



Department of
**Agriculture,
Food and the Marine**
An Roinn
**Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**

Ms. Eve O'Sullivan,
Programme Officer,
Environmental Licensing Programme,
Environmental Protection Agency,
PO Box 3000,
Johnstown Castle Estate,
Co. Wexford.

**Environmental Protection
Agency**

14 JUL 2014

Your Ref: Reg. No. S0011-02.

Our Ref: FW/15/5.

**Re: Dumping at Sea Permit application from Donegal County Council in relation to
Buncrana Harbour, Co. Donegal.**

Dear Eve,

Donegal County Council has made an application to the EPA for a 3 year Dumping at Sea Permit to facilitate the dredging of 15,000 to 20,000 tonnes annually of sediments (mainly sand) at Buncrana Harbour in Co. Donegal. It is intended that Plough Dredging will be used. The area to be dredged is shown in Map 1, dated March 2014, in Appendix D.2 (ii) of the application documents.

Under the Dumping at Sea Act 1996 to 2009 "dumping" means:

Any deliberate disposal in the maritime area (including side-cast dredging, plough dredging, water injection dredging and other such dredging techniques) of a substance or material from or in conjunction with a vessel or aircraft or offshore installation.

The use of Plough Dredging, therefore, requires a Dumping at Sea Permit from the EPA.

Dredging of similar amount of material has been carried out, under Permit, on an annual basis in this area since 1999 with most recent dredging being carried out in July 2013.

Sediment Chemistry:

The material to be dredged is mainly sand. Chemical analysis of the samples of the material shows that the levels of contaminants are low and the material can be considered as being clean and suitable for unconfined disposal at sea.

Fisheries and Aquaculture:

The nearest licenced aquaculture site is a suspended mussel culture located circa 2.4 Km to the west of the area to be dredged. There is an application for a bottom mussel culture site (site 325 by Danny Bradley) about 400 M to the north of the proposed dump site but this is a proposed operation and a licensing decision is some time away.

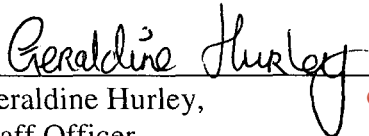
No impact is anticipated on fishing harbours in the area of Lough Swilly as a result of the proposed operation.

It is suggested that the opinion of the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority should be sought on sea fisheries resources in the area.

Conclusion:

Given the physical and chemical characteristics of the material to be dredged, the location of the dredging area and the relatively small volumes of material involved, the Department is of the view that the activity will not have a significant adverse impact on aquaculture or sea fisheries in the area and has no objections to a Permit being issued.

Yours sincerely,



Geraldine Hurley,
Staff Officer,
Foreshore Management Division.

10th July 2014.

For inspection purposes only
Consent of copyright owner required for any other use