Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall
Donegal County Council

# Consultancy Services for

# Machaire Rabhartaigh Harbour

# Tidal Access Restriction Study

# Scope of Services

Donegal County Council,
Piers and Harbours Section,
County House,
Lifford,
Co.Donegal.

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Invitation to Tender

Donegal County Council invites tenders for the appointment of a suitably qualified environmental and marine engineering consultant with a strong background in coastal morphology to review the tidal access restriction on the approach to Machaire Rabhartaigh harbour and assess whether or not this restriction can be removed without adversely impacting the coastal morphology to create a channel with a water depth of between 3m and 4m below Chart Datum..

Commented [ÉM1]: Go hoifigiúil, is Machaire Ui Rabhartaigh an t-oifigiúil atá ar an áit seo. Molaim an leagan Gaeilge a úsáid gach áit.

All consultants should be qualified, experienced and registered as professionals in their respective discipline

### 1.2. Description of the Project

This project aims to address the infrastructural requirements that would reduce the tidal effects on access to Machaire Rabhartaigh harbour and so improve the reliability of the passenger ferry services to Toraigh.

Access to Machaire Rabhartaigh harbour is restricted at low tide by a natural reef and further compromised during a high Atlantic swell. A preliminary appraisal has identified the tidal restriction caused by the natural reef as the main impediment to a regular scheduled service from Machaire Rabhartaigh harbour to Toraigh.

### 1.3. Location of the Project

Machaire Rabhartaigh is a Gaeltacht village and townland on the north-west coast of County Donegal, Ireland and its main access road is the R257. Machaire Rabhartaigh is the nearest point on the mainland to Toraigh and is the current point of departure for the ferry service to the island, with a return journey time of 1 hour 40 mins. There exists a historic affiliation between Machaire Rabhartaigh and Toraigh with many islanders having friends and extended family in the locality. The long standing association between the two communities is a factor to be considered in the development of the service between the island and mainland. The harbour is also home to two commercial vivier crabbers as well as some seasonal shellfish vessels and leisure craft.

While the infrastructure within Machaire Rabhartaigh harbour is currently not suitable for permanent berthing, it is adequate for the current ferry services. Access to the harbour is restricted however, during periods of spring tide and in particular when there are heavy seas due to a natural offshore reef (rocky outcrop). This can result in significant interruption to the ferry service to the extent that the service experiences delays and cancellations over a number of days during periods of spring tides.

Machaire Rabhartaigh harbour is located within the boundary of the Ballyness Bay cSAC on the north-west coast of Co. Donegal, adjacent to the town of An Fál Carrach and the Gort a' Choirce. Ballyness Bay cSAC has been designated as a candidate Special Area of Conservation under the EU Habitats Directive. The site is designated due to the presence of fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation (priority habitat), mud flats and sand flats, estuaries, shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophilia arenaria, embryonic shifting dunes and humid dune slacks, which are all habitats listed in Annex 1 of the EU Habitats Directive

The site, with an area of 1,236ha, comprises two sand dune systems on the Dooey Peninsula and at Drumnatinny. These enclose a large bay, which at low tide exposes extensive mud flats and sand flats. The Dooey sand dune system and adjacent bay is very dynamic, with considerable sand movement occurring due to wind and water action. This has led to a varied topography and a succession of dune types. One of the largest unvegetated sand dunes in the country occurs on the Dooey Peninsula and includes the two Annex I habitats, shifting dunes along the coastline and

embryonic shifting dunes. Unvegetated dunes also occur across the bay in the Drumnatinny dune system. These are backed on the landward side by vegetated dunes, which are vegetated by Marram Grass.

### 1.4. Scope of Services

It is now proposed to engage a suitably qualified environmental and marine engineering consultant with a strong background in coastal morphology to determine the following:

- The full extent of the tidal restriction.
- The extent of the restriction that is required to be removed to enable and maintain unrestricted access to Machaire Rabhartaigh harbour for current and any future vessels that may be engaged in ferry services between Machaire Rabhartaigh and Toraigh. It is considered that a depth of between 3m and 4m below Chart Datum would make a significant improvement to accessibility.
- The feasibility of removing the full extent of the restriction insofar as this would impact the surrounding area and in particular the Ballyness Bay coastal system. When considering the feasibility of removing the restriction, consideration should be given to mitigating measures that could be provided to reduce the impact on the Ballyness Bay coastal system.
- The requirement for maintenance dredging of the channel created by the removal of the tidal restriction.

The environmental and marine engineering consultant will be required to conclude on the feasibility of removing the tidal restriction at this location as well as identifying a methodology that could be employed for the removal, should removal be deemed feasible.

## 2. Client Supplied Information

Information in relation to the project is provided in the 'Information' folder, available to download as part of this RFT; the following information is contained in the folder:

- Interpretive Report for Magheraroarty Approaches
- Bathymetric Survey Details for Magheraroarty Approaches
- Magnetometer report for Magheraroarty Approaches
- Side Scan Report for Magheraroarty Approaches
- Magheraroarty Coastal Study 1997
- Magheraroarty EIS 2001

## 3. Consultancy service – Service Requirements

Donegal County Council requires the services of a consultancy firm with expertise in environmental and marine civil engineering to provide consultancy services to complete the following:

- Review all existing documents, studies and reports, including that available from the National Parks and Wildlife Services, Marine Institute and other Statutory/Non Statutory Authorities.
- Undertake any surveys/studies necessary to inform their determination into the feasibility of removal of the tidal restriction on the approach to Machaire Rabhartaigh harbour.

