

Grainne Power

Submission No. 8

Subject: FW: ALEXANDRA BASIN REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT - Dumping at sea,

From: Jean Kelleher
Sent: 25 August 2015 00:12
To: Wexford Receptionist
Subject: ALEXANDRA BASIN REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT - Dumping at sea,

Dear Sir/Madam,

It has been brought my attention that Dublin Port Company have been granted permission to redevelop Alexander Basin and that they are now seeking a license to dump 5.9 Million cubic Meters of waste material in Dublin Bay.

As the Environmental Protection Agency I am appealing to you to work to protect the environment which exists under water in Dublin Bay. I am an avid scuba diver and dive regularly in Sandycove, on the Muglins, on Dalkey Island and on various shipwrecks in the bay. As you are aware the marine life in the bay is vast and varied, from shrimp, scallops, lobsters to a large variety of fish, there are also harbour porpoises which frequent the bay. Dumping of spoil from dredging in the vast quantities proposed by Dublin Port Company can only do harm to the existing marine life. Already there is anecdotal evidence that the number of flat fish being spotted by divers has vastly reduced. On dives we have seen wrasse which appear to be very lethargic or even appear to be dying.

It was always impossible to predict when the visibility in the bay would be good or bad. Even after periods of very calm weather the visibility would be very bad and sand appearing in the sea column. We understand that the plankton will affect visibility but this is not plankton in the water that affects visibility.

We also understand that there are areas of the Basin that have a lot of contaminants and we are not confident that these contaminants will not be contained when dredging commences.

The bay holds nine SAC's and SPA's (Special Protection Areas) adjacent to Dublin Bay and an Bord Pleanala state Page 5 of 15 "there are 6 European sites for which there is a likelihood of significant effects"

Rockabill to Dalkey	SAC	EU code	003000
Lambay Island	SAC	EU code	000204
North Dublin Bay	SAC	EU code	000206
South Dublin Bay	SAC	EU code	000210
North Bull Island	SPA	EU code	004006
South Dublin Bay & Tolka	SPA	EU code	004024

Dublin Bay is also a Natura 2000 site
Dublin Bay is now also a UNESCO biosphere reserve site.

I am asking you please to object to this dumping license in order to protect the marine life of Dublin and also to protect the safety of Dublin Bay divers who's lives could also be put in danger as reduced visibility can but divers in danger.

Yours Faithfully
Jean Kelleher
Curragh Sub Aqua Club
Phone

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