Ki n Doherty

From: Daniel Bastreri <daniel@mpm-environment.london>
Sent: Friday 29 November 2019 12:08
To: Kieran Doherty
Subject: Re: FW: GHE CMR Additional Intertidal reference area proposed

Hello Kieran

In principle, it looks like they have taken on board the recommendation of using a reference area.

However, there is no detail in the map, just where the reference area is. I also note that there have not objectives associated to the proposed sampling design, other than information on which statistical analyses they will undertake.

While this is a step on the right direction, I think that they need to address both points in your previous correspondence, starting from 'what is this monitoring plan intended to demonstrate', wich was included in your first point. This is, how will the proposed approach address this question' or in a more technical language, which is the impact hypothesis, and how they will test it. For this, they need to set a clear objective, which is still missing.

Your second point was partially addressed in their response. I think that this also needs to be explained in more detail, including sampling sites, dates of proposed surveys, etc.

I hope that the above comments are helpful, and by all means, please feel welcome to get back to me if you have any doubts or questions.

All the best,

Daniel

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On 27/11/2019 17:43, Kieran Doherty wrote:

> Hi Daniel,
>
> This is the latest correspondence from the applicant.
>
> Could you please check that you are satisfied with their approach.

Thanks,

Kieran

From: John P Kelly (Galway) <John.Kelly@tobin.ie>
Sent: Monday 25 November 2019 18:20
To: Kieran Doherty <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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