



**Iascach Iníre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland**

Maritime Usage Licences,
MARA,
2nd Floor, Menapia House,
Drinagh Business Park,
Drinagh,
Wexford, Y35RF29,

15 December 2025

Re: Maritime Usage Licence for maintenance dredging at Waterford Port 2026-2033

Licence No: LIC230025

Submitted via email to: licence@mara.gov.ie

To whom it may concern:

Inland Fisheries Ireland is the statutory authority tasked under section 7(1) of the Inland Fisheries Act 2010 (No. 10 of 2010) with responsibility for the protection, management, and conservation of the inland fisheries resource.

Further to IFI's submission dated 16 October in respect of the above licence application and the subsequent meeting with MARA and the EPA on 4 December last, IFI wish to make the following additional observations.

Following consideration of the following:

- The findings of the sediment and benthic report by AQUAFAC International Services Ltd (APEM Group) dated January 2024 and accompanying this application
- The ABP Marine Environmental Research Ltd. (ABPmer) modelling of the impact of plough dredging at Cheek Point Lower (ABPmer, 2017)
- Previous correspondence between Dr. James King, IFI and the Port of Waterford dated 9 March 2020, and subsequently forwarded from Dr. King to the EPA on 30 March 2020

IFI withdraws its objection to the undertaking of plough dredging at Cheek Point Lower Bar during the period 1 March to 30 June.

However, IFI requests that the licensee takes into consideration the potential impacts on migratory fish via the following conditions:

- Plough Dredging may take place during daylight hours only to minimise the impact on seasonal fish migrations, particularly for eel and salmon
- The close season for plough dredging from 1 March to 30 June is maintained at all other licensed dredging sites
- In the event of any incident with the potential to impact on water quality or fish welfare directly or indirectly, that the licensee is obliged to notify IFI immediately



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With regard to the use of trailer suction hopper dredging (TSHD), IFI requests that the licensee must comply with the conditions applied in previous foreshore licences with regard to the non-overfilling of barges etc.

IFI also request that the other matters raised in its correspondence to MARA dated 16 October last are addressed in the licensing and conditions of dredging and dumping at sea for the Port of Waterford.

Further to the above, IFI request that any incident or non-compliance with the licence which has the potential to impact on water quality or fish welfare is reported to it by the licensee.

Should you require any clarification on the above please do not hesitate to contact me. Future correspondence including acknowledgements of this submission can be sent to environmentalplanning@fisheriesireland.ie or by post to the address below.

Yours sincerely,

Cormac Goulding
Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer
South-Eastern River Basin District

CC: Ms. Lynda Connor, Director, SERBD, IFI
Ms. Ciara O'Leary, Senior Research Officer, IFI
Mr. Donnachadh Byrne, Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer, SERBD, IFI
Mr. Oliver McGrath, Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer, SERBD, IFI