REPORT OF THE MARINE LICENCE VETTING COMMITTEE (MLVC)

on

FORESHORE LICENCE APPLICATION FOR MAINTENANCE DREDGING AT
HAULBOWLINE NAVAL BASE, CO. COK

by

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

Dr. Terry McMahon
Chair, Marine Licence Vetting Committee
28 February 2017
Department of Defence – Foreshore Licence Application for maintenance dredging at Haulbowline Naval Base, Co. Cork (FS006564)

Background

In November 2015 the Department of Defence submitted an application for a foreshore licence to facilitate the maintenance dredging works at the Haulbowline Naval Base, Cork Harbour.

The location of the proposed dredging works on the foreshore is shown in the following Drawings submitted by the applicant:
- Drawing No. 01, “Foreshore Approval Map 1”, Rev D02 dated 12/09/2016

It is intended that 14,000m$^3$ of material will be dredged in the Inner Harbour area (Area A) and 3,000m$^3$ of material will be dredged from the approach channel to the harbour (Area B).

It is intended that the dredging will be carried out using a trailer suction hopper dredger and that the dredged material will be disposed of at the existing licenced dump site located south of Roche’s Point as shown on Drawing No. 03, “Foreshore Licence Map 22”, Rev D02 dated 12/09/2016. It is noted that the area was previously dredged in February 2011 and the material disposed of at the same dump site as is intended for use on this occasion.

In January 2017 the EPA granted a Dumping at Sea Permit to the Department of Defence (EPA Permit Register No S0005-02) in which they specified 2 exclusion zones (see Schedule A of the Permit) at which the loading and dumping of material was prohibited due to elevated concentrations of heavy metals at those locations. The applicant has confirmed that no dredging will take place within these exclusion zones.

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

Natura 2000 designation

The proposed dredging and disposal of spoil at sea will not take place within the a designated Natura 2000 site. The area to be dredged is circa 2.5km from the nearest boundary of the Cork Harbour SPA (Site Code 004030, 004149) while the location of the propose disposal site is circa 10km from the nearest boundary of the Cork Harbour SPA (Site Code 004030). A separate Appropriate Assessment Screening has been conducted which concluded that the proposed works on the foreshore would not have a significant adverse effect on the Conservation Objectives of the Natura 2000 site.
Public Consultation

A public notice concerning this application was published in the “Irish Examiner” on 31st March, 2016 and in the “Carrigdhoun” on 2nd April, 2016. The relevant documents were on display at Anglesea Garda Station, Cork for a period of 21 working days, and also available on the Department’s website.

No submissions were received.

MLVC Assessment

The following documents were considered:

- Completed Foreshore Licence Application and associated Drawings and documents including:
  - Impact on the receiving environment, Appropriate Assessment
  - Marine Mammal Risk Report for the proposed dredging works at Haulbowline Naval Base, dated August 2015

- EPA Dumping at Sea permit - EPA Permit Register No S0005-02

- Written submissions from the Marine Institute, Department of the Housing, Planning Community and Local Government (Water Services Advisor), Inland Fisheries Ireland, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Nature Conservation, Underwater Archaeology), Marine Survey Office, Cork County Council, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority.

No objections to a permit / approval being granted were raised.

Given the nature, scale and duration of the works it is considered that they will not have a significant impact on the marine environment or on designated European Sites and it is recommended that a licence / approval be granted.

It is recommended that the following specific conditions be included in any licence / approval that may issue.
Recommended Licence Conditions

1. The Licensee 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 dredging works shall be conducted in accordance with the documents submitted with the application and as shown in Drawing No 04, "Foreshore Licence Application Scope of Works", Dated 08/10/2015.

3. No dredging shall take place within the 2 exclusion zones set out in Schedule A of the EPA Dumping at Sea Permit Register No S0005-02.

4. The Licensee shall notify the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government at least 14 days in advance of the commencement of the works on the foreshore.

5. During the course of the works public access onto and along the adjacent foreshore shall be maintained.

6. Appropriate methods of operation shall be adopted to ensure that no spillages of fuel or other leakages occur during the works.

7. The Licensee shall furnish the names/registered number of all vessels involved in the operation to the Marine Survey Office in Dublin to ensure compliance with respect to Irish Load line and other relevant vessel certification.

8. The Licensee shall arrange the publication of a Marine Notice through the Maritime Safety Directorate giving general description of operations and approximate dates of commencement and completion.

9. The Licensee shall arrange the publication of a Port Marine Notice through the Port of Cork Harbour Authority.

10. The Licensee shall be fully compliant with the requirements set out in the NPWS (2014) "Guidance to Manage the Risk to Marine Mammals from Man-made Sound sources in Irish Waters".