K n Doherty

From: Daniel Bastreri <daniel@mpm-environment.london>
Sent: Thursday 19 December 2019 14:56
To: Kieran Doherty
Subject: Re: FW: GHE CMR Additional Intertidal reference area : more detailed map and statement of targets, methods, indicators, etc, PA0033

Dear Kieran

It's always a pleasure working with you and your colleagues. I woul also like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a merry Christmas, and all the best for the New Year. Please give my greetings to your colleagues in the Board.

All the best,

Daniel

Daniel Bastreri BSc CSci CMarSci MIMarEST
Director

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On 18/12/2019 15:16, Kieran Doherty wrote:

Hi Daniel,

Once again, thank you for the prompt reply.

At this time a formal response is not required, we'll probably be in touch for that when their final submission is received.

Hopefully, I won't have to annoy you again before the new year, so I'll wish you a Happy Christmas..

Best regards,

Kieran

From: Daniel Bastreri <daniel@mpm-environment.london>
Sent: Monday 16 December 2019 17:05
To: Kieran Doherty <K.Doherty@pleanala.ie>
Cc: Paul Caprani <P.Caprani@pleanala.ie>
Subject: Re: FW: GHE CMR Additional Intertidal reference area : more detailed map and statement of targets, methods, indicators, etc, PA0033

Hello Kieran

This is a good, detailed proposal, even more than it would be expected at this stage. As you will remember, the concerns I raised were related to the benthic infaunal monitoring programme only, and to some of the conclusions drawn from it. This proposal is more comprehensive, covering that specific issue, and integrating the monitoring programme to a detailed methodology for the compensatory measures.

I note that they have fully taken on board the suggestion of using a reference area, and this is now aligned to the compensatory measures and the monitoring programme. This is in my opinion a sound approach, which would deliver the result expected - improvement in ecological status, and a methodolgy capable of detecting this improvement. It is based in part on similar studies in Ireland, published in the peer-reviewed literature, and relevant to this specific programme.

One aspect that I would suggest that they consider in more detail is in relation to the threshold that they have set for measuring abundance of some specific infaunal species - 20% less abundance over a period of five years. This may be too prescriptive, as this 20% reduction may not occur. Depending on other considerations, such as overall species abundance and distribution, natural fluctuations, etc., a different value may result. I would be reluctanct to evaluate the success of the compensatory measures only if this value is achieved. For example, a reduction of the abundance of these species by 8% still would be (most likely) a statistically significant improvement. The objective is to demonstrate the ecological improvement, or in EU Water Framework Directive terms, improve the 'ecological status'. A value of less than 20% may still provide evidence that the compensatory measures are working. Perhaps, 'a statistically significant reduction in abundance of the indicator species selected (and reduction in organic carbon and number of invasive *Didemnum* sp.)' would be preferable. As detailed above, I leave that to the applicant's consultants to decide and develop on this.

In summary, a comprehensive proposal, with good level of detail and information, which integrates the compensatory measures' objectives with the monitoring programme. It is fit for purpose, and I am glad that they have given full consideration to the comments and suggestions received from the Board.

I asume that you don't need a formal report for this, but please let me kow if you do.

Best regards,

Daniel

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On /12/2019 18:18, Kieran Doherty wrote:

Hi Daniel,

Could you see if the attached would be acceptable please.

Thanks,

Kieran

From: John P Kelly (Galway) <John.Kelly@tobin.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 10 December 2019 12:41
To: Kieran Doherty <K.Doherty@pleanala.ie>
Subject: GHE CMR Additional Intertidal reference area : more detailed map and statement of targets, methods, indicators, etc, PA0033

Kieran.

Following receipt of your email of 3/12/19 relating to the reference site map and proposed studies, attached please find information for your approval that deals with:

1. Map showing the details of the reference sites.

   Why they were selected and the areal extent of each as shown in Figure draft 20(1)

and

1. The objectives of the planned monitoring surveys, the methods to be used for each and what the monitoring plan intends to show including sampling sites and dates of surveys.

Also attached is a draft of Figure 14(1) which will be the revised Didemnum Management Control Area (1) to correspond with 1. above.

Please note that the attached information will be included in the response to the ten points previously raised by ABP that will be submitted to you once we have your reply to this email.

Thank you,

John

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

Project Director

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