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N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour Scheme
River Slaney MUL Application

Attachment 4.5 - Compliance with Water Framework Directive

June 2026

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1 Introduction

Mott MacDonald Ireland Limited, on behalf of Wexford County Council (WCC) ('the Applicant'), are submitting a Maritime Usage Licence (MUL) application for site investigation surveys at the River Slaney, northwest of Wexford town. The MUL is being sought solely to facilitate site investigation surveys associated with the proposed N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour Scheme ('the proposed scheme').

This report refers to Attachment 3.1 Description of the Proposed Maritime Usage in relation to the description of the surveys proposed. This report refers to relevant topic assessments in the Report for the Screening of Appropriate Assessment and Natura Impact Statement (Attachment 4.3), and Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species (Attachment 4.4).

This report sets out how the proposed surveys are consistent with the objectives of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), in line with Question 4.5 of the Maritime Usage Licence (MUL) General Application Form (MUL1).

1.1 Water Framework Directive Assessment

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) 2000/60/EC requires all Member States to protect and improve water quality in all waters so that the Member States achieve good ecological status by 2015 or, at the latest, by 2027. It was given legal effect in Ireland by the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 722 of 2003).[1] It applies to rivers, lakes, groundwater, and transitional coastal waters.

Mitigation and restoration are required for water bodies with bad, poor or moderate status to achieve good status by 2027. Additional protection is required for waterbodies in protected areas as listed in the register of protected areas prepared under Article 6 of the Directive.[2] These include:

- Designated areas for the abstraction of water intended for human consumption under Article 7.
- Designated areas for the protection of economically significant aquatic species.
- Bodies of water designated as recreational waters, including areas designated as bathing waters under Directive 76/160/EEC.
- Nutrient-sensitive areas, including areas designated as vulnerable zones under Directive 91/676/EEC and areas designated as sensitive areas under Directive 91/271/EEC.
- Designated areas for the protection of habitats or species where the maintenance or improvement of the status of water is an important factor in their protection, including relevant Natura 200 sites designated under Directive 92/43/EEC (1) and Directive 79/409/EEC (2).

1.2 Approach to WFD Assessment

The Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) "Guidance Note for Applicants applying for a Maritime Usage Licence" (2025) requires assessments to align with WFD objectives by identifying waterbodies in the Zone of Influence (ZoI), their current status, and any protected areas. The assessment evaluates impacts on ecological and chemical status. In the absence of

[1] European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 722 of 2003)

[2] Water Framework Directive – Register of Protected Areas (EPA)

specific Irish guidance, the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII, 2025)[3], Environmental Protection Agency (EPA,2022)[4] and Join Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions - JASPERS (2018)[5] recommend using existing best practices.

1.3 Assessment Methodology

The assessment methodology used here is based on guidance provided by JASPERS (2018), the *Clearing the Waters for All* from Environment Agency (2017)[6] and *The Water Framework Directive* from The Planning Inspectorate - PINS (2017)[7], as follows:

1. Stage 1 Screening
2. Stage 2 Scoping
3. Stage 3 Identification of mitigation
4. Stage 4 Impact Assessment
5. Stage 5 Article 4.7 Derogation

[3] Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) (2025) *Water Impact Assessment for National Roads, Light Rail, Metro and Rural Cycleways – Overarching Technical Document* PE-ENV-01202. Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Dublin, Ireland.

[4] Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (2022) *Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR)*. Environmental Protection Agency, Wexford, Ireland.

[5] European Court of Auditors (2018) *Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions (JASPERS) – time for better targeting*. Special Report No. 01/2018. Luxembourg: European Court of Auditors. ISBN 978-92-872-8858-5. Available at: https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/Pages/DocItem.aspx?did=44532

[6] Environment Agency (2017) *Clearing the Waters for All: Water Framework Directive Assessment for Estuarine and Coastal Waters*. UK Environment Agency. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/water-framework-directive-assessment-estuarine-and-coastal-waters

[7] Planning Inspectorate (2017) *Advice Note 18: The Water Framework Directive*. Version 1. Bristol: The Planning Inspectorate.

