

MI Observations on MUL260034 Wexford County Council – Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation and associated environmental surveys required to inform design of Rosslare Coastal Erosion and Flood Relief Scheme.

FEAS – Marine Institute – Version 1 – 09/06/2026

Request

The Seafood Climate Unit of DAFM requested, by the 10th of June, the MI's views on how this application may impact the seafood sector. The application (link: [MUL260034 - MARA - Maritime Area Regulatory Authority](#)), made by Wexford County Council, proposes to conduct marine site Investigations and associated environmental surveys required to inform the design of the Rosslare Coastal Erosion and Flood Relief Scheme.

Response

Considering the short nature and small areas of proposed operations, they should not interfere with fishing activities (save for potentially limited access to the harbour for vessels), assuming any necessary Marine Notices are made, or fish ecology/biology.

The works include geophysical, geotechnical, bathymetric, metocean, environmental and archaeological surveys, to characterise seabed conditions, sub-surface geology, hydrodynamic conditions, benthic ecology and cultural heritage features.

Survey operations are necessary to establish a baseline for optioneering, detailed design, and environmental assessment of the proposed Coastal Erosion and Flood Relief Scheme.

No permanent structures, and all site investigation works will be temporary in nature. The duration is estimated at 16 weeks (scheduled for Q3 2026). Requested licence duration is for 3 years to account for potential delays.

Survey investigations include:

- Drop-down camera survey
- Geophysical survey:
 - o Magnetometer
 - o Sub-Bottom Profiler (SBP)
 - o Side-Scan Sonar (SSS)
 - o Multibeam Echo Sounder (MBES)
 - o Marine refraction seismic
 - o Marine Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT)
- Boreholes
- Cone Penetration Tests (CPTs)
- Grab samples
- Surface water samples
- Intertidal walkover survey
- Intertidal core samples
- Archaeological surveys and other investigations (i.e. underwater inspections, walkovers, metal detectors, dive surveys)
- Deployment of metocean monitoring buoys to collect physical oceanographic data.