

# Harbour Authority of Cox's Cove

P.O. Box 147, Cox's Cove, NL A0L1C0

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June 6, 2010

Attention: Director of Environmental Assessment.

Please accept an application from the Harbour Authority of Cox's Cove to construct a small boat basin as advised in a letter from Mr. Bas Cleary dated March 19, 2010. This correspondence is also meant to register our undertaking with the Department of Environment and Conservation.

We trust the enclosed document will satisfy our present obligations to your department. If such is not the case, we wish to be advised of any and all short-comings.

Sincerely,

Tony Oxford (Chairperson)

**NAME OF UNDERTAKING:** Small Boat Basin

**PROPONENT:** Harbour Authority of Cox's Cove

- (i) Name of Corporate Body: Harbour Authority of Cox's Cove Inc.
- (ii) Address: P.O.Box 147, Cox's Cove, NL A0L 1C0
- (iii) Chief Executive Officer:
  - Name: Tony Oxford
  - Official Title: Chairperson
  - Address: P.O. Box 147, Cox's Cove, NL A0L 1C0
  - Telephone No.: 709-688-2718
- (iv) Principal Contact Person for purposes of environmental assessment:
  - Name: Tony Oxford
  - Official Title: Chairperson
  - Address: P.O. Box 147, Cox's Cove, NL A0L 1C0
  - Telephone No.: 709-688-2718

**THE UNDERTAKING:**

- (i) Nature of the Undertaking: This project includes construction of a breakwater, dredging of a basin inside the breakwater, as well as construction of floating docks, a community slipway and a parking/boat storage area.
- (ii) Purpose/Rationale/Need for the Undertaking: The Harbour Authority has accomplished construction of a new dock for the community. This project will enhance the fish processing industry and provide berthage for larger fishing vessels. In recent years small cruise vessels have visited the port and the new dock will enhance the ability to welcome such vessels. However, there are 50 or more small vessels in the community, some of which are for commercial fishing but most are recreational. Inadequate space exists along the waterfront for such vessels and all have to be hauled from the water after each use. In addition, such vessels cannot leave or return when easterly winds are above 15 knots. A final factor is the Harbour Authority's initiative to attract small vessels travelling along the west coast of the province. A small boat basin will significantly enhance the prospects for an ocean tourism destination.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE UNDERTAKING:**

- (i) Geographical Location:

The proposed project will be constructed along the waterfront of the Town of Cox's Cove between the existing public dock and the mouth of Frenchman's Brook. The water lot, already applied for through Crown Lands, is bounded on the north by a water lot access controlled by Barry Fisheries, on the south by a tidal shoal, on the east by the waters of Middle Arm and on the west by shoals adjacent to Main Street. The proposed

route of access is from Main Street at the southern end of the water lot described. See Appendix A.

(ii) Physical Features:

The undertaking will result in a breakwater extending in a northeasterly direction from Main Street, then turning southeast towards the public dock. Inside the breakwater a series of floating docks will provide berthage for small craft. As well, a community slipway will be constructed as well as an area for parking and winter storage of vessels.

The area to be affected by the undertaking is a tidal shoal which has total drying height at lowest low. The area is composed of a sand deposit resulting from glacial retreat and sedimentation from Frenchmans Brook. See Appendix B.

Frenchmans Brook empties into Middle Arm approximately 100 meters from the southern boundary of the proposed development. The nature of the tidal shoal restricts its ability to serve as habitat for most fish and wildlife. The only known species to inhabit the area is clam. The sandy nature of the shoal, together with the impact of moderate and strong easterly winds, restricts the growth of mussels. Exposure of the shoal at low tide prohibits use of the area by any fish species.

- (iii) The Harbour Authority generates revenue from usage of the public docking facilities. However, use of that revenue alone would require a construction period phased over ten years or more. The plan of the Harbour Authority is to apply for funding from both federal and provincial government programs in order to complete the project over a period of five years. The first phase will be construction of half the breakwater and dredging inside. Second phase will be construction of two 50-foot floating docks and a community slipway. Third phase will be construction of a parking and vessel storage area. Fourth phase will be construction of remaining breakwater and dredging inside. Fifth phase will be construction of ten additional floating docks. Each phase is expected to be completed over a period of six weeks each year, likely in October and November.

Optimistic all permits can be achieved as well as sufficient funding the proposed date of first physical construction will be October 1, 2010.

Potential sources of pollution will be minimized by use of conformant materials in construction of the breakwater. Heavy equipment will be needed to dredge and likely will need to be placed on the shoal. However, if this activity is restricted to low tides periods equipment need not enter the water. Turbidity will invariably occur during all phases and aspects of construction.

There are no perceived sources of resource conflict. Some individual slipways exist along Main Street but the water lot boundaries are outside their access to the bay.

However, construction of the project will enable them to access their slipways during periods of low tide.

(iv) Operation:

The Harbour Authority will provide berthage and storage services for small crafts. Local recreational boaters and small boat fishers will be afforded the ability to use a floating dock or the community slipway. A sheltered facility will reduce or eliminate the need for boaters to construct and repair slipways year after year as well as the competition for waterfront area to construct slipways. Also, users will be able to operate during periods of easterly wind and low tide, both of which now restrict boating activity. In addition, this facility will enable the Harbour Authority to solicit business from boaters in the adjacent area as well as ocean tourists sailing along the west coast of the province.

The facility will operate all year. Operations will likely be busy during the summer and fall but slow during the winter.

Potential sources of pollution will be related mostly to liquids, oils and fuels. The Authority will manage sources of potential pollution by: a) providing for safe disposal; b) development and enforcement of regulations; c) provision of leak and spill containment equipment.

No resource conflict is anticipated. The proposed development is in response to an articulated need and opportunity. No competing facility exists.

(v) Occupations:

It is estimated that five employees will be needed for at least six weeks during each phase of construction. Operation of the facility will likely require one part-time employee.

This project will require carpenters, labourers, foremen, and heavy equipment operators.

The Harbour Authority of Cox's Cove is not yet in a position to commit to direct hiring or contracting out, or a combination of both. That decision will be largely dependent upon the funding acquired.

The Harbour Authority has no policy or guidelines related to age or gender. It's likely hiring will be conducted on the basis of merit and qualifications.

(vi) Project-Related Documents:

An application for habitat assessment has been made to the federal Fisheries Department

A long-term proposal for funding agencies has also been developed.

**APPROVAL OF THE UNDERTAKING:**

Environmental Assessment release is the main source of approval required. A permit from the municipal council will be requested.

**SCHEDULE:**

Approvals and funding will determine scheduling of work, as already indicated earlier in this application. Earliest date is October 1, 2010. There is no latest date!

**FUNDING:**

This undertaking does depend upon public funds in order for the project to be completed in a reasonable time frame. No application has yet been made to funding sources, but will shortly. Targeted funding agencies will include:

- Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
- Fisheries and Oceans (Small Craft Harbours)
- Department of Industry Trade and Rural Development
- Department of Fisheries (provincial)
- Department of Tourism (provincial)

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Date

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Signature of Chief Executive Officer