



ATTACHMENT 4.1 COMPLIANCE WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE NMPF

Oriel Wind Farm Project

Oriel Windfarm Limited



Tetra Tech Dublin, West Pier Business Campus, Old Dunleary Road, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin,
A96 N6T7, Ireland

Tetra Tech Ireland Limited. Registered in Ireland: No. 161581
Registered Office: West Pier Business Campus, Old Dunleary Road, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin,
A96 N6T7, Ireland

1.0 Statement of Authority

The technical competence of the authors is outlined below.

Aoife Edgely is an Associate Marine Scientist in the Environmental Services Business Unit in Tetra Tech. She has over 15 years' experience in the marine science field and is a Chartered Environmentalist and a Full Member of the Institute of Environmental Sciences. Aoife holds an honours degree in Environmental Science from Trinity College Dublin and a Master's in Marine Environmental Protection from Bangor University, Wales. Aoife has delivered the environmental assessments for a wide range of marine and coastal projects, including environmental impact assessment, appropriate assessment and Annex IV species reports.

Rachael Shaw is a Project Scientist in the Environmental Services Business Unit in Tetra Tech. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Marine Science from the University of Galway and Master's Degree in Climate Change and Managing the Marine Environment from Heriot-Watt University Edinburgh. She has five years' experience working in consultancy, assisting on a wide range of projects from offshore renewable energy projects to flood relief schemes, including marine and terrestrial surveys. She is a full member with Institute of Environmental Sciences (IES).

Róisín Murphy is a Scientist in the Environmental Services Business Unit in Tetra Tech. She holds an honours degree in Zoology (B.Sc.) and Master's degree in Marine Biology, both from University College Cork. She has two years' experience as a Project Manager at Cork Nature Network, responsible for marine and river surveys, and one years' experience in marine licensing and flood relief projects within Tetra Tech. She is a qualifying member with IES.

2.0 National Marine Planning Framework

The National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF), published in 2021, sets out Ireland's overarching framework for the sustainable and informed development of the maritime area. The NMPF, which applies to a maritime area of approximately 495,000 km², outlines a vision for the future development of Ireland's marine planning system up to 2040.

Within this report the proposed Site Investigation (SI) works have been assessed against the NMPF policies. Table 2-1 demonstrates how the SI works are consistent with, and in several cases actively support, the achievement of relevant NMPF policy objectives.

The Oriel Wind Farm Project will generate up to 0.375 GW / 375 MW of renewable electricity, which represents approximately 6.6% of the 5 GW of offshore wind energy objective. The proposed SI works are critical to informing the design of the Project and therefore contribute towards the achievement of the national target. Information collected by the SI works will support the Project in its aim to contribute to Ireland's net-zero emissions targets and our transition to a low carbon and climate-resilient, biodiversity-rich, environmentally sustainable and climate-neutral economy as underpinned by the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021. Therefore, this MUL Application represents a critical step towards meeting Ireland's current and future energy targets including supporting a more sustainable future.

Figure 2-1, Figure 2-2, and Figure 2-3 below show the fishing activity within the MUL Area which includes spawning grounds, inshore fishing activity and fishing effort.

The proposed SI works will result in minimal to no negative impacts on the NMPF policies and sub-objectives. Given the temporary duration of works and proposed mitigation, the proposed Maritime Usage therefore aligns with all NMPF policy objectives and the long-term objectives for the Irish Sea.

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Table 2-1 List of NMPF policies and sub-objectives and evidence of consistency

NMPF Policy	Sub-Objective	Relevant to Proposed Activities	Consistency with NMPF
High Level Objective: Environmental – Ocean Health			
Environmental Ocean Health – Policy 1	Consistency with NMPF policies and include demonstration of contribution to the relevant MSFD targets identified.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Environmental Ocean Health –Policy 1. This table presents evidence that the proposed SI works for this MUL will comply with all relevant NMPF policies and are consistent with Environmental Ocean Health Policy 1. Mitigation during the proposed activities will further ensure consistency with relevant MSFD targets. Please see attachment 4.6 – Compliance with MSFD for details on relevant MSFD targets.
Biodiversity Policy 1	Avoid, minimise, or mitigate significant adverse impacts on species adaptation or migration, or on natural native habitat connectivity.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Biodiversity Policy 1. SI works will not significantly impact species adaptation, migration, or habitat connectivity as works are temporary and relevant mitigation will be put in place to avoid adverse impacts. The AA Screening Report, Natura Impact Statement (NIS) and Annex IV Risk Assessment Report confirm that potential adverse effects will be avoided and/or mitigated.
Biodiversity Policy 2	Avoid significant reduction in the distribution and net extent of important habitats and other habitats that important species depend on, including avoidance of activity that may result in disturbance or displacement of habitats.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Biodiversity Policy 2. The SI works will not reduce the distribution and net extent of distribution of important habitats and reliant species as SI works are small scale and temporary. Please see attachment 4.3 Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (Report ref: MDR1520C-TTI-00-XX-RP-Z-0006) for further information on impacts to habitats and reliant species.
Biodiversity Policy 3	Enhance marine and coastal natural capital assets where possible; otherwise, avoid, minimise, or mitigate significant adverse impacts. Where this cannot be achieved, justify proceeding.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Biodiversity Policy 3. Marine and coastal natural capital assets include protected sites, habitats, species and ecosystem services (fisheries, carbon sequestration, coastal protection). The SI works proposed avoid sensitive species, habitats and locations where possible. Potential adverse impacts will be further mitigated through compliance with international standards (MARPOL Convention and the Sea Pollution Acts and The International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments,

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			2004) and the implementation of standard industry mitigation measures, including underwater noise (UWN) mitigation informed by <i>Guidance to Manage the Risk to Marine Mammals from Man-made Sound Sources in Irish Waters</i> (DAHG, 2014). Given the temporary and localised nature of the SI works, no adverse impacts on marine or coastal natural capital assets are anticipated.
Biodiversity Policy 4	Avoid, minimise, or mitigate significant disturbance to, or displacement of, highly mobile species.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Biodiversity Policy 4. Disturbance to highly mobile species including otter and marine mammals will be avoided/mitigated through the following mitigation measures proposed in the NIS: Standard risk avoidance and/or risk reduction measures will be in place on geophysical and geotechnical survey vessels (including JUB), as required under <i>Guidance to Manage the Risk to Marine Mammals from Man-made Sound Sources in Irish Waters</i> (DAHG, 2014). These measures will comprise visual observation during daylight hours and the use of soft start procedures, where appropriate. The incorporation of these measures will avoid auditory injury and reduce disturbance to marine mammals. Disturbance to birds and migratory fish has been assessed as temporary and limited in scale within the accompanying NIS (Report ref: MDR1520C-TTI-00-XX-RP-Z-0004), Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (Report ref: MDR1520C-TTI-00-XX-RP-Z-0006) and Annex IV Risk Assessment (Report ref: MDR1520C-TTI-00-XX-RP-Z-0005) reports, therefore mitigation is not required.
Protected Marine Sites Policy 1	Demonstrate that activities can be implemented without adverse effects on the integrity of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs).	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Protected Marine Sites Policy 1. The potential impacts of the proposed SI works were assessed within the AA Screening Report and the NIS. These assessments consider the impacts on Qualifying Interests of SPAs and SACs, alone and in-combination with other projects/ plans. The findings of the NIS (Report ref: MDR1520C-TTI-00-XX-RP-Z-0004) concluded that adverse effects will be reduced to as low as practically possible with the application of mitigation measures and there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of SACs or SPAs.

