

Eve O'Sullivan

From: Francis X O Beirn <Francis.XOBeirn@Marine.ie>
Sent: 24 October 2018 15:29
To: Ciara Maxwell
Cc: Terry McMahon; margot.cronin@marine.ie
Subject: Malahide Marina NIS & *D. vexillum*

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Hi Ciara,

I've read over the NIS document and supporting Appendix provided. The authors identify all of the likely risks that present and come to solid conclusions as to the extent the risk posed to the Natura features identified. Specifically, the risk of distribution of fragments of the Carpet Sea Squirt (*Didemnum vexillum*) beyond the bounds of the marina and dredge area is presented as **high**; however, the risk of successful recruitment/reattachment is considered low, particularly if the timing of the dredging coincides with the lowest water temperatures experienced at the site (i.e. winter months). What is noteworthy in the report is there is no estimate or monitoring information provided as to the current extent of *D. vexillum* in the Marina area, and specifically the areas subject to dredging. This information would certainly allow greater certainty to apply to the risk assessment. Notwithstanding, it appears the view taken is highly precautionary and conservative, i.e., that *D. vexillum* is extensively distributed throughout the marina. On this basis, I agree with the conclusion that the project as proposed (including mitigation measures to dredge in winter months only) does not present a risk to the habitats and species in adjacent Natura sites.

All the best,

Francis

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From: Ciara Maxwell <c.maxwell@epa.ie>
Sent: 09 October 2018 10:28
To: Francis X O Beirn <Francis.XOBeirn@Marine.ie>
Subject: Malahide Marina NIS & *D. vexillum*

Francis,

Please see attached Natura Impact Statement (NIS) received by the EPA in support of Dumping at Sea permit application for Malahide Marina. The NIS addresses the potential impact of the proposed dumping at sea activity (maintenance dredging via water injection dredging) on the adjacent Malahide Estuary SAC and SPA, and includes mitigation measures to avoid the spread of the invasive alien species, Carpet Sea-squirt, *Didemnum vexillum*.

Appendix 1 of the NIS is a report prepared by Paul Brooks UCD in relation *D. vexillum*.

The full dumping at sea application is available to view on the EPA website [here](#).

I would appreciate if you could review the NIS and return any comments to me by **Friday 19th October 2018**.

Regards,
Ciara

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