REPORT OF THE MARINE LICENCE VETTING COMMITTEE (MLVC)

on

FORESHORE LEASE APPLICATION FOR THE SEASONAL INSTALLATION OF A FLOATING PONTOON AND ACCESS GANGWAY AT TEELIN PIER, TEELIN BAY, CO. DONEGAL

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Chair, MLVC
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Foreshore Licence Application for the installation of a floating pontoon and gangway at Teelin Pier, Teelin Bay, Co. Donegal (FS 006434)

Background

In October 2014 Donegal Co. Co. submitted an application for a Foreshore Licence to facilitate the seasonal deployment of a pontoon and access gangway at Teelin Pier, Co. Donegal.

The proposed development involves the installation of a 15m long x 3m wide floating pontoon and a 15m long x 1.2m wide access gangway connected to the existing pier at Teelin. It is also proposed to install pontoon guiderails which would be fixed to the existing pier.

The purpose of the proposed development is to provide infrastructure to support the ongoing development of marine tourism activities in the area and to provide increased safety of access and egress for marine leisure craft using the pier.

It is intended that the pontoon and gangway would be deployed annually from 1\textsuperscript{st} May to 30\textsuperscript{th} September and thereafter removed offsite for storage during the winter. It is also intended to carry out a trial deployment for the purpose of commissioning the pontoons. After all pontoon and gangway supports have been fixed to the pier wall the pontoon will be lowered into the water and the gangway will be fixed in place only for a number of hours to confirm they are acceptable for intended use. They will then be removed from the pier and stored until they are deployed again in May 2015. The supporting steelwork will remain in place.

The location and details of the proposed works are shown in following Drawings
- “Site Location Map”, - Drawing No 201 Rev B, Dated 1\textsuperscript{st} September 2014
- “Foreshore Licence Map” - Drawing No 202 Rev C, Dated 1\textsuperscript{st} September 2014
- “General Arrangement” - Drawing No 203 Rev C Dated September 2014

The total area of foreshore involved is circa 0.0063 Hectares (63m\textsuperscript{3}).

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

Public Consultation

A public notice concerning this application was published in the “Donegal Democrat” on 16\textsuperscript{th} October 2014. The relevant documents were on display at Donegal Town Garda Station, Quay Street, Donegal, Co Donegal for the required period of 21 working days, and also available on the Department’s website. No submissions were received during the consultation period.
MLVC Considerations

The following documents were considered:

- Foreshore Licence Application
- Written submissions from the Marine Institute, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Engineering), Inland Fisheries Ireland, Marine Survey Office, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Nature Conservation, Underwater Archaeology)

No objections to a licence being issued were raised.

The proposed development is not located within a Natura 2000 site but is located immediately adjacent to the eastern boundary of both the Slieve League SAC (Site Code 000189) and the West Donegal Coast SPA (Site Code 004150). A separate Appropriate Assessment Screening has been conducted which concluded that the proposed works on the foreshore would not have a significant effect on the Conservation Objectives of the adjacent Natura 2000 sites.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Considering the nature, scale, and location of the proposed development it is concluded that, subject to compliance with the specific conditions set out below, the proposed development would not have a significant negative impact on the marine environment, would not have an adverse impact on other legitimate uses/users of the area and would not have a significant impact on the Conservation Objective any Natura 2000 site. It is recommended, therefore, that a licence be issued.

Proposed Conditions

1. The Licensee shall use that part of the Foreshore, the subject matter of this licence, for the purposes and for the duration i.e. 1st May – 31st September inclusive in each year for which the Licence remains valid, as outlined in the application and for no other purposes whatsoever.

2. A site specific Method Statement and Risk Assessment for the placement of the pontoon and gangway shall be prepared by the Licensee and submitted to Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government for approval prior to the placement of the said pontoon and access gangway.

3. The Licensee shall notify the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government at least 14 days in advance of the installation of the gangway and pontoon.
4. Safe control, berthing, navigation (access to and egress from), and management of the pontoon facility shall be the responsibility of the Licensee.

5. The Licensee shall ensure that security control measures including signage are put in place to prevent unauthorised public access/encroachment at the facility.

6. The Licensee shall ensure that adequate litter collection facilities are provided to collect all litter and disposal of all litter shall be to a licensed waste disposal site in accordance with the relevant waste disposal legislation.

7. The Licensee shall ensure that at the end of the permitted time period, as specified at Condition 1 above, the foreshore shall be returned to its original condition with the complete removal of all temporary pontoons, gangway and all associated sinker blocks/anchors/chains. Any storage or stockpiling of these structures on the foreshore post removal is strictly prohibited.

8. The Licensee shall ensure that there is no unnecessary disruption to the continued operation of on-going fisheries interests and any other legitimate uses/users of the existing facilities at Teelin Pier.

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

10. The Licensee 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.

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

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

13. 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.