

Request for observations on MUL230015 Cork Harbour to Roaring Waters Bay

Proposed activity:

To conduct a strategic modelling study of water currents and bathymetry along a section of the South Cork Coast between Cork Harbour and Roaring Waters Bay. The modelling study will be used to establish compliance of existing and future Uisce Éireann assets with relevant legislation and inform future investment decisions. The study will require the deployment of up to nine static Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers (ADCPs) at separate locations within the study area. Ancillary instruments, to collect salinity and temperature data, may also be contained within the trawl resistant frames in which the ADCPs will be deployed. Boat based ADCP surveys, and a bathymetric survey (multibeam and single beam) will also be required.

BIM comments:

The main concern from a fisheries context would be disturbance to fishing, and accidental entanglement with static fishing gear by the survey vessels, and/or by fishing vessels with the deployed survey equipment. Disturbance to fishing activities is likely to be minimal as BIM can't see a requirement for fishers to stay out of the study areas. However, the risk of damage to static fishing gear and deployed survey equipment is a more realistic one. Instances of this has happened historically, where strings of pots were reported as being towed by survey vessels.

The main comment to make therefore is that early and continuous communication is made with stakeholders in the survey areas to avoid any conflicts arising from such incidents as stated above.

BIM do not envisage any issues with the bottom and vessel mounted ADCP locations in regard to aquaculture activities and a normal notice to mariners would suffice.

In relation to any bathymetric scans and vessel mounted ADCP aquaculture production areas the applicant would need to be cognisant of the presence of structures such as rope mussel longlines and oyster trestles and navigational poles close to oyster licenced sites which will not be navigable directly above them even on high tides.

Therefore, timely notification to notify fishers on the ground, through direct contact using the Irish Fleet Register [Sea-Fishing Boat Licence Applications, Forms and Conditions](#) should be taken. Additional, usual channels of communication, such as Marine Notices, the Producer Organisations such as the IS&EFPO, IIMRO, NIFA, local RIFF, all the relevant harbour port offices and local authority offices, and local media including Marine Times where possible covering the impacted area.