

December, 2003

Capt. Martin Donnelly
Drogheda Port Company
Maritime House
The Mall
Drogheda
Co. Louth

AN ROINN COMHSHAOIL

DIDHREACHTA AGUS

RIALTAIS AITIÚIL

DEPARTMENT OF THE

ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE

AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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Maintenance Dredging – Maritime Archaeology

Dear Captain Donnelly,

I wish to refer to previous correspondence and our meeting on 3 December, 2003 regarding maintenance dredging at Drogheda Port and at Irish Ports generally.

After a review of the situation, it has been decided that there will not be a requirement for archaeological monitoring for future maintenance dredging at Irish ports. This position will be reflected in the code of practice to be agreed. We hope to be in a position to progress the code of practice bilaterally with the Irish Ports Authority as soon as there is clarification of roles within the State sector in relation to archaeology.

In relation to Drogheda, diver truthing may be required to be undertaken to give provenance to timbers pinpointing potential wreck sites should future works to widen or deepen the channel be undertaken. It was also agreed that the "Boyne Boat" should be avoided in future dredging operations unless mitigation is first agreed with the Department.

We also discussed other potential areas of co-operation in relation to the publication of the results of the archaeological mitigation at Drogheda and the licensing of UK underwater archaeologists which we will explore with you again.

I look forward to addressing the next meeting of Harbour Masters in the New Year.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely



Dave Fadden
Principal officer

