

## Noeleen Roche

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**From:** Licensing Staff  
**Subject:** Submission No 438 Stiofan O Maoibhreannain

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

**From:**  
**Sent:** 27 August 2015 16:25  
**To:** Licensing Staff  
**Subject:** Submission Re: DAS application by Dublin Port Company

Licensing | Environmental Protection Agency [licensing@epa.ie](mailto:licensing@epa.ie)

I am writing to you to express my concern at the recent proposal of Dublin Port to undertake a dredging project that send almost ten million tonnes of dredge waste into Dublin Bay.

Dublin Bay is Ireland's only designated biosphere and is of particular significance for both wildlife and human recreational activities.

The Port's dumping plans would involve a volume of dredge waste that exceeds by a factor of ten all previous dredging projects in the State, and presents a number of serious environmental risks. Three come to mind.

The dredging project recently undertaken in Cork resulted in unplanned emissions of hydrogen sulphide, a gas that is extremely toxic, heavier than air, and an environmental hazard. The planned operations in Dublin are ten times larger than the Cork project and are likely to result in even greater emission.

Aside from the possibility of toxic gas emissions, the redistribution of such a vast amount of sediment and dredge waste is potentially disastrous for Dublin Bay's ecosystem and could seriously threaten the protected wildlife species that the bay is famous for.

Finally, the dredging operations carry the risk of releasing heavy metal deposits often found in shipping ports. Such metals are typically harmless when trapped in sediment, but if released into the coastal waters are likely to accumulate in living organisms, including humans. These elements are extremely toxic.

No doubt this project would economically benefit Dublin and its citizens. However, this can never be sufficient reason to risk the health of Dublin Bay. I call upon the EPA to reject this application.

Yours sincerely,

Stiofán Ó Maoibhreannain

Camac House, 1-3 Bow Lane West  
Dublin  
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