

REPORT OF THE MARINE LICENCE VETTING COMMITTEE (MLVC)
on
FORESHORE LICENCE APPLICATION FOR MAINTENANCE DREDGING
AND BEACH NOURISHMENT AT ROSSLARE
BY
IARNROD EIREANN

Dr. Terry McMahon
Chair, Marine Licence Vetting Committee
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Iarnrod Éireann – Foreshore Licence Application for maintenance dredging and beach nourishment at Rosslare (FS006407)

Background

In July 2014 Iarnrod Éireann made an application for a foreshore license to facilitate the maintenance dredging of the Approach Channel and Inner Harbour at Rosslare Europort to remove accreted sediment and restore the charted depth of -7.2m CD.

It is intended to dredge circa 100,000m³ of material and to use the dredged material as beach nourishment at Rosslare Strand. The area to be dredged and the proposed area where the dredged material would be placed for beach nourishment are shown on Drawing No 14/4.1 R09/20 “Site Location Map” dated 9/07/2014 submitted by the applicant.

The area to be dredged is circa 4.57Ha and the area of the site where the dredged material would be placed for beach nourishment is circa 19.55Ha.

It is anticipated that the works would be completed within a 15 -20 day period.

The dredging is required in order to ensure safe navigational depths within the Rosslare Europort area.

A Foreshore Licence for similar dredging and beach nourishment was previously granted in November 2010 (MS51/6/318)

The proposed works are not of a class that would require the submission of an Environmental Impact Statement.

The area to be dredged at Rosslare Europort and the area in which the dredged material would be placed for beach nourishment are not located within a designated Natura 2000 site.

Public Consultation

A public notice concerning this application was advertised in the “Irish Examiner” and the “Wexford People” on 29th July 2014 and the public display documents made available for inspection at Wexford Garda Stations for the required period of 21 days. The application documents were also available on the Department’s web site.

No submissions were received during the public consultation phase

Prescribed Bodies Consultation

Written submissions on the proposed development were received from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (Engineering), Sea Fisheries Protection

Authority, Marine Institute, Marine Survey Office, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, (Underwater Archaeology and Nature Conservation).

There were no objections in principle to the proposed activity

MLVC Consideration

The following documents were considered:

- Completed Foreshore Licence Application Form and supporting documentation which included:
 - Appendix A – Licences and Permits
 - Appendix B – Dredge Material Characterisation
 - Appendix C – Sediment Transport Modelling
 - Appendix D – Drawings
 - Appendix E – Appropriate Assessment Report
 - Appendix F – Underwater Archaeological Report
 - Appendix G – Fishing Activities at Rosslare Europort

MLVC Conclusions

The material to be dredged is composed mainly of medium to fine sand and the results of chemical analysis of samples taken from the proposed dredge area show that the material can be considered to be clean.

The results of sediment transport modelling submitted by the applicant show that material would be transported towards the shoreline and thus provide the required beach nourishment. The beneficial use of dredged material as proposed in this case is in line with best environmental practice aimed at minimising the disposal of dredge spoil at sea. The evaluation of re-use options is one of the key steps set out in the OSPAR Guidelines for the Management of Dredged Material (Agreement 2009-04).

It is concluded that, subject to compliance with the specific conditions set out below, the proposed works would not have a significant negative impact on the marine environment, would not adversely impact on a designated Natura 2000 site SAC and would not have a significant impact on other legitimate uses / users of the area.

On the basis of the above it is recommended that, subject to specific conditions listed below, a foreshore licence is issued to allow:

- The dredging of up to 100,000m³ of material from the Approach Channel and Inner Harbour at Rosslare Europort
- The use of the dredged material for beach nourishment at Rosslare Strand

Proposed Conditions

1. The Licensee shall use that part of the Foreshore the subject matter of this licence for the purposes as outlined in the application and for no other purposes whatsoever.
2. The Lessee shall notify the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government at least 14 days in advance of the commencement of the works on the foreshore.
3. Dredging shall take place within the area of foreshore bounded by the following co-ordinates
 - i. Latitude 52.25846° N Longitude 6.33451° W
 - ii. Latitude 52.25841° N Longitude 6.33464° W
 - iii. Latitude 52.25763° N Longitude 6.33692° W
 - iv. Latitude 52.25763° N Longitude 6.33750° W
 - v. Latitude 52.25724° N Longitude 6.33793° W
 - vi. Latitude 52.25697° N Longitude 6.33824° W
 - vii. Latitude 52.25627° N Longitude 6.33644° W
 - viii. Latitude 52.25612° N Longitude 6.33658° W
 - ix. Latitude 52.25590° N Longitude 6.33680° W
 - x. Latitude 52.25589° N Longitude 6.33734° W
 - xi. Latitude 52.25659° N Longitude 6.33912° W
4. The placement of the material dredged from the area specified at (3) above shall take place within the area of foreshore bounded by the following co-ordinates
 - i. Latitude 52.269830° N Longitude 6.374670° W
 - ii. Latitude 52.271170° N Longitude 6.367340° W
 - iii. Latitude 52.268160° N Longitude 6.365340° W
 - iv. Latitude 52.266660° N Longitude 6.373000° W
5. The Licensee shall arrange the publication of a local marine notice giving a general description of operations and approximate dates of commencement and completion. An advertisement in a locally read newspaper will suffice.
6. The Licensee shall ensure that all vessels engaged in the works comply with all certification requirements and an Irish Load line shall be required for any vessel operating outside Harbour limits.
7. The Licensee shall ensure that all works are completed in accordance with the drawings and documents submitted in support of the licence application.