

Noeleen Roche

From: Daryl Ewing [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 April 2017 22:06
To: Licensing Staff
Subject: Submission for S0023-01 by Sligo County Council

I Daryl Ewing, on behalf of several charter boat skippers operating from the pier in Rosses Point and along the proposed dredging route wish to make an observation on proposed dredging works reg no S0023-01 in the shipping channel proposed by Sligo County Council.

I operate a tourism related angling business and personally take out approximately 4000 people per annum to enjoy Sligo's fine fishing. Between myself and another charter skipper based in Rosses Point we would take out approximately 7000 angling tourists per annum. This figure does not include other skippers in the inner bay area departing from the ports of Portavad, Raughley, Aughris, Pollinadiva, Pollaheaney, Enniscrone, Moneygold and Mullaghmore, or others who come from further afield to collect and drop off anglers here, so total numbers using these services are much more.

Although I agree with the need for dredging of this channel the basis for my submission is my fear that the water injection method of dredging outlined will cause a lot of pollution and debris to flow downstream with the ebbing tide into the natural ecosystems and habitats present on my angling grounds thereby destroying my, and my fellow skippers livelihoods and angling businesses. These angling grounds run close to the proposed works and immediate ones affected include, but are not limited to from the channel at Rosses Point, between Coney and Oyster Island, The Yellow Banks behind Oyster Island, North of Katies Strand on Coney Island, West of the Bell Buoy and South of Raughley Pier. There are also a lot of sea trout anglers who fish for this rare and valuable species just down river and in the shipping channel who could have their fishery ruined if this habitat is destroyed by this method. Part of my business is acting as gillie for tourists wishing to catch trout in this area. Ruining these areas with the pollution running downstream from Sligo channel would not only leave me without a business but would lose the ancillary income generated by these 7000 tourists to the local economy and have a terrible knock on effect for other local businesses such as the hotel and restaurants locally.

I also fear that unless the removal of the dredge material is monitored independently it will be dumped a lot closer to land than the proposed site. This has already occurred a number of years ago during last dredging when contractors dumped the channel dredge material on a local fishing mark (the north ledge), which, in turn, destroyed the angling and commercial fishing there. Therefore I request an independent observer be placed on board during dumping operations to ensure only the correct spot is used and no shortcuts are taken.

For these reasons, I wish to add mine, and 7000 customers voices to the concerns on this application.

Thank you,
Daryl Ewing
Sligo boat charters
And on behalf of charter skippers operating from Rosses Point and inner Sligo Bay.

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