The regulations focus on environmental effects and not on social impacts"*.

Oil spill modelling of oil spill is inadequate? *"an oil spill has the potential to impact the coastline anywhere in the Moray Firth. Modelling a larger volume of oil spill would not change our conclusion regarding the beaching locations for oil"*

What about the impact of noise? *"Noise pollution modelling was not considered appropriate for the application"*

What about the impact of fumes and vapours? - *"Air pollution modelling was not considered appropriate for the application"*

The original application is now being re-worked by the same Contractor. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency currently **do not plan for the public to be consulted** on the revised version.

We invite you to join a coalition of Community Councils on behalf of the wider coastal community to raise public awareness and make your views known. Cromarty Rising is asking for support in a coordinated campaign to engage politicians, councillors and Highland Council and in particular to draw the attention of individual board members of CFPA to their obligations to stakeholders. This is clearly defined in the current edition of *Modern Trust Ports for Scotland : Guidance for good Governance* by Transport Scotland. *"whose duty it is to hand it on in the same or better condition to succeeding generations. This remains the ultimate responsibility of the board, and future generations remain the ultimate stakeholder"*

The Moray and Cromarty Firths have a current financial value to the regional economy estimated at £260 million and 5,000 jobs. The need to discharge of up to 2 million tonnes of untreated ballast water is seen by many as a very serious threat, do you agree? It is also worth reflecting on the CFPA risk assessment of a mere 1 tonne spillage over 8.4 million tonnes of transfers per year. These are massive oil tankers, pump speeds may be one or two tonnes per second. We invite you to do your own assessment, how long is the crew's reaction time? In the rain? In the dark? What size do you think an oil spill will be? How about Transocean Winner, would a tanker survive the Cromarty cliffs?

We look forward to hearing from you and your community council. We hope that you feel a bit more informed and able to join with us in this vitally important project. More information can be found at [www.cromartyrising.com](http://www.cromartyrising.com). Thank you.