



Licence Ref: LIC230025

(Please quote in all related correspondence)

23 October 2025

Maritime Area Regulatory Authority
2nd Floor
Menapia House
Drinagh Business Park
Drinagh
Wexford
Y35RF29

Via: licence@mara.gov.ie

Referral under Regulation 42(6) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats)
Regulations 2011

Re: Maritime usage licence application for maintenance dredging of accumulated sediments
to maintain the port's navigational trade areas at Waterford Estuary.

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I refer to correspondence on 18 September 2025 received in connection with the above.

Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations co-ordinated by the
Development Applications Unit under the stated headings.

Nature Conservation

On the basis of the information provided, the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is satisfied that the Natura Impact
Statement (NIS) demonstrates that, subject to full implementation of the identified mitigation
and monitoring measures, the proposed maintenance dredging and associated disposal
activities will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site, either alone or in
combination with other plans or projects, in view of their conservation objectives. It is
recommended that the following are included as conditions of consent:



1. All dredging, ploughing and disposal shall be undertaken in accordance with the methodologies, volumes, timeframes and mitigation measures described in the submitted NIS.
2. Any significant deviation from the proposed dredging footprint, frequency, or disposal area shall be referred to the National Parks and Wildlife Service for further Appropriate Assessment screening.
3. The applicant shall ensure ongoing liaison with Inland Fisheries Ireland regarding migratory fish passage during dredging operations.

Underwater Archaeology

The National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage have reviewed the maritime usage licence (MUL) application documents, including the submitted Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment report *Port of Waterford Navigation Maintenance Dredging Programme 2026-2033 Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment* (ADCO, January 2024). The National Monuments Service's statutory regulatory role, on behalf of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, is the protection and preservation of archaeological heritage, including underwater cultural heritage (UCH), in Ireland and its territorial waters. The National Monuments Service advises, through the planning process, on how best to achieve this.

The following recommendations of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage are provided to assist the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (and the project proponents) to ensure the proposed maintenance dredging activities will align with statutory obligations and policy objectives for the protection of the State's UCH.

The Department recommend the following conditions are attached to the Maritime Usage Licence under the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021, should the MUL be granted:

1. All mitigation measures in relation to underwater cultural heritage as set out in the report *Port of Waterford Navigation Maintenance Dredging Programme 2026-2033 Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment* (ADCO, January 2024) shall be implemented in full.
2. Prior to the commencement of the Permitted Maritime Usage, the Holder shall consult and comply with the requirements of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage: National Monuments Service, G37, Custom House, Custom House Quay, Dublin 1, D01 W6X0.

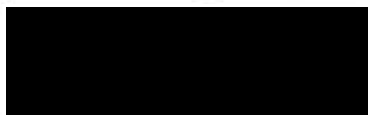


Should you require any further information or clarification on any of the above submission please do not hesitate to contact this Department.

You are requested to send any further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) fem.dau@npws.gov.ie, or to the following address:

The Manager
Development Applications Unit (DAU)
Government Offices
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

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Amy Thornton
Development Applications Unit
Administration