An Roinn Aeráide, Fuinnimh agus Comhshaoil
Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment

Geological Survey
Suirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta
Ireland | Éireann

Maritime Area Regulatory Authority
2nd Floor, Menapia House,
Drinagh Business Park,
Drinagh, Wexford, Y35RF29

29 September 2026

Re: MUL - SalvOcean Request for Public Body Observations for Marine Salvage in Porcupine Bank
Your Ref: MUL260011
Our Ref: 26/249

Dear Sir/Madam,
Geological Survey Ireland is the national earth science agency and is part of the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment. We provide independent geological information and interpretation and gather various data for that purpose. Please see our website for data availability.

With reference to your email received on the 09 September 2026, concerning the MUL - SalvOcean Request for Public Body Observations for Marine Salvage in Porcupine Bank, we recommend using our various data sets when conducting the EIAR, SEA, planning and scoping processes for developments, plans and policies. For more detailed information on how to access this data please access 'Data and Maps' Data & Maps (gsi.ie) on our 'Geoscience for planning' webpage. Use of our data or maps should be attributed correctly (please refer to each individual dataset's metadata for correct attribution).

For specific data available for Environmental Assessment and Planning topics please follow this link [Data by Environmental Assessment and Planning Topic (gsi.ie)], where you will find our data arranged by environmental assessment topic as illustrated below:

Land and soils
Soil • Subsoils (Quaternary Geology) • Tellus Geochemistry • Geotechnical *Geology* • Bedrock • Geophysics • Bedrock & Quaternary 3D

Water
Groundwater • Aquifers GW vulnerability, GWPSs (GWPPs) • Karst *Surface water* • Tellus Geochemistry *Estuarine & marine waters* • Marine and coastal *Flooding* • GWClimate

Climate Change
Carbon accounting / Carbon balance • Geothermal • Carbon capture and storage *Climate change trends* • National coastal change assessment

Cultural Heritage
Archaeology • Cherish *Underwater Archaeology* • Shipwrecks

Material Assets
Built Services • Natural resources (Minerals & Aggregates) • Active quarries

The Landscape
Landscape Appearance & Character • Physiographic units *Historical landscapes* • Historic mines

Other Relevant Data		
Natural (Geo) hazards • Landslide Susceptibility Mapping • Groundwater flooding • Coastal vulnerability • Subsidence • Radon	*Natural heritage* • Geoheritage (County Geological Sites) • Dimension Stone/Stone Built Ireland	

Marine and Coastal Unit

Our marine environment is hugely important to our bio-economy, transport, tourism and recreational sectors. It is also an important indicator of the health of our planet. Geological Survey Ireland's Marine and Coastal Unit in partnership with the Marine Institute, jointly manages INFOMAR, Ireland's national marine mapping programme; providing key baseline data for Ireland's marine sector. The programme delivers a wide range of benefits to multi-sectoral end-users across the national blue economy with an emphasis on enabling our stakeholders. Demonstrated applications for the use of INFOMAR's suite of mapping products include Shipping & Navigation, Fisheries Management, Aquaculture, Off-shore Renewable Energies, Marine Leisure & Tourism and Coastal Behaviour.

INFOMAR data such as bathymetry, backscatter, sediment classification, shipwrecks and survey metadata can be downloaded free of charge in a variety of formats at the INFOMAR Marine Data Download Portal: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/9213db3d963d4f3cab3a220323d7cd4e/page/Page-1/?views=Download-Vector-Datasets

INFOMAR also produces a wide variety of seabed mapping products that enable public and stakeholders to visualize Ireland's seafloor environment https://www.infomar.ie/maps/downloadable-maps/maps. Story maps have also been developed providing a different perspective of some of the bays and harbors of the Irish coastline. We would therefore recommend use of our Marine and Coastal Unit datasets available on our website and Map Viewer.

The Marine and Coastal Unit also participate in coastal change projects and are undertaking mapping in areas such as coastal vulnerability and coastal erosion. Further information on these projects can be found here.

ObSERVE Programme

The ObSERVE Programme is a collaborative initiative between the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE) and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH). Managed by DCEE, the programme delivers aerial and acoustic survey data on marine megafauna — including cetaceans, seabirds and other protected species — to address critical baseline data gaps in Irish waters. These datasets support marine spatial planning, biodiversity conservation, and Ireland's obligations under EU and international environmental frameworks.
Further information and open datasets are available at https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-climate-energy-and-the-environment/publications/observe-programme/

Other Comments

Should development go ahead, all other factors considered, Geological Survey Ireland would much appreciate a copy of reports detailing any wreck site investigations carried out. The data would be redacted for confidentiality and can be sent to the Marine and Coastal Unit at GSI-Seabed@gsi.ie

If we can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me Clare Glanville, or my colleague Trish Smullen at GSIPlanning@gsi.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Clare Glanville
Senior Geologist
Geoheritage and Planning Programme
Geological Survey Ireland

Trish Smullen
Geologist
Geoheritage and Planning Programme
Geological Survey Ireland

The publicly available data referenced/presented here, should in no way be construed as Geological Survey Ireland support for or objection to the proposed development or plan. The data are made freely available to all and can be used as independent scientific data in assessments, plans or policies. It should be noted that in many cases these data are a baseline or starting point for further site specific assessments.