

OKeeffe, Therese

From: Dave Jackson [Dave.Jackson@Marine.ie]
Sent: 16 March 2017 13:57
To: OKeeffe, Therese
Attachments: Wallace Quay - Galway CoCo assessment repot & Photos.pdf

Dear Therese,

Further to our discussions on the 8th of March last and meetings with MED can I make the following clarifications as requested:

The main base for shore operations will be the Marine Institute research facility in Newport Co. Mayo, which is a licensed aquaculture facility. This is the location where feedstuff, scientific equipment etc. will be stored. The Marine Institute facilities in Newport and Rinnville, Oranmore, County Galway will both be utilised to provide the logistical support base for the research operations at the sea site in Beirtreach Buí.

Day to day access to the site will be from Wallace Quay. Please see detailed descriptions and location maps in respect of the pier in the attached Galway County Council document. This pier has been in routine use as the departure point for access to this site for many years and is the pier currently utilised to service the site under its current license.

The Marine Institute may during the course of the operation of the license seek to enter into a commercial arrangement to have access to private facilities in the locality to provide logistical support for research operations at the site if required. Any such arrangements will be contingent on the private site having the necessary licenses and permissions, including planning permission, for the activities envisaged.

There is an Aquaculture and Foreshore license (AQ656) which is/was held by Comharchuman Sliogeisc Chonamara Teo, permitting the management of oyster and scallop beds in two bays. This license covers Beirtreach Buí. However the oyster beds referred to in the license are to the south and west of the currently licensed fin-fish site and there is no spatial overlap. We have been unable to access records of any recent activity in respect of this license in the vicinity of the licensed fin-fish site in Beirtreach Buí. The majority of the activity of Comharchuman Sliogeisc Chonamara Teo would appear to be confined to Cuan Cill Chiarán (Kilkerrin Bay) a separate bay to the south of Beirtreach Buí.

With respect to visual impact, as previously stated the current site has been in operation for over thirty years. It is in fact one of the earliest licensed fin-fish aquaculture sites in south Connemara. As such the site and the structures thereon are part of the existing built landscape, in much the same way as the local roads, buildings and stone walls. The proposed variations will not alter the area the aquaculture structures have occupied for the last thirty years. The conversion to a research licence will have two main effects on visual impact. Firstly the number of permitted structures will be reduced from 48 to 24. Secondly as the structures are for research use and not commercial production they will in general be smaller and less visually obtrusive. Finally half of the structures deployed will be essentially sub surface in nature. In essence the only structures which will be visible from a distance on the surface will be the two six cage grids. All other structures will be sub-surface while in use. Taken together with the reduction in the number of structures and their small size this will have the effect of reducing the visual impact to a fraction of that of the currently licensed 48 fin fish cages. This is consistent with the provisions of **Section 101 of the Sea Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006** on the deployment of novel or experimental equipment where visual impact should be no greater than that which existed prior, in this case 48 fin fish cages.

The site is not adjacent to any major roads or scenic viewing points. A series of photographs from vantage points on shore is appended together with an explanatory chart-let. We have commissioned CGI imagery superimposing the proposed cages on these photographs and expect to have this next week. I will forward these as soon as they come to hand.

Please let me know if you require any further information or clarifications.

Regards,

Dave

Dr David Jackson

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Name:	Lettercamus 1	Other Name:	Wallace Quay	Number:	44
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- *General*

Authority/Owner:	<i>Not determined</i>
Grid Reference:	<i>L784422 on Map 44.</i>
Nearest Population Centre:	<i>Cashel, 2km</i>
Utility:	<i>Fishing. Tourist/Amenity. Pleasure Craft. 12 boats.</i>
Landings:	<i>In-shore Fishing. Shell Fishing.</i>
Interest Groups:	
Contact Names and Phone Numbers:	<i>Robert Jocelyn (095-31049)</i>

