

**From:** Kieran Doherty  
**Sent:** Tuesday 3 December 2019 16:13  
**To:** 'john.kelly@tobin.ie'  
**Subject:** GHE CMR Additional Intertidal reference area proposed

Hello John,

I have been asked to acknowledge your use of a reference area.

However, there is no detail in the map, just where the reference area is. Also, there are no objectives associated to the proposed sampling design, other than information on which statistical analyses will be undertaken. Both points in the previous correspondence needs to be addressed, starting from 'what is this monitoring plan intended to demonstrate', which was included in the first point. This is, how will the proposed approach address this question (the impact hypothesis), and how will it be tested. For this, a clear objective, is required.

The second point needs to be explained in more detail, including sampling sites, dates of proposed surveys, etc.

I hope the above clarifies the situation,

Best regards,

Kieran

**From:** John P Kelly (Galway) <[John.Kelly@tobin.ie](mailto:John.Kelly@tobin.ie)>  
**Sent:** Monday 25 November 2019 18:20  
**To:** Kieran Doherty <[K.Doherty@pleanala.ie](mailto:K.Doherty@pleanala.ie)>  
**Subject:** GHE CMR Additional Intertidal reference area proposed

Kieran,

In response to your email of 12/11/19 regarding a reference site, we propose to add an additional study area where aquaculture will continue to be carried out and where agricultural lands adjacent to it will continue to be tracked, worked, tilled, grazed and fertilised. This is marked as (Area 1) on the attached Fig. 20. This will act as our proposed reference area.

This area will be surveyed at the same time as the compensation area (Area 2) using the same techniques e.g. 10 faunal cores (15 x 20cms), sieved on a 1mm mesh, taxa identified to species wherever possible, 10 further cores for granulometric and organic carbon analysis, all data subjected to standard statistical analyses e.g. univariate and multivariate analyses but also the Water Framework Directive "Ecological Quality Ratio" and the "Infaunal Quality Index" indicator will be used to assess the impacts on the Ecological Status of the infaunal communities.

Please see map which is proposed as Fig. 20 Intertidal reference area , we would be grateful if you can confirm that you would deem this to be appropriate.

Thank you,

**John P Kelly B.E. M.I.E.I.**

**Project Director**

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