TECHNICAL NOTE

Project title:	Bremore Ireland Port		
Subject:	Response to Request for Additional Information for MUL240011		
To:	MARA		
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1 INTRODUCTION

Bremore Ireland Port Designated Activity Company (BIPDAC) proposes to undertake marine surveys to investigate the feasibility of developing port infrastructure at Bremore in the nearshore area of counties Dublin and Meath. The project encapsulates Ireland's commitment to sustainable development and would position Bremore Port as a cornerstone of the nation's green economic future.

A Maritime Usage Licence application was prepared by GDG on behalf of Bremore Ireland Port for the proposed marine surveys and was received by the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority on 26 July 2024. The MUL application (reference: MUL240011) included the following documentation:

- Application Form
- Site Location Map
- AIMU Report
- RAAIVS Report
- SISAA Report
- NIS Report
- MARA issued a request for additional information in relation to MUL240011 on 28th November 2025. A response was submitted 22 December 2025.

BIPDAC welcomes the opportunity to provide this submission in response to the request for additional information issued on 14 January 2026.

2 RESPONSE TO RFI 14 JANUARY 2026

- **With regard to the RAI response submitted on the 23/12/2025 it is noted that the exact details for the fisheries surveys within the licence application area have not yet been decided.**
- **With regard to the bird and marine mammal survey it is noted that there may be no requirement for boat-based surveys as aerial based survey methods may be used and that such survey may be conducted within the licence application area.**

In order for MARA to carry out a complete assessment of the application the full details of the proposed fisheries surveys and aerial surveys within the licence application area must be provided in conjunction with an assessment of the impacts of such surveys

2.1 FISHERIES SURVEYS

Fisheries surveys may be undertaken across the Proposed Development Sampling Area using Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) systems. BRUV surveys provide a non-extractive, low-impact method for assessing fish presence, relative abundance, species diversity, and behavioural responses within the marine environment.

The Sea Fisheries Protection Authority will be consulted regarding the exact nature of the survey, survey design and survey methods to be applied however if required it is anticipated up to 5 no. Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) stations within the 'Proposed Development Sampling Area' will be surveyed. For the reasons set out below, no mitigation measures are required for these surveys. Typical deployment duration is up to 3 hours per deployment. The survey will likely be incorporated into the benthic survey campaign.

BRUV System

The BRUV system typically consists of a stereo or mono video camera mounted on a seabed frame with an attached bait canister. Once deployed, the system passively records fish assemblages attracted to the bait plume. No fauna are captured or handled during the process. The method is widely used in coastal and offshore ecological assessments due to its minimal environmental disturbance and ability to characterise species that may avoid active sampling gear (Langlois et al 2020).

Survey Methodology

- BRUV units will be deployed from a small survey vessel using a lowering line at pre-defined sampling stations within the Proposed Development Sampling Area.
- Each unit will rest on the seabed for approximately up to 3 hours, depending on water depth and visibility. Bait is typically oily fish such as mackerel placed in a bait cage.
- Following the soak period, units will be retrieved by hand or with a lifting line and redeployed at the next station.
- All deployments will be conducted during suitable weather and tidal conditions to ensure safe operations.
- Video footage will be reviewed post-survey to identify species, estimate relative abundance, and classify habitats where visible.

Environmental Considerations

- The equipment rests passively on the seabed. Seabed disturbance is negligible and limited to the small footprint of the BRUV frame.
- No fish or other marine organisms are captured, disturbed, or removed.
- Bait used (typically oily fish such as mackerel or sardine) is biodegradable and deployed in small, contained quantities within a bait cage.

- Vessel noise and activity will be kept to a minimum, and no anchoring is expected unless required for safety.

2.2 BIRDS AND MAMMAL SURVEY

There may be no requirement for boat-based surveys as aerial based survey methods may be used. If boat-based surveys are required, they will be undertaken from a boat across the Licence Application Area.

It is noted that reference was made in the previous response to the potential use of aerial-based survey methods. Aerial surveys may be undertaken above the MUL area; however, these activities will be carried out using a fixed-wing aircraft operating exclusively in airspace and will not interact with, or cause any disturbance to, the seabed, intertidal zone, or water column. As such this activity is not part of a MUL application.

3 REFERENCES

Langlois, T. J., Goetze, J. S., Bond, T., Monk, J., Abesamis, R. A., Asher, J., Barrett, N., Bernard, A. T. F., Bouchet, P. J., Birt, M. J., Cappo, M., Currey-Randall, L. M., Driessen, D., Fairclough, D. V., Fullwood, L. A. F., Gibbons, B. A., Harasti, D., Heupel, M. R., Hicks, J., Holmes, T. H., Huveneers, C., Ierodiaconou, D., Jordan, A., Knott, N. A., Lindfield, S., Malcolm, H. A., McLean, D., Meekan, M., Miller, D., Mitchell, P. J., Newman, S. J., Radford, B., Rolim, F. A., Saunders, B. J., Stowar, M., Smith, A. N. H., Travers, M. J., Wakefield, C. B., Whitmarsh, S. K., Williams, J., and Harvey, E. S. (2020). "A field and video-annotation guide for baited remote underwater stereo-video surveys of demersal fish assemblages." Methods in Ecology and Evolution, 11(11), pp. 1–9