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NMPF Policy	Sub-Objective	Relevant to Proposed Activities	Consistency with NMPF
Protected Marine Sites Policy 2	Proposals supporting the objectives of protected marine sites should be supported and: • be informed by appropriate guidance • must demonstrate that they are in accordance with legal requirements, including statutory advice provided by authorities relevant to protected marine sites.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Protected Marine Sites Policy 2. This MUL Application was drafted having reference to the Maritime Area Planning Act (2021), the Habitats and Birds Directive, utilising appropriate guidance abiding by legal and statutory requirements. The potential impacts of the proposed SI works were assessed within the AA Screening Report and the NIS. These assessments consider the impacts on Qualifying Interests of SPAs and SACs, alone and in-combination with other projects/ plans. All assessments were completed in accordance with statutory advice, legal requirements and the most up to date guidance.
Protected Marine Sites Policy 3	Proposals that enhance a protected site's ability to adapt to climate change should supported, informed by appropriate guidance and demonstrate accordance with legal requirements.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Protected Sites Marine Policy 3. Although the proposed SI works will not directly enhance any relevant protected site's ability to adapt to climate change, the activities proposed under this MULA are required in order to move forward with the design, construction and operation of the Oriel Wind Farm infrastructure. The Oriel Wind Farm will indirectly contribute to the reduction of long-term climate pressures on protected sites via reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.
Protected Marine Sites Policy 4	Avoid, minimise, or mitigate significant impacts on features that may be required to develop and further establish the network, or if it is not possible to mitigate significant impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Protected Marine Sites Policy 3. The proposed SI works will not have adverse effects on features of SAC/SPAs once mitigation measures are applied, as concluded in the accompanying NIS report.
Non-indigenous Species Policy 1	Proposals must demonstrate a risk management approach to prevent the introduction of and / or spread of non-indigenous species.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Non-Indigenous Species Policy 1. Invasive species have not been recorded within the MUL Area. Standard measures will be in place across all vessels to prevent the spread of invasive alien species as part of their standard operating procedures. The International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004, entered into force globally

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			on 8 September 2017. It is a treaty, adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in order to help prevent the spread of potentially harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens in ships' ballast water, including invasive species. The Sea Pollution (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 gives effect to a number of internationally agreed instruments including the International Convention on Ballast Water Management 2004. The Convention stipulates that ships must manage their ballast water so that aquatic organisms and pathogens are removed or rendered harmless before the ballast water is released into a new location. The above conventions will be adhered to through vessel standard operating procedures and therefore the proposed SI works will not contribute to the spread of non-indigenous species.
Water Quality Policy 1	Avoid, minimise, or mitigate significant adverse impacts on water quality, including upon habitats and species beneficial to water quality.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Water Quality Policy 1. All vessels operating in the marine environment must adhere to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) which is the main international convention covering prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships from operational or accidental causes. The Sea Pollution Act, 1991 ratified MARPOL in Ireland. In addition, all substances handled and/or used whilst undertaking the works are required to be handled, used, stored, and documented in accordance with assessments and the Chemicals Act 2008 (No. 13 of 2008) and Chemicals (Amendment) Act 2010 (No. 32 of 2010) and associated Regulations. Given the standard legal and regulatory pollution control requirements that apply to all vessels, the nature of the proposed SI works, their limited scale and duration, and the insignificant increase in vessel activity there will be no significant adverse effects on water quality due to accidental pollution. The proposed SI works will lead to limited suspension of sediment during intrusive sampling. However, sediment samples will be limited in extent and taken in a sequential order, meaning that they will not all be sampled at the same time. This will allow sediment to settle between locations. Relative to background levels within the turbid and tidal nature of the Irish Sea, this will not exceed background levels already present. Therefore, adverse impacts on water quality are not anticipated. Please see Attachment 4.5 Consistency of the Proposed Maritime usage with the objectives of the WFD (Report ref: MDR1520C-TTI-00-XX-RP-Z-0002) for further details

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			of potential water quality impacts and mitigation measures in place to ensure that the SI works proposed in this MULA are consistent with Water Quality Policy 1.
Water Quality Policy 2	Proposals delivering improvements to water quality, or enhancing habitats and species, which can be of benefit to water quality, should be supported.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Water Quality Policy 2. While the proposed SI works do not deliver improvements to water quality, the works are temporary in nature and standard measures will be put in place to avoid adverse impacts to water quality, as described above. However, the SI works will contribute to long term understanding of the marine environment via the collection of baseline data to inform offshore renewable energy projects. This data allows for informed decision making for the wider objectives of the NMPF (including Water Quality Policy 2).
Sea-floor and Water Column Integrity Policy 1	Avoid, minimise, or mitigate significant adverse impacts on marine habitats, or if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts on marine habitats must set out the reasons for proceeding.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Seafloor and Water Column Integrity Policy 1. Intrusive/ extractive sampling associated with the SI works will be limited in scale and consist of discrete sampling areas within a much wider dynamic marine environment. Given the limited scale and temporary nature of sampling to be undertaken, it is anticipated that there will be rapid recovery of sedimentary habitats over a number of tidal cycles and therefore, any impact to sedimentary habitats is fully reversible. No sensitive habitats such as reefs have been recorded in the MUL Area, as evidenced in the AA Screening Report (Report ref: MDR1520C-TTI-00-XX-RP-Z-0006) and NIS (Report ref: MDR1520C-TTI-00-XX-RP-Z-0004) reports. The proposed SI works will not have adverse effects on seabed habitats.
Sea-floor and Water Column Integrity Policy 2	Avoid, minimise, or mitigate adverse impacts on important habitats and species.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Seafloor and Water Column Integrity Policy 2. The proposed SI works will not have adverse effects on important habitats or species once mitigation measures are applied, as outlined in the Annex IV Risk Assessment (Report ref: MDR1520C-TTI-00-XX-RP-Z-0005), AA Screening Report (Report ref: MDR1520C-TTI-00-XX-RP-Z-0006) and NIS (Report ref: MDR1520C-TTI-00-XX-RP-Z-0004) reports. The SI works have been designed and will be managed to avoid, minimise, and mitigate impacts on important habitats and species.

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Sea-floor and Water Column Integrity Policy 3	In relation to ecosystem functioning and provision of ecosystem services, proposals must avoid, minimise, or mitigate for net loss of coastal habitat.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Sea-Floor and Water Column Integrity Policy 3 and will not contribute to net loss of coastal habitat required for ecosystem functioning and provision of ecosystem services. SI works have been designed to avoid impacts on coastal habitats, minimise potential indirect effects through mitigation, and thus comply with the requirement to protect and maintain ecosystem functioning and services.
Marine Litter Policy 1	Proposals that facilitate water re-use or recycling or reduce marine and coastal litter will be supported. Proposals that have the potential to increase the amount litter discharged into the maritime area must avoid minimise or mitigate litter.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Marine Litter Policy 1. The proposed SI works will be small scale and temporary in nature, thus will not produce a significant amount of waste. Further to this, vessels will operate under standard procedure for the duration of works, including compliance with standards according to MARPOL (maritime pollution) Convention and the Sea Pollution Acts. With this mitigation in place, there is no risk of litter discharge to the marine environment as a result of the SI works proposed in this MULA.
Underwater Noise Policy 1	Take account of spatial distribution, temporal extent, and levels of impulsive and / or continuous sound (underwater noise) that may be generated and the potential for significant adverse impacts on marine fauna.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Underwater Noise Policy 1. An assessment of underwater noise impact has been conducted as part of this MULA which includes the implementation of relevant mitigation measures to ensure no significant adverse effects on marine fauna, as evidenced in the Subsea Noise Technical Report (MDR1520C-TTI-00-XX-RP-Z-0000), Annex IV Risk Assessment (Report ref: MDR1520C-TTI-00-XX-RP-Z-0005), AA Screening Report (Report ref: MDR1520C-TTI-00-XX-RP-Z-0006) and NIS (Report ref: MDR1520C-TTI-00-XX-RP-Z-0004). In addition to the implementation of a soft-start for geophysical and sparker/boomer sources, in line with DAHG (2014), pre-start monitoring will be undertaken for all marine mammals and a qualified and experienced MMO will be appointed during geophysical and geotechnical surveys.
Air Quality Policy 1	Proposals that support a reduction in air pollution should be supported, subject to the outcome of statutory environmental assessment	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Air Quality Policy 1. While the proposed SI works will not directly support a reduction in air pollution, they will support the overall Oriel Wind Farm Project which aligns with the states goal of 5 GW of offshore wind in Ireland by 2030. The Project will support a shift away from traditional

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	processes and subsequent decision by the competent authority, and where they contribute to the policies and objectives of this NMPF. Proposals must demonstrate consideration of their contribution to air pollution, both direct and cumulative.		fossil fuels towards renewable energy, enabling a reduction in air pollution. Vessels and associated equipment used to conduct the proposed SI works are the only source emissions to air and these are typical of standard vessels used in the marine environment. During SI works vessels will comply with MARPOL requirements and follow industry standard practice procedures.
Air Quality Policy 2	Proposals must avoid, minimise, or mitigate air pollution.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Air Quality Policy 2. Any increase in air pollution associated with the SI works will be extremely limited. Vessels and associated equipment used to conduct the proposed SI works are the only source emissions to air and these are typical of standard vessels used in the marine environment. All vessels will comply with MARPOL requirements and follow industry standard practice procedures.
Climate Change Policy 1	Proposals should avoid contribution to adverse changes to physical features of the coast and enhance, restore, or recreate habitats that provide a flood defence or carbon sequestration ecosystem service where possible. Where impacts to ecosystem services above are possible, proposals must avoid, minimise or mitigate adverse impacts, or set out the reasons for proceeding if this cannot be achieved.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Climate Change Policy 1. These works will be temporary and small scale and will not adversely alter physical features of the coast. Intertidal SI works will result in potential habitat loss due to intrusive sampling methodologies (dig samples, boreholes, trial pits) but these will be minimal and are not expected to result in adverse changes to physical features of the coast or other habitats that provide ecosystem services. Impacts to ecosystem services are unlikely given that the SI works will not permanently overlap areas that provide flood defence services or other ecosystems services. No permanent infrastructure is to be installed during the activities proposed under this MULA.

