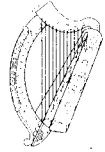




Comhshaol, Oidhreacht agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Heritage and Local Government



12 May 2009

Our Ref: M2009/39
Your Ref: E3/2/11 vol. 4



Ms Grace O'Brien
Foreshore Section
Coastal Zone Management Division
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Johnstown Castle Estate
Co. Wexford

Re: Application for Dumping at Sea Permit Arklow Harbour

A Chara,

We refer to the application in relation to the above-proposed development. Outlined below are the nature conservation recommendations of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Marine Research Observations

1. The documentation accompanying the application indicates that:

- under the Guidelines for the Assessment of Dredge Material for Disposal in Irish Waters (2006), some of the spoil to be dredged and dumped may be considered as Class 3 (heavily contaminated, very likely to cause biological and/or toxic effects to marine organisms, alternative management options to be considered) according to 2007 survey results and Class 2 (marginally contaminated, further sampling and analysis necessary to delineate problem area if possible) according to 2008 survey results,
- a detailed environmental assessment of alternative management options was not presented for consideration,
- predictive modelling of the fate of dredge spoil has not been presented so it is not possible to identify the likely spatial extent of the impacted area,



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- results from photographic and video transects at one of the dump sites has not been presented, and
- an assessment of the likely impacts of this proposed operation on the environment has not been presented for consideration.

2. It is therefore not possible on the basis of the material presented to exclude the possibility that significant chemical contamination of the marine environment will not occur and therefore that this proposed operation will not have a significant impact on:

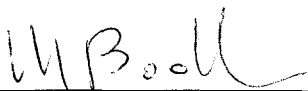
- Buckroney-Brittis Dunes and Fen cSAC, and
- non-designated Annex I habitats in the area such as strandline and shingle communities, sandflats, and sandbanks, and
- protected species such as seals and cetaceans.

Marine Research Recommendations

The applicants should be requested to provide an ecological assessment of this proposed operation that contains inter alia the following information:

- environmental assessment of alternative management options,
- hydrodynamic modelling to elucidate the likely spatial extent of the potential impacts associated with this proposed operation,
- description of sediment transport patterns in the area,
- description of the biological species resident or utilising this potential impact area and
- assessment of the likely impacts of the proposed operation on:
 - a. Buckroney-Brittis Dunes and Fen cSAC,
 - b. non-designated Annex I habitats in the area such as strandline and shingle communities, sandflats, and sandbanks, and
 - c. protected species such as seals and cetaceans.

Is mise le meas,



 Mary Boothman
 Development Applications Unit