

# MI Observations on MUL240050 SalvOcean Ltd. shipwreck Surveys

Jonathan White – Marine Institute – Version 1 – 28/01/2026

## Summary

- The application submitted by SalvOcean Ltd. is for a Maritime Usage License to conduct echosounder and ROV surveys of two shipwreck sites to inform if cargo recovery operations are feasible, for which a further application would be made.
- The site of the NA/C1-E (SS City of Simla; 14 survey days) is approximately 72 km north of Malin Head and is in an area of heavy fishing activity, primarily demersal otter trawls but also longlines and pelagic trawl, national and international. The site is situated in an area of spawning and nursery grounds for numerous commercial fish species.
- The site of the NA/C7-D (MV Accra; 20 survey days) is approximately 410 km northwest of Annagh head, Co. Mayo on the southern end of Hatton Bank. Fishing in this area falls under the auspice of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) the operations take place in this area. The area may be of importance for spawning and nursery grounds.
- Survey activities being relatively short in duration (20 and 14 survey days), should not significantly impact fish or fishing operations, assuming necessary notices to mariners are published.

## Background

The Seafood Climate Unit of DAFM requested MI observations on possible impacts that Marine Usage Licence application: MUL240050 might have on the seafood sector, i.e. fish stocks, fisheries, aquaculture, or the environments on which they rely.

The application, submitted by SalvOcean Ltd. is for a Maritime Usage License to conduct:

- Non-intrusive survey operations consisting of side-scan survey, multi-beam echo sounder survey (MBES) and visual survey inspection by ROV of two shipwreck sites.
- Wreck site target name NA/C7-D (MV Accra) is outside the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Ireland, but within the boundaries of the continental Shelf.
- Wreck site, target name NA/C1-E (SS City of Simla) is within the boundaries of the EEZ.

## Observations/ Response/Analysis/Results

- The application submitted by SalvOcean Ltd. is for a Maritime Usage License to conduct echosounder and ROV surveys of two ship wreck sites.
- A three year licence is sought to allow for vessel availability and appropriate weather conditions for survey operations, taking up to *circa* 34 days.
- The surveys are to inform if cargo recovery operation are feasible, for which a further application would be made.
- The site of the NA/C1-E (SS City of Simla; 14 survey days) is approximately 72 km north of Malin Head and is in an area of heavy fishing activity (see Marine Atlas <https://atlas.marine.ie/#?c=55.6226:-8.0310:9>), primarily demersal otter trawls but also longlines and pelagic trawl, national and international. The site is situated in an area of spawning and nursery grounds for numerous commercial fish species.
- The site of the NA/C7-D (MV Accra; 20 survey days) is approximately 410 km northwest of Annagh head, Co. Mayo on the southern end of Hatton Bank. Fishing in this area falls under the auspice of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC; <https://www.neafc.org/>). The area may be of importance for spawning and nursery grounds.
- Survey activities being relatively short in duration (20 and 14 survey days), should not significantly impact fish or fishing operations, assuming necessary notices to mariners are published.