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Climate Change Policy 2	Where likely impact upon climate change adaptation measures in the coastal area are identified, proposals must avoid, minimise, or mitigate these impacts. If this is not possible, the reasons for proceeding should be set out.	Yes	As the proposed SI works will short-term, small-scale, and limited to survey activities, these activities will not result in operational greenhouse gas emissions associated with construction. Emissions will be limited to vessel operation, as stated above. The proposed SI works will support the Oriel Wind Farm Project to contribute towards Ireland's net-zero emissions targets and our transition to a low carbon and climate-resilient, biodiversity-rich, environmentally sustainable and climate-neutral economy as underpinned by the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended. The proposed SI works will therefore contribute towards the achievement of national climate targets. Information collected by the SI works will support the overall Project in its aim to contribute to Ireland's net-zero emissions targets and our transition to a low carbon and climate-resilient, biodiversity-rich, environmentally sustainable and climate-neutral economy as underpinned by the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.
High Level Objective: Economic – Thriving Maritime Economy			
Co-existence Policy 1	Proposals should demonstrate that they have considered how to optimise the use of space, including through consideration of opportunities for co-existence and co-operation with other activities, enhancing other activities where appropriate.	Yes	SI works are consistent with Co-existence Policy 1. Notice and information will be distributed to affected stakeholders not less than two weeks prior to SI works undertaken in the MUL Area. Care will be taken to maintain contact with fishing vessels operating within the area of operations. The Applicant will not knowingly damage or interfere with the property of any fishers while carrying out survey activities. The contractor will ensure notifications of the intended work and timelines are posted in the relevant press well ahead of schedule and a fisheries liaison officer (FLO) will be employed. The MUL Area does not overlap aquaculture sites, port operations or tourism related infrastructure or activities. Potential interaction with shipping routes would be limited and temporary, given the short-term nature of the SI works and baseline level of shipping activity within the MUL Area. The majority of SI works will be limited to localised vessel

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			presence, which will have no long-term adverse impacts to sports clubs, tourism activities or other recreational users. The implementation of these measures will ensure that the proposed SI works will not result in conflict with other marine stakeholders.
Infrastructure Policy 1	Appropriate land-based infrastructure which facilitates marine activity (and vice versa) should be supported. Proposals for appropriate infrastructure that facilitates the diversification or regeneration of marine industries should be supported.	No	The proposed SI works will not directly involve the development of appropriate land-based infrastructure which facilitates marine activity (and vice versa). Neither will the proposed SI works interact with, restrict or conflict with the development of appropriate land-based infrastructure which facilitates marine activity (and vice versa). Infrastructure Policy 1 is not directly applicable to the proposed MULA.
High Level Objective: Social – Engagement with the Sea			
Access Policy 1	Proposals should avoid, minimise or mitigate significant impacts to public access (including in relation to tourism and recreation).	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Access Policy 1. The proposed SI works are temporary in nature. The majority of SI works will be offshore surveys that will not restrict public access to the foreshore or marine areas. The intertidal portion of the SI works will take place at Dunany Beach. As stated above, these will be limited and temporary in nature, therefore there will be no restrictions to access at Dunany Beach due to the proposed SI works.
Access Policy 2	Proposals demonstrating appropriate enhanced and inclusive public access to and within the maritime area, and that consider the future provision of services for tourism and recreation activities, should be supported.	No	The proposed SI works will not directly improve public access to and within the maritime area. The proposed SI works will not interact with, restrict or conflict with public access to and within the maritime area. Access Policy 2 is directly applicable to the proposed MULA.
Employment Policy 1	Proposals should demonstrate contribution to a net increase in	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Employment Policy 1.

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	marine related employment in Ireland.		The proposed SI works support the development of the Oriel Wind Farm Project. The overall project will support marine employment throughout all stages (construction, operation, decommissioning) for at least 40 years (the estimated design life). The SI works will also generate short term employment opportunities within the marine sector associated with vessel operation, ecological assessment and data analysis.
Heritage Assets Policy 1	Avoid, minimise, or mitigate harm to the significance of heritage assets, and if it is not possible, to mitigate harm, then the public benefits for proceeding with the proposal must outweigh the harm to the significance of the heritage assets.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Heritage Assets Policy 1. A Cultural Heritage assessment has been undertaken to inform the planning application for the Oriel Wind Farm Project. This assessment, along with the results of previous surveys will be reviewed to ensure that all known wrecks and cultural heritage assets are identified to inform planning of the SI works. In the unlikely event that additional heritage assets are discovered during the SI works, these will be reported to the National Monument Service and will be assessed by the marine archaeologist.
Rural Coastal and Island Communities Policy 1	Proposals contributing to access, communications, energy self-sufficiency or sustainability of rural coastal and / or island communities should be supported (inclusive of continual education, skills development and training in marine sectors).	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Rural Coastal and Island Communities Policy 1. While the SI works do not provide direct community benefits, they support a wider project expected to deliver positive economic and employment outcomes for rural and island communities, as well as improving community resilience through a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.
Seascape and Landscape Policy 1	Proposals should in order of preference avoid, minimise, or mitigate significant adverse impacts on the seascape and landscape of the area. If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals must set out the reasons for proceeding.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Seascape and Landscape Policy 1. Activities will be temporary, small scale and will not involve the construction of permanent above water infrastructure. Visual impacts will be limited to vessel presence and land-based survey activities (walkover surveys, dig samples, trial pits and borehole sampling) in the intertidal portion of the MUL Area. The SI works for this MUL application will have no adverse impacts on the seascape and landscape character.

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NMPF Policy	Sub-Objective	Relevant to Proposed Activities	Consistency with NMPF
Social Benefits Policy 1	Proposals that enhance or promote social benefits should be supported. If not possible, proposals should avoid, minimise, or mitigate significant adverse impacts which result in displacement of other activities that generate social benefits.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Social Benefits Policy 1. While the SI works do not provide social benefits, they support a wider project (Oriel Wind Farm) expected to deliver positive economic, employment and social outcomes via decarbonisation and energy security.
Social Benefits Policy 2	Proposals that increase the understanding and enjoyment of the marine environment (including its natural, historic and social value), or that promote conservation management and increased education and skills, should be supported.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Social Benefits Policy 2. While the SI works do not increase understanding and enjoyment of the marine environment, the surveys will generate baseline environmental and ecological data, improving knowledge of the marine environment.
Transboundary Policy 1	Proposals that have transboundary impacts beyond the maritime area (either the terrestrial environment or neighbouring international jurisdictions) must show evidence of consultation with the relevant public authorities. Proposals should consider transboundary impacts throughout the lifetime of the proposed activity.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Transboundary Policy 1. The proposed SI works will be short-term, small-scale, and limited to survey activities. Within the AA Screening Report and the NIS, the transboundary effects on nearby protected sites were assessed (marine mammal SACs within 100 km, SPAs for waterbirds within 20 km). The Annex IV Risk Assessment also considers the impacts to any cetacean species within the MUL Area. Possible underwater noise impacts to marine mammal will be mitigated through underwater noise (UWN) mitigation informed by <i>Guidance to Manage the Risk to Marine Mammals from Man-made Sound Sources in Irish Waters</i> (DAHG, 2014). With this mitigation in place, there will be no adverse impacts on site integrity or to highly mobile species that have an international range. None of the SI works will occur above the high-water mark (HWM) and the entirety of the MUL Area is within the Irish Sea.
Key Sectoral / Activity Policies: Aquaculture			

