

Request for observations MUL250020 application from Kilrush Maritime Ltd.

Proposed activity:

Kilrush Maritime Ltd have submitted an application to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) for a Maritime Usage Licence under Section 117 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (the MAP Act) to undertake maintenance dredging of the approach channel to Kilrush Marina situated on the northern shore of the lower Shannon Estuary in Co. Clare.

BIM comments:

BIM do not anticipate any issue regarding inshore fisheries regarding this proposed activity. BIM acknowledge that the SISAA & NIS reports reference the aquaculture activity and licensed sites supporting both mussel and oyster cultivation within the Shannon Estuary. The closest aquaculture site is within Poulfnasherry Bay approx. 5 - 6 km west of Kilrush Harbour. The AA reports indicate there is a low concern of suspended sediments due to dilution factors, however, there is potential for some impact from resuspending sediments which may contain heavy metals and bacterial loads which could affect downstream Bi-Valve Classification production areas, which contain active licenced sites, some of which are Classified as Class A production areas. Therefore, continuous direct communication from Kilrush Maritime Limited with local shellfish operators, IFA aquaculture, BIM, MI and SFPA on dates of activity and when it will cease is advised to give aquaculture producers and competent authorities more knowledge and insights into when to harvest or not to prevent any food safety concerns during this temporary dredging activity.