2 Stage 1 Screening

Stage 1 Screening identifies activities that may negatively impact a waterbody's ecological status or compliance. Low-risk activities can be excluded from further assessment, particularly those related to self-service marine licences under the Environment Agency's guidance.

The proposed surveys are located within the Lower Slaney Estuary, within the South Eastern River Basin District. To assess the impact of proposed surveys on waterbodies' WFD status, a ZoI is defined, including the activity's footprint and indirect effects like sediment plumes and noise. The ZoI covers areas for hydromorphological assessment and extends to 2km around WFD protected areas to ensure no adverse effects occur, in line with relevant guidance. For the purposes of this assessment, the ZoI is defined as 2km from the proposed MUL area.

2.1 Screening of Activities

Table 2.1: Screening of Activities for Potential Quality Impacts

Activity	Description	Screened In/Out	Justification
Hydrographic Survey (Bathymetric Survey)	Sonar equipment will profile the riverbed, while a current meter measures river velocity at five depths up to 5 meters.	In	Proposed surveys will be undertaken from a dedicated survey vessel, which could have an effect on biological receptors due to underwater noise or vibration.
Underwater Archaeology			
Archaeological Wade Survey	A systematic wade survey and inspection of data gap at low tide to identify any evidence for archaeological remains and archaeological objects.	Out	Disturbance is small-scale, localised, and reversible.
Archaeological Metal Detector Survey	Handheld metal-detector survey of nearshore at low water spring tide, using photography and drone support; DGPS for positioning.	Out	Disturbance is small-scale, localised, and reversible.
Benthic Communities			
Subtidal Survey	A 0.025m² stainless steel Van Veen grab sampler will be used to collect undisturbed sediment samples from the Slaney riverbed.	Out	Limited footprint (approx. 10 grabs). Disturbance is small-scale, localised, and reversible.
Intertidal Survey – Phase 1 Walkover Survey	Walkover survey over 1km stretch of the north and south riverbank. Occasional dig-overs of representative habitats as required, over c. 0.1m^2 of surface sediment.	Out	Limited footprint. Disturbance is small-scale, localised, and reversible
Intertidal Survey – Phase II Quantitative Transect Survey	Record salient features along each of the four transects within the intertidal area. A 0.25m^2 quadrat will be used at three stations along each transect. Any features of conservation interest will be appropriately recorded. If sampling is needed from a vessel, this will be conducted from a RIB at	Out	Sampling is needed from a vessel. Disturbance is small-scale, localised, and reversible

Activity	Description	Screened In/Out	Justification
	high water using a 0.025m^2 Van Veen grab sampler. A total of 36 intertidal cores and 12 samples for analysis.		

2.2 Screening of Waterbodies

Relevant water bodies within the ZoI are identified based on the following criteria:

- surface water bodies that may be impacted by the proposed surveys
- surface water bodies that are connected to or indirectly affected by these activities, and
- underlying groundwater bodies that are hydraulically connected.

Protected areas under the WFD are detailed in Article 7(1) and Annex IV. Each member state must create a register of all protected areas within each River basin district that have water-dependent features. The WFD Assessment focuses on marine environments, specifically coastal and transitional waters. Table 2.2 identifies WFD water bodies and protected areas (as listed in Section 1.1) in the ZoI for the proposed scheme. Further detail on the European Sites is provided in the AA/NIS (Attachment 4.3).

Table 2.2: WFD Waterbodies and Protected Areas identified within the ZoI

Site Name	Site Type	Code	Distance from MUL Area	Screened In/Out	Justification
Slaney & Wexford Harbour Catchment	WFD catchment	ID: 12	Within	In	Overlaps MUL Application Area
Lower Slaney Estuary[8]	WFD transitional waterbody	Waterbody code: IE_SE_040_0200	Within	In	Overlaps MUL Application Area (proposed surveys)
Slaney Estuary (Lower)	Nutrient Sensitive Areas - Lakes and Estuaries	Protected area code: IE_SE_040_0200	Within	In	Overlaps MUL Application Area (proposed surveys)
Slaney River Valley SAC[9]	Special Area of Conservation	Site code: 000781	Within	In	Overlaps MUL Application Area (proposed surveys)
Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA[10]	Special Protection Area	Site code: 004076	Within	In	Overlaps MUL Application Area (proposed surveys)
Wexford Harbour Inner (Shellfish Area)	Shellfish Area	Protected area code: IE_SE_040_0200	Within	In	Overlaps MUL Application Area (proposed surveys)

[8] Environmental Protection Agency. (2026) *WFD data for waterbody IE_SE_040_0200*. Catchments.ie. Available at: https://www.catchments.ie/data/#/waterbody/IE_SE_040_0200?_k=2u1t79 [Accessed January 2026].