Complete a report that will assess the feasibility and make a determination on removing the restriction to the access at Machaire Rabhartaigh harbour, including potential environmental mitigation measures and the potential need for ongoing maintenance dredging in the event that the restriction is removed.

The proposed programme for completion of the proposed services is 9 months

**Tenderers must include in their tender price all fees and costs associated with the procurement of all surveys (including but not limited to bathymetric and topographic surveys), ocean wave data and geotechnical sampling, modelling and studies to allow the Consultant assess the feasibility of the proposed removal of the tidal restriction. .**

### 3.1. Services

The successful Consultant shall provide all services appropriate including:

(a) Programme within 7 days from date of appointment, confirming the names of staff assigned to the project and critical paths to enable successful completion of the project milestones. The programme must reflect specific tasks, activities and milestone dates sufficient to achieve the completion dates detailed above and must include personnel identified in the Consultant's tender submission..

(b) The Consultant shall provide a report detailing the understanding of the brief and deliverables. Donegal County Council will confirm and accept the understanding of brief prior to service delivery commencing, and, in any case, not later than 10 working days after appointment.

(c) Review all existing information including but not limited to the following:

- All information provided in the 'Information' folder which is available to download as part of this RFT, see Section 2 above for a list of the information provided in this folder
- Other relevant reports, studies, and documents
- Site visit to Machaire Rabhartaigh to view the site
- Discuss the impact of the tidal restriction with the Machaire Rabhartaigh to Toraigh ferry service providers

(d) Arrange and engage in consultations with any statutory bodies including but not limited to MARA, NPWS, EPA, Marine Institute, DCEE, DAFM and Planning Authorities.

(e) The Consultant shall prepare and submit a report that will determine the feasibility of removing the tidal restriction to the access at Machaire Rabhartaigh harbour, to be reviewed and approved by Donegal County Council. This report will examine the following before making a final determination:

- Requirement of the brief
- Previous and existing developments at Machaire Rabhartaigh harbour
- Previous surveys as included in the information folder
- Any works, studies, surveys completed to inform this report
- The extent of the tidal restriction and its impact on access to the harbour
- Implications for the removal of the restriction on access to the harbour
- The extent of seabed required to be removed to create satisfactory navigable depth and eliminate the tidal restriction to Machaire Rabhartaigh harbour
- The impact that the removal of the seabed would have on wave action, the beach, dunes and the wider Ballyness Bay ecosystem and advise if the impact is acceptable

- Mitigations measures that could be implemented to neutralise the impact of the removal of the seabed on wave action, the beach, dunes and the wider Ballyness Bay ecosystem
- Possible method of removal of the tidal restriction
- Ongoing maintenance works only within the area of the current restriction including the extent of maintenance dredging that would be required to maintain satisfactory navigable depths of between 3m and 4m below Chart Datum on the access to Machaire Rabhartaigh harbour
- Consultations with statutory/non-statutory authorities and interested parties including but not limited to MARA, NPWS, Marine Institute, DCEE, DAFM, Planning Authorities and Ferry Operators
- Details of the Statutory Consents necessary to remove the tidal restriction and the requirements for obtaining Statutory Consents including details of the reports, studies, surveys and anything else required to complete applications
- The likelihood of obtaining planning and statutory approval for the removal of the tidal restriction
- Conclusion including determination on the feasibility of removing the tidal restriction.

(f) The Consultant shall perform the duties of designer and PSDP and prepare a project specific Preliminary Health and Safety Plan in accordance with the current Safety and Health legislation.

(g) Progress meetings shall be held at least monthly during the course of this service. Minutes of these meetings shall be recorded and circulated by the Consultant. In the interest of the environment, at least 50% of the meetings shall be held remotely. The other meetings (face to face) shall take place in either Donegal County Council's office in County House, Lifford, Co Donegal or at Machaire Rabhartaigh harbour, Machaire Rabhartaigh, Co. Donegal. Attendance of the Project Manager and other relevant team members is required at all meetings.

### 3.2. General Requirements for the Project

The following are general requirements for the project for the successful Consultant:

(a) Provide a full costing breakdown of tender detailing all studies and works to be delivered.

(b) Provide a preliminary programme for progress of the service delivery

(c) The Consultant shall advise Donegal County Council on all matters relating to Health and Safety for this project and shall fulfil the role of designer and Project Supervisor Design Process (PSDP) for all aspects of the project. These appointments shall be accepted in writing. The Consultant shall set up and maintain the Preliminary Safety and Health Plan, in accordance with regulations, which will be a live document to be maintained by the Consultant for the duration of the project.

(d) Donegal County Council is committed to promoting the wider use of environmental and social considerations in public procurement with specific regard to the Climate Action Plan 2019. The Consultant shall review Circular 20/2019: Promoting the use of Environmental and Social Considerations in Public Procurement , the Green Public Procurement Guide for the Public Sector published by the EPA and the Social Considerations Information Note and shall ensure that such considerations are included in the design and associated documents

including the technical specifications, drawings, works proposals, award criteria etc as appropriate.

(e) The Consultant shall be required to identify and assess all risks to the delivery of the project and those risks that the project possesses. The Consultant shall maintain a Risk Register for the project that shall be updated as necessary and included in the Design Progress Reports. The Risk Register shall include a description of the risk, the owner of the risk and the mitigating action necessary to reduce the risk. Project Risks shall also be on the agenda of all project meetings with Donegal County Council.

(f) The Consultant shall maintain records for inspection for a period of up to 10 years after completion of the project.

(g) All tendered fees and rates must be fully inclusive of all disbursements, salaries, travel costs and other expenses incurred by the Consultant and his specialists and subcontractors, for all tasks outlined in the tender documents for each stage of the service.