

Fisheries

There are significant amounts of inshore fishing activity in the proposed survey areas, primarily static gears for a range of shellfish species.

Survey activities are likely to cause some level of disruption to these activities potentially requiring gears to be moved during surveying, which may lead to displacement onto other grounds, increasing effort and competition for space.

Site investigation works may also disrupt fishing and/or catch rates due to sediment disturbance and noise which may affect catch rates in these fisheries.

Aquaculture

MUL 240036 overlaps with **all** aquaculture licences and shellfish waters in Bannow Bay and has a partial overlap with aquaculture sites and Shellfish waters in Waterford Harbour (screenshot from Project description file). Given that there are no proposed landing zones close to the mouth of Waterford Harbour and that the three proposed cable landing zones E,F and G which are **outside of the** mouth of Bannow Bay (Co. Wexford) we would request that the boundary of the application be adjusted so as **not to overlap with any aquaculture sites or shellfish waters**. This request if granted wouldn't affect any proposed cable landing zones proposed in the application. There are no issues with the application boundaries with aquaculture in Dungarvan Harbour (Co. Waterford) and Ballymacoda Bay (East Co. Cork).

In regard, to the proposed geophysical surveys along cable corridors E,F and G (Co Wexford) we would ask for the following:

- If the activity is going to generate significant quantities of suspended solids in the water column that it is undertaken on an ebbing tide when seawater is leaving both Bannow Bay
- If the activity will generate a large acoustic underwater sound that it is done at low tide when oysters are not covered by the tide.
- That an environmental protection plan is in place for oils and chemicals that may be used/stored by the applicants while at sea or onshore and that BIM be notified of any spills immediately.

Although no proposed cable corridor is planned close to the mouth of Waterford Harbour if any sediment generating activities are undertaken close to the mouth of the harbour that they are done on an ebbing tide when water is exiting the harbour. Equally if the activity will generate a large acoustic sound in the water near Waterford Harbour that it is done at low tide when oysters are not covered by seawater.