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Aquaculture Policy 1	Proposals for the sustainable development of aquaculture that demonstrate use of innovative approaches, and/or contribute to diversification of species being grown in a locality, and /or enhance resilience to climate change effects should be supported.	No	The proposed SI works will not support the sustainable development of aquaculture, contribute to diversification of species being grown in a locality or enhance resilience (of aquacultural activities) to climate change effects. The proposed SI works will not interact with, restrict or conflict with the sustainable development of aquaculture, contribute to diversification of species being grown in a locality or enhance resilience (of aquacultural activities) to climate change effects. Aquaculture Policy 1 is not directly applicable to the proposed MULA.
Aquaculture Policy 2	Avoid; minimise; mitigate significant adverse impacts on aquaculture. If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts upon aquaculture, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Aquaculture Policy 2. The nearest aquaculture site to the proposed SI works is located approximately 5 km from the MUL Area boundary. There is also a proposed aquaculture site (T01-1001) located 500 m west from the MUL Area boundary. As part of the SI works, the Project has agreed to consult with stakeholders including fishers in the area to minimise any significant impacts to aquaculture in the area. Therefore, no adverse impacts will occur to aquaculture sites due to the proposed SI works.
Aquaculture Policy 3	Land-based coastal infrastructure that is critical to and supports development of aquaculture should be supported, in accordance with any legal requirements and provided environmental safeguards contained within authorisation processes are fully met.	No	The proposed SI works will not support the development of land-based coastal infrastructure that is critical to and supports development of aquaculture. The proposed SI works will not interact with, restrict or conflict with the development of land-based coastal infrastructure that is critical to and supports development of aquaculture. Aquaculture Policy 3 is not directly applicable to the proposed MULA.
Key Sectoral / Activity Policies: Defence and Security			
Defence and Security Policy 1	Any proposal that has the potential to interfere with the performance by the Defence Forces of their security and non-security related tasks must	No	The proposed SI works will not interact with, restrict or conflict with the performance by the Defence Forces of their security and non-security related tasks. There are no designated military areas overlapping the proposed SI works. The closest military area is located approximately 5 km south of the MUL Area and is designated for use as a firing

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	be subject to consultation with the Defence Organisation.		area (EMODnet, 2026) ¹ . As no overlap with designated military areas will occur, consultation with the Defence Organisation is not required for the activities proposed in this MULA. Defence and Security Policy 1 is not directly applicable to the proposed MULA.
Key Sectoral / Activity Policies: Energy – Natural Gas Storage			
Natural Gas Storage Policy 1	Subject to assessments required for the protection of the environment, and only where in keeping with the outcome of the review of the security of energy supply of Ireland's electricity and natural gas systems (which is being carried out by Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications), natural gas storage proposals should be supported.	No	The proposed SI works will not involve natural gas storage development. Natural Gas Storage Policy 1 is not relevant to the proposed MULA.
Key Sectoral / Activity Policies: Energy – Offshore Renewable			
ORE Policy 1	Proposals that assist the State in meeting the Government's offshore renewable energy targets and that maximise the long-term shift from use of fossil fuels to renewable electricity energy should be supported.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with ORE Policy 1. The proposed SI works are fundamental to the development of the Oriel Wind Farm Project. The proposed SI works will support the Project to contribute towards Ireland's net-zero emissions targets and transition to a low carbon and climate-resilient, biodiversity-rich, environmentally sustainable and climate-neutral economy as underpinned by the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended. The overall project aligns with the states goal of 5 GW of offshore wind in Ireland by 2030. Environmental compliance has been embedded throughout SI design and assessed thoroughly via AA Screening Report, NIS and Annex IV Risk Assessment reports.

¹ [EMODnet Map Viewer](#) accessed July 2026

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NMPF Policy	Sub-Objective	Relevant to Proposed Activities	Consistency with NMPF
ORE Policy 2	Proposals must be consistent with national policy, including the Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDPA) and its successor. Projects that can enable delivery on the Government's 2030 targets will be prioritised for assessment under the new consenting regime.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with ORE Policy 2. The proposed SI works are consistent with national offshore renewable energy policy as outlined in the OREDPA and its successor frameworks. The SI works proposed in order to support the development of the Oriel Wind Farm Project will provide data necessary to enable delivery of the Government's 2030 offshore wind target of 5 GW.
ORE Policy 3	Non-ORE proposals must avoid, minimise or mitigate adverse impacts to sites held under a permission or that are subject to an ongoing permitting or consenting process for renewable energy generation. If not possible, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.	No	This policy applies to non-ORE proposals. As the proposed SI works are fundamental to the further development of the Oriel Wind Farm Project, this policy does not apply to the SI works proposed within this MULA. ORE Policy 3 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
ORE Policy 4	Decisions on ORE developments should be informed by consideration of space required for other activities of national importance described in the NMPF.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with ORE Policy 4. The proposed SI works will be short-term, small-scale, and limited to survey activities. Notice and information will be distributed to affected stakeholders not less than two weeks prior to SI works undertaken in the MULA Area. Care will be taken to maintain contact with fishing vessels operating within the area of operations. The Applicant will not knowingly damage or interfere with the property of any fishers while carrying out survey activities. The contractor will ensure notifications of the intended work and timelines are posted in the relevant press well ahead of schedule and a fisheries liaison officer (FLO) will be employed. The implementation of these measures will ensure that the proposed SI works will not result in conflict with other marine stakeholders.
ORE Policy 5	Proposals should avoid, minimise or mitigate adverse impacts to ORE test projects (by virtue of being within or adjacent to ORE test sites,	Yes	The SI works are consistent with ORE Policy 5. The SI works will not take place within or adjacent to ORE test sites and thus there is no potential for adverse impacts to ORE test projects.

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NMPF Policy	Sub-Objective	Relevant to Proposed Activities	Consistency with NMPF
	or between site and landfall of ORE test projects).		
ORE Policy 6	Proposals for infrastructure enabling local use of excess energy generated from emerging marine technologies (wave, tidal, floating wind) should be supported.	No	The proposed SI works will be temporary and will not involve the construction of any permanent infrastructure that will enable local use of excess generate energy. ORE Policy 6 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
ORE Policy 7	Where potential for ports to contribute to ORE is identified, plans and policies related to this port must encourage development in such a way as to facilitate ORE and related supply chain activity.	No	The proposed SI works will not involve the development of port infrastructure or supply chain activity. ORE Policy 7 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
ORE Policy 8	Proposals for ORE must demonstrate consideration of existing cables passing through or adjacent to areas for development, making sure ability to repair and carry out cable-related remedial work is not significantly compromised.	No	There are no existing cables within the MUL Area or in close proximity that could be affected by the proposed SI works. The SI works are consistent with ORE Policy 8.
ORE Policy 9	ORE proposals must include a visualisation assessment to inform design and layout. Visualisation assessments should demonstrate consultation with communities that may be able to view the proposal, in addition to any other ORE development, which had received consent to proceed at a given site at	No	The proposed SI works will not involve the development of permanent visible coastal or marine ORE related infrastructure. ORE Policy 9 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.

