

## **FS007141 Consolidated Prescribed Bodies Observations**

### **Marine Survey Office (MSO)**

#### **Observation 1 (MSO)**

**Sent:** Friday 17 July 2020 14:58

**Subject:** RE: FS007141 Foreshore Application on behalf of ESB for Ecological Survey Ballymacrinan Bay County Clare

I refer to the above and note the absence of Part 6 (Navigational Safety Considerations) from the application.

The information provided in the application refers to Day Grab sampling but does not state how this will be carried out.

It should be noted that this office considers foreshore applications from a navigational safety perspective only and requires appropriate information in this regard in order to conduct a full assessment on the impact if any of a development or activity on navigational safety.

*Marine Survey Office*

---

**An Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt**  
*Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport*

**An Tsráid Mhór Uachtarach, Béal Átha Seanaidh, Co. Dhún Na Ngall, F94 C44W**  
Upper Main Street, Ballyshannon, Co Donegal, F94 C44W

#### **Observations 2 (MSO)**

Fri 17/07/2020 17:41

RE: FS007141 Foreshore Application on behalf of ESB for Ecological Survey Ballymacrinan Bay County Clare

In view of above and in the absence of an adverse impact on the safety of navigation this office raises no objections.

The applicant is required to notify Shannon Foynes harbour authority in advance of any works.

## **Marine Institute (MI)**

Marine Institute Comments on Foreshore Licence Application by ESB – Collection of 9 subtidal sediment samples for infauna and granulometric analysis in Ballymacrinan Bay in the Shannon Estuary (FS007141)

The ESB has submitted an application for a Foreshore Licence for the collection of 9 (nine) subtidal sediment samples, for infauna and granulometric analysis, in Ballymacrinan Bay in the Shannon Estuary.

The location of the proposed sampling sites is shown in the following drawings submitted by the applicant:

- Drawing No 1072020.1, “Site Location Map”, dated 5/07/20
- Drawing No 1072020.2, “Foreshore Licence Map 1”, dated 5/07/20

The sampling is required solely for compliance with an EPA IED licence. The licence requires that *“The licensee shall carry out an ecological survey once every two years of the Ballymacrinan Bay habitats and communities and assess whether the conservation objective for the habitats therein are being met. A report on the survey shall be submitted to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, and as part of the AER”*

It is proposed that a maximum of 9 (nine) subtidal stations will be sampled from a vessel using a Day grab and it is anticipated that the sampling will be carried out over a maximum of 2 days during daylight hours.

The total area of foreshore within which the samples would be collected is 155Ha. It is important to note, however, that it is proposed that a maximum of nine (9) subtidal grab samples are collected using a Day Grab which has with a sampling area of 0.01 m<sup>2</sup> and therefore the total area of foreshore impacted would be <0.10m<sup>2</sup>.

Considering the nature, scale and purpose of the proposed sample collection the Marine Institute is of the view that there will be no significant impact on the marine environment, aquaculture or other legitimate uses / users in the area and has no objections to a licence being granted.

Considering the trivial nature of the proposed activity and the requirement to carry out the sample collection activity every 2 years in order to comply with the IED Licence issued by the EPA, the Marine Institute is of the view that strong consideration should be given to the granting of a multi-annual licence for a minimum period of 10 years.

20 July 2020

## **Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)**

**RE: FS007141 Foreshore Application on behalf of ESB for Ecological Survey  
Ballymacrinan Bay County Clare**

**Request for observations from**

**(DECLG) dated 17.07.2020**

### **Overview**

ESB and Merc Consultants are requesting a foreshore licence to collect sediment samples using a benthic grab as required for compliance with an EPA IED licence.

Under this licence ESB are required to carry out ecological surveys every 2 years.

This licence is for 9 stations and will be carried out over 2 days between 1<sup>st</sup> July and 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020 (see Figure 1).



Figure 1. Overview of proposed sampling location.

### **IFI Comments**

The AA screening document that accompanies this application has outlined the risks for various species and for the SAC's in the area. The application also highlights the risk of species introductions and outlines how biosecurity protocols will be carried out. IFI would agree that the impact of 9 grabs is minimal and as it is a requirement for an EPA licence should be given the go ahead. We would request that the local environmental officer

is informed of the dates for the survey to inform local protection staff of work taking place in the vicinity.

[@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:@fisheriesireland.ie)

06/08/2020

**Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)**

Fri 21/08/2020 15:55

**Our Ref: An application by the ESB for an ecological survey at Ballymacrinan Bay,  
County Clare  
DHLPG Ref: FS007141**

I refer to your request for observations from the Department of Agriculture Food and Marine in relation to an ecological survey at Ballymacrinan Bay, County Clare.

Following consultation with our technical advisors, please see below.

1. There are no impacts on fisheries harbours due to this application.
2. Taking into consideration the nature and scale of the proposed sampling, there should be no significant impact on aquaculture and sea fisheries in the area.

Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division  
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine  
National Seafood Centre, Clogheen, Clonakilty, Co. Cork, P85 TX47

**Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht (CHG)**

Mon 31/08/2020 11:18

Fem Dau [Fem.Dau@chg.gov.ie](mailto:Fem.Dau@chg.gov.ie)

RE: FS007141 Foreshore Application on behalf of ESB for Ecological Survey Ballymacrinan Bay County Clare

The Department has nothing further to add to this case. Please note that the Department does not issue No Comment responses on any case.

**Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA)**

Fri 04/09/2020 14:18

Re: FS007141 Foreshore Application on behalf of ESB for Ecological Survey Ballymacrinan Bay County Clare

I have gone through the application for an ecological survey in County Clare and following the report from the local SFPA office there is no issue with the application proceeding.

## **Department Housing Planning and Local Government (DHPLG)**

24/08/2020

FS007141

<b>Report: Foreshore Licence Application on behalf of ESB for Ecological Survey Ballymacrinan Bay, Co. Clare.</b>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

### **Project Description**

This application by MERC Consultants Ltd. on behalf of ESB is for an Ecological Survey Ballymacrinan Bay, Co. Clare. The survey will consist of a maximum of 9 (nine) grab samples taken from a vessel using a day grab. A day grab takes a sample of the sea bed surface sediments. The sampling is required solely for compliance with an EPA IED licence. Sampling will be carried out over a maximum of 2 days during daylight hours.

### **Assessment**

An AA Screening document was submitted by the applicant. If the works are conducted in accordance with the application documents submitted the works as proposed can have no significant effect on the environment, navigation, fishing or the public use of the foreshore. (Subject to confirmation by the MLVC). It is my opinion that these works are trivial in nature, extent and duration.

The works proposed are required to comply with an EPA IED licence and so the works are in the public interest.

### **Recommendation**

I recommend approval of this application for a foreshore licence under section 3.3 of the Foreshore Act(s) subject to the following;

- The Drawing Titled Foreshore Licence Map 1, Drawing No: 1072020.2 Date: 05/07/2020 shall be attached to and referenced in the licence document,
- The works shall be conducted in accordance with the documents submitted by the applicant.
- The Department shall be notified 2 weeks prior to any works proceeding.