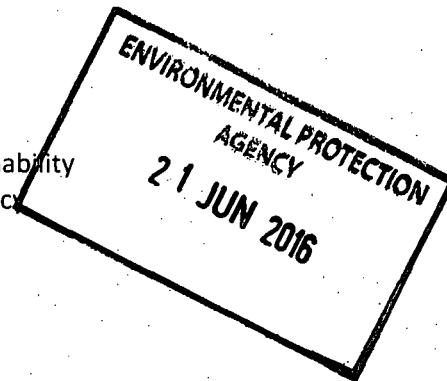


Grainne Power
Programme Officer
Office of Environmental Sustainability
Environmental Protection Agency
Headquarters, PO Box 3000
Johnstown Castle Estate
Co Wexford



Department of
**Agriculture,
Food and the Marine**
An Roinn
**Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**

17th June 2016

Your Ref: S0026-01

Our Ref: FW/10/6

Re: Dumping at Sea Permit Application on behalf of Aughnish Alumina Ltd for maintenance dredging at Aughnish Island.

Dear Grainne,

Further to your letter dated 9th March 2016, please find below observations from this Department.

As plough dredging is defined as "dumping" under the Dumping at Sea Act 1996 to 2009, please see our observations regarding dredging at this site at this site.

There is an oyster farm adjacent to this site. Oysters are filter feeders and are sensitive to decreasing water quality arising from increased sediment loading and turbidity and there will be an impact of the proposed dredging at this existing aquaculture site.

It is recommended that no oyster harvesting takes place during dredging operations. To facilitate this the Department would request that it is a stipulation of any permission given that SFPA An Daingean (tel: +353 66 9152122, dingle@sfpa.ie) and the operator of the oyster farm are informed in advance of any dredging operations carried out at this site.

The Department would recommend that turbidity monitors with appropriate alarms be deployed between the works and the aquaculture activities. This will give confidence to any operators in the area and will also provide a record of suspended sediment levels in the event of any mortalities on the aquaculture sites during the works.

If you have any further queries regarding this please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deirdre O'Flynn".

Deirdre O'Flynn
Aquaculture & Foreshore Management Division
Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine
National Seafood Centre
Clonakilty
Co Cork
023-8859529