

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 May 2021 12:47
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: A9 Cromarty Scour Works

Importance: High

Good Afternoon Ross

Further to my e-mails below regarding A9 Cromarty Scour works.

As noted previously the current Marine Licence for the A9 Cromarty Bridge permits only six piers to be worked on each year. However it is become evident that this condition does not allow BEAR to actively manage scour issues and utilise resources etc effectively and importantly deal with emergency works requirements. We are also restricted when works can be undertaken due to weather and tide issues.

We therefore are now proposing to apply for a variation to the Marine Licence that allows an unlimited number of scours to be worked on each year and at any time of the year.

Nathan Mclaughlan, (NatureScot) has following a meeting on site and consultation agreed that works can be carried out at any time of year. However due to nesting birds on the eastern side at the north end of the bridge we will programme works where possible to avoid this area between 1st April to the 31st of July with an exclusion of 250m being put in place. Access for a small work boat to carry personnel will be permitted from the West side of the Bridge at the Northern end through out the year as this is the only location available to launch.

Future scour works will involve a single excavator sitting on a small barge. Works will be carried out on one pier at a time working on the east side followed by work on the west side of each pier. After the damaged scour areas are removed, Rock armour will be delivered via a small barrage and used to reinstate around each pier leg. The works will be highly localised and are not expected to take more than 3-10 days per pier (depending on the level of scour repairs required).

Based on the above do the Cromarty Firth Fishery Board have any issue with scour works continuing as that proposed?

We are hoping to commence works again in September and would be grateful for an early response to allow us to get the Marine Variation applied for and allow for the 14 week turnaround by Marine Scotland.

In the interim if you have any queries please get in touch.

Regards

Eddie

Edward Douglas MSc MA (Hons)
Environmental Manager



From: Eddie Douglas
Sent: 10 March 2021 11:04
To: 'R [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: A9 Cromarty Scour Works

Good Morning Ross
Thanks for getting back to me.
Just to keep you up to date. Marine Scotland have advised that we need to apply for a Variation to the 5 Year Marine Licence to allow us to under take any additional scour works. We are currently awaiting instruction from our client Transport Scotland on how they wish to progress, as there is a 14 week turn period around for Marine Licensing.

Regards

Eddie

Edward Douglas MSc MA (Hons)
Environmental Manager

BEAR Scotland | North West Unit
Direct dial: 0330 008 0553 | mobile: [REDACTED] e-mail: EDouglas@bearsotland.co.uk



[REDACTED]
Sent: 10 March 2021 10:42
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: A9 Cromarty Scour Works

Dear Eddie,

I have reviewed the documents and I have no major concerns. Happy for the work to continue beyond April to repair the additional piers.

Kind regards,
Ross

Dr Ross Glover
Fisheries Manager
Cromarty Firth Fishery Board

[REDACTED]

Cromarty Firth
Fishery Board



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[REDACTED]

Subject: FW: A9 Cromarty Scour Works

Hi Eddie,

I hope you are well, I have copied in Ross Glover who is the new Fishery Manager for the Board. He will be able to come back to on this in more details.

Many thanks

Neil

Neil Wright MA (Hons) MRICS

RICS Registered Valuer

For Galbraith | Reay House, 17 Old Edinburgh Road, Inverness, IV2 3HF

[REDACTED]

Galbraith 

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[REDACTED]

Subject: A9 Cromarty Scour Works

Good Morning Neil

BEAR Scotland previously wrote to you in 2019 advising of proposed works on the A9 Cromarty Bridge. Subsequently BEAR Scotland are currently undertaking Scour repair works on the A9 Cromarty Bridge, with the current focus on piers 43, 44, 52, 53 and 55 as per the attached drawing – (19NW00204-204-001 Rev 03 Additional Piers). These works commenced in early February with a proposed completion date in April 2021. The current Marine Licence (attached) is based on information stated in the scheme Record of Determination (ROD) (also attached).

The details provided in the ROD was based on the assumption that only six piers would be worked on each year. However BEAR Scotland are now seeking permission to continue working on the following additional piers 57, 59, 63, 65 and 66, which are located towards the northern extents of the Cromarty Bridge and highlighted in yellow on the Drawing (19NW00204-204-001 Rev 03 Additional Piers).

The rationale for continuing with the works are as follows;

- The piers (57, 59, 63, 65 and 66) are the piers identified within the 2020 dive survey as being in the worst condition and as such the designer has recommended repairs to ensure the safety and integrity of the bridge.
- By utilising the vessels and resources currently mobilised to carry out work on piers 39, 43, 44, 52, 53 and 55 we reduce the cost to the public purse for carrying out this safety critical work. The savings come from not having to demobilise then remobilise vessels, offices, TM, equipment and personnel later to carry out these repairs, as well as all the administrative and other costs associated with re tendering for the works.
- We avoid further delay to the planned works as have been caused by the current pandemic.
- If we fully demobilise the works will not be able to take place until autumn and winter 2021/22. Carrying out such work during these periods adds to the risk of delay and disruption caused by poor weather. These works are weather dependent as the barge needs to be stable and safe for operation of the machinery. Also, divers and crew members cannot work on the barge in periods of higher wind speeds.

In respect of the current and proposed additional work the on-site activities involve a single excavator sitting on a small barge. Works will be carried out on one pier at a time working on the east side followed by work on the west side of each pier. After the damaged scour areas are removed, Rock armour will be delivered via a small barrage and used to reinstate around each pier leg. The works will be highly localised and are not expected to take more than 3-10 days per pier (depending on the level of scour repairs required).

The construction works are proposed to commence after the current piers are completed in April, the contractor would then commence on the additional piers with a proposed date by the end of June 2021, dependent on conditions and weather windows.

Based on the above we would be grateful if the Cromarty Firth Fishery Board have any objection to these works continuing?

If it would assist in your decision making we would be happy to meet you or the Fishery Biologist on site to discuss the proposals further and also view the current works.

As we need to procure the additional services of our contractor and materials we would be grateful if you can respond to our request by the 12th of March 2021.

Regards

Eddie