

Attachment 3.5

Consistency with Water Framework Directive

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1 Introduction

This attachment sets out how the proposed material amendment is consistent with the objectives of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), in response to Question 3.5 of the Material Amendment Application Form.

The European Parliament and Council Directive 2000/60/EC, Establishing a Framework for Community Action in the Field of Water Policy, 2000, known as the Water Framework Directive (WFD), has been the main law for water protection in Europe. It applies to inland, transitional, and coastal waters as well as groundwaters.

An objective of the WFD is to achieve the protection of aquatic ecology and habitats, drinking resources and bathing waters through river basin management planning and monitoring. This objective is summarised as Good Ecological Status (GES) and Good Ecological Potential (GEP) for artificial or heavily modified water bodies.

In section 3.5 of MARA's MUL Report dated 09/07/2026, MARA notes;

“There are six WFD coastal waterbodies within the MUL application area, as detailed in Table 3. As noted, the site investigation activities will take place within a much smaller area within the MUL application area (see Figure 1). Table 3 shows the proposed activities within each of the waterbodies. The status of coastal waterbodies is based on the assessment of biological quality elements (phytoplankton, benthic invertebrates, macroalgae, angiosperms) as well as supporting chemical (specific pollutants), physico-chemical (e.g. temperature, salinity, nutrients) and hydromorphological quality elements.”

“Given the recommended conditions as detailed in Appendix 1, there is not expected to be a deterioration in the ecological status of any of the waterbodies in the MUL application area as a result of the proposed activities.”

2 Consistency with the Water Framework Directive

EirGrid previously carried out an assessment of consistency with the WFD in Section 22.3 of the [Assessment of Impacts on the Maritime Usage \(AIMU\)](#) Report, which was submitted to MARA as part of the application for MUL240036.

In relation to the amendment of Condition 32, there is no change to the previous assessment of consistency against the relevant policies and objectives of the NMPF.

The material amendments proposed to Specific Conditions 32 will not impact upon the achievement or maintenance of WFD GES and is consistent with the objectives of the Water Framework Directive.