[9] National Parks and Wildlife Service. (2011). *Conservation objectives: Slaney River Valley SAC (Site code: 000781)* (Version 1.0). Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Available at https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000781.pdf [Accessed January 2026]

[10] National Parks and Wildlife Service. (2012). *Conservation objectives: Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA (Site code: 004076)* (Version 1.0). Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Available at https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO004076.pdf [Accessed January 2026]

Site Name	Site Type	Code	Distance from MUL Area	Screened In/Out	Justification
Wexford Harbour Outer (Shellfish Area)	Shellfish Area	Protected area code: IE_SE_040_0000	1.5km	Out	Within 2km of proposed surveys. There is no actual hydrological connection from the proposed survey location
COOLREE STREAM_010 (Drinking Water)	Drinking Water - Rivers	Protected area code: IE_SE_12C130100	Adjacent to MUL proposed surveys	Out	Within 2km of proposed surveys. There is no actual hydrological connection from the proposed survey location.
Castlebridge North Groundwater Body (Drinking Water)	Drinking Water - Groundwater	Protected area code: IE_SE_G_031	Adjacent to MUL proposed surveys	Out	Within 2km and slight overlap in some locations of proposed surveys. There is no actual hydrological connection from the proposed survey location
Castlebridge South Groundwater Body (Drinking Water)	Drinking Water - Groundwater	Protected area code: IE_SE_G_033	Adjacent to MUL proposed surveys	Out	Within 2km and slight overlap in some locations of proposed surveys. There is no actual hydrological connection from the proposed survey location

Source: Environmental Protection Agency (2026)

There are no bathing water areas within the ZoI.

2.2.1 Waterbody

2.2.1.1 Lower Slaney Estuary

This transitional waterbody catchment area (Slaney & Wexford Harbour catchment) covers 1,981km² in County Wexford, including the River Slaney and nearby streams. Key urban centres within this catchment are Wexford Town, Enniscorthy, Baltinglass, Tullow Rosslare and Kilrane with a total catchment population of about 106,203[11]. The northern region is characterised by granite bedrock and the Blackstairs Mountains, while the southern area comprises metamorphic rocks and volcanic bedrock[11].

The WFD 2019-2024 status for Lower Slaney Estuary is ‘Poor’ and is noted ‘At Risk’ of achieving its WFD objectives by 2027. In addition, the Lower Slaney Estuary is also designated as a Nutrient Sensitive Area[12].

[11] Environmental Protection Agency. (2026) *Catchment data for area 12*. Catchments.ie. Available at: https://www.catchments.ie/data/#/catchment/12?_k=nwci0b [Accessed 15 January 2026].

[12] Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Maps, 2025

Table 2.3: WFD Overall status of Waterbodies within the ZoI

Waterbody	2010-2015	2013-2018	2016-2021	2019-2024
Lower Slaney Estuary	Poor (Ecological Status or Potential)	Poor (Ecological Status or Potential)	Poor (Ecological Status or Potential)	Poor (Ecological Status or Potential)

Source: Environmental Protection Agency (2026)

3 Stage 2 Scoping

This section summarises the findings of the WFD assessment scoping under the principle in Stage 2 Scoping, which identifies potential risks to waterbody status under the WFD related to activities from Stage 1. It assesses quality elements using structured set of criteria based on The Water Framework Directive Project Assessment Checklist Tool (JASPERS, 2018) and Clearing the Waters for All (Environment Agency, 2017). If a risk is identified, the element undergoes further Impact Assessment (Stage 3); if not, it is excluded. In this case, only the hydrographic survey is detailed in consideration of the risk to the waterbody for each parameter (as screened in Chapter 2). The complete information is provided in Appendix A and summarised in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1: Summary of Stage 2 Scoping

