

FEAS Observations on MUL260047 Wexford County Council - Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour Scheme - River Slaney

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Summary

- Fisheries Ecosystems Advisory Services (FEAS) Marine Institute, were asked by DAFM for observations on MUL260047 Wexford County Council relating to the River Slaney in proximity to Wexford harbour and estuary, being administered by MARA.
- The MUL is being sought for site investigation surveys associated with the proposed N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour Scheme – a road improvement scheme.
- Marine surveys are proposed including:
 - A hydrographic survey (bathymetry and current measurements) of the River Slaney for a section in Wexford
 - An archaeological wade and metal detector survey of the nearshore at low tide
 - Subtidal and intertidal benthic survey of species and habitats.
- The operations are expected to take in the order of 1-2 months in total; the MUL is requested for 5 years.
- Considering the location small area of proposed operations (2.5 km²) and short duration, they should not interfere with any fishing activities or have significant impact on any commercial fish species or aquaculture.
- Fishing activities do take place in Wexford Harbour and Rosslare Bay – mobile bottom fishing gears*.
- There are in 32 licensed aquaculture sites downstream of the operations and two Shellfish Water Directive Areas**.
- The site sits within an SAC with another downstream and one in close proximity (~15km) in Rosslare bay**.
- There are 3 SPAs in close proximity**.

* <https://atlas.marine.ie/>

** <https://dafm-maps.marine.ie/aquaculture-viewer/>