



Marine Management Organisation

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Your reference: L/2013/00373/5
Our reference: MLA/2013/00072/4/R14.9

geert.moerkerke@nemolink.co.uk

By email only

10 December 2024

Dear Mr Moerkerke,

Nemo Link - Year 5 Post Construction Saltmarsh Monitoring Report

Thank you for your submission of 'Nemo Link - Year 5 Post Construction Saltmarsh Monitoring Report and covering letter', which was submitted to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) on 14 September 2023 to fulfil condition 5.2.22 of the existing marine licence L/2013/00373/4:

"The licence holder must submit post-construction saltmarsh monitoring reports in the agreed format under licence condition 5.2.15 1,2,3,4 and 5 years following the completion of licenced activities within the intertidal zone unless otherwise agreed with the MMO."

The MMO has reviewed the report along with our advisors at Natural England (NE), the Environment Agency (EA) and Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas).

On 12 January 2024, the MMO issued a letter to Nemo Link seeking clarifications on the points raised during consultation. An update on the status of the response was sought on the following dates:

- 16 April 2024
- 10 October 2024
- 14 October 2024
- 01 November 2024
- 28 November 2024.

The MMO notes that a response remains outstanding.



After further review of the report and advice received from NE, EA and Cefas, the MMO has the following comments to make:

1. General Comments

- 1.1. The MMO notes that both NE and Cefas have recommended that additional monitoring is undertaken. The MMO is satisfied that the monitoring has shown the saltmarsh to be recovering, albeit at a slower pace than anticipated. The MMO also note that the condition does not require monitoring of the lagoon feature. The MMO is satisfied that further monitoring beyond Year 5 is not required due to the evidence showing the saltmarsh to be recovering. The MMO is also satisfied that monitoring the lagoon is not necessary to satisfy the condition requirements.
- 1.2. The MMO acknowledges that the EA disagrees with the conclusion of the report. The EA highlights the obligation to restore the habitat to its pre-disturbed condition and emphasises the urgent need to implement measures to address the repair of the ridge. The MMO is aware of the prior application (ref. MLA/2021/00474) for Saltmarsh Remediation Works that was subsequently withdrawn. The MMO agrees that unless the concerns raised by NE in relation to MLA/2021/00474 can be addressed in full, that active restoration will likely be more damaging than allowing natural recovery.

Conclusion

The MMO is content that the report is sufficient to fully discharge condition 5.2.22 of marine licence L/2013/00373/5. The monitoring has been completed in accordance with the monitoring plan discharged under condition 5.2.16. On a weight of evidence approach, the MMO is satisfied that the saltmarsh is recovering and that no further monitoring under condition 5.2.22 is required.

If you require any further information please contact me using the details provided below.

Yours Sincerely,



Marine Licensing Technical Manager


Email: marine.consents@marinemanagement.org.uk



CC'd

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