

From: Stundon, Valerie [REDACTED]

Sent: 22 November 2018 09:36

To: Marine Spatial Planning <msp@housing.gov.ie>
[REDACTED]

Subject: Submission for National Marine Planning Framework - Marine Spatial Planning

Dear Sirs,

I refer to the National Marine Planning Framework Baseline Report and would be grateful if you would please include this submission from Limerick Marine Search and Rescue who are a **Community based Rescue Boat Voluntary Organisation** set up in 1986 to provide a rescue service for the people of Limerick.

We are based on the Dock Road in Limerick City close to Limerick Harbour and Docklands. We have 25 voluntary members who provide a rescue service to the people of Limerick and environs.

We are a water based search and rescue service who are available 24/7/365 days of the year to assist the Coast Guard, Gardai, Ambulance and Fire Brigade Services to locate people who have entered the water or are attempting to enter the water on the River Shannon as far Killaloe down to Foynes. We provide supervision of events on the water including regattas, swims, local Riverfest events with large crowds around the quays in Limerick and many many more events.

We are a **“declared resource”** to the Irish Coast Guard and we are called upon up to 50 times a year by the Coast Guard to emergency calls on the River Shannon.

We have our own Dive unit with 14 highly qualified divers who in the event of a drowning/submersion can enter the water and retrieve a person with 20 minutes.

We have a purpose built building on the Dock Road which houses our vehicles and some of our boats. We have a pontoon in Poor Man’s Kilkee in the middle of the city on the river and have a 7.5m Rib, a D Class lifeboat, and 1 jet ski moored there to respond to calls at any hour of the day or night. We also have another 5m rib located on a pontoon on the Abbey River which runs into the Shannon. This boat is ready to respond to an emergency in this part of the city where access from the main river Shannon cuts off access when the tide is low due to the bund wall that was erected by Limerick Main Drainage many years ago. This bund wall runs from the Curragour Boat Club across to Shannon Rowing Club. This prevents any boats from going up this part of the Abbey River when the tide is low.

Our response times vary from 2 mins to 10 mins depending on the time of the call, traffic etc.

I hope that you will include our organisation in the report.

Yours faithfully

Valerie Stundon
Secretary
Limerick Marine Search and Rescue.

(relevant section from report below where our submission should be noted.)

17.11 DTTAS through the Irish Coast Guard, which is a division of the Department, provides a maritime search and rescue service (SAR) as party to the International Maritime Organisation Search and Rescue Convention.

17.12 This service is provided through three 24/7 Rescue Co-ordination Centres and dedicated search and rescue units. The Irish Coast Guard maintains distress listening watch and maintains four Search and Rescue helicopter bases under contract. The Coast Guard maintains 44 volunteer Coast Guard units with cliff, boat and coastal search capabilities. The RNLI declares its lifeboat service to the rescue co-ordination centres as declared assets for search and rescue. The Coast Guard responds to on average 1,900 SAR incidents per year. The Coast Guard also assists the National Ambulance Service by providing Helicopter Emergency Medical Services.

VALERIE STUNDON

Assistant Staff Officer Fire Service/

Water Safety Development Officer

Limerick City & County Fire & Emergency Services

Lissanalta House Dooradoyle Limerick

 / Email wido@limerick.ie

