

BIM Consultation Response on Maritime Usage Licence Application MUL260049

Applicant: Uisce Éireann

Project: Strategic Coastal Hydrodynamic Survey Programme (Carlingford Lough to Kilcoole)

MARA Reference: MUL260049

Date: 03.09.26

Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) has reviewed the information provided in Maritime-Usage-Licence-MUL-General-Application-MUL260049 and Attachment-maps relating to the proposed marine survey programme comprising temporary deployment of Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers (ADCPs), tide gauges, CTD monitoring equipment, water quality sampling and bathymetric surveys across coastal waters between Carlingford Lough and Kilcoole. The surveys are proposed to support a strategic water current modelling study and are expected to occur intermittently over a five-year licence period, with individual survey campaigns generally lasting between one and three months.

BIM considers that the proposed surveys are temporary, low-impact scientific survey operations and are unlikely to result in significant adverse effects on aquaculture activities, inshore fisheries, bottom mussel seed fisheries or razor clam fisheries.

Potential impacts are confined to short-term operational interactions associated with the deployment, presence and recovery of survey equipment and survey vessels.

Accordingly, BIM raises no objection in principle to the proposed survey programme, subject to the following recommendations:

- Advance consultation with aquaculture licence holders and fishing license holders prior to each survey campaign.
- Issuing of Notice to Mariners and dissemination of accurate deployment coordinates.
- Avoidance, where practicable, of active aquaculture sites, known mussel seed beds and areas of concentrated fishing effort.
- Prompt recovery of all deployed equipment at the completion of each survey period.
- Establishment of a point of contact for fishers and aquaculture operators to report any operational concerns during survey activities.