



Marine Licence Vetting Committee

Under the current regulatory system governing construction at sea, a Marine License Vetting Committee assesses the developer's Environmental Impact Statement and prepares a report for the Minister for the Marine.

It is the Minister's sole responsibility to accept or reject the foreshore lease application.

The MLVC is a non-statutory body comprised of technical, scientific and engineering specialists. According to The Department of The Marine, "*custom and practice appear to indicate that the Secretary General of the Department with responsibility for administration of the Foreshore appoints members to the MLVC, following nomination by the Principal Officer of Coastal Zone Management Division*". (Personal communication, May 2008)

Given the undemocratic and outdated nature of The Foreshore Act 1933, the MLVC holds a pivotal position in the awarding of major Foreshore Leases, with national environmental, social and economic impacts.

While MLVC members are clearly eminent in their own fields, this committee, does not have a landscape professional as a member. It appears that, to date, no independent professional analysis of the visual impact of proposed off shore wind farm development is carried out on behalf of the Irish public.

Marine Licence Vetting Committee: (April 2008)

Dr Terry Mc Mahon, Chairperson, Marine Institute;
Dr James J King, Fisheries Biologist, Central Fisheries Board;
Ms Margot Cronin, Marine Environment Chemist, Marine Institute;
Dr Francis O'Beirn, Benthic Monitoring, Marine Institute;
Capt Nick Cantwell, Navigation Expert, Marine Safety Directorate;
Mr Allen Williams, Engineer, Engineering Division, DCMNR;
Mr Declan Mac Gabhann, Sea Fisheries Protection Authority.

Coastal Concern Alliance, 2009.

