

Port of Waterford - MULLIC230013

Graham Johnston, Oliver Tully, Jonathan White – Marine Institute – Version 1 – 21st October, 2025

Summary

The Marine Institute were contacted in relation to a MARA application for a Marine Usage Licence in the Port of Waterford (ref: MULLIC230013) for proposed marine site survey and investigations comprising approximately ten boreholes over an area of 2.48 ha and foreseen to take three weeks.

The request was for comments/observations on the impact this project might have on the whole of the seafood sector.

The Marine Institute is not aware of or expect any notable impacts from these proposed operations.

Response

The proposal is taking place at the harbour in Waterford, well upstream of any commercial fishing activity. The Marine Institute do not have any records or carry out any surveys this far upriver. The nearest aquaculture sites are approximately 3km downstream. No adverse impacts are expected from these operations on sea fisheries or aquaculture. The impact assessment states the following:

Commercial Fisheries: As the Site is not located within any commercial fishing areas and given the fact that the Site is not considered a viable sport fishing or commercial fisheries area, it can be concluded that there will be no effects to commercial fisheries.

Shellfish & Aquaculture: Given the distance separating the Site and the nearest aquaculture site, it is considered highly unlikely that the works will have any significant direct or indirect negative effects on this species given the fact that any potential pollutants that enter the Suir will be dispersed and diluted immediately within the regular flow and large expanse of the estuary. However, regardless, water mitigation measures will be implemented as part of the proposed works (see Section 5.2.3). Therefore, it can be concluded that there will be no effects to shellfish & aquaculture.