

FSL Application	Consultee Organisation	Consultee Name	Topic	Overview of Comments	Applicant Response
FS007161	Department of the Housing, Local Government and Heritage	Marine Advisor Engineering	Coastal processes	The proposed site investigation works will have no impact on the existing coastal processes	Noted
			Public Interest	Having considered and assessed the relevant issues associated with the proposed site investigation, while taking note that the state owned foreshore is finite resource which must be utilised sustainably, I am satisfied that the proposed works are in the Public Interest	Noted
			Policy	Having reviewed and assessed the information on file for this application to conduct an ORE Site Investigation against the objectives of the NMPF, I am satisfied the proposed works do not act significantly against any objective within the NMPF. Furthermore, the project is aligned and secures key sectoral/activity objectives including Energy – Offshore Renewable	Noted
			Conclusion	No objection to granting the foreshore licence with recommended conditions attached	Consdieration of the recommended conditions is for the Department.
FS007161	Department of the Housing, Local Government and Heritage	Marine Advisor Environment	Conclusion	No objections to the application, detailed report and licence condition recommendations to follow	Consdieration of the recommended conditions is for the Department.
FS007161	Marine Institute	Redacted	Aquaculture	Given the nature of the proposed site investigations, impacts on aquaculture are not considered likely	Noted
			Fishing	it is noted that the applicant has appointed a Fisheries Liaison Officer who will engage with the fishing interests in the area during investigations. It would be important the views and concerns of the fishers in the areas to be surveyed be adequately addressed to the satisfaction of the Department.	In advance of surveys being undertaken, the Applicant will consult with fishermen, their representative Producer Organisations, relevant Inshore Fisheries Forums and charter vessel operators with the objective of ensuring that survey activities can be completed safely and without damage to fishing gear, survey equipment or vessels. Commencement of survey activities is subject to Foreshore Licence consent and the availability of suitable survey contractor. The Applicant will consult with local fishermen to develop and implement where possible a survey programme which minimises the risk of any potential losses through effective planning and coordination of the survey activities.

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			Marine Mammals	As mitigation, a number of actions are suggested that should reduce the risk. Foremost among these is the use of marine mammal observers (MMO) during operations including a 'soft start' protocol. The MI is satisfied that such measures will mitigate any risk to marine mammals during the site investigations	Noted. Surveys will be undertaken in compliance with the NWPS 2014 guidance "Guidance to manage risk to marine mammals from man-made sound sources".
			Cumulative	if any similar geophysical surveys may be carried along the west coast be identified and that they not coincide with this survey. It would be important that any geophysical surveys be carried out in isolation so as to avoid any potential cumulative effects on marine mammals	The cumulative assessment carried out and included in our application documents concludes that there would not be a significant cumulative effect as all other surveys should also be undertaken in compliance with the NWPS 2014 guidance "Guidance to manage risk to marine mammals from man-made sound sources". Therefore there would be no cumulative impact on marine mammals. The nearest project (other than Sceirde Rocks' other foreshore application FS007543) with a foreshore licence for investigative marine surveys is Clarus Offshore Wind Farm (FS006886) and is approximately 40km from the Sceirde Rocks foreshore licence area.
			Conclusion	On the basis of the above and considering the nature, scale and location of the proposed site investigations the Marine Institute is satisfied that the site investigations as proposed will not have a significant impact on the marine environment in the survey area and will not have a significant impact on other legitimate uses / users of the area and therefore has no objections to a licence being granted (with recommended conditions).	Consdieration of the recommended conditions is for the Department.
FS007161	Irish Lights	Redacted	Aid to Navigation	Before any aid to navigation can be established, altered or disestablished, consent in the form of Statutory Sanction under the Merchant Shipping Act must be obtained from the Commissioners of Irish Lights. The aid must be colored and marked as per IALA (International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities) Standards.	Noted. The Applicant will liaise with Commissioners of Irish Lights prior to survey commencement.
			Marine notice	Recommend that a marine notice should be issued detailing the works and duration	This will be done prior to survey commencement.
FS007161	Inland Fisheries Ireland	Redacted	Mitigation	IFI note the mitigation measures to be employed for marine mammals with a soft start ramp up procedure. IFI would point out that the mitigation measures and guidance of NPWS in regard to marine mammals are not transferrable to fish species. The fish remain invisible to any shore- or boat-based observer. Mitigation measures should aim to reduce the sound generated, in intensity and duration. The use of soft-start and ramp-up procedures for any sound-generating surveys	Surveys will be undertaken in compliance with the NWPS 2014 guidance "Guidance to manage risk to marine mammals from man-made sound sources" which will include a soft start/ramp up procedure.

