REPORT OF THE MARINE LICENCE VETTING COMMITTEE (MLVC)

on

FORESHORE LEASE APPLICATION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF FLOATING PONTOONS AND REPAIR WORKS TO EXISTING PIER AT ROSMONEY, CO. MAYO

BY

MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL

Dr. Terry McMahon
Chair, Marine Licence Vetting Committee
15 August 2012

Mayo County Council – Foreshore Lease Application for the installation of 2 No. floating pontoons and repairs to existing pier at Rosmoney, Co. Mayo (MS51/13/417)

Background

In December 2009 Mayo County Council submitted a Foreshore Lease application for the installation of 2 No floating pontoons and the carrying out of minor repair works to the existing pier, at Rosmoney, Co. Mayo.

The reason for the proposed works is to improve safety of access to the water in Clew Bay. The primary use of the pontoon and pier would be for leisure and access and it would also be used by local fishermen.

The works will necessitate the driving of 3 No. 500 mm diameter steel piles for the purpose of retaining the 2 no. floating pontoons, of size 20m X 5m and 10m X 5m, which will be linked to the exiting pier by a 25m X 1.5m pedestrian access ramp. Prior to the installation of the piles it is proposed to carry out bed levelling in area around the foot print of the pontoons to ensure that the pontoon can safely lie on the seabed at low water. The repair works relate to areas of potential undermining to the base of the pier and the replacement of an existing damaged ladder.

Following requests to Malachy Walsh & Partners, Consultants acting on behalf of Mayo County Council, a Screening for Appropriate Assessment report (dated September 2011) and a Marine Ecological Survey report (dated May 2010), both prepared by AquaFact International Services Ltd, were submitted in support of the application in September 2011.

The location and details of the proposed works are shown on;

- Drawing No 11169-5001 Rev D (Site Location Plan dated 20/02/2012)
- Drawing No 1169-5002 Rev E (Site Plan and Elevation dated 20/02/2012) and
- Drawing No 1169-5005 Rev C (Foreshore Lease Map dated 20/02/2012)

The total area of foreshore involved is 0.0256 hectares.

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

Natura 2000 sites description

The location of the proposed works lies within the Clew Bay Complex SAC (site Code 001482). A site synopsis and Conservation Objectives were sourced from the NPWS of DAHG.

Public Consultation

The application was advertised in the "Mayo News" on May 15th 2012 and the public display documents were made available at Westport Garda Station from 14th May 2012 to 19th June 2012. No objections were received from members of the public.

No submissions were received.

State Bodies Consultation

Written submissions were received from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (Engineering Division) Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht (underwater archaeology and nature conservation), Sea Fisheries Protection Authority, Marine Institute, Marine Survey Office, Inland Fisheries Ireland and the North Western Regional Fisheries Board. There were no objections.

MLVC Assessment

The following documents were considered and assessed

- Foreshore Application and accompanying Screening for Appropriate Assessment report (dated September 2011) and a Marine Ecological Survey report (dated May 2010), prepared by AquaFact International Services Ltd, submitted by the applicant.
- Written submissions were from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (Engineering Division) Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht (underwater archaeology and nature conservation), Sea Fisheries Protection Authority, Marine Institute, Marine Survey Office, Inland Fisheries Ireland the North Western Regional Fisheries Board
- Responses by Malachy Walsh & Partners to observations from the North Western Regional Fisheries Board
- Site synopsis and Conservation Objectives for the Clew Bay Complex SAC. (available at http://www.npws.ie/protectedsites/specialareasofconservationsac/clewbaycomplexsac/

No objections to the proposal were raised.

MLVC Conclusions

Considering the nature, scale, and location of the proposed works the MLVC concludes 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 have

a significant impact on the Conservation Objective of the Clew Bay Complex SAC and therefore recommends that a lease be issued.

Proposed Conditions

1. The Lessee 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 prior to the commencement of the works.

3. Prior to the commencement of the works the Lessee shall liaise with the Western River Basin Director, Inland Fisheries Ireland, and agree the methodology and timing of the works.

4. Within 2 months of completion of the works the Lessee shall provide, to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, a statement by a Chartered Engineer certifying that the works have been completed in accordance with the details approved by the Minister

5. The Lessee shall adopt appropriate methods of operation in order to ensure that no spillages of hydrocarbons, cement or other hazardous substance occur to the Foreshore during the course of the works.

6. The Lessee shall ensure that during the course of the works the site is secured from unauthorised public access or encroachment by means of suitable barriers and signage.

7. All works shall be carried out in accordance with relevant Health and Safety legislation.

8. All vessels and floating plant to be used in the works shall have appropriate certification from the Marine Survey Office.

9. On completion of the works all temporary plant and floating plant shall be removed from the foreshore and the foreshore reinstated to its original condition to the satisfaction of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

10. During the course of the works the Lessee shall implement in full all the mitigation measures as set out in Section 4 of the Appropriate Assessment Screening document dated September 2011.

11. The Lessee shall arrange for the publication of a local marine notice. This local marine notice shall give a general description of operations and approximate dates of commencement and completion. An advertisement in a locally read newspaper shall suffice.

12. In order for charts and nautical publications to the updated the Lessee shall inform the British Admiralty Hydrographic Office at Taunton, UK of the location and nature of the works.

13. The pontoon shall be suitably illuminated at all times.

14. The Lessee shall apply to the Commissioners of Irish Lights for sanction of new aids to navigation and / or alteration to existing aids to navigation.