

From: Kieran Doherty
Sent: Tuesday 12 November 2019 09:31
To: 'John P Kelly (Galway)'
Subject: RE: PA 00 33 : Galway Harbour Extension ,
Compensatory Measures Report / NIS : Clarifications
item 10 :Extent of additional Sampling Proposed

Hello John,

Apologies for the delay in getting back to you. I have now received feedback from the Board's consultant and I have been advised to respond to your query as follows:

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.*
- 2. 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.

I hope this is of assistance.

Regards,
Kieran

From: John P Kelly (Galway) <John.Kelly@tobin.ie>
Sent: Friday 1 November 2019 15:26
To: Kieran Doherty <K.Doherty@pleanala.ie>
Subject: PA 00 33 : Galway Harbour Extension , Compensatory Measures Report / NIS : Clarifications item 10 :Extent of additional Sampling Proposed

Kieran,
Item 10 additional sampling proposed.
Brendan O Connor, Aquafact has proposed that :
4 transect lines at each of the 2 locations, Renmore and Tawin, will be sampled simultaneously.
Samples to be taken at 3 points on each of the transect lines, High, Middle and Low Water levels .
5 replica samples will be taken at each point thus generating a total of 60 samples at each location.
I would be grateful if you could confirm that extent of sampling will be deemed to be adequate.
Thank you,
John.

John P Kelly B.E. M.I.E.I.
Project Director

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2017 Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland Award Winner
2017 National Standards Authority of Ireland Award Winner



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