

# MI Observations on MUL250020 Kilrush Marina

This is also related to the application made to the EPA: S0020-03 Dumping at Sea application from Kilrush Maritime Limited

Jonathan White – Marine Institute – Version 1 – 11/December/2025

## Summary

Seafood Climate Unit of DAFM requested MI observations in relation to a MARA Marine Usage Licence (MUL) Application “MUL250020 Kilrush Marina”, by 31st December.

This is related to an application made to the Environmental Protection Agency on the S0020-03 Dumping at Sea from Kilrush Maritime Limited for Kilrush Marina, to which the Seafood Environment Unit of DAFM requested observations of possible impacts on sea fisheries and the seafood sector (including aquaculture) for COB Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

Observations provided to the Seafood Environment Unit are duplicated here:

The application made by Kilrush Maritime Ltd. is for dumping at sea, with loading listed as Shannon Foynes Port Co. 40,000 tonnes (wet weight) is proposed to be dumped of Maintenance Plough dredging material, over 8 years:

“8000 tonnes per campaign every two years for marina access from lock gates to deep water in the main channel. Total 40,000T”.

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) undertaken by AQUAFAC APM Group, November 2025, indicates the areas of dredging operations of Kilrush Marina, Co. Clare.

The AA includes:

Description of the Project; Potential Impact Mechanisms including Pollution of marine environment from spills/leakages; Noise and vibration; Loss of prey biomass; Physical Disturbance; Special Areas of Conservation; Special Protection Areas; Potential Significant Effects; Assessment of Mobile Annex II Marine Species; Combination; Threats and Pressures Aquaculture Operations; Navigation and Marine Traffic; Diffuse and Point Source Pollution; cumulative impacts.

The AA identifies several protected areas within close proximity to the proposed activities, mobile Annex II marine species frequenting the local marine area, aquaculture licensed sites in close proximity and Kilrush as a fishing harbour.

The “Kilrush Marina Dumping at Sea Application - Attachment E1 Dump Site Selection” indicates that:  
“Consultation undertaken with the Environmental Protection Agency confirms that the “dumping site” is considered to be the entire area where the seabed plough interacts with the seabed.”

And that:

“The proposed dredging methodology is plough dredging, which redistributes native sediments within and in proximity to the navigational channel.”

The indicated area dredging area is coincidental with spawning and nursery grounds of a range of commercial fish species, however relatively the spatial extent is extremely small, operations of limited time and hydrodynamic models indicative of limited particulate distribution.

Independently, the proposed operations should not substantially interfere with fish stocks, fishing activities or aquaculture activities in the locality. It is assumed that the necessary notices to mariners / fishing vessels will be made regarding the operations.

There is potential for cumulative impacts between these and other survey/dredging activities that may be active in the local vicinity and/or near timeframes.