

## MARA consultation for MUL230026, made by Wicklow County Council, relating to dredging within Wicklow Port

### Proposed activity:

Maintenance dredging of the navigation channel, turning basin and berths within Wicklow Port.

**Note:** Related to EPA Dumping at Sea Permit S0037-01 Wicklow County Council - Wicklow Port

### BIM Comments:

BIM Acknowledge that revised Assessment of Impact on the Maritime Usage Report (AIMU) (Rev 02 - 15 December 2025) analysis and potential impacts on Fisheries and Aquaculture have been documented. The report concludes:

- *“A slight negative, but temporary impact is therefore assigned to activities associated with commercial fisheries.”*
- *“No significant effects on aquaculture operations are expected given the substantial distance to the aquaculture sites, small footprint area coverage from the dredging and disposal activities and the short duration of activities.”*

The AIMU report also notes that the proposed revised disposal site will not overlap with historical seed mussel beds. *“Bord lascaigh Mhara (BIM) provided a full set of shapefiles for seed mussel bed surveys from 1970 to 2022. These locations were closely reviewed via GIS in relation to the dredge and disposal sites (Image 13). None are located in proximity of the sites.”*



Image 13: Mussel Seed Beds in Study Area (BIM)

The main concern from a fisheries context would be disturbance to fishing, and accidental entanglement with static fishing gear and/or by fishing vessels with the deployed equipment by the dredging/dumping vessels at the proposed dumping location.

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.