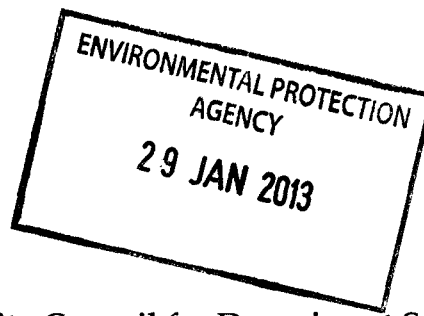


EPA Headquarters
 PO Box 3000
 Johnstown Castle Estate
 Co. Wexford



28th January 2013,

Re: Application by Dublin City Council for Dumping at Sea Permit

To whom it may concern:

I object in the strongest possible terms to the granting of a "Dumping at Sea Permit" to Dublin City Council for dumping at sea of the spoil generated by the proposed 'Long Sea Outfall Tunnel' project.

As a professional member of the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI), I spend a lot of time enjoying the waters of Dublin Bay as both a recreational scuba diver and a dive guide showing others (many of whom are new to diving in Irish waters and their numbers increase year on year) the wide variety of marine life that lives below the water line on our doorstep.

For Dublin City Council to state that the proposed dumping will have no adverse effect on the quality of the water in the bay or on marine life is both misleading and possibly shortsighted. Dumping of thousands of tonnes of silt and dust mixed with unknown quantities of chemicals will of course have a negative impact on the clarity of the water as was seen previously from the dumping by Dublin Port and the works on the Dargle River in Bray.

The increase in suspended particulate matter is especially detrimental to the sensitive marine environment: for example causing filter feeders to slowly die as well as coating various plant-life in a thin coating of limestone dust.

The potential results of this license being granted seem to be very much at odds with the proposal that much of Dublin Bay be made a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) as proposed by the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht as part of the European network of nature conservation sites known as "Natura 2000".

For the numbers who enjoy marine-based activities including angling, sailing, windsurfing, kite-boarding, scuba diving, sea kayaking, snorkeling and swimming increases, not to mention the millions who walk the coastline each year, the clean, clear waters are the attraction. It would be socially irresponsible to ruin this just so as to facilitate the Council's 'easy way out' as regards the depositing of 800,000 tonnes of spoil, an action the repercussions of which will be felt for many years to come.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raoul Simpson".

Raoul Simpson

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