Comments on observations to the foreshore application for a cable route survey and site investigations (ref: FS007016), Ballyloughane Strand, Renmore, Co Galway

DSFN notes the public submissions received in relation to the granting of consent for the application.

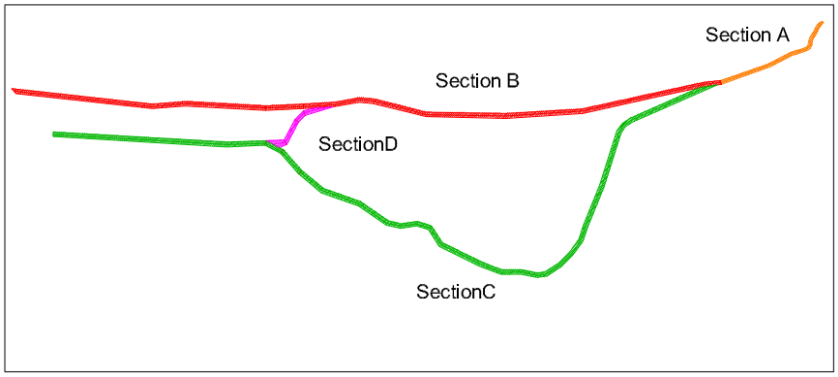
This application under consideration is for proposed survey and site investigations only. DSFN contends that the documents comprising the application for the Foreshore Licence are in compliance with Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 and the European Communities Regulations 2011. The documents comprising the application for the Foreshore Licence included;

- AA Screening / Nature Impact Statement. The AA Screening identifies potential impacts on features of interest of Natura 2000 sites. The Natura Impact Statement considers the potential impacts and incorporated appropriate mitigation measures in accordance with "*Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC".*

It is believed that the documents comprising the application for the Foreshore Licence contain sufficient scientific objective information together with mitigation measures (in the NIS) to enable the competent authority to undertake their appropriate assessment and reach a determination.

The Marine Planning, Policy and Development Section of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government are the competent authority under the Foreshore Act 1933, as amended, and determine compliance with the Act.

DSFN notes the comments regarding inshore fisheries taking place in the area and acknowledges the concerns expressed by the local fishing industry representatives from NIFO and NIFA and by local fishing families in relation to the proposed survey and site investigations.

The proposed works to be undertaken will be of short duration and are of low / minimal impact in term of disturbing the seabed and DSFN will be appointing an FLO to consult and co-ordinate with local fishermen and foreshore users in the area in advance of and during survey works.

Upon consideration of the submissions received from the local fishermen, it is the intention of DSFN to reduce the original survey extents and to proceed with the survey of section A and C only. (as shown on the extract from Foreshore Licence Map 2 REF: 1334-A-102).