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NMPF Policy	Sub-Objective	Relevant to Proposed Activities	Consistency with NMPF
	the time the consent application is made, with the aim of minimising impact.		
ORE Policy 10	Opportunities for land-based, coastal infrastructure that is critical to and supports development of ORE should be prioritised in plans and policies, where possible.	No	The proposed SI works will not involve the development of land-based coastal infrastructure in support of ORE developments. ORE Policy 10 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
ORE Policy 11	Where appropriate, proposals that enable the provision of emerging renewable energy technologies and associated supply chains will be supported.	No	The proposed SI works will not enable the provision of emerging renewable energy technologies and associated supply chains. Neither will the proposed SI works interact with, restrict or conflict with the provision of emerging renewable energy technologies and associated supply chains. ORE Policy 11 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
Key Sectoral / Activity Policies: Energy – Petroleum			
Petroleum Policy 1	Proposals should be compatible with the existing, authorised or proposed activity or the proposal should be of strategic or national importance. Compatibility should be achieved through avoiding, minimising or mitigating adverse impacts. If not possible, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.	No	The proposed SI works will not overlap existing, authorised or proposed petroleum activity in the Irish Sea. The closest offshore gas pipeline, Interconnector 2 (F43_10) ² is located approximately 20 km south of the proposed MUL Area. The closest exploration well (Arch Rowan) is located approximately 55 km south of the proposed MUL Area, off the coast of Howth Head in Co. Dublin. Petroleum Policy 1 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
Petroleum Policy 2	Proposals potentially affecting future potential activity in areas (blocks) subject to existing petroleum authorisations should avoid	No	The proposed SI works will not affect future potential activity in the Irish Sea. The closest current authorisation for a standard exploration licence in the Irish Sea is held by Providence Resources (EL1/07) and is located approximately 180 km south of the proposed MUL Area off the coast of Co. Wexford ² . As there is no possibility of the

² [Ireland's Marine Atlas](#) accessed July 2026

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NMPF Policy	Sub-Objective	Relevant to Proposed Activities	Consistency with NMPF
	sterilisation of that area for future petroleum-related activity consistent with Government policy. Proposals should avoid, minimise or mitigate potential adverse impacts on those activities. If not possible, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.		proposed SI works affecting future activity in this area, Petroleum Policy 2 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
Key Sectoral / Activity Policies: Energy – Transmission			
Transmission Policy 1	Electricity transmission proposals that maintain or improve the security and diversity of Ireland's energy supply should be supported.	No	The proposed SI works will be temporary and will not involve the development or expansion of Ireland's electricity transmission infrastructure. The proposed SI works will not interact with, restrict or conflict with the development or expansion of Ireland's electricity transmission infrastructure. Transmission Policy 1 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
Transmission Policy 2	Proposals should avoid, minimise or mitigate adverse impacts to energy transmission proposals. If not possible, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.	No	The proposed SI works will not interact with, restrict or conflict with energy transmission proposals. There are no current or future energy proposals within the MUL Area that the proposed SI works could impact (as evidenced in the in-combination assessment of the AA Screening Report and NIS). Transmission Policy 2 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
Transmission Policy 3	Decisions on transmission developments should be informed by consideration of space required for other activities of national importance described in the NMPF.	No	The proposed SI works will not involve the development or expansion of Ireland's electricity transmission infrastructure. Transmission Policy 3 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
Transmission Policy 4	Where possible, opportunities for land-based, coastal infrastructure that is critical to and supports energy transmission should be prioritised in plans and policies. Designation of	No	The proposed SI works will not involve the development of land-based, coastal infrastructure that is critical to energy transmission. Transmission Policy 4 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.

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NMPF Policy	Sub-Objective	Relevant to Proposed Activities	Consistency with NMPF
	land-based zones for the purposes of co-ordination and integration with relevant Marine Plans must be considered, where appropriate.		
Transmission Policy 5	Proposals for construction or operation activities within one nautical mile of either of the two existing natural gas interconnector pipelines shall be avoided.	No	The proposed SI works will not be located within one nautical mile of either of the two existing natural gas interconnector pipelines. Transmission Policy 5 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
Transmission Policy 6	Additional proposals for natural gas transmission/ import infrastructure should be supported, subject to required assessment for the protection of the environment and in keeping with the outcome of the review of the security of Ireland's electricity and natural gas systems and not involving the importation of fracked gas.	No	The proposed SI works will not involve the development of transmission/ import infrastructure. Transmission Policy 6 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
Key Sectoral / Activity Policies: Fisheries			
Fisheries Policy 1	Proposals should avoid, minimise or mitigate significant adverse impacts on access for existing fishing activities. If not possible, the public benefits for proceeding must outweigh significant adverse impacts on existing fishing activity.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Fisheries Policy 1. The proposed SI works will not permanently exclude fishing vessels from the MUL Area. Survey vessels and equipment may create localised, short-term restrictions to fishing activities; however, these impacts will be minimal in extent and duration. Notice and information will be distributed to affected stakeholders not less than two weeks prior to SI works undertaken in the MUL Area. Care will be taken to maintain contact with fishing vessels operating within the area of operations. The Applicant will not knowingly damage or interfere with the property of any fishers while carrying out survey activities. The contractor will ensure

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NMPF Policy	Sub-Objective	Relevant to Proposed Activities	Consistency with NMPF
			notifications of the intended work and timelines are posted in the relevant press ahead of schedule and a fisheries liaison officer (FLO) will be employed.
Fisheries Policy 2	Where significant impact upon fishing activity arising from any proposal is identified, a Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy (FMMS) should be prepared by the proposer of development or other maritime area use, in consultation with local fishing interests and other interests as appropriate.	No	The proposed SI works will be temporary and will not result in significant impacts upon fishing activity in the MUL area, thus a FMMS is not required for the SI works. Fisheries Policy 2 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
Fisheries Policy 3	Proposals that enhance the sustainability of fisheries or support a sustainable fishing industry, including the industry's diversification and or enhanced resilience to the effects of climate change, should be supported provided they fully meet the environmental safeguards contained within authorisation processes.	No	The proposed SI works will not enhance the sustainability of fisheries or support a sustainable fishing industry. Neither will the proposed SI works interact with, restrict or conflict with sustainable fisheries or a sustainable fishing industry. Fisheries Policy 3 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
Fisheries Policy 4	Infrastructural proposals that enable access to fishing activities should be supported provided they fully meet the environmental safeguards contained within authorisation processes.	No	The proposed SI works will not involve the development of infrastructure that will enable access to fishing activities. The proposed SI works will not interact with, restrict or conflict with the development of infrastructure that will enable access to fishing activities. Fisheries Policy 4 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
Fisheries Policy 5	Avoid, minimise, mitigate significant adverse impact on essential fish habitat, including spawning, nursery	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Fisheries Policy 5. The proposed SI works will lead to limited, short-term suspension of sediment during intrusive sampling and a small volume of sediment removal. Sediment samples will be

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NMPF Policy	Sub-Objective	Relevant to Proposed Activities	Consistency with NMPF
	and feeding grounds, and migration routes.		limited in extent and taken in a sequential order, rather than concurrently, allowing sediment to settle between locations. Although the proposed SI works overlap with recorded key species spawning grounds³, any increase in suspended sediment concentration (SSC) is expected to be negligible relative to existing background levels, given the turbid and tidally energetic conditions of the Irish Sea. As such, sediment suspension associated with the works is not anticipated to exceed background conditions, and adverse impacts on essential fish habitats are not expected. Fish species in the region are likely adapted to natural elevated and variable levels of turbidity, given the regular tidal fluctuations within the Irish Sea. Soft sedimentary habitats (such as the sand and muddy habitat identified in the offshore cable corridor during recent site surveys⁴) typically recover more rapidly from habitat loss and / or habitat alteration than coarse or structurally complex benthic habitats⁵. Given the limited habitat loss associated with geotechnical surveys, any effects related to temporary habitat loss and/or increased SSC to essential fish habitat are expected to be minor and short-term. Interaction with migratory fish was assessed in the AA Screening Report and no likelihood for significant effects was concluded.
Fisheries Policy 6	Ports and harbours should seek to engage with fishing and other relevant stakeholders at an early stage to discuss any changes in infrastructure that may affect them. Port or harbour developments should take account of the needs of the dependent fishing fleets with a	No	The proposed SI works will not involve changes in infrastructure associated with port or harbour developments. Fisheries Policy 6 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.

³ [Datasets - data.gov.ie](#) Key species spawning grounds data 2024 – accessed July 2026

⁴ [RPS Chp 8 Addendum - Benthic Subtidal and Intertidal Ecology \(2025\)](#) accessed July 2026

⁵ [Foden et al \(2011\) Human pressures on UK seabed habitats: A cumulative impact assessment](#) accessed July 2026

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NMPF Policy	Sub-Objective	Relevant to Proposed Activities	Consistency with NMPF
	view to avoiding commercial harm where possible.		
Key Sectoral / Activity Policies: Mineral Exploration and Mining			
Mineral Exploration and Mining Policy 1	Only proposals which are in line with national policy on mineral exploration and mining should be considered, provided they fully meet the environmental safeguards contained within the mineral exploration and mining consent processes.	No	The proposed SI works will be temporary and will not involve mineral exploration or mining. Mineral Exploration and Mining Policy 1 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
Key Sectoral / Activity Policies: Ports, Harbours and Shipping			
Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 1	To provide for shipping activity and freedom of navigation the following factors will be taken into account when reaching decisions regarding development and use: • The extent to which the locational decision interferes with existing or planned routes used by shipping, access to ports and harbours and navigational safety; • A mandatory Navigation Risk Assessment; • Where interference is likely: whether reasonable	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 1. The activities proposed under this MULA will be temporary, mobile, of limited duration and will not introduce permanent infrastructure that could restrict shipping activity or freedom of navigation. Potential interaction with shipping routes would be limited and temporary, given the short-term nature of the SI works and baseline level of shipping activity within the MUL Area. Standard maritime procedures, including the issue of Notices to Mariners and adherence to International Maritime Organisation (IMO) standards, will ensure navigation safety and minimise interference.

