

Eve O'Sullivan

Subject: Port of Waterford Technical Amendment

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From: **Cheekpoint Boat Owners Association** <cheekpointboa@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, 30 May 2022 at 15:46

Subject: Port of Waterford Technical Amendment

To: Cheekpoint Boat Owners Association <cheekpointboa@gmail.com>, <licencing@epa.ie>

To EPA Licencing Department

Re: Port of Waterford Technical Amendment

30th May 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

We write to you concerning the a/m application by the Port of Waterford.

The Cheekpoint Boat Owners Association (CBOA: www.CBOA.ie) is a group of like minded boat owners, predominantly local, who use Cheekpoint harbour. The association was formed in 2018 and comprises about 40 members. It is a legal entity and is formally set up with an elected committee. There are no other boat or fishermen's organisations in Cheekpoint.

The primary aim of the CBOA is to support the local community to ensure that they have safe access to the river and that their personal boats and equipment is secure.

To this end the CBOA set out in 2019 to source funding and apply for permission for a 63m pontoon, accessible from the main quay, and floating in the pool of water adjacent to the face of the quay. A full EIS was conducted as part of the planning process. Access to the harbour and quays can be problematic, particularly during very low tides for some vessels, and dredging of the access channel has been undertaken for the past 20 years by the Port of Waterford. The channel approach is important as this effectively keeps the village connected to the river.

The CBOA supports this current application by the Port to extend the dredging area and it is in our interest as a community group.

The CBOA is preparing to have the pontoon installed this 2022 season now that planning permissions and a Foreshore Lease have been secured. All the key documents pertaining to the pontoon are available on the Dept of Housing and An Bord Pleanala websites.

The pontoon location ties in with the Waterford County Plan to connect the Blueways and Greenways. We also anticipate some overnight visitors from cruising craft who opt for shelter further up river rather than pull into Dunmore East.

In summary, we support this application and see it as a proactive step to maintain a traditional estuary village in a very scenic area of Waterford harbour. The Port of Waterford have supported the community in recent years by taking regular soundings and dredging when necessary.

Yours sincerely,

John O'Shea
Secretary
CBOA