

From: Daniel Bastreri <daniel@mpm-environment.london>
Sent: Monday 11 November 2019 16:16
To: Kieran Doherty
Subject: Fwd: RE: Galway Harbour

Hi Kieran

I think that your response is perfect, and will give the applicant a clear path to overcome the shortfalls of the monitoring programme. I wouldn't change anything.

Presumably, they will take this on board, and set clear objectives for the monitoring. Hopefully, followed by a clear and detailed proposal. As an advance - for your information - sampling of benthic communities should not start until spring (late March- early April) and ideally, before the summer. Never in winter or autumn. So they have plenty of time to prepare.

All the best, and don't hesitate to get back to me if you have further questions.

Daniel

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----- Original Message -----

Subject:RE: Galway Harbour
Date:11/11/2019 18:03
From:Kieran Doherty <K.Doherty@pleanala.ie>
To:Daniel Bastreri <daniel@mpm-environment.london>

Hello Daniel,

Thank you for the clarification.

Having regard to your comments I propose to send the following to the applicant, please note that the Board had asked for no more or no less than the 10 points you suggested.

Please note that any answer to point 10 must be considered together with, and ideally after, points 1 and 9:

- 1. There are specific concerns that the monitoring programme to be employed may not provide an effective method to measure the success of the compensatory measures. Detailed monitoring is required to test the success of the compensatory measures. It is considered that there are no clear specific objectives for the monitoring programme which set out measurable outcomes on which the success or otherwise of the proposed compensatory measures can be ascertained. The compensatory measures need to be compared against a set of established indicators and thresholds. Please provide an appropriate methodology to address this issue.*
- 1. Concern is expressed that in its current form, the sampling strategy is not specific enough for the establishment of a baseline environment on which the success of future compensatory measures can be assessed. Please provide further details of a sampling strategy which will provide comprehensive data on a baseline environment on which before and after scenarios can be established, and how these will be compared.*

By addressing these two points, the response to point 10 should be clarified.

The Board is not looking for you to compare intertidal benthic communities between Renmore and Tawin Island. Comparisons should be made with a reference site to evaluate the success of the compensatory measures. The reference site should be a similar site in Galway Bay, that won't be subject to the management measures and where the same pressures apply (tracking, grazing, fertilising, etc), and that won't be lost to the development, so the comparison can be continued over time, if required. This shouldn't require a large amount of samples (in the reference site), certainly not as many as in the main (compensatory) site. The current monitoring programme of the intertidal habitats in Tawin, which has already been initiated, is considered appropriate to evaluate the fluctuations in abundance and diversity of the benthic populations at this site. The objective of the regulatory programme is to test whether the compensatory measures will bring about ecological improvement to these intertidal habitats and communities in Tawin. The monitoring of a reference site should illustrate this.

Would you be in agreement? Please edit where required.

Thanks,

Kieran