REPORT OF THE MARINE LICENCE VETTING COMMITTEE (MLVC)

ON

APPLICATION FOR FORESHORE LICENCE FOR HAND HARVESTING OF SEAWEED ON THE FORESHORE AT BALLYHEIGUE BAY, CO. KERRY

Dr. Terry McMahon
Chair, Marine Licence Vetting Committee
23 March 2012

Mr. James Lynch, "Sammy's Rock", Fenit, Co. Kerry – Application for a Foreshore Licence for hand harvesting of seaweed at Ballyheigue Bay, Co. Kerry (MS51/9/617)

Background

In May 2011 Mr. James Lynch, "Sammy's Rock", Fenit, Co. Kerry made an application for a foreshore licence to facilitate the hand harvesting of seaweeds on the foreshore at Ballyheigue Bay, Co. Kerry. The quantities and species to be harvested include 10 tonnes of Kelp (*Laminaria digitata*), 2.5 tonnes of wrack (*Fucus serratus*), 2 tonnes of Carrageen (*Chondrus crispus*) and 2 tonnes of Dillisk *(Palmaria palmata*). It is intended to use the material for the production and sale of a dried seaweed product.

Natura 2000 designation

The location of the proposed works lies within the Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SAC (Site Code 000332).

A site synopsis and Conservation Objectives for the site were sourced from the NPWS of DAHG

MLVC Considerations

The following documents were considered:

- Foreshore Application
- Written submissions from DECLG (Water Inspectorate), Sea Fisheries Protection Authority, Marine Institute, Inland Fisheries Ireland, , DAFM (Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division), Marine Survey Office, DAHG (Development Applications Unit – Underwater Archaeology Unit & NPWS)
- A Site Synopsis and Conservation Objectives for the Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SAC (sourced from the NPWS)
- Appropriate Assessment Report

No objections to a permit being issued were raised

Conclusions and Recommendations

Given the nature and scale of the proposed works the MLVC considers that, subject to compliance with the specific conditions set out below, they would not have a significant negative impact on the marine environment, will not interfere with other legitimate users of the area in question and will not have a significant impact on the Conservation

Objectives of the Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SAC and it is recommended that a permit be issued. In view of the recurring nature of the activity the MLVC is of the view that it is appropriate to issue a multi- annual permit for a period not exceeding 5-years.

Proposed Specific Conditions

1. The Licensee shall use that part of the foreshore, the subject matter of this Licence, for the purpose of undertaking hand-harvesting of seaweed on the foreshore in Ballyheigue Bay and for no other purpose whatsoever.

2. Seaweed shall only be harvested from within the area outlined in red on the attached map entitled Foreshore Licence Map and Drawing. No.: JL –SW- OO2 Rev.: C.

3. The Licensee shall only harvest the following species and quantities of seaweed annually:

Species	Quantity (Kg)
Kelp (*Laminaria digitata*)	10,000
Wrack (*Fucus serratus*),	2,500
Carrageen (*Chondrus crispus*)	2,000
Dillisk *(Palmaria palmata*).	2,000

4. Access and egress to and from the site shall be solely from points marked in blue on attached map Foreshore Licence Map and Drawing. No.: JL –SW- OO2 Rev.: C.

5. Access to the foreshore across private lands shall be in accordance with a public right of way or with the land owners consent.

6. Public access to the designated licenced area shall not be restricted.

7. No machinery or equipment shall be left unattended on the foreshore.

8. The use of mechanical methods of harvesting is prohibited.

9. No structures shall be placed on the foreshore. No materials or harvested seaweed shall be stored on the foreshore, nor shall the foreshore or any beach material be interfered with in anyway.

10. No sorting of seaweed shall take place on the shore.

11. No material shall be disposed of back into the marine/foreshore