
AN RANNÓG TIMPEALLACHTA

To: Valerie Loughnane, S Exec Planner

From: Máire Ní Chionna, Senior Engineer

Date: 01 April 2016

Re: Foreshore application FS 006566
Marine Institute ocean energy test site, offshore from An Coilleach townland

I refer to an application for a foreshore licence submitted to DECLG by the Marine Institute concerning a site in coastal waters near An Spidéal. The Department has requested observations from Galway County Council.

The project proposes to upgrade the wave energy test site currently operating at this location. The nearest point on shore is at a distance 1.27km.

The proposal is to improve the test site marine infrastructure and provides for range of ocean energy prototypes to be tested. Ocean energy represents a significant resource for County Galway and it is expected that ocean energy devices will be deployed offshore in the transition to renewable energy sources nationally.

The prototypes will not be left there permanently. The most significant visually would be a floating wind turbine of maximum height 25m – this is small compared to the structures currently being erected in the Galway Wind Park. For comparison, an onshore 20m wind turbine is located at Baile an tSléibhe near Ros a' Mhíl (pl ref 11146).

Potential Impact on the Environment

I have reviewed the Environmental Report and associated maps and documentation. The coastal water body was assigned Good water status by the EPA in the Western River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 and I consider that the proposed upgrade and installation of temporary prototypes will not give rise to any significant risks to the waterbody status.