

Uisce Éireann

# Marine environmental surveys for Dundalk WWTP upgrade

Attachment 4.9 Consistency of the proposed Maritime Usage with achieving the National Climate Objective, as defined in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Act of 2015, as amended

Dr Aidan Long



**AQUAFACT**  
APEM Group

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**Client:** Uisce Éireann

**Address:** Colvill House,  
24-26 Talbot St,  
Mountjoy,  
Dublin, D01 NP86

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**AQUAFACT contact:** Aisling Hearty

**Position:** Principal Ecologist

**E-mail:** [aisling@aquafact.ie](mailto:aisling@aquafact.ie)

**Telephone:** +353 (0) 91 756812

**Website:** [www.aquafact.ie](http://www.aquafact.ie)

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**Address:** AQUAFACT International Services Ltd,  
9A Liosban Business Park,  
Tuam Road,  
Galway,  
Ireland.  
H91 K120

**Registered in Ireland:** No. 493496

**Tax Reference Number:** 97733840

**Tax Clearance Number:** 936172

## Report Approval Sheet

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## List of Abbreviations

<i>Abbreviation</i>	<i>Definition</i>
NCO	National Climate Objective

## 1. Introduction

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended by the 2021 Act, establishes the National Climate Objective (NCO): *to pursue and achieve by no later than 2050 a climate-resilient, biodiversity-rich, environmentally sustainable and climate-neutral economy*. It sets a national goal of a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and net zero by 2050. To support this, local authorities and public bodies must prepare Climate Action Plans and long-term strategies, and ensure their decisions align with these objectives.

## 2. Consistency of the Proposed Maritime Usage with the objectives of the NCO

The marine environmental surveys proposed in Castletown Estuary and Inner Dundalk Bay (as outlined in Attachment 3.1 Description of the Proposed Maritime Usage) is consistent with achieving the National Climate Objective.

The marine environmental surveys are proportionate, temporary and local in scale, relying on a single small RIB and manual scientific equipment. This minimises the overall energy demand and associated greenhouse gas emissions of the activity. The marine environmental surveys represent the least intrusive and most fuel-efficient means of establishing the environmental baseline data required. By avoiding unnecessary or poorly targeted investigations, the marine environmental surveys ensure that emissions from vessel operations are kept to a minimum.

The purpose of the marine environmental survey is to inform the future design of a modern wastewater treatment plant that will significantly improve water quality, safeguard sensitive habitats, and ensure compliance with the Water Framework Directive. The marine environmental surveys will therefore reduce the risk of environmental degradation, support biodiversity protection, and safeguard ecosystem services that underpin climate resilience.