

Bea Claydon

From: Licensing Staff
Sent: 18 May 2012 09:28
To: Bea Claydon; Eve O'Sullivan
Subject: FW: Louth Nature Trust - e-mail submission to the EPA

-----Original Message-----

From: pmphillips@eircom.net [<mailto:pmphillips@eircom.net>]
Sent: 17 May 2012 21:35
To: Licensing Staff
Subject: Louth Nature Trust - e-mail submission to the EPA

Dear Sir/Madam

Re:- Drogheda Port Company, Dumping At Sea Application Ref. No. S0015-02 - Drogheda Port Company

Louth Nature Trust is a voluntary conservation organisation and registered charity. We would like to register our concern regarding the above Drogheda Port Company DAS application. We manage the Little Tern project on Baltray beach, to the north of the guiding wall of the river Boyne. This is our sixth year of managing the project and we have had great success in bolstering the numbers of fledged little tern chicks (over 340 chicks from 2007-2011).

Little Terns are Ireland's rarest breeding sea birds. There are just two significant colonies in Ireland, one in Wicklow, and the Baltray colony.

These ground nesting, migratory birds have very specific nesting requirements. They nest on shingle/sand mix. They require fresh and salt water. They arrive in Ireland in April and leave in August. They breed and fledge their chicks from May to July. They are susceptible to disturbance by people and predation from animals and birds. Under our Foreshore Licence we erect a fence as a protection barrier and warden the site through the nesting season, removing the fencing in late August.

Our concerns regarding the DPC's DAS application relate to the extraction of sediment from the marine environment. This removal could impact the beach dynamics which support the little terns nesting site at the Haven in Baltray. The area they nest is protected under the EU Habitats Directive (Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC 001957). The Little Terns are protected under the EU Birds Directive (Boyne Estuary SPA 004080).

Louth Nature Trust would also have concern regarding the timing of the dredging operation, especially during the nesting season close to the little terns site. The application makes no mention of timeframe.

We would be most grateful if you would consider the concerns in our submission, namely the integrity of the coastal zone in its entirety and especially the fragility of the little terns nesting site at the Haven, Baltray.

If you would like any further information regarding this voluntary conservation project, which enjoys support from the Heritage Council / National Parks and Wildlife Service, please do not hesitate to contact us, or view our website www.louthnaturetrust.org.

Kind regards

Peter Phillips, Zookeeper

Director, Louth Nature Trust

www.louthnaturetrust.org

mail2web - Check your email from the web at <http://link.mail2web.com/mail2web>

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

*For inspection purposes only.
Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.*