

**From:** EIAPanning <eiapanning@epa.ie>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 21 October 2025 14:23  
**To:** MARA Licence  
**Subject:** RE: Request for Observations from Public Bodies MUL230029

**Categories:** Saved to eDocs, Martina

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**Your Ref: MUL230029**

**Request for Observations MUL230029 – Department of Defence, Maintenance dredging at Haulbowline Naval Base, Co. Cork.**

Dear Licence Authorisation Team,

I refer to your correspondence dated 6<sup>th</sup> October 2025 requesting comments from the Agency on the Maritime Usage Licence application for the above referenced activities. The Agency makes the following observations.

The Department of Defence submitted a Dumping at Sea permit application to the Agency on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023 for the loading and dumping of dredged material over an 8-year period arising from maintenance dredging at Haulbowline Naval Base, Co. Cork. The loading areas include the Naval Basin and Entrance Channel within the Haulbowline Naval Base. It is proposed to dump a maximum of 166,500 tonnes (wet weight) of dredged material over a maximum of four campaigns at an established dumping site located approximately 8km southeast of Roches Point.

The application documents, including a Natura Impact Statement and revised Natura Impact Statement received on 25<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2025, can be viewed on the EPA website under Reg. No. S0005-03 at this link: <https://epawebapp.epa.ie/terminalfour/DaS/DaS-view.jsp?regno=S0005-03>. This application is under assessment by the Agency in accordance with the requirements of the Dumping at Sea Act 1996, as amended.

The Department of Defence does not currently hold an active Dumping at Sea permit.

The Agency would like to advise that hydromorphological conditions of transitional and coastal waters in Ireland are assessed by the EPA using the Hydromorphology Quality Index (HQI). The hydromorphological classification for the Cork Harbour was reassessed in 2025 and it is currently classed as 'good'. Based on the information supplied with the Dumping at Sea Permit, there will be no change in the hydromorphological classification from the proposed loading activities.

The Agency would further advise that in considering and deciding on the maritime usage application that the proposed activity should not result in a contravention of the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC, Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, Birds Directive 2009/147/EC, Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC, Bathing Water Directive 73/160/EEC or Environmental Liabilities Directive 2004/35/EC.

For all further queries and correspondence, please contact [eiapanning@epa.ie](mailto:eiapanning@epa.ie).

Please note that there is no requirement for you to acknowledge receipt of this correspondence.

Kind regards,  
Conor Phelan  
Programme Officer

Business Support & Environmental Assessment Team  
**Water, Energy and Business Support Programme**  
Office of Environmental Sustainability, Wexford  
Foireann Tacaíochta Gnó & Measúnaithe Comhshaoil  
An Clár Tacaíochta maidir le hUisce, Fuinneamh agus Gnó  
An Oifig um Inbhunaitheacht i leith Cúrsaí Comhshaoil, Loch Garman



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**From:** MARA Licence <licence@mara.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** Monday 6 October 2025 16:41  
**Cc:** MARA Licence <licence@mara.gov.ie>  
**Subject:** Request for Observations from Public Bodies MUL230029

Dear all,

Please see attached Request for Observations from Public Bodies for Maritime Area Usage Licence application MUL230029.

Regards,

Martina Monaghan  
Maritime Usage Licensing

**Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA)**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park,**  
**Drinagh, Wexford, Y35RF29.**

An tÚdarás Rialála Limistéir Mhuirí (MARA)  
2ú Dara hUrlár, Teach Menapia, Páirc Ghnó Dhraighní,  
Draighneach, Loch Garman, Y35RF29.



