



February 9, 2026

licence@mara.gov.ie

RE: MUL240050, Salv Ocean Ltd.

A Chara,

The Marine Divisions of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) welcome the opportunity to provide comments on the public consultation for MUL240050. The application, made by Salv Ocean Ltd., relates to marine environmental surveys for the purpose of scientific discovery or research.

It is essential that the sea-fishing and aquaculture sectors are fully recognised and given a high priority as a long-standing, pre-existing, and traditional activity in the marine environment as the proposed environmental surveys are being evaluated.

Fishers and aquaculture site holders are primary food producers dependent upon certain marine areas which are particularly important for food production. This primary production is critical to supplying the downstream indigenous seafood processing and export industries and in sustaining the livelihoods of coastal communities. The importance of these primary and secondary food production activities is reflected in the Government's Food Vision 2030 policy.

To inform the DAFM comments, the observations of the Marine Institute (MI) on the application were requested.

The MI note that the site is approximately 72 km north of Malin Head and is in an area of heavy fishing activity, primarily demersal otter trawls but also longlines and pelagic trawl, national and international. The site is situated in an area of spawning and nursery grounds for numerous commercial fish species. However, as the proposed activities are relatively short in duration, this should not significantly impact fish or fishing operations, assuming necessary notices to mariners are published.

DAFM recognises that the applicant's aim is to promote co-existence and minimise potential disruption to commercial fishing activities in the area. The evaluation of potential impacts of the surveys on commercial sea fishing activities needs to be given consideration within the context of the requirements set out under the Maritime Area Planning Act and the National Marine Planning Framework. (NMPF).

The principles in the NMPF of avoiding, minimising, or mitigating impacts on access to existing activities (including specific policies on Fisheries and Aquaculture) should be followed and any proposed development activity should incorporate the principle of maximising coexistence with established activities in marine areas.

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**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



All relevant fishing organisations should receive any applicable Marine Notice/s, and be made aware of any proposed works, at the earliest opportunity to ensure the optimum coordination of activities and to limit potential disturbances to fishing activities to the greatest extent possible.

Please also find attached document from the MI which provide further comments for consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Marine Divisions

An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

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