



Aquaculture & Foreshore Application Observations

Application No: MUL 240042/ Previously FS 007098	Applicant Name & Area: Port Of Cork
Application Category Foreshore: Sub category: Cables/ Fiber Optics/ Site investigations	

Sea Fisheries Protection Officer Observations

- Possible impacts, if any, on existing wild fisheries in the area, with an emphasis on the possible implications for the SFPA conducting official controls and possible non-compliance issues that could arise.*

Marine Usage licence application MUL 24004 is an application made by the Port of Cork in order to conduct marine site investigations for future Port of Cork Infrastructure including offshore renewable energy facilities in a 98.55-hectare site close by the Dognose bank, Cork beg and Whitegate.

Site investigation Works include geophysical surveys, geotechnical surveys, environmental surveys, intertidal benthic surveys and marine mammal surveys.

A start date is to be determined and is dependent on granting of foreshore licence. The expected duration of works is 19 weeks.

The geotechnical survey will include the drilling of 20 boreholes within the site from a jack up platform. The bore holes will be drilled using a cable percussion rig and a rotary coring rig to an estimated depth of 25 metres releasing some 11m³ of sediment per borehole. 20 Core Penetration Tests will also be conducted by pushing an instrumented cone into the boreholes to measure resistance and pore water pressure. The bore holes will be left to collapse naturally following completion.

Surface grab samples will also be taken for subsequent laboratory analysis for contaminant assessment and classification for disposal at sea or on land.

Lower Cork Harbour, specifically adjacent to and within the area for the foreshore licence application, is actively fished for Shrimp from the months August – October and for lobster and crab year-round.

It is believed that such survey activities will negatively impact on existing fisheries as the identified means of conducting both Geotechnical and Geophysical surveys could significantly disrupt the existing crustacean fisheries from such benthic disturbances either through boomers and chirpers used for sub bottom profiling.



2. *Impacts, if any, on shellfish growing areas adjacent to or within the area and the possible impact on the ability of the SFPA to conduct official controls and possible non-compliance issues that could arise.*

Cork Harbour is a Classified Live Bivalve Molluscan production area in accordance with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/627 for the commercial harvesting of Oysters for human consumption. The northern end of the 98.55-hectare site proposed for site investigation works is located some 5 km downstream from an active Oyster production area.

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It is believed by SFPA, that such benthic disturbances, specifically from those required for Geotechnical surveys could pose a deleterious effect on the microbiological quality of the nearby Oyster beds

3. *Possible impacts, if any, on seafood safety.*

Cork Harbour is a Classified Live Bivalve Molluscan production area in accordance with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/627 for the commercial harvesting of Oysters for human consumption. The northern end of the 98.55-hectare site proposed for site investigation works is located some 5 km downstream from an active Oyster production area.

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Food safety Legislation, specifically Regulation (EC) 853/2004 Annex III prescribe measures for Food Business Operators to follow to mitigate Microbiological contamination of Live Bivalve Molluscs (LBMs). In the case of B classified LBMs such measures include depuration which purify B class LBMs to A class where there are then fit for direct human consumption.

Oysters for which Cork Harbour is B classified are either eaten raw or lightly cooked and microbiological contamination of Oysters is a high risk for public health.

The depuration process, as described, is limited to the maximum *E.coli* levels of 4600 MPN *E.coli* /100grams shellfish flesh and intravalvular fluid, and may NOT be used to purify LBMs with higher *E.coli* levels.

Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority

Date: 12 September 2025