

# Attachment 3.6

## Consistency with Marine Strategy Framework Directive

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# 1 Introduction

This attachment sets out how the proposed material amendment is consistent with the objectives of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), in response to Question 3.6 of the Material Amendment Application Form.

The EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, 2008 aims to protect the marine environment and requires the application of an ecosystem-based approach to the management of marine human activities, enabling a sustainable use of marine goods and services. The MSFD aims to ensure clean, healthy, and productive oceans and seas and sustainable use of marine environment for current and future generations.

In order to implement the MSFD each member state is required to:

- Describe what they consider is a clean, healthy, and productive sea i.e., Good Environmental Status;
- Monitor and assess the quality of their seas against Good Environmental Status; and
- Ensure they take appropriate action by 2020 to maintain or achieve Good Environmental Status

Good Environmental Status is key to compliance with the MSFD. Good Environmental Status is described by 11 Descriptors, namely: biodiversity; non-indigenous species; population of commercial fish/shellfish; elements of marine food webs; eutrophication; sea floor integrity; alteration of hydrographical conditions; contaminants; contaminants in fish and seafood for human consumption; marine litter; and introduction of energy, including underwater noise.

MARA carried out their own assessment of the impact of proposed activities on MSFD descriptors in Section 3.7 of the MUL Report dated 09/07/2026.

## 2 Consistency with MSFD

EirGrid previously carried out an assessment of consistency with the NPWF in Section 22.4 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 proposed amendment to Condition 32, there is no change to the previous assessment of consistency against the relevant policies and objectives of the MSFD. The material amendment proposed to Specific Conditions 32 will not impact upon the achievement or maintenance of MSFD Good Environmental Status and is consistent with the objectives of the MSFD.