Waterbody	Receptor	Potential Risk to Receptor	Risk Issues for Impact Assessment
Lower Slaney Estuary	Biology: habitats	No	The proposed survey footprint does not exceed 1% of the waterbody's area in the waterbody, including the higher-sensitivity habitats.
	Biology: fish	No	Pollution events from surveys are considered not significant due to the mitigation measures. No effects on fish migration, entrainment, or impingement are expected.
	Hydromorphology	No	The proposed surveys are minor and temporary, without any alterations to the flow, sediment movement, or shape that could influence the condition of the waterbody.
	Water quality	No	The proposed surveys are small, temporary, and localised, expected to have no lasting impact on water clarity, temperature, salinity, oxygen levels, nutrients, or microbial patterns beyond a spring-neap tidal cycle. They will not affect phytoplankton or harmful algae, and no discharges or pressures on water quality are anticipated.
	Protected areas	Yes	Within ZoI: Slaney Estuary (Lower) - Nutrient Sensitive Areas, Slaney River Valley SAC, Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA, Shellfish areas (Wexford Harbour Inner and Outer), and Drinking water areas (Castlebridge South Groundwater and Castlebridge North Groundwater)
	INNS (Invasive Non-Native Species)	Yes	Movements of vessels and equipment from outside the local region can pose a risk of introducing or spreading INNS. This risk is mitigated by implementing biosecurity measures and cleaning procedures.

Source: Mott MacDonald, 2026

4 Stage 3 Impact Assessment

At Stage 3, an impact assessment evaluates potential deterioration of WFD status, the ability to achieve good ecological status, and compliance with WFD objectives. It considers the significance of impacts, the necessary mitigation measures, and interactions with other European legislation, and references relevant supporting assessments for Natura 2000 sites.

4.1 Protected Areas

With regards to the European Sites, the NIS provided as Attachment 4.3, accompanying this MUL application, concludes that:

"Based on the assessment of the proposed survey works alone and in-combination with other projects and plans, including the implementation of mitigation measures, it can be concluded that no adverse effects on any European site's integrity will arise, in view of the site's conservation objectives."

No deterioration of WFD status is expected with regards to all WFD protected areas within the ZoI, and full compliance with WFD objectives is anticipated.

4.2 Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)

INNS can be introduced directly by releasing invasive species into the environment, such as through contaminated equipment (like a ship's hull or ballast water), or indirectly by creating conditions that allow organisms to settle or spread, with ports and harbours being key contributors to these invasions (Stokes et al., 2006[13]; Ware, 2009[14]; International Maritime Organisation (IMO), 2012[15]). Equipment used during installation often comes from various international sources, creating pathways for INNS through ballast water, hull fouling, or contaminated survey gear (see Compliance with Objectives of the MSFD, Attachment 4.6, Descriptor D2 – Non-Indigenous Species). Due to the unpredictable nature of INNS introductions, it is not possible to fully assess the risk to a waterbody's WFD status; therefore, it is important to identify and apply appropriate mitigation measures, as addressed in Chapter 5.

[13] Stokes, K., O'Neill, K. & McDonald, R.A. (2006). Invasive Species in Ireland. Report to Environment & Heritage Service and National Parks & Wildlife Service

[14] *Ware, S. (2009). Marine Invasive Non-Native Species: Guidance for the Marine Industry. Marine Life Information Network*

[15] IMO (2012). Guidelines for the Control and Management of Ships' Biofouling to Minimize the Transfer of Invasive Aquatic Species. International Maritime Organization, London

5 Stage 4 Identification of Mitigation Measures

When detailed Impact Assessments (Stage 3) conclude that proposed surveys may risk deteriorating WFD status or hinder good ecological or chemical status, appropriate mitigation measures are required to be identified and implemented. These measures will follow best practice guidance (e.g., Environment Agency, 2017[16]) and align with Ireland's River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) (2022–2027). After applying mitigation, any remaining impacts will be reassessed to ensure that:

- WFD status does not decline;
- Future attainment of good status is not compromised; and
- There are no conflicts with RBMP objectives or protected area requirements.

