

MI Observations LIC230014MA – Shannon Foyne Port Company Additional Marine Site Investigation Works

FEAS – Marine Institute – Version 1 – 07/11/2025

Summary

The Seafood Climate Unit of DAFM requested MI observations on possible impacts that LIC230014MA might have on the seafood sector, i.e. fish stocks, fisheries, aquaculture, or the environments on which they rely. The application was submitted by Shannon Foyne Port Company as a Material Amendment to the previously granted licence MUL230014, which permitted marine site investigations in the vicinity of Foynes Island in the Shannon Estuary. This amendment proposes to extend the scope of the original site investigations to include two additional areas: adjacent to the existing Foynes Yacht Club and north west of Foynes Island. These investigations are intended to support option appraisal and design for potential quay and mooring improvements.

As explained in the Request for Observations from Public Bodies for LIC230014MA:

Shannon Foyne Port Company has submitted an application to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) for a Material Amendment in accordance with Section 125 of The MAP Act for proposed amendments involving additional Marine Site Investigation works in two extra areas to those licenced in MUL (LIC230014) which will result in an increase in the footprint of the licensed works. It is intended to perform both geophysical and geotechnical marine-based site investigations and grab samples to inform the option appraisal and design of the deepwater quay and improved mooring facilities at the existing Foynes Yacht Club, south of Foynes Island, Co. Limerick as part of possible community gain for the main project.

Having reviewed all of the application documents, FEAS agrees that the proposed survey operations are temporary and spatially limited and are not expected to substantially interfere with fish stocks, fishing activities, or aquaculture operations in the area. As the previously licensed areas under MUL230014 were already surveyed without causing notable impacts, it is reasonable to expect that the proposed additional investigations under MUL230014MA will similarly pose minimal risk.