

Request for observations on MUL240011 - Bremore Ireland Port Designated Activity Company (BIPDAC)

Proposed activity:

Bremore Ireland Port Designated Activity Company (BIPDAC) has submitted an application for site investigations to inform the location and design of a proposed port infrastructure. The site investigations will include marine geophysical, geotechnical, environmental, metocean and archaeological surveys.

Location:

North of Balbriggan, spanning the border of County Meath and Dublin, Gormanston Bay Beach and Knocknagin Bay Beach.

BIM comments:

Fisheries

BIM acknowledge the AIMU report highlights “*the short duration and temporary nature of the proposed site investigation activities, any potential effect on shellfish species of commercial importance, commercial static gear fisheries and recreational fishing is not expected to be significant.*”

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.

BIM note it is intended “*for the duration of the geophysical survey only, fishermen with static gear such as whelk/lobster/crab pots within the survey area will be requested to temporarily remove them.*” 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 and every effort should be made to avoid miscommunication and the risk of not reaching all active fishermen in the areas regarding timelines and proposed activities.

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.

Aquaculture

BIM don't see any potential impact on aquaculture activities. BIM acknowledge the AIMU report highlights the following: “*There is no overlap between the DAFM aquaculture sites and the Licence Application area. There are no licenced aquaculture sites within or adjacent to, or in the vicinity of the Licence Application Area. The closest aquaculture facility is located approximately 25 km from the licence area in Carlingford Lough, Co. Louth, for Pacific Oyster.*”