



Port of Milford Haven

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Our ref: JM/DaleOct22
Your ref:
Date: 22nd Oct 2019

Seagrass Ocean Rescue: Project Team
C/O Sue Burton, Pembrokeshire Marine SAC Officer
Suite 5, Cedar Court,
Milford Haven,
Pembrokeshire

Dear Project Team,

The Port of Milford Haven (PoMH) is the statutory harbour authority for the Milford Haven Waterway, and as such, we bear a statutory conservancy duty to the extent of our Port Limits, to ensure safe navigation and to protect the maritime interests of legitimate users of the waterway. Additionally, PoMH is a Relevant Authority for the purposes of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended); this means we share responsibility for the good management of the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC with other Relevant Authorities. This responsibility includes improving the condition of qualifying site features of the SAC.

The Seagrass Ocean Rescue project team has applied for a Marine Licence from Natural Resources Wales (NRW), and we are a statutory consultee on that application. Further, the project team has applied to PoMH for a Marine Works Licence to undertake the project. PoMH has been informed of and consulted on the proposed restoration project at Dale, and representatives of PoMH have attended the public consultation meetings and followed the emergent views and opinions of stakeholders closely.

PoMH recognises the environmental benefits of the project and the contributions it makes to site feature condition improvement and response to climate change. PoMH has listened to stakeholder concerns, but has not seen evidence of any adverse impact of the proposed works on any existing users of the waterway. Further, PoMH is reassured by communications of support received from the Welsh Government and from NRW, and is satisfied that it is not Welsh Government policy to introduce any new environmental designation or policy challenge to existing uses of the Waterway.

As such, in view of the demonstrable benefits, and lack of demonstrable disbenefits identified to date, PoMH is supportive of the project and intend to respond to NRW's consultation on the Marine Licence application in those terms. PoMH's consideration of your application for a Marine Works Licence is awaiting the final proposals, which are intended to follow a further public meeting, but, without prejudice to our ultimate decision and any conditions we may decide to apply, we do not at present see any reason to withhold that licence.

Jonathan Monk
Environmental Manager

