



May 25, 2026

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RE: MUL250023 – Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council (DLRCC)

A Chara,

The Marine Divisions of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) welcome the opportunity to provide comments on the application submitted by Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council (DLRCC), to conduct marine environmental surveys for the purpose of site investigation.

It is essential that the sea-fishing and aquaculture sectors are fully recognised and given a high priority as a long-standing, pre-existing, and traditional activity in the marine environment as the proposed surveys are being evaluated.

Fishers and aquaculture site holders are primary food producers dependent upon certain marine areas which are particularly important for food production. This primary production is critical to supplying the downstream indigenous seafood processing and export industries and in sustaining the livelihoods of coastal communities. The importance of these primary and secondary food production activities is reflected in the Government's Food Vision 2030 policy.

To inform the DAFM comments, the observations of the Marine Institute (MI) on the application were requested. The MI agreed with the application documents that state the site investigation works won't impact any fish stocks, fisheries, or aquaculture sites. The works are temporary, intermittent, and almost entirely contained within Dun Laoghaire Harbour. While the proposed activity is not anticipated to impact on fishers, relevant local maritime users should nevertheless be engaged with at the earliest opportunity, to avoid potential disruption and displacement.

DAFM recognises that the developer's aim is to promote co-existence and minimise potential disruption to commercial fishing activities in the area. The evaluation of potential impacts of the surveys on commercial sea fishing activities needs to be given consideration within the context of the requirements set out under the Maritime Area Planning Act and the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF). The principles in the NMPF of avoiding, minimising, or mitigating impacts on access to existing activities (including specific policies on Fisheries and Aquaculture) should be followed and any proposed development activity should incorporate the principle of maximising coexistence with established activities in marine areas.

Please also find attached document from the MI which provides further comments for consideration.

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**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



Yours sincerely,

Marine Divisions
An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

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