Invasive non-native species (INNS) can enter through ballast water, hull fouling, and equipment from other water bodies[17]. To reduce this risk, all vessels and equipment will follow national and international standards, including anti-fouling measures, ballast water management protocols, and inspection procedures for survey gear[18]. All vessels engaged in the surveys will comply with the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (Ballast Water Management Convention, 2004) and the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships (AFS Convention, 2001). Vessels are operated in accordance with MARPOL (marine pollution) requirements and relevant EU and national legislation, including Regulation (EU) 1143/2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species.

These measures are detailed in the AA/NIS (Attachment 4.3), MSFD and Annex IV Species Risk Assessment (Attachment 4.4) and ensure minimal risk of INNS introduction, maintaining WFD status and objectives.

[16] Environment Agency (2017). Clearing the Waters for All. UK Environment Agency

[17] Non-native Species Secretariat. (2026). *Non-native species homepage*. https://www.nonnativespecies.org/home/index.cfm

[18] IMO (2012). Guidelines for the Control and Management of Ships' Biofouling to Minimize the Transfer of Invasive Aquatic Species. International Maritime Organization, London.

6 Summary and Conclusion

The assessment shows that the only potential risk is the introduction of invasive non-native species (INNS) from vessels and equipment sourced outside the local area. However, with effective biosecurity and ballast water management measures, this risk is negligible. Thus, the proposed survey will not adversely affect any transitional or coastal water bodies or hinder the achievement of good ecological or chemical status under the WFD.

These conclusions align with Ireland's River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for 2022–2027 and corroborate findings from the AA/NIS (Attachment 4.3) and Annex IV Species Risk Assessment (Attachment 4.4) submitted as part of this MUL application, which confirm that the works will not significantly impact European sites, species, or water-dependent receptors.

7 Authors

Originator:

Dr Diana C. Ballesteros-Contreras, Marine Environmental Scientist with 12 years of marine environmental research experience. Specialising in marine ecology and genetics, leading conservation projects that connect biodiversity and sustainable development, with a focus on Caribbean coral reefs. Experience in environmental assessments for coastal and riverine projects, focusing on regulatory compliance and ecological impact analysis to support sustainable development in the United Kingdom and internationally.

Checker:

Dr Diane Jones, Senior Associate Marine Environment, is an experienced marine and estuarine ecologist with over 23 years' practical experience in environmental consultancy in the ports and harbours, dredging, offshore renewables, deep sea mining and energy sectors. A proven ability to provide relevant advice regarding impacts, mitigation and monitoring for a range of projects, including site selection for new developments, dredging activities, habitat restoration and creation and licensing.

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A. WFD Scoping Tables

A.1 Lower Slaney Estuary

Table A.1: Lower Slaney Estuary transitional waterbody

Waterbody	Description
WFD waterbody name	Lower Slaney Estuary
Waterbody ID	IE_SE_040_0200
Waterbody type (estuarine or coastal)	Estuarine
Waterbody total area (km^2)	18.41
Heavily modified waterbody and for what use	Not heavily modified
Higher sensitivity habitats present	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide, Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*), Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*)
History of harmful algae	Poor phytoplankton recorded
WFD protected areas within 2km / ZoI	The following Protected Areas associated with the water body are within 2km of the proposed surveys: ● Slaney Estuary (Lower) - Nutrient Sensitive Areas ● Slaney River Valley SAC ● Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA ● Shellfish area Wexford Harbour Inner ● Shellfish area Wexford Harbour Outer ● Drinking water area Castlebridge South Groundwater ● Drinking water area Castlebridge North Groundwater
Overall Waterbody Status	Poor
Ecological status	Poor (2019-2024)
Chemical status	Good (2019-2024)
Hydromorphology Status	Good (2010-2015)[19]
Phytoplankton status	Poor (2019-2024)
WFD 2016-2021	At Risk (Nutrients-Ag)

