

Lough Swilly RNLi  
Lifeboat Operations Manager  
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28<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Environmental Licensing Programme  
Office of Climate Change Licensing & Resource Use  
Environmental Protection Agency  
PO Box 3000  
Johnstown Castle Estate  
Co. Wexford

**Donegal County Council, Application for Dumping at Sea Permit**

Dear Sirs,

I write in regard to the above application. Lough Swilly RNLi fully endorses and supports this application and would be very satisfied with a positive response on behalf of the EPA.

Lough Swilly RNLi has operated an All Weather Lifeboat (ALB) from a berth at Buncrana pier and harbour since the year 2000. Buncrana pier/harbour affords good shelter and berthing for our ALB and is convenient to the nucleus of population from which we draw our volunteer crew.

The location is convenient on Lough Swilly for providing our search and rescue service both to Lough Swilly and out to sea in the North Atlantic.

Our operational area stretches west out of Lough Swilly to Tory Island and east to the mouth of the river Foyle and a distance outwards of 100 nautical miles. Furthermore we include all the inlets and bays along the stretch of coastline from Sheephaven bay to Lough Foyle.

This very large 'patch' is serviced by Lough Swilly RNLi on a 24/7, 365 days per year basis, coordinated by the MRSC at Malin Head in conjunction with the Coast Guard air craft and boats as well.

Consequently it is essential that our ALB has continuous access to sea from its berth at the harbour. Buncrana harbour is prone to silting and DCC has continuously maintained our 'seaway' from berth to sea along the pier by means of regular dredging over the years. This has been very successful in enabling our RNLi service to continuously operate on a 24/7 365 days per year basis.

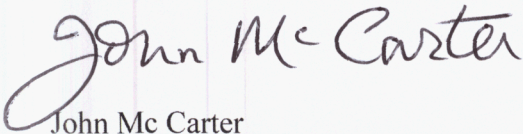
In the past the licensing of the operation has been very adequate but sometimes short in duration. Inevitably the renewal process is time consuming and detailed as is necessary. However the present application being for 8 years duration makes great sense to us for our purpose and would augur well for efficient planning and timetabling of the ongoing necessary dredging.

We would ask the EPA to look favourably and generously on the application and enable DCC and Lough Swilly RNLI to continue the crucial work of Saving Lives at Sea.

Lough Swilly RNLI has a very substantial record of Saving Lives at Sea since its inception 30 years ago.

We have            Launched 786 times,  
                         Rescued 692 people  
                         Saved 55 lives.

Yours Sincerely,



John Mc Carter  
Lifeboat Operations Manager  
Lough Swilly RNLI

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**DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**APPLICATION FOR DUMPING AT SEA PERMIT**

Notice is hereby given that Donegal County Council has submitted an application to the Environmental Protection Agency for a permit under Section 5A of the Dumping at Sea Act 1996 - 2009. This application relates to disposal of approximately 64,000 tonnes of dredged material over an 8 year period, with a maximum of 8,000 tonnes per annum. The material will be dredged from an area adjacent to Bunrana Pier, Bunrana, County Donegal. The dredging is for the purposes of maintenance of the design and operational depths within the harbour, approach channel and manoeuvring area at the pier and slipway.

Maintenance dredging will be carried out using a plough dredger (i.e. there will be no loading of dredged material). Dredging will take place a number of times a year when required. In addition dredging may occur at other times during the year when the navigational areas are free of marine vessels and when the need arises. Typically dredging events can take between 7 and 10 days to complete at any one time, subject to weather and tides. The maintenance dredging will commence in the summer of 2018 and will be undertaken intermittently over the next 8 years as and when required.

The Discovery series OS map below shows the location of the pier and harbour at Bunrana, Co Donegal where the dredging and dumping at sea will take place.



The documentation submitted with the application is available to view on the Environmental Protection Agency website at [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie). In addition copies of the documentation can be obtained from the offices of the agency upon request.

Any person wishing to make a submission or submit observations in respect of the granting of a permit for the proposed project should do so in writing within 1 month of the publishing of this notice. Persons making a submission, or submitting observations, in respect of this project are advised that their comments will be forwarded to the applicant for comment and will be published on the Agency's website [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie). Submissions or observations should be sent to the following address:

**Environmental Licensing Programme**  
**Office of Climate Change Licensing and Resource Use**  
**Environmental Protection Agency**  
**PO Box 3000, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co Wexford**

**Dated this 14th day of March 2018**

**Ken Fitzgerald, Malachy Walsh and Partners**  
**For and behalf of Donegal County Council**