



August 6, 2026

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RE: MUL240047 - RNLI

A Chara,

The Marine Divisions of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) welcome the opportunity to provide comments on the application submitted by RNLI. RNLI request a licence to conduct site investigation works to inform the design of a new RNLI jetty and berth, at Courtmacsherry Co. Cork.

It is essential that the sea-fishing and aquaculture sectors are fully recognised and given a high priority as a long-standing, pre-existing, and traditional activity in the marine environment as the proposed site investigation works are being evaluated.

Fishers and aquaculture site holders are primary food producers dependent upon certain marine areas which are particularly important for food production. This primary production is critical to supplying the downstream indigenous seafood processing and export industries and in sustaining the livelihoods of coastal communities. The importance of these primary and secondary food production activities is reflected in the Government's Food Vision 2030 policy.

To inform the DAFM comments, the observations of the Marine Institute (MI) and Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) on the application were requested.

The MI note that vessels operating out of Courtmacsherry include a small fleet of inshore commercial fishing boats, and charter angling boats. The barge & shallow water vessel being used for the works could conflict with movements of other users, including the local fleet. However, the RNLI has stated they will engage with those users in advance of the proposed works to advise on their work schedule, and vessel movements. In addition, the works will be transient across the site, with work vessels moving between sample and bore locations. The short duration of the proposed work, and the small area involved, suggests that these investigations should not interfere with fishing activities, or fish biology/ecology, assuming all necessary Marine Notices are made.

The SFPA note that the works involved in the proposed site investigation survey are both localised and temporary in nature and will not adversely affect existing wild fisheries in the area.

DAFM advise that while the proposed site investigation works are not anticipated to significantly impact inshore fishing activities, and it is noted that the works are intended to be

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short in duration, local inshore fishing representatives should be notified as early as possible about planned works, and Notices to Mariners should be issued to avoid any potential disruption.

Organisations representing inshore vessels include:

- The National Inshore Fisheries Forum (NIFF): <https://inshoreforums.ie/niff/>
- West Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum (WRIFF):
<https://inshoreforums.ie/west-overview/>
- The Irish Islands Marine Resource Organisation (IIMRO): <https://www.iimro.org/>
- The National Inshore Fisherman's Association (NIFA): <https://inshore.ie/>

DAFM recognises that the developer's aim is to promote co-existence and minimise potential disruption to commercial fishing activities in the area. The evaluation of potential impacts of the site investigation works on commercial sea fishing activities needs to be given consideration within the context of the requirements set out under the Maritime Area Planning Act and the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF). The principles in the NMPF of avoiding, minimising, or mitigating impacts on access to existing activities (including specific policies on Fisheries and Aquaculture) should be followed and any proposed development activity should incorporate the principle of maximising coexistence with established activities in marine areas.

All relevant fishing organisations should receive any applicable Marine Notice/s, and be made aware of any proposed works, at the earliest opportunity to ensure the optimum coordination of activities and to limit potential disturbances to fishing activities to the greatest extent possible.

Please also find attached documents from the MI and SFPA which provide further comments for consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Marine Divisions

An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine