

**BIM comments:**

**23.03.2026**

**Request for obs/comments in relation to an application for a Marine Usage Licence MUL260002. University College Cork**

**Location of Activity:** Cork Harbour, East of spike island and North east of whitegate oil refinery

**Description of activity:** University College Cork has submitted the application requesting to undertake marine environmental surveys to investigate the effect of an electromagnetic field from a buried high voltage cable on a sensitive elasmobranch (sharks, skates & rays) species; the lesser spotted catshark *Scyliorhinus canicula*.

The Assessment of Impact of the Maritime Usage (AIMU) Report attached to this application states the following:

*It is unlikely that a disturbance of commercial fisheries will occur in the area. The proposed location does not overlap with any aquaculture or fishing activities. Although there will be a temporary exclusion of fishing activity in the proposed location, the scale of the project means the area is small. Due to these reasons, it is assessed that there will be no significant impact on fishing and aquaculture in the area.*

However, BIM would like to highlight that the proposed location does in fact overlap with existing blue mussel fishery order T05-002OFO and is approx. 2 km away from active aquaculture site T05-522B which is located in Rostellan shellfish waters and intersects with Cork Harbour SPA - 004030. <https://dafm-maps.marine.ie/aquaculture-viewer/>

BIM note that the proposed area and activity will be small and there is likely to be no significant impact on aquaculture and fishery's activity.

Timely notification to aquaculture producers and fishers on the ground, through direct contact using the Irish Fleet Register [Sea-Fishing Boat Licence Applications, Forms and Conditions](#) should be taken.