

Your Ref: MUL250024

Request for Observations MUL250024 – Port of Cork Company, Surveying to inform the the Port of Cork expansion project at Ringaskiddy Co. Cork.

Dear Licence Authorisation Team,

I refer to your correspondence dated 13th January 2026 requesting comments from the Agency on the Maritime Usage Licence application for the above referenced activities. The Agency makes the following observations.

The Port of Cork Company submitted a Dumping at Sea permit application to the Agency on 19th March 2024 for the loading and dumping of dredged material arising from the capital dredging at the eastern side of Ringaskiddy Port, Co. Cork. It is proposed to dump a maximum tonnage of 80,000 tonnes (wet weight) of dredged material over the lifetime of permit (to 31st May 2029) at an established dumping site located approximately 8km southeast of Roches Point.

The application documents, including a Natura Impact Statement and revised Natura Impact Statement¹ were received between the 22nd March 2024 and 2nd December 2024, and these documents can be viewed on the EPA website under Reg. No. S0021-03 at this link: <https://leap.epa.ie/licence-profile/S0021/versions/66cc6b05-112c-46a4-bac0-c4031cc9dc31>. This application is under assessment by the Agency in accordance with the requirements of the Dumping at Sea Act 1996, as amended.

The Port of Cork Company currently holds an active Dumping at Sea permit (S0021-02²) and additionally, adjacent to this location, the Department of Defence also holds an active Dumping at Sea permit (S005-03³).

The Agency would like to advise that hydromorphological conditions of transitional and coastal waters in Ireland are assessed by the EPA using the Hydromorphology Quality Index (HQI). The hydromorphological classification for the Cork Harbour was reassessed in 2025 and it is currently classed as 'good'. Based on the information supplied with the Dumping at Sea Permit, there will be no change in the hydromorphological classification from the proposed loading activities.

The Agency would further advise that in considering and deciding on the maritime usage application that the proposed activity should not result in a contravention of the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC, Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, Birds Directive 2009/147/EC, Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC, Bathing Water Directive 73/160/EEC or Environmental Liabilities Directive 2004/35/EC.

For all further queries and correspondence, please contact eiaplanning@epa.ie.

Please note that there is no requirement for you to acknowledge receipt of this correspondence.

¹ Report to Inform Screening for AA and NIS : [090151b280908a5f.pdf](#)

² Permit Reg. No. S0021-02: [090151b28069a606.pdf](#)

³ Permit Reg. No. S0005-03: [090151b280961acb.pdf](#)