

MI Observations: MUL260005 Wexford County Council

In response to request for observations on the MUL260005 application made by Wexford County Council ,to undertake environmental surveys and ground investigation works within the River Slaney adjacent to the Irish National Heritage Park, Ferrycarrig and with consideration of potential impacts on sea fisheries and the seafood sector, including aquaculture:

- Considering the short-term nature and small spatial coverage, the proposed 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 survey area.
- There are multiple fishing operations, spawning and nursery grounds outside Wexford Harbour and estuary including dredging, otter trawls and seines (2014 – 2018; Ireland's Marine Atlas: <https://atlas.marine.ie>).
- Coastal areas are also noted for commercial fish species spawning and nursery grounds (2014 – 2018; Ireland's Marine Atlas: <https://atlas.marine.ie>).
- There are 36 active aquaculture licences downstream within 10km of the site (<https://dafm-maps.marine.ie/aquaculture-viewer/>).
- The site is inside an SAC and SPA, with another SAC and two SPAs downstream (<https://dafm-maps.marine.ie/aquaculture-viewer/>).
- Two shellfish water Directive Areas downstream in Wexford harbour (<https://dafm-maps.marine.ie/aquaculture-viewer/>).