- *Structure*

Structures:	<i>Angled Pier with Stormwall projecting from a Quay.</i>		
Sizes of Structures:	<i>Pier is 42m long and width varies 4.6m to 6.7m. Quay is 39m x 14m.</i>		
Construction Types:	<i>Loose stone.</i>		
Condition of Structures:	<i>Fair. Stormwall is partly collapsed.</i>		
Structures Repair Needs:	<i>Minor wall repairs. New stormwall.</i>		
Deck Types:	<i>Loose stone.</i>		
Condition of Decks:	<i>Poor. Hazardous to walk on.</i>		
Decks Repair Needs:	<i>New deck</i>		
Depth to Bed:	<i>5.2m</i>	Depth to High Water Mark:	<i>0, eroded parts at nose are washed over.</i>
Depth to Water Level on Survey Date:	<i>2.4m at 1230 hours.</i>		
Moorings:	<i>3 stone bollards. Loose stones.</i>		
Condition of Moorings:	<i>Poor.</i>		
Moorings Repair/Upgrade Needs:	<i>Total upgrade, plenty of rings, on a new raised deck.</i>		
Heritage Value:	<i>4</i>		

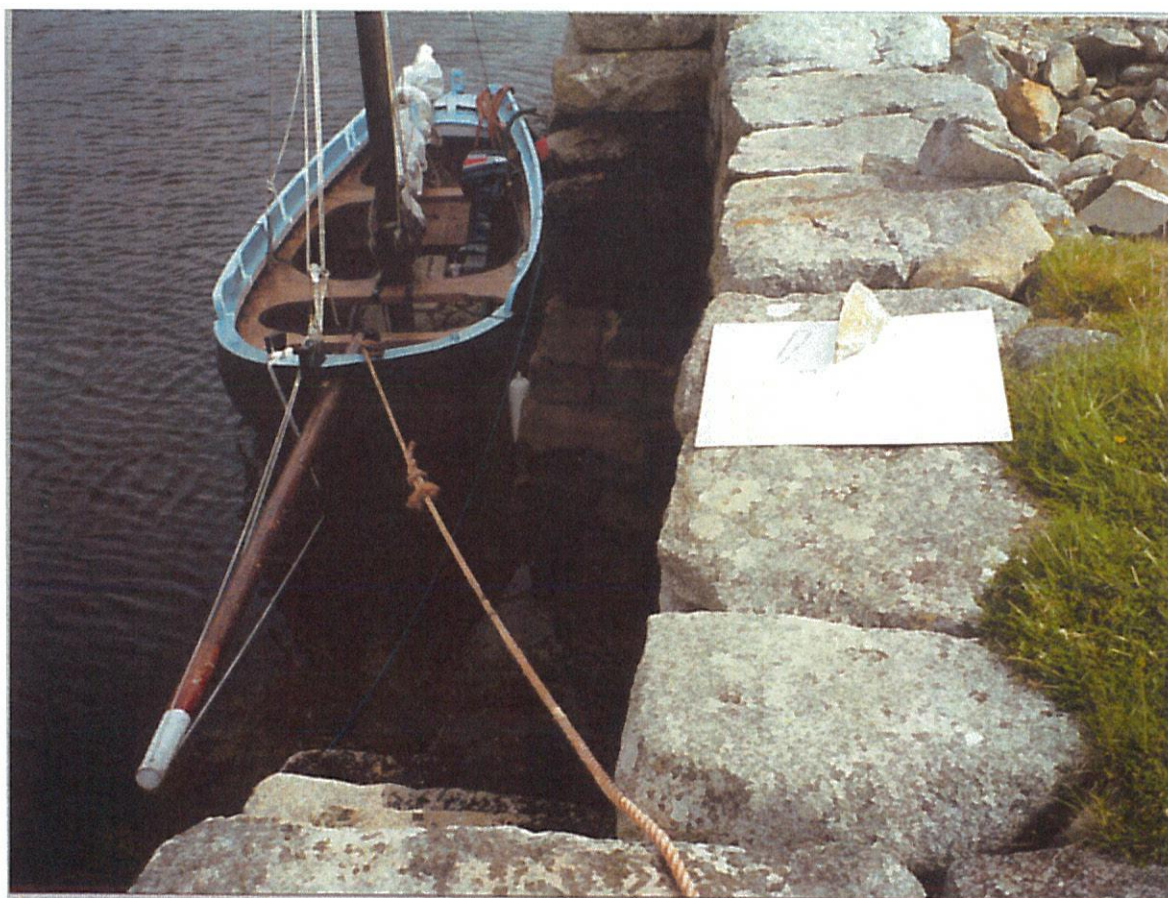
Location Map



Photographs











Refurbished in 2008, Photos below taken in 2009