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NMPF Policy	Sub-Objective	Relevant to Proposed Activities	Consistency with NMPF
	alternatives can be identified; and Where there are no reasonable alternatives: whether mitigation through measures adopted in accordance with the principles and procedures established by the International Maritime Organisation can be achieved at no significant cost to the shipping or ports sector.		
Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 2	Proposals should avoid, minimise or mitigate significant adverse impacts upon current activity and future opportunity for expansion of port and harbour activities. If not possible, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.	No	The proposed SI works in this MULA do not have the potential to interact with port and harbour activities; nor will the SI works introduce adverse effects on future expansion of port and harbour activities. SI works will not take place within or close to ports or harbours and SI works will not require the use of port infrastructure beyond standard mobilisation and demobilisation of survey vessels. Therefore, the proposed SI works will not constrain existing port and harbour operations, or opportunities for expansion. Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 2 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 3	Proposals that may have a significant impact upon current activity and future opportunity for expansion of port and harbour activities must demonstrate consideration of the National Ports Policy, the National Planning	No	The proposed SI works in this MULA do not have the potential to interact with port and harbour activities; nor will the SI works introduce adverse effects on future expansion of port and harbour activities as demonstrated above in response to NMPF Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 2. Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 3 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.

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NMPF Policy	Sub-Objective	Relevant to Proposed Activities	Consistency with NMPF
	Framework, and relevant provisions related to the TEN-T network.		
Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 4	Applicants must continue to engage parties identified in pre-application processes as appropriate during the decision-making process.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 4. Liaison will be undertaken with port officials to inform of schedule and scope of SI works ensuring no interference with day-to-day operation of local ports.
Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 5	Proposals for capital dredging will be supported where it is necessary to safeguard national port capacity and Ireland's international connectivity.	No	The proposed SI works will not involve capital dredging. Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 5 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 6	In areas of authorised dredging activity, including those subject to navigational dredging, proposals for other activities will not be supported unless they are compatible with the dredging activity.	No	The proposed SI works do not overlap with any authorised or proposed dredging activity. Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 6 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 7	Proposals for maintenance dredging activity will be supported where: - relevant decisions by competent authorities incorporate the outcome of statutory environmental assessment processes; - there will be no significant adverse impact on marine activities or uses or the maritime area;	No	The proposed SI works in this MULA do not involve maintenance dredging activities. Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 7 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.

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NMPF Policy	Sub-Objective	Relevant to Proposed Activities	Consistency with NMPF
	- dredged waste is managed in accordance with internationally agreed hierarchy of waste management options for sea disposal; - if disposing of dredged material at sea, existing registered disposal sites are used, in preference to new disposal sites; and - where they contribute to the policies and objectives of this NMPF.		
Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 8	Proposals that cause significant adverse impacts on licensed disposal areas should not be supported, and if avoidance is not possible should minimise and mitigate significant adverse impacts. If this cannot be achieved, proposals must set out the reasons for proceeding.	No	The proposed SI works in this MULA do not overlap authorised or proposed disposal areas. Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 8 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 9	Proposals for the management of dredged material must demonstrate that they have been assessed against the waste hierarchy.	No	The proposed SI works in this MULA do not involve dredging or the management of dredged material. Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 9 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.

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NMPF Policy	Sub-Objective	Relevant to Proposed Activities	Consistency with NMPF
Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 10	Proposals identifying new dredge disposal sites which are subject to best practice and guidance from previous studies should be supported where: - competent authority decisions incorporate necessary compliance assessments associated with authorisations; and - they contribute to the policies and objectives of this NMPF.	No	The proposed SI works in this MULA do not involve the identification of new dredge disposal sites or the disposal of dredged material. Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 10 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
Key Sectoral / Activity Policies: Safety at Sea			
Safety at Sea Policy 1	ORE proposals must minimise navigational risk between commercial vessels due to changes as a result of farm layout and allow for recreational vessels within the Offshore Wind Farm or redirect.	No	The proposed SI works in this MULA do not involve the construction of wind farm infrastructure. Safety at Sea Policy 1 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
Safety at Sea Policy 2	Infrastructure proposals should avoid, minimise or mitigate adverse impacts to under-keel clearance. If this cannot be achieved, proposals must set out the reasons for proceeding.	No	The proposed SI works in this MULA do not involve the construction of wind farm infrastructure. Safety at Sea Policy 2 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
Safety at Sea Policy 3	All proposals for temporary or permanent fixed infrastructure in the maritime area must ensure	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Safety at Sea Policy 3. The proposed SI works will not introduce any permanent fixed infrastructure into the maritime area. A marine notice will be issued in advance of the works to notify other

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NMPF Policy	Sub-Objective	Relevant to Proposed Activities	Consistency with NMPF
	navigational marking in accordance with appropriate international standards and ensure inclusion in relevant charts where applicable.		mariners of any temporary structures (e.g. metocean buoys/FLIDAR.ADCPs) within the MUL Area to ensure navigational safety. Metocean buoys must ensure navigational marking in accordance with appropriate international standards. These buoys would not be relevant to include in maritime charts as the duration of mooring would be temporary and comprise a very small area.
Safety at Sea Policy 4	Establishing, changing or disestablishing Aids to Navigation (AtoN) must be sanctioned, in advance of works, by the Commissioners of Irish Lights.	No	The proposed SI works do not involve establishing, changing or disestablishing AtoN. Safety at Sea Policy 1 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
Safety at Sea Policy 5	Proposals must avoid, minimise or mitigate significant impact on Maritime Response (Search and Rescue (SAR), Maritime Casualty and Pollution Response) operations. If this cannot be achieved, proposals must set out the reasons for proceeding, supported by parties responsible for maritime SAR.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Safety at Sea Policy 5. All vessel-based surveys will be conducted in compliance with standard maritime safety regulations. The SI works will not introduce permanent infrastructure or restrict access for SAR, Maritime Casualty or Pollution Response operations.
Key Sectoral / Activity Policies: Sport and Recreation			
Sport and Recreation Policy 1	Proposals that promote sustainable development of water-based sports and marine recreation, while enhancing community health, wellbeing and quality of life, should be supported.	No	The proposed SI works do not involve the sustainable development of water-based sports and marine recreation. The proposed SI works will not interact with, restrict or conflict with sustainable development of water-based sports and marine recreation, or community health, wellbeing and quality of life. Sports and Recreation Policy 1 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.

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NMPF Policy	Sub-Objective	Relevant to Proposed Activities	Consistency with NMPF
Sport and Recreation Policy 2	Proposals should demonstrate (in relation to potential impacts on recreation and tourism); • extent of adverse impacts to sports clubs and other recreational users; • extent of interference with access to and along the shore, to the water, use of the resource for recreation or tourism purposes and existing navigational routes or navigational safety; and • extent to which the proposal is likely to adversely impact on the natural environment.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Sport and Recreation Policy 2. The proposed SI works will comprise temporary, small-scale survey activities. The majority of SI works will be limited to localised vessel presence, which will have no long-term adverse impacts to sports clubs or other recreational users. A small portion of the activities proposed in this MULA will take place along the shoreline at Dunany Beach (environmental, geophysical and geotechnical surveys). Again, these will be limited in duration and cover a small portion of the overall beach. No ports or boat access points intersect the intertidal survey location and as such there will be no interference with access to land along the shore by boat users. Given the limited amount of sediment removed during intertidal surveys, no long-term adverse impacts on the natural environment of Dunany Beach are predicted.
Sport and Recreation Policy 3	Opportunities to promote inclusive development of water-based sports and marine recreation should be supported.	No	The proposed SI works do not involve the promotion of inclusive development of water-based sports and marine recreation. The proposed SI works will not interact with, restrict or conflict with inclusive development of water-based sports and marine recreation. Sports and Recreation Policy 3 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
Sport and Recreation Policy 4	Proposals that improve access to marine and coastal resources for tourism activities, and sport and recreation should be supported.	No	The proposed SI works do not involve the improvement of access to marine and coastal resources for tourism activities. The proposed SI works will not interact with, restrict or conflict with access to marine and coastal resources for tourism activities. Sports and Recreation Policy 4 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
Sport and Recreation Policy 5	Proposals should seek to enhance water safety through provision of appropriate International Organization for Standardization	No	The proposed SI works do not involve the creation of recreational or tourism facilities where ISO/CEN compliant safety signage would be required. The proposed SI works will not interact with, restrict or conflict with ISO/CEN compliant safety signage. Sports and Recreation Policy 5 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.