Source: Environmental Protection Agency, 2026

[19] Note: Data from 2019-2024 is not available

A.2 Scoping of the WFD Assessment

Table A.2: Consideration of the risks to the waterbody for the hydrographic survey activity

	Consideration of the footprint of the activity	Yes	No	Risk issue(s)
Biology: habitats	0.5km^2 or larger	Impact assessment required		The MUL Application Area directly intersects with the Lower Slaney Estuary waterbody. Nevertheless, the interaction is confined to localised disruptions caused by anchors and moorings, which have a standard footprint.
	1% or more of the waterbody's area	Impact assessment required		The MUL Application Area directly overlaps the Lower Slaney Estuary waterbody. However, as above, interaction is limited to localised disturbance from anchors/moorings with a typical footprint.
	Within 500m of any higher sensitivity habitat	Impact assessment required		All recognised higher-sensitivity habitats linked to this waterbody are near the shore in the proposed survey area. Interaction is limited to localised disturbances caused by anchors or moorings, with a typical footprint.
Biology: Fish	It is in an estuary and may impact fish within it, hinder their entry, or affect their migration through the estuary.	Impact assessment required		Waterbody is associated with an estuary
	It could affect fish behaviour, including movement, migration, and spawning, by creating barriers, generating noise, or altering chemistry, depth, or flow.	Impact assessment required		Potential impacts on fish could arise from pollution events during sampling. The impacts on water quality can reduce suitability of habitat for adult spawning in the absence of mitigation.
	Could cause entrainment or impingement of fish		Impact assessment not required	Activities do not have the potential to cause entrainment or impingement of fish.
Hydromorphology	May influence the Hydromorphology (such as shape or tidal characteristics) of a high-status waterbody.		Impact assessment not required	The waterbody is in high status, and the small-scale, temporary survey will not involve permanent structures or significant alteration.
	Could significantly impact the Hydromorphology of any waterbody		Impact assessment not required	The proposed surveys are small-scale, temporary, and localised, involving no dredging, reclamation, or permanent structures. Interaction with hydromorphological features will be

	Consideration of the footprint of the activity	Yes	No	Risk issue(s)
				limited from sampling equipment or moorings, causing no significant alteration to morphology, tides, or currents.
	The waterbody is heavily changed for the same purpose as your activity.		Impact assessment not required	Waterbody is not classified as heavily modified
Water Quality	Could affect water clarity, temperature, salinity, oxygen levels, nutrients, or microbial patterns for over 14 days.		Impact assessment not required	The proposed surveys are small-scale, temporary, and localised, not expected to affect water clarity, temperature, salinity, oxygen levels, nutrients or microbial patterns continuously for longer than a spring-neap tidal cycle
	Is in a waterbody with a phytoplankton status of moderate, poor or bad		Impact assessment not required	Activities are not anticipated to affect phytoplankton status
	Is in a waterbody with a history of harmful algae		Impact assessment not required	Activities are not anticipated to affect the algal complement in the waterbody
	Is the activity use or release chemicals		Impact assessment not required	No chemicals on the EQSD list are intended for use during these works.
	The activity will disturb sediment with contaminants above Irish Lower ALs or Cefas AL1		Impact assessment not required	Proposed surveys are not anticipated to disturb sediment with contaminants above Irish Lower ALs or Cefas AL1
	In mixing zones (e.g., discharge pipelines), the released chemicals are on the EQSD list.		Impact assessment not required	The works do not include a discharge pipeline or outfall
WFD protected areas	Within the ZoI of any WFD protected area	Yes		There are several WFD protected areas with water-dependent features associated with the Lower Slaney Estuary waterbody; however, only within the ZoI: Slaney Estuary (Lower) - Nutrient Sensitive Areas, Slaney River Valley SAC, Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA and Shellfish areas of Wexford Harbour Inner and Wexford Harbour Outer.
	SAC	Yes		Within ZoI: Slaney River Valley SAC
	SPA	Yes		Within ZoI: Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA
Invasive non-native species (INNS)	Introduce or spread INNS	Impact assessment required		Operations need the use of marine vessels and equipment that come from locations outside the waterbody.

Source: Mott MacDonald, 2026