## Eve O'Sullivan

Subject: Attachments: Dumping at Sea Licence ref: S0015-02 by Drogheda Port Company at Drogheda Port

DAU-S0015-02.pdf; ATT00001.txt; ATT00002.htm

From: Manager Dau [mailto:Manager.Dau@ahg.gov.ie]

Sent: 03 October 2012 15:47 To: Wexford Receptionist

Cc: Tara Higgins

Subject: Re: Dumping at Sea Licence ref: S0015-02 by Drogheda Port Company at Drogheda Port

## A Chara.

I refer to your notification with respect to the above proposed development application, please find hereunder nature conservation observations and recommendations of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, for consideration by your Authority.

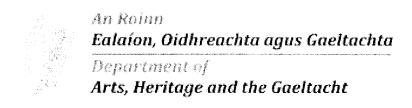
Emmet Deegan, Development Applications Unit, Built Heritage and Architectural Policy, Newtown Road, Wexford

t: (053) 911 7384

e: emmet.deegan@ahg.gov.ie

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03/10/2012

Our Ref: E00109/2012 Your Ref. S0015-02

Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Climate, Licensing & Resource Use, Headquarters, Johnstown Castle Estate County Wexford.

Re: Dumping at Sea Licence ref: S0015-02 by Drogheda Port Company at Drogheda Port.

A Chara,

I refer to your notification with respect to the above proposed development application, please find hereunder nature conservation observations and recommendations of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, for consideration by your Authority.

The following mitigating measures should be applied as a condition of licence by the responsible authority to ensure the protection of marine mammals in areas where there is a potential interaction with marine mammals:

- A qualified and experienced marine mammal observer (MMO) must be appointed to monitor for marine mammals and to log all relevant events using standardised data forms (<a href="http://www.npws.ie/marine/bestpracticeguidelines/">http://www.npws.ie/marine/bestpracticeguidelines/</a>).
- The MMO must advise the Works Superintendent within a previously agreed time-frame prior to scheduled activity if environmental conditions (e.g. sea state, light, visibility) are insufficient for effective visual monitoring. In such conditions, the activity of concern must be postponed until acceptable conditions prevail.
- In the event of unsuitable environmental conditions, a clear on-site communication signal must be agreed between the MMO and the Works Superintendent as to whether the relevant activity may or may not proceed, or resume following a break (see below). It must only proceed on positive confirmation with the MMO, which must be recorded by the MMO.
- The MMO must conduct pre-start-up constant effort monitoring at least 30 minutes before the sound-producing activity is due to commence, continuing monitoring during and for 30

minutes following the activity. Sound-producing activity must not commence until at least 30 minutes have elapsed with no marine mammal detections by the on-site MMO.

- Unless information specific to the location is otherwise available to inform the mitigation process (e.g. sound attenuation data), operations must not commence if marine mammals are detected within a 500m radial distance of the intended sound source, i.e. within the Monitored Zone.
- Once begun, the activity may continue if weather conditions deteriorate or if marine mammals enter the 500m-radius Monitored Zone following start-up.
- If there is a break in dredging activity for a period greater than 30 minutes then all preactivity monitoring measures must recommence as for start-up.
- Full reporting on MMO operations and mitigation undertaken must be provided to the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to facilitate reporting under Article 17 of the EC Habitats Directive and future improvements to guidance (http://www.npws.ie/marine/bestpracticeguidelines/).

Kindly forward any further information received or in the event of a decision being made a copy of same should be referred to the following address:

Development Applications Unit (DAU),
Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and the Road,
Newtown Road,
Wexford

Alternatively, documentation action for the following

Alternatively, documentation associated with the above can be referred electronically to the DAU at the following address:

manager.dau@ahg.gov.ie

In addition, please acknowledge receipt of these observations by return.

"please note the change to e-mail addresses, which take effect from 12:00pm on Monday, 15th August 2011"

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Emmet Deegan,

**Development Applications Unit** 

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