

From: [Licensing Staff](#)
To: [Grainne Power](#)
Subject: FW: Objection to Dublin Port Dredge dumping proposal in Dublin Bay
Date: 21 March 2016 14:01:29

From: Kayakmor [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 March 2016 13:42
To: Licensing Staff
Cc: Jim Morrissey
Subject: Objection to Dublin Port Dredge dumping proposal in Dublin Bay

RE: Objection to proposed Dublin Port plans to dump dredge spoil in Dublin Bay

To whom it may concern

I wish to register an objection to the proposed dredging plans for Dublin Port as part of the Alexandra basin Redevelopment project. The proposal would see 10 million tonnes of dredged material (some of it contaminated with mercury and other heavy metals) dumped near the Burford bank and within the Dublin Bay SAC. 10 million tonnes equates to a quarter of a million 40ft truckloads of dredge spoil which is massive. The effects of the dumping of such a large amount of material and its likely destinations cannot be accurately predicted.

As a regular kayaker & boater with several similar active siblings attached to Dollymount Sea Scouts who collectively have paddled & boated frequently in Dollymount Lagoon & Dublin harbour since 1978 we have witnessed first hand the effects of previous dredging and how the associated siltation has accumulatively reduced the average mean water depth in the lagoon & harbour by considerable amounts, and changed the course of channels all contributing to reducing the amenity value of the lagoon.

The effect of the siltation in the lagoons has been to gradually reduce the amenity status of the area, for example shallower mean depths adversely effecting the sailing & boating activities of the Dollymount sea scout troop which has over 300 active members & local sailing clubs. It has become a battle to save the lagoon from silting up and this proposal poses a massive threat.

Of particular concern to us is that the considerable siltation of the Dollymount/Kilbarrack Lagoons resulting from previous dredge spoil dumping would be greatly accelerated given the massive scale of the dredging proposal & the nearby location of the dumping zone (within 5-6 miles).

In an open system it is probable that a proportion of the dumped silt would find its way on tidal currents from the dumping site into the cul de sac of the lagoons and be deposited when the water slows. The situation in the Dollymount/Kilbarrack lagoons which are both tidal cul de sacs is getting critical and what the lagoons urgently need is a breach in the causeway to stimulate tidal flows to prevent deposition, not another mass input of silt into the open Dublin Bay water body some of it destined for the lagoons.

That some material from the port with legacy heavy metal pollution be dumped for

dispersal in the wider environment is also of concern. What of the greater public health issues, bathing water criteria & biological contamination effects on bird & marine life throughout the Bay (a SPA) and wider, along the central eastern coast?

Many questions arise as to unforeseen effects of dumping, the sediment is not inert but organic so will the process cause algal blooms as more nutrients are released into the system? ...will the beaches surrounding the bays lose their blue flag status due to negative effects on the water quality?

In summary I am objection to the above proposal for the following reasons:

- On the grounds that dumping of dredge spoil will cause further siltation of the harbour & already heavily silted Dollymount/Kilbarrack lagoon areas and also further along the coast,. Remembering that the Bay is an open system & material that is dumped in the Burford bank will be transported inshore and along the shore by tides & drift processes causing unforeseen problems to water users & wildlife.
- The massive scale of the dredging, 10 million tonnes equates to 250,000 40ft truckloads of dredge spoil, That is a huge amount and the effects of such dumping would be appropriately scaled.
- Dispersal of contaminated sediment into the wider Dublin Bay environment poses a threat to Wildlife & Bathing water quality along the central Eastern coastline.
- Dumping of dredge spoil within an SAC area is usually not permitted & possibly illegal, and runs utterly contrary to the principals of conservation of Marine life & habitats.

Will await an acknowledgement of this objection.

Yours sincerely

Jim Morrissey

[Redacted signature block]

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