Our Case Number: PA0033

An Bord Pleanála

Vincent Connell
Galway Bay Inshore Fishermen's Association
23 Cook Park
Bohermore
Co. Galway

Date: 27 May 2025

Re: Galway Harbour Extension
Renmore and Townparks Townlands, Galway

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent letter in relation to the above mentioned case. The contents of your letter have been noted.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board at laps@pleanala.ie

Please quote the above-mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Lauren Griffin
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737244

CH08

Lauren Griffin

From: Lauren Griffin
Sent: Tuesday, 27 May 2025 09:39
To: vincentconnell23@gmail.com
Subject: RE: Galway Harbour Exstension

A Chara,

The Board acknowledges receipt of your email, official correspondence will issue in due course.

Kind regards,

Lauren

From: Vincent Connell <vincentconnell23@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, 23 May 2025 17:23
To: LAPS <laps@pleanala.ie>
Subject: Galway Harbour Exstension

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Vincent Connell. PA0033

Galway Bay Inshore Fishermen's Association consider the Applicant's response to our recent submission to be totally misinformed, erroneous and very misleading.

On what basis does the applicant state that "there is no specific nursery area for shrimp in Galway Bay"? Our members, some of whom have been engaged in the shrimp fishery for several decades and three generations, are the only group in the area who have a comprehensive knowledge of the movement of shrimp within the Bay. Throughout these decades we have collectively observed how the shrimp are influenced by tide, wind and temperature. We know, with certainty, that the proposed construction site is a nursery area. The unique combination of environmental conditions along with substrate type in this area has resulted in it been known by all engaged in the fishery since it began over 50 years ago. Our combined knowledge far exceeds that of an employed consultancy who may have occasionally sampled the area with limited sampling equipment but never with small meshed shrimp pots.

The Applicant somewhat unrealistically states that their proposed compensatory measures will improve this European Special Protected Area. We are being asked to believe that by aimlessly and inefficiently removing limited numbers of invasive tunicates, while at the same time destroying the local protected area through dredging, blasting and construction a certain environmental balance can be struck.

Again, in the context of the proposed environmental destruction which the proposal necessitates, it is somewhat fanciful to imagine that the removal of a few unproductive oyster trestles can in any way whatsoever compensate for the scale of the inevitable permanent damage.

The recent storm Eowyn, which saw the highest ever storm surge of 2.6m above the predicted tidal level ever recorded in Galway, should help focus minds on the real and inevitable events which now threaten Galway port and city. As Dr Niall Madden of NUIG put it "had the storm hit just a few hours earlier, on a full or flooding tide, Galway could have been dealing with a double disaster of record high winds and record high flooding."

If funds are available Galway port should be investing to protect itself and the city from the consequences of rising sea levels and severe storms, not building an unwanted expansion in a Special Protected area.

Regards

Vincent Connell