

# FEAS Observations on MUL250024 – Port of Cork Site investigations

Jonathan White – Marine Institute – Version 1 – 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2026

## Summary

- Fisheries Ecosystems Advisory Services (FEAS) Marine Institute, were asked by DAFM for observations on MUL250024 application by the Port of Cork to undertake site investigations.
- The following response is with consideration of potential impacts on sea fisheries and the seafood sector, including aquaculture.
- Investigations are intended to establish baseline environmental data, inform design, predict potential impacts, and develop mitigation measures for future development.
- Site Investigations are proposed in a phased approach over 3 years – to accommodate weather, contractors and equipment availability etc. – with a total expected operation duration of 15 weeks.
- Proposed operations comprise:
  - Geotechnical Surveys – Structural boreholes to assess seabed and sub-seabed conditions.
  - Vibrocore Sampling – Collection of sediment cores for environmental analysis.
  - Benthic Grab Sampling – Subtidal and intertidal grab samples for faunal and sediment analysis.
  - Radiological Testing – Sampling within the dredge area for EPA laboratory analysis.
  - Drop-Down Video Surveys – High-resolution imaging for habitat and species assessment.
  - Beam Trawl Surveys – Collection and identification of marine species along designated transects.
- Some fishing operations are recorded in the near vicinity, spawning and nursery grounds (2014 – 2018; Ireland's Marine Atlas: <https://atlas.marine.ie>):
- There are Licensed Aquaculture Sites and Shellfish Water Directive Areas to the east and north of Great Island.
- Considering the short nature and small area of the proposed operations, and proximity of aquaculture areas, survey operations should not interfere with fishing activities (assuming any necessary Marine Notices are made) fish ecology/biology or aquaculture.
- Cumulative impacts should be given consideration with regard to similar activities proposed/planned to take place in close spatial and temporal proximity to the site.