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NMPF Policy	Sub-Objective	Relevant to Proposed Activities	Consistency with NMPF
	(ISO) and European Committee for Standardization (CEN) compliant safety signage.		
Key Sectoral / Activity Policies: Telecommunications			
Telecommunications Policy 1	Proposals that guarantee existing and future international telecommunications connectivity which is critically important to support the future needs of society, Government, the provision of Public Services and enterprise in Ireland, should be supported.	No	The proposed SI works do not involve the development of telecommunications infrastructure. The proposed SI works will not interact with, restrict or conflict with existing and future international telecommunications connectivity. Policy 1 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
Telecommunications Policy 2	Preference should be given to proposals where evidence is provided of an integrated approach to development and activity. Compatibility should be achieved through avoiding, minimising or mitigating adverse impacts. If this cannot be achieved, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.	No	The proposed SI works do not involve the development of telecommunications infrastructure or cable bundling. The proposed SI works will not interact with, restrict or conflict with the development of telecommunications infrastructure or cable bundling. Telecommunications Policy 2 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
Telecommunications Policy 3	Preference should be given to proposals that protect submarine cables whilst achieving successful seabed user coexistence. Proposals should specify if separate access to cables for the purposes of repair and maintenance is required.	No	The proposed SI works do not involve the development of telecommunications infrastructure and submarine cables. The proposed SI works will not interact with, restrict or conflict with the protection of submarine cables or successful seabed coexistence. Telecommunications Policy 3 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.

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NMPF Policy	Sub-Objective	Relevant to Proposed Activities	Consistency with NMPF
Telecommunications Policy 4	Proposals that ensure and enhance connectivity of Ireland's rural and island communities to high quality telecommunications networks should be supported.	No	The proposed SI works do not involve the development of telecommunications infrastructure or submarine cables. The proposed SI works will not interact with, restrict or conflict with Ireland's rural and island communities' connectivity to high quality telecommunications networks. Telecommunications Policy 4 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
Key Sectoral / Activity Policies: Tourism			
Tourism Policy 1	Proposals enabling, promoting or facilitating sustainable tourism and recreation activities should be supported.	No	The proposed SI works are not related to enabling, promoting or facilitating sustainable tourism and recreation activities. The proposed SI works will not interact with, restrict or conflict with sustainable tourism or recreation activities. Tourism Policy 1 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
Tourism Policy 2	Proposals must identify possible impacts on tourism, and where a significant impact is identified demonstrate how this can be minimised.	Yes	The SI works are consistent with Tourism Policy 2. Potential impacts on tourism would be short-term, limited to localised vessel presence and intertidal surveys at a small section of Dunany Beach during survey campaigns. No long-term restriction of coastal access, views, or recreational waters is expected. The SI works proposed in this MULA will be temporary and will not result in significant impacts to tourism.
Tourism Policy 3	Proposals for tourism development should seek to optimise facilities and use of space by taking a cross-sectoral development approach, whilst minimising the extent to which the proposal is likely to adversely impact on the natural environment.	No	The proposed SI works are not related to tourism developments or facilities. The proposed SI works will not interact with, restrict or conflict with cross-sectoral tourism development. Tourism Policy 3 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.
Key Sectoral / Activity Policies: Wastewater Treatment and Disposal			
Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Policy 1	Proposals by Irish Water related to the treatment and disposal of wastewater should be supported.	No	The proposed SI works are not related to the treatment and disposal of wastewater. Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Policy 1 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.

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NMPF Policy	Sub-Objective	Relevant to Proposed Activities	Consistency with NMPF
Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Policy 2	Proposals that may affect Irish Water activities or plans should engage with Irish Water at the earliest available opportunity and avoid, minimise or mitigate impacts on these activities.	No	The proposed SI works will not affect Irish Water activities or plans. Engagement with Irish Water in relation to the activities proposed under this MULA is not required. Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Policy 2 is not relevant to the activities proposed in this MULA.

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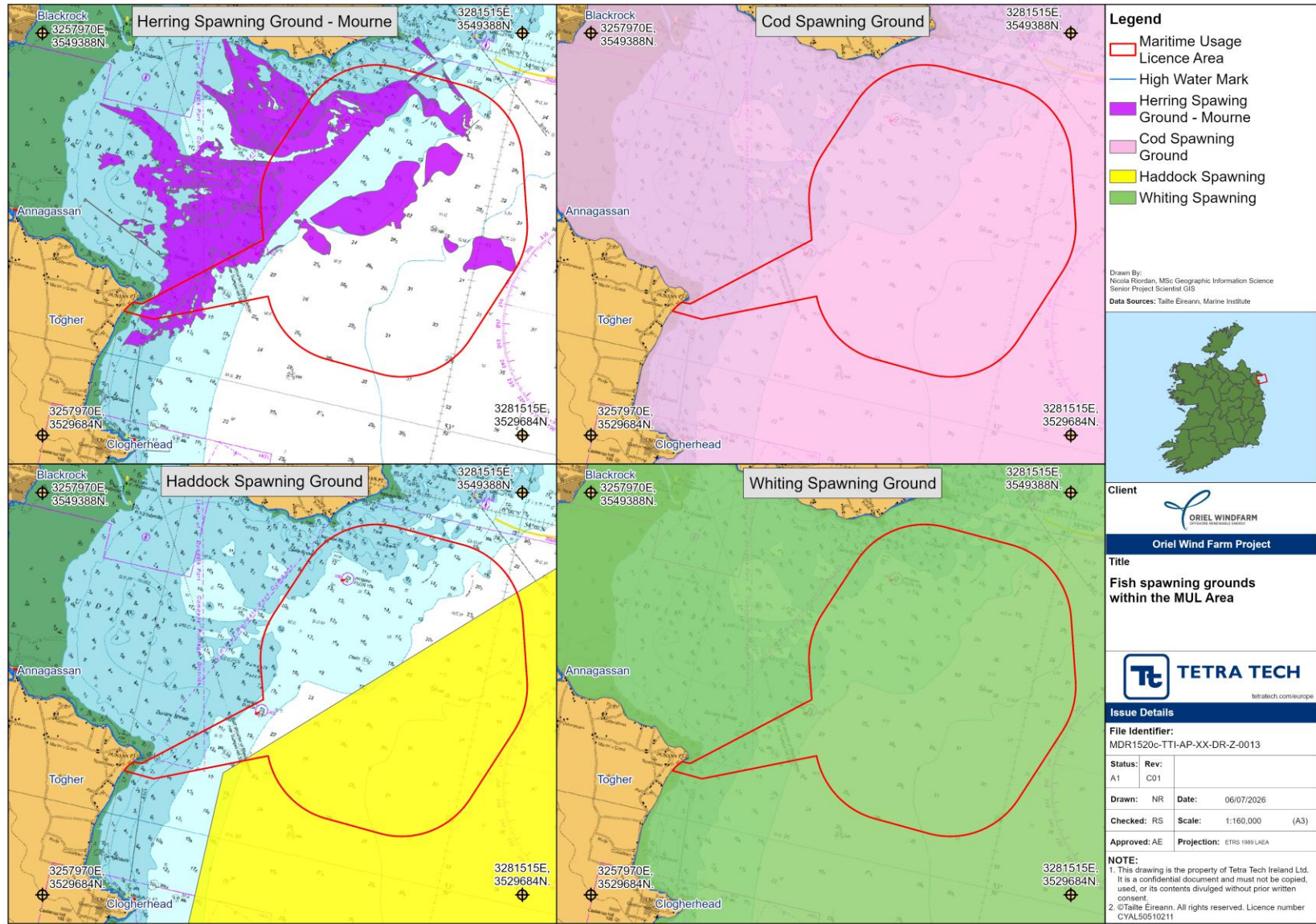


