

19/062 - WO064 Marine Modelling Studies - Lot 1 Greater Dublin & Northeast Region

Compliance with Objectives of the Marine Strategy Framework
Directive

Uisce Éireann

March 2026

Quality Information

Prepared by	Checked by	Verified by	Approved by
Laura Hearnden Senior Marine Ecologist	Alison Donnelly Senior Marine Ecologist	Brian Cuthbert Associate Director	Sundar Rangasamy Associate Director

Revision History

Revision	Revision date	Details	Authorized	Name	Position
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Prepared for:

Uisce Éireann

Prepared by:

AECOM

AECOM Ireland Limited
Galway Technology Park
Parkmore
Galway H91 W30F
Ireland

T: +353 91 530 199
aecom.com

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1. Compliance with Objectives of the Water Framework Directive

1.1 Introduction

This Attachment has been prepared in support of the Maritime Usage Licence (MUL) Application for marine surveys associated with the Marine Modelling Study (MMS) being undertaken by Uisce Éireann along the Irish coast, from Carlingford Lough to Kilcoole. The marine surveys comprise the deployment and recovery of Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers (ADCPs), bathymetric surveys, and passive water quality sampling (hereafter referred to as the Marine Surveys), within Proposed Licence Areas A–D. Further details of the marine surveys and Proposed Licence Areas A–D can be found in Part 3 of the MUL Application.

This attachment forms one of eleven attachments (the current attachment is highlighted in **bold**) submitted in support of included as part of the MUL Application:

- Attachment 3.1: Proposed Maritime Usage
- Attachment 3.4: MUL Map and GIS Shapefiles
- Attachment 3.5: Other Maps and Drawings
- Attachment 4.1: Compliance with Objectives of the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF);
- Attachment 4.3.1: Supporting Information for Screening of Appropriate Assessment (SISAA);
- Attachment 4.4: Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species;
- Attachment 4.5: Compliance with Objectives of the Water Framework Directive;
- **Attachment 4.6: Compliance with Marine Strategy Framework Directive;**
- Attachment 4.7: Information for EIA Screening; and,
- Attachment 4.11: Compliance with National or European Strategic or Policy Objectives.

The purpose of this document is to provide a clear and proportionate assessment of compliance with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) (2008/56/EU) and its implementing Irish legislation. It demonstrates that the proposed Marine Surveys will not result in deterioration of any marine waters and will not compromise the achievement of the Directive's environmental objectives.

1.2 Quality Assurance and Statement of Authority

This report, and the assessment described within it, has been completed in accordance with the AECOM Integrated Management System (IMS). AECOM's IMS places emphasis on professionalism, technical excellence, quality, as well as covering health, safety, environment and sustainability management. All AECOM staff members are committed to maintaining this accreditation to those parts of BS EN ISO 9001:2015 and 14001:2015, as well as BS OHSAS 18001:2007 that are relevant to the provision of consultancy services.

1.3 Marine Strategy Framework Directive Objective

The MSFD is an EU Directive (2008/56/EU) aimed at achieving Good Environmental Status (GED) for all marine waters in Europe. The term 'marine waters' includes coastal and outer marine areas, the seabed and appropriate subsoil areas.

The objectives of the MSFD are set out in Article 1 of the Directive and include the following:

- To protect and preserve the marine environment, prevent its deterioration and where practicable, restore marine ecosystems in areas where they have been adversely affected.
- To achieve GED in all EU marine waters by 2020 and maintain it thereafter.
- To ensure sustainable use of marine resources, safeguarding the capacity of seas to provide ecosystem services for present and future generations.

- To reduce pollution and human-induced pressures including contaminants, marine litter and underwater noise.
- To integrate environmental considerations into all marine-related policies, ensuring an ecosystem-based approach to managing human activities.

1.4 Compliance Check

Table 1. MSFD Compliance Assessment

MSFD Objective	Potential Interaction	Potential Effects	Compliance Check
Protect and preserve the marine environment and prevent its deterioration.	Localised seabed disturbance, temporary increases in suspended sediments, vessel presence, and a very low risk of accidental pollution	All identified effects are temporary, spatially limited, and reversible. They do not alter any biological, chemical or hydromorphological quality elements in a measurable way.	No deterioration predicted – compliant
Achieve GED in all EU marine waters by 2020.	Short-term disturbance to sediments and the water column	The scale and duration of the activities are insufficient to influence ecological status or interfere with ongoing recovery objectives in Moderate status water bodies.	Compliant
Ensure sustainable use of marine resources.	Temporary survey activities	The marine surveys are non-extractive, short-term, and do not affect water availability or long-term resource use.	Compliant
Reduce pollution and human-induced pressures.	Potential for accidental fuel or oil release	No routine discharges are proposed. With standard controls in place (e.g. MARPOL), the likelihood of a pollution event is very low, and any accidental release would be small in scale and rapidly dispersed.	Compliant
Integrate environmental considerations into all marine-related policies.	Temporary survey activities	The marine surveys are non-extractive, short-term, and do not affect long-term resource use.	Compliant

1.5 Conclusion

Having regard to the scale, nature and duration of the proposed Marine Surveys, and taking into account the baseline conditions of the receiving environment, it is concluded that the proposed activities will not result in deterioration of marine waters and will not compromise the achievement of GES.

The Marine Surveys are therefore considered to be fully compliant with the requirements and objectives of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EU).

1.6 References

Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive) [2008] OJ L164/19. (2008). [Online]. Available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2008/56/oj/eng> [Accessed: 26 March 2026].