



**Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland**

MARINE LICENCE VETTING COMMITTEE:

MUL260055 Request for observations from Ms. Paula O'Toole (MARA) dated 11.08.2026

Overview:

This MUL Application is for site investigation works that are required to collect geotechnical data from the subsurface of the bed of the River Liffey to inform the detailed design of the section of the MetroLink Project alignment located under the River Liffey.

The Proposed Project comprises a geotechnical site investigation of the subsurface within the River Liffey between the Rosie Hackett Bridge and Butt Bridge. The geotechnical site investigation will consist of drilling three (3 No.) boreholes and associated sampling and testing. Full recovery of the boreholes is proposed. It is proposed that boreholes will be drilled to depths of between approximately 25 m and 30 m below the riverbed.

The works is predicted to take approximately 10 to 21 days, with drilling works carried out over 7 days.

IFI Comment

River Liffey is home to salmon, river and sea lamprey and European eel these migratory fish species can be affected by the works undertaken. While there is no natura 2000 site with the fish as a qualifying interest the Habitat Directive listed fish species mentioned above are present in the area.

To reduce impact on fish species the use of soft-start and ramp-up procedures for any sound-generating works undertaken – both on a day-to-day basis and on re-start after any stoppages within any day should be undertaken. This measure should be a condition of the foreshore licence. The comments of IFI in this regard relate to fish species of conservation significance and of leisure angling significance all of which constitute part of IFI's brief.



In relation to timings due to the narrow width of the channel drilling must be confined to 7am to 7pm window to allow any fish migration to take place during hours of darkness as the disturbance could affect fish migration. The NIS states it will avoid breeding season for birds (May -August) were feasible. Once the drilling schedule is confirmed a discussion with IFI can be had to evaluate the risk to fish species migrating see Table 1 and whether 24 hr drilling can be allowed.

Table 1 Diadromous fish migration timings

Fish Species	EU Status	Life stage	Timing in Harbour
Atlantic salmon	Habitats - Annex II	Adult upstream migration	All times of year: 'spring' fish; grilse run in June - July
		Smolt downstream run	March - June
River lamprey	Habitats - Annex II	Upstream Adult spawning migration	Autumn - Winter
		Seaward migration of young adults	Autumn - Winter
European Eel	EU Eel Action Plan	Upstream migration of elvers	Winter - Spring
		Downstream of adult fish	Autumn – Spring

IFI must be included in an Emergency Response Plan as a notifiable body in the event of water pollution occurring during construction works. Particular attention to activities likely to generate suspended solids and/or other pollutants and the proposals to prevent these pollutants need to be specified.

Ciara O'Leary & Roisin O'Callaghan
10/09/2026