Figure 2-1 Fish spawning grounds within the MUL Area

Oriel Wind Farm Project

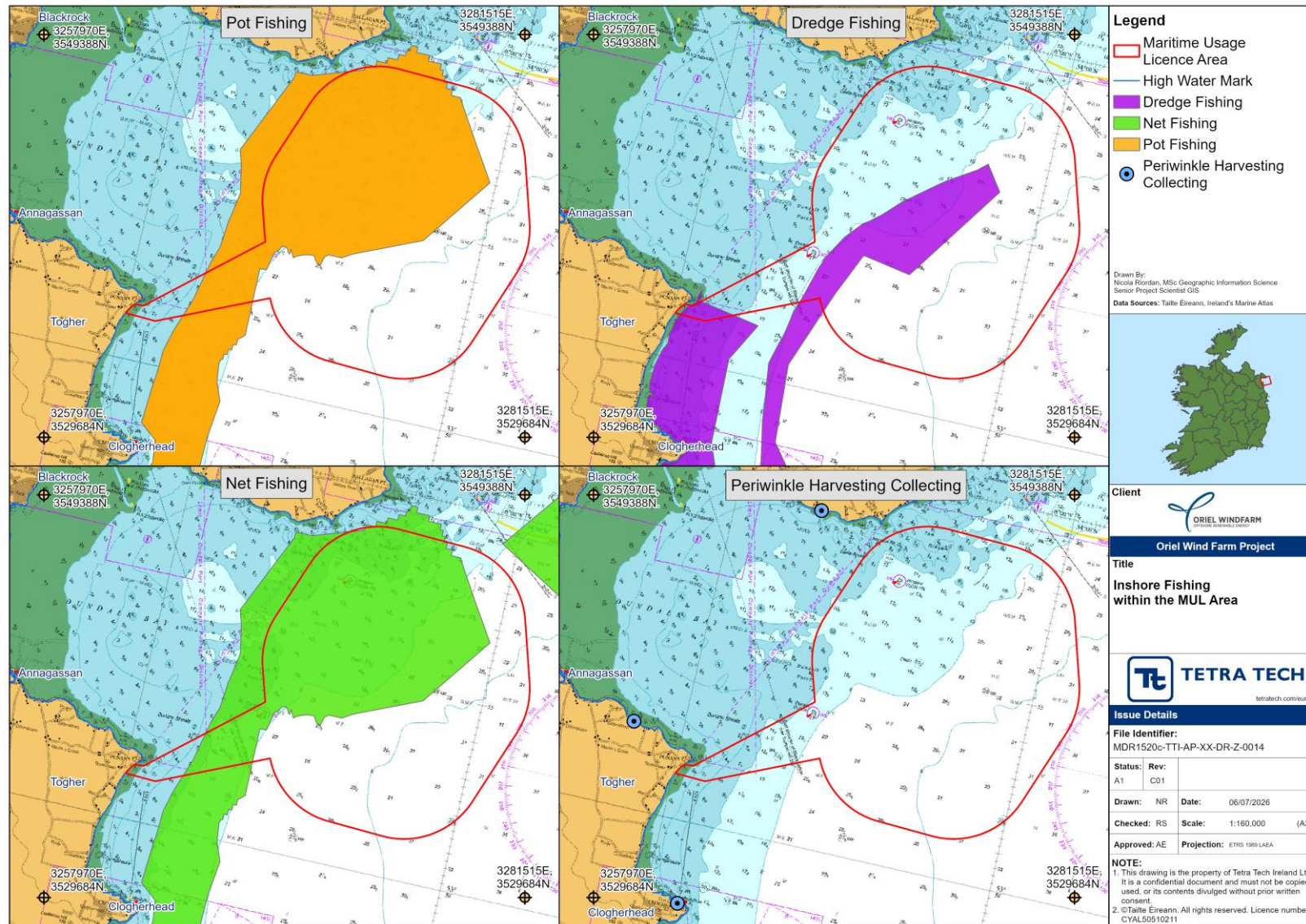


Figure 2-2 Inshore Fishing within the MUL Area

Oriel Wind Farm Project

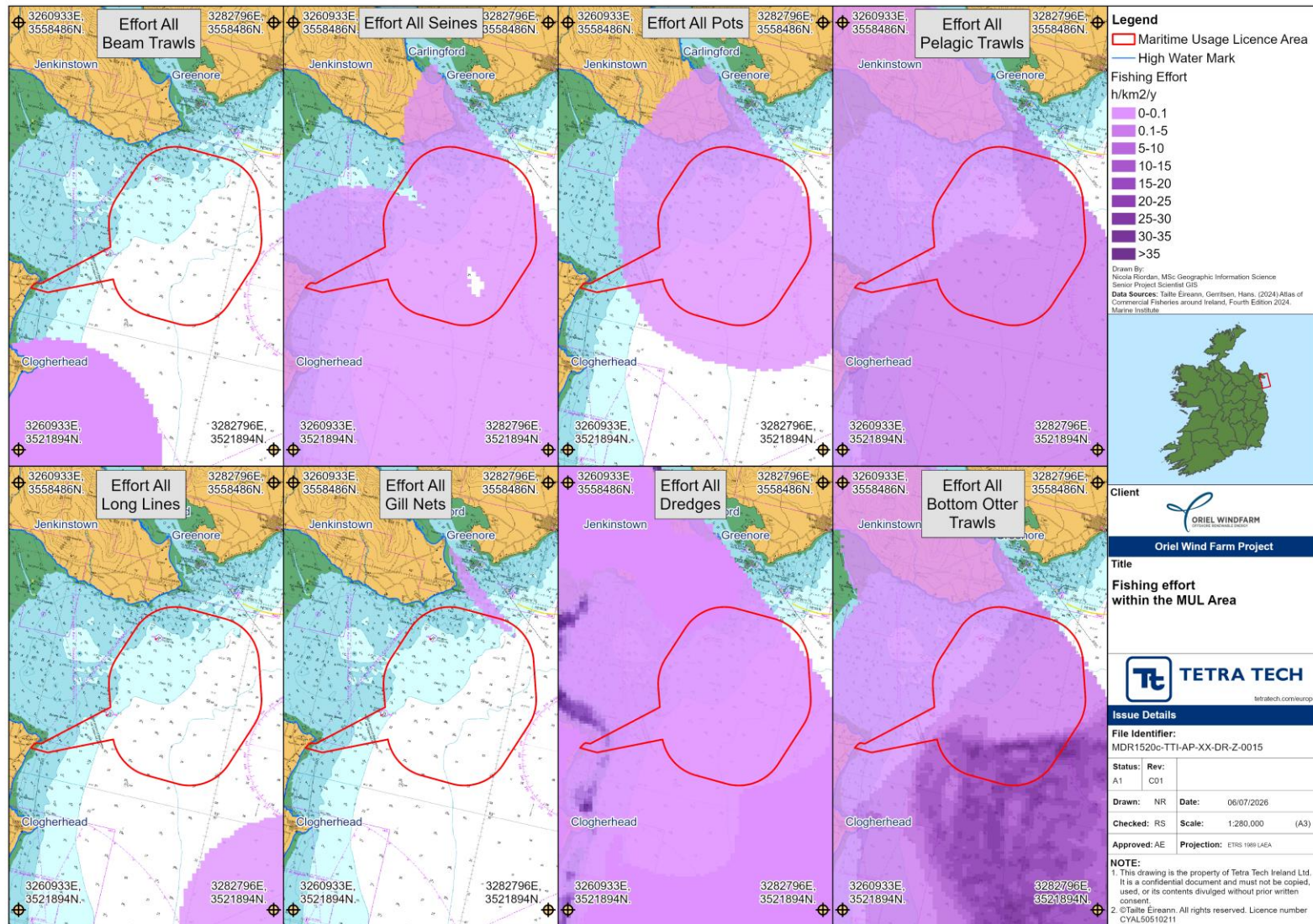


Figure 2-3 Fishing effort within the MUL Area