

Hi Rebecca,

Following on from Karen's email below, we have also noted some additional points in the update to the Neart na Gaoithe PEMP (NNG-NNG-ECF-PLN-0013 Revision 5.0), in relation to marine mammals in particular. We note that in paragraph 130 of the PDF, the last sentence states '*...focusing on harbour seals and dolphins*' – this should be *harbour porpoise* and dolphins instead. We also note omissions relating to post-construction monitoring (paragraph 130 and title 5.4.1 of the PDF). We seek clarification on the duration of marine mammal monitoring following construction completion and also the duration of planned contributions to the various bottlenose dolphin programmes. We are happy to discuss these points further at the next FTRAG-MM meeting in November.

I hope this advice is of assistance and I apologise for the additional response.

Best Wishes,

Caitlin

Caitlin Cunningham (she/her) | Marine Sustainability Adviser

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Hi Rebecca,

Thank you for seeking our advice on the update to the Neart na Gaoithe PEMP (document reference: NNG-NNG-ECF-PLN-0013 Revision 5.0).

We note that Covid-19 restrictions as well as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) have resulted in some disruption to monitoring plans. This could not be avoided and we are content that revised plans will be presented. With respect to the gannet colour ringing study on the Bass Rock and Grassholm colonies (paragraph 45), it may be helpful to boost the sample size, particularly if a lot of birds have been lost to HPAI – we are happy to discuss this further and note the next FTRAG meeting is scheduled for November.

Lastly, it's not clear from Table 4-4 or the accompanying text why the number of trip is not available for the 2020 season?

I trust this is of assistance,

Best wishes,

Karen

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