

The Galway Bay Inshore Fishermen's Association

To:

Maritime Area Regulatory Authority
2nd Floor
Menapia House
Drinagh Business Park
Drinagh
Wexford
Y35 RF29
20/02/2025

Reference no:

MUL230024

Title of Application

MUL230024- Deep Sea Fibre Networks Ltd.

To Whom it may concern

Please consider the submission of The Galway Bay Inshore Fishermen's Association (GBIFA) regarding the Proposed Activity of Marine Survey and Site Investigations for a cable route for the PISCES subsea telecoms cable system from a landfall at Ballyloughane, County Galway traversing the Irish Maritime Area to the south west of Ireland.

History

The Galway Bay Inshore Fishermen's Association (GBIFA) was founded in early 2010, by the fishermen with the immediate objective of obtaining the collective view of its members on the pressures and threats that the fisheries were experiencing and to identify how these pressures might best be resolved. The GBIFA is committed on protecting fishing as a visible and sustainable profession while preserving fishing heritage on the West Coast of Ireland.

Fishing Activity in the Proposed Area

The GBIFA members are involved in fishing activity in Galway Bay all year around. It's predominantly static pot fishery along with seasonal line fishing for different species. The pot fishery involves setting pots on the seafloor for a number of days before hauling to retrieve the catch. Pot numbers can be a single pot to strings of 25-50 pots. These string can be deployed in any direction, for example, E-W , N – S, SE- NW and so on. String can be up to half Nautical mile. We as a group have identified that gear/pots are deployed year round in the vicinity of proposed route.

GBIFA members rely on year round fishing for Crustacean species, Lobster, Brown crab and Velvet Crab. Species are exported live during the summer months and for the Christmas and Easter markets.

Shrimp is a very important fishery in Galway Bay. GBIFA members partake in this fishery from August until March.

Whelk is fished by some members of GBIFA in Galway Bay from January – June.

Consultation

GBIFA members understand the nature and the importance of communication networks. We are also aware the importance of the marine habitat for our existence. Others users of marine space needs to consider that we rely on the fishing grounds to make a living. We are concerned that we have not been contacted by a fishery liaison officer. Is there one appointed? We must highlight the importance of shareholders representatives being contacted at planning stage.

Your truly on behalf of The GBIFA

Vincent O Connell



GBIFA Chairman