



6/03/2014

Ref: 61.PA.0033

We refer to the Planning application from Galway Harbour Company with regard to the extension of Galway Port.

As the agency charged with the development of the fishing and aquaculture industries BIM supports the harbour company in their ambition to see this plan implemented so that Galway can grow into an essential maritime centre for the West coast. It is imperative, with the ever-growing size of ships, that this port extension proceed within the near future. It is not an option for the port to stand still as the physical restriction imposed by the narrow gates on Galway docks will mean that fewer ships will be able to gain entry to the port. This situation, if allowed to continue, will ultimately lead to the demise of Galway port as a viable commercial entity.

The larger pelagic fleet, which is mainly based in Killybegs, along with the Dutch freezer fleet of 28 vessels are presently operating West of this area but can not use the existing Galway facilities because of space limitations. They are also unable to use Rossaveal harbour because of their large size. A new Galway port would have the potential to attract these fleets and would generate considerable income through their servicing.

The construction and operation of the proposed new port can only be positive for Galway as the potential for job creation is very significant. The direct jobs created by the operation of the new facilities will undoubtedly be complimented by many additional manufacturing and servicing jobs within the area.

This essential development will attract cruise liners, with their well-documented spend, to the area. The benefit of cruise liners is frequently seen in the repeat visit to the area of passengers who enjoyed a positive experience during their stop-over. Galway is renowned for offering this positive experience.

A spin-off of the development is the massive potential which it offers for the enhancement of the present dock area. This has the potential to be incorporated into the town and will offer further waterfront development. The success of the Volvo Ocean Race is testament to how much potential the availability of this area provides.

In conclusion, this proposed plan must be approved for the development of the whole region. The consequence of not moving forward will be the slow decline of maritime traffic and all it's associated beneficial trade within the greater West coast area.

Sincerely,

Dr. Peter Tyndall,

11/3/14
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post