



**Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland**

Maritime Usage Licence Application:

Reference MUL260036 - The Port of Cork Company application for a marine Usage licence to undertake a Marine environmental survey for the purpose of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000 at Port of Cork, Ringaskiddy.

Request for observations from Ms. Leeanne Doyle, (MARA) dated 23.04.2026

Overview

A maritime usage licence is sought to undertake site investigations in order to generate baseline data which will inform an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000 at Port of Cork, Ringaskiddy.

The Port of Cork Company's proposed Maritime Usage will include the following activities: Geotechnical Surveys (Structural boreholes to assess seabed and sub-seabed conditions), Vibrocore Sampling (Collection of sediment cores for environmental analysis) and Radiological Testing (Sampling within the dredge area for EPA laboratory analysis). In order to support the design, siting and environmental assessment of dredging activities in Cork harbour.

The MUL application is to secure permission for the site investigation surveys.

The proposed activities will be conducted over an unspecified 15 week period. The area of the MUL is 4 ha.

IFI Comment

Given the state of our diadromous fish species IFI believe that all activities should aim to reduce any impact on these species. Migrating sea and river lamprey, along with salmon are Habitat Directive Annex II species and are qualifying interest for a number of Natura 2000 sites along the South Coast. These species use the coastal waters, to migrate through and as a feeding area.

The European Eel is critically endangered and is known to inhabit both freshwater, transitional and coastal waters. The Great Island Channel SAC and Cork Harbour SPA may be a locally important feeding location for Sea trout populations from the Owennacurra, Owenboy, Lee and Glashaboy Rivers.



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To reduce impact on fish species the use of soft-start and ramp-up procedures for any sound-generating works undertaken – both on a day-to-day basis and on re start after any stoppages within any day should be undertaken. This measure should be a condition of the foreshore licence. The comments of IFI in this regard relate to fish species of conservation significance and of leisure angling significance all of which constitute part of IFI's brief.

Ciara O'Leary, Brian Coghlan (IFI R&D) and Michael McPartland
20/05/2026

NPWS (2025). The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 1: Summary Overview. Unpublished NPWS report. Edited by: Domhnall Finch, Aoife Delaney, Fionnuala O'Neill and Deirdre Lynn