ATTACHMENT 4.1 CONSISTENCY WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL MARINE PLANNING FRAMEWORK

Remediation of the Former Irish Steel Works Factory Site

IE001330-TT-EN-XX-RP-Z-0008

Department of Defence

TETRA TECH

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1 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.

As stated in the Proposed Maritime Usage Document (Attachment 3.1), the proposed SI works will be conducted wholly on reclaimed land on Haulbowline Island in Cork Harbour. Therefore, there is no potential for direct impacts on the NMPF policies which are set out for the development of the maritime area. However, the proposed SI works will contribute to the development of Haulbowline Island as a naval base for the Department of Defence (DoD), and therefore any NMPF polices which are of relevance are assessed in **Table 1-1**. The SI works are compliant with, and in several cases actively support, the achievement of relevant NMPF policy objectives.

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

NMPF Policy	Relevant Sub-Objective	Consistency with NMPF
High Level Objective: Environmental – Ocean Health		
Biodiversity Policy 1	Avoid, minimise, or mitigate significant adverse impacts on species adaptation or migration, or on natural native habitat connectivity.	As set out in the Supporting Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment (SISAA) report (report ref: IE001330-TT-EN-XX-RP-Z-0006), the proposed SI works will not cause likely significant effects to any QI or SCI from any SAC or SPA within or adjacent to the MUL Area. Therefore, this MUL will not significantly impact species migration or habitat connectivity as works are temporary and relevant mitigation will be put in place to avoid significant adverse impacts.
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.	As set out in the SISAA report (report ref: IE001330-TT-EN-XX-RP-Z-0006), the proposed SI works will not cause likely significant effects to any QI or SCI from any SAC or SPA within or adjacent to the MUL Area. The SI works for this MUL application will have minimal impacts on the distribution of important habitats and reliant species as SI works are temporary.
Biodiversity Policy 4	Avoid, minimise, or mitigate significant disturbance to, or displacement of, highly mobile species.	As set out in the SISAA report (report ref: IE001330-TT-EN-XX-RP-Z-0006), the proposed SI works will not cause likely significant effects to any QI or SCI from any SAC or SPA within or adjacent to the MUL Area. Therefore, no disturbance to migratory species will occur.
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).	As set out in the SISAA report (report ref: IE001330-TT-EN-XX-RP-Z-0006), the proposed SI works will not cause likely significant effects to any QI or SCI from any SAC or SPA within or adjacent to the MUL Area.
Protected Marine Sites Policy 2	Proposals supporting the objectives of protected marine sites should be supported and: • be informed by appropriate guidance	This MUL Application was drafted having reference to the Maritime Area Planning Act (2021) and the Habitats and Birds Directive. Therefore, utilising appropriate guidance and abiding by legal and statutory requirements.

NMPF Policy	Relevant Sub-Objective	Consistency with NMPF
	• must demonstrate that they are in accordance with legal requirements, including statutory advice provided by authorities relevant to protected marine sites	
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.	The proposed SI works support the DoD naval base to the west and the naval dockyard to the east on Haulbowline Island. 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 support the design of the site remediation project.
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.	The proposed SI works will not have adverse effects on features of SAC/SPAs, as assessed in the accompanying SISAA and Annex IV RA reports.
Non-indigenous Species Policy 1	Proposals must demonstrate a risk management approach to prevent the introduction of and / or spread of non-indigenous species.	Invasive species have been recorded within the MUL Area, however with the application of standard industry best practice measures i.e. cleaning of equipment/machinery and review of desk-based information 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.	As the proposed SI works will be conducted on reclaimed land limited potential for any pollution event to occur within the marine environment. There is no potential for interaction or impacts on water quality, including habitats and species beneficial to water quality.
High Level Objective: Economic – Thriving Maritime Economy		
Infrastructure Policy 1	Appropriate land-based infrastructure which facilitates marine activity (and vice versa) should	The proposed SI works will involve the development of the ISPAT area on Haulbowline Island to facilitate DoD's national maritime infrastructure plan,

NMPF Policy	Relevant Sub-Objective	Consistency with NMPF
	be supported. Proposals for appropriate infrastructure that facilitates the diversification or regeneration of marine industries should be supported.	therefore facilitating marine activity and the diversification or regeneration of marine industries.
Key Sectoral / Activity Policies: Ports, Harbours and Shipping		
Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 1	Account for impacts to existing or planned routed used by shipping, access to ports and harbours and navigational safety.	The proposed SI works will be conducted on reclaimed land, with existing land access routes utilised, no vessels are proposed as part of the SI works, therefore, existing routes and access to ports and harbour will be maintained.
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.	The proposed SI works will support the DoD's national strategic development goals in remediating Haulbowline Island to support the expansion of the naval base located in Cork Harbour. However, the SI works 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. Any mobilisation of equipment will be through existing access routes, therefore, the proposed SI works will not constrain existing port and harbour operations and will support opportunities for expansion.
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 Framework, and relevant provisions related to the TEN-T network.	As stated above the SI works will support DoD's future development plans within Haulbowline Island, however this MULA is only for SI works to support the design of the remediation site. Therefore, while the overall project and any future design or development works will consider the National Ports Policy, the National Planning Framework, and relevant provisions related to the TEN-T network, consideration of these plans are not relevant given the nature, size and scale of the SI works.