

MI Observations on MUL260007 - Uisce Éireann - Castletown Estuary Inner Dundalk Bay, County Louth.

FEAS – Marine Institute – Version 1 – 12/05/2026

Request

Fisheries Ecosystems Advisory Services (FEAS) Marine Institute, were asked by DAFM for observations, by the 11th of May, on the MUL260036 application being made on behalf of Uisce Éireann (UÉ) to conduct subtidal and intertidal marine ecology surveys for the Dundalk Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity Upgrade Project, located at Soldiers Point on the southern side of the Castletown Estuary Inner Dundalk Bay, in County Louth.

Response

In the view of Fisheries Ecosystems Advisory Services (FEAS) the site investigation works will have minimal impact any fish stocks, fisheries or aquaculture sites. Noting razor clam and Cockle fisheries take place in the wider Dundalk Bay.

Summary

- Considering the short nature and small areas of proposed operations, they should not interfere with fishing activities or fish ecology/biology.
- The surveys are required to characterise existing ecological conditions, establish a robust environmental baseline, and support Appropriate Assessment screening and impact evaluation for Dundalk Bay Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area, Ramsar site, and proposed Natural Heritage Area.
- The proposed maritime usage is limited to marine survey work, including vessel-based sampling and foreshore assessments, for the purposes of scientific discovery, research, and site investigation in the receiving environment surrounding the existing treated effluent outfall at the mouth of the Castletown Estuary, and across relevant areas of Inner Dundalk Bay.
- Operations are expected to take 1 weeks, the licence is requested for 6 months to allow for planning/ changing environment and tidal conditions/ contingency.
- Razor clam and Cockle fisheries take place in the wider Dundalk Bay.
- There are no aquaculture sites within the survey area, though there are licensed Aquaculture sites in Carlingford Lough to the north, a Shelfish Water Directive area to the south in Dundalk Bay¹ and Carlingford Lough.
- The site sits within a Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area¹.

¹ <https://dafm-maps.marine.ie/aquaculture-viewer/>