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<b>Subject</b>	NMPF Compliance Statement	<b>Project Name</b>	Greater Dublin Drainage
<b>Attention</b>	██████████	<b>Project No.</b>	321006CC
<b>From</b>	██████████		
<b>Date</b>	10 October 2022		
<b>File Name</b>	GDD – Benthic Survey Foreshore Application – NMPF Compliance Statement v3 10102022.doc		

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### 1. Introduction

Jacobs Engineering Ireland Ltd (Jacobs) in association with TOBIN Consulting Engineers (TOBIN) were appointed in March 2011 by Fingal County Council (FCC) to act as Project Engineering Consultants for the Greater Dublin Drainage (GDD) project. With the implementation of the Water Services (No.2) Act 2013, this appointment has been transferred to Irish Water. The scope of work included the production of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report(EIAR) and management of the full planning process.

The EIAR was informed by a number of multidisciplinary surveys which included benthic surveys. Benthic surveys were undertaken over four survey periods, two broad benthic surveys in August 2012 and December 2012, and then two assessments consisting of eight sampling stations focused along the proposed outfall route in July 2013 and August 2017.

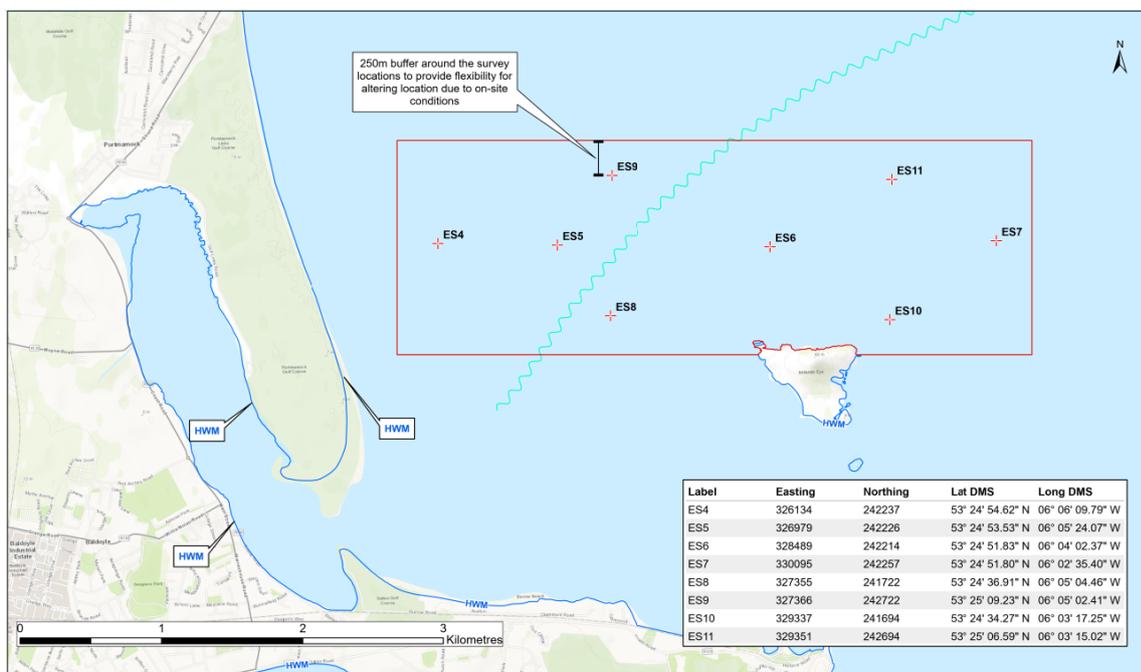
As part of the planning process, An Bord Pleanála (ABP) have provided Irish Water with the opportunity to update, where appropriate, the EIAR and NIS and any other information submitted. In order to ensure that the up-to-date baseline information for the benthic environment is maintained, Irish Water are proposing a repeat of the surveys undertaken in 2017 along the proposed outfall pipeline.

This document, together with the accompanying document, 'GDD - NMPF Compliance Statement - Policy Checklist' presents an assessment of the compliance of the proposed benthic surveys with the sustainable development goals and Overarching Marine Planning Policies (OMPPs) of the NMPF.

### 2. Benthic Survey and Location Plan

The proposed benthic sampling includes a total of eight samples of the seabed, acquired using a grab sampler. Duplicated replicates are to be processed for macro-invertebrate benthic larger than 500µm at each location. Recovered material will be processed using methods that include sieving, straining and preservation in alcohol. Samples will be sorted under a microscope, into their main phylogenetic groups (i.e. Annelida, Mollusca, Crustacea, Echinodermata etc) and then identified to species level where possible.

The survey locations are located in an area of seabed located to the north-east of Dublin city and which immediately adjoins the north coast of Ireland’s Eye. This information is displayed in Figure 1.



**Figure 1: Benthic Survey Locations**

### 3. National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF)

The NMPF was published in June 2021 following the introduction of the EU Directive, 2014/89/EU. The NMPF is structured as follows: Thirty-two overarching marine planning policies are group under three high level objectives and nineteen policy groupings. Sixteen key sectors/activities are identified. Sectoral objectives and policies are stated for each of these key sectors/activities.

These policies apply to ‘all proposals capable of having impacts in the maritime area’ but are generally qualified on relating to proposals which have ‘significant adverse impacts on the subject matter of the policy’.

Where there is 'significant effects on the environment' then the project would need to be accompanied by one or more of:

- Ecological Impact Assessment Report;
- Environmental Report;
- Environmental Impact Assessment Report (if statutorily required);
- Natura Impact Statement (if statutorily required);
- Article 12 (Habitats Directive) Assessment on Annex IV (if statutorily required).

The Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018 sets out Public Body functions relevant to use of the NMPF, which include the awarding of any consent or approval, or the grant or issue of licences, certificates or other like documents, under any enactment for the purposes of any such development or activity, or any such proposed development or activity. Within the NMPF the term 'authorisations' is used to refer to these functions.

As part of their decision-making processes Public Bodies involved in authorising marine development and activities, are now obliged to consider the objectives of the Framework.

#### **4. NMPF Compliance Assessment**

The NMPF compliance assessment examines the benthic survey activities against each of the OMPPs and sustainable development goals and summarises whether any likely impacts would occur.

The findings of the Report to Inform Screening for Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Report, and Annex IV Screening undertaken in relation to the benthic survey foreshore licence application have been used to inform this assessment.

The Environmental Considerations Report considered the potential environmental impacts of the proposed works and found there to be no potential significant impacts identified.

The Report to Inform Screening for Appropriate Assessment found that the proposed works are not likely to have significant effects on European sites, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, and that an Appropriate Assessment is not required.

The Annex IV Species Risk Assessment Report concluded that the proposed works comply with the system of strict protections afforded by Article 12 of the Habitats Directive to all cetacean, turtle, and otter species. As such, a derogation licence is not required.

The result of the NMPF assessment has confirmed that there are no potential significant environmental impacts relating to the proposed benthic surveys. This information has been summarised in the accompanying document, 'GDD - NMPF Compliance Statement - Policy Checklist'.

### **5. Conclusion**

The assessment concluded that the proposed benthic surveys would further the objectives and policies of the NMPF with respect to Wastewater Treatment and Disposal. The works will not adversely affect the attainment of the overarching objectives and policies or the objectives and policies for the other key sectors.