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				undertaken – both on a day-to-day basis and on re-start after any stoppages within any day should be undertaken.	
			Fish ecology	Special consideration may need to be paid to resident and migratory fish species which could be passing through the area and potentially effected by noise (sound) and vibration effects introduced into the water column due to investigation works. The timing of the proposed works should be carefully considered in order to reduce potential interference with the natural movements of these diadromous species (salmon, eel and lamprey	The assessment reports submitted in support of the FSL application have provided a robust assessment of the potential effects on fish from the survey activities including those species that are qualifying features of designated sites. The assessments conclude that there will be no significant effect on fish species largely as a result of distance of the FSL area to designated sites, the ability of fish when migrating as they adapt to environmental pressures such as predation and increased metabolic requirements. In additional, surveys will be undertaken in compliance with the NWPS 2014 guidance "Guidance to manage risk to marine mammals from man-made sound sources" which will include a soft start/ramp up procedure which will also be applicable to reducing potential effects on fish.
FS007161	Sea Fisheries Protection Authority	Redacted	Fishing	Site investigations may cause spatial squeeze for both the inshore and offshore sectors of the fishing industry during the duration of the proposed site investigations. Access restrictions will be in place when the surveys are underway (proposed annual surveys are 1-5 months over a 5 year period). Static fishing gear will have to be removed from the grounds which can be problematic for the smaller vessels due to alternative grounds being accessible, inclement weather and proximity of the vessels home ports.	In advance of surveys being undertaken, the Applicant will consult with fishermen, their representative Producer Organisations, relevant Inshore Fisheries Forums and charter vessel operators with the objective of ensuring that survey activities can be completed safely and without damage to fishing gear, survey equipment or vessels. Commencement of survey activities is subject to Foreshore Licence consent and the availability of suitable survey contractor. The Applicant will consult with local fishermen to develop and implement where possible a survey programme which minimises the risk of any potential losses through effective planning and coordination of the survey activities.
				Effective communication between the FLO and the fishing community and the timely publishing of notice to mariners is required.	Agree.
				It is not envisaged that the site investigations will cause difficulties with conducting official controls for the SFPA within the applied area	Noted
				The SFPA should have no difficulty in conducting official controls in the proposed area	Noted

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				Contamination from an accidental pollution spill is the main concern for the fish and shellfish species within the applied area. Effective communication between the applicant and its contracted parties with the SFPA should any pollution event occur can reduce the risk of potentially contaminated shellfish being placed on the market for consumption.	<p>The Applicant will ensure that all survey contracts work in compliance with International Maritime Organisation standards .</p> <p>The risk from releases of fuel during bunkering is removed as there will be no offshore bunkering. A hydrocarbon spill due to loss of fuel inventory following a vessel collision would require the following sequence of events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A cause of vessel interaction must result in a collision;</li> <li>• The collision must have enough force to penetrate the vessel hull;</li> <li>• The collision must be in the exact location of the fuel tank; and</li> <li>• The fuel tank must be full, or at least of volume whereby the fuel level is higher than the point of penetration.</li> </ul> <p>The probability of this chain of events aligning to result in a breach of fuel tanks resulting in a spill that could potentially affect the marine environment is considered remote and therefore such a release is not considered a credible scenario. The only credible type of accidental release from the site investigations is the spillage of hydrocarbons (diesel fuel, hydraulic oil and lubricants) or chemicals (coring fluids) from vessel decks during storage or handling. Only very small amounts of fuel or chemicals could be released in this way, and measures will be in place to prevent or respond to any such releases. Given the short duration of the site investigation activities and the low risks to the environment from accidental releases, it is concluded that significant environmental effects associated with hydrocarbon or chemical spills are highly unlikely and can be discounted from further assessment.</p> <p>In the highly unlikely event of any accidental spillage, the Applicant will contact SFPA.</p>
FS007161	Underware Archaeology Unit / NPWS	Redacted	Archaeology	The assessment does not adequately assess the archaeological potential of the survey area and therefore the adequacy of mitigation cannot be addressed without further information. As such a number of licence conditions are recommended.	<p>Publicly available desk based data on archaeological wrecks was used in the Environmental Assessment and EIA Screening Report. The Applicant recognises that buried archaeology is an unknown and therefore the geophysical survey data collected as part of the surveys included in this foreshore licence will be used to inform the archaeological baseline for the future Sceirde Rocks project EIA.</p> <p>Consideration of the recommended conditions is for the Department.</p>
			Nature Conservation	It is recommended that the application of "Guidance to Manage the Risk to Marine Mammals from Man-made Sound Sources in Irish Waters" should be implemented in full as a condition of consent.	Surveys will be undertaken in compliance with the NWPS 2014 guidance "Guidance to manage risk to marine mammals from man-made sound sources".
				It must be noted that all cetaceans are listed under Annex IV (including those in Annex II) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive). Accordingly, under Article 12 of that Directive, it is an offence to deliberately capture, disturb or kill a cetacean or take actions that result in deterioration or destruction of their breeding sites or resting places.	Noted

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				The proponent should note that it is recommended that they should apply at earliest opportunity for a Regulation 54 consent to ensure that activities can be appropriately considered in terms of the potential for disturbance that may arise from their proposed site investigations.	Noted
FS007161	Marine Survey Office	Redacted	Navigation	No objection on navigation safety grounds with recommended conditions	Consdieration of the recommended conditions is for the Department.
FS007161	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Felling Section	Trees	If the application involves felling or removing trees then a Felling Licence must be obtained	This FSL application is for marine surveys. There will be no removal of trees.
			Planning	Comments made in relation to requirements when applying for planning permission to Local Authority or An Bord Pleanala	This FSL application is for marine surveyys only and therefore only an application for a foreshore licence is required.
		Sea Fisheries Observations	Sea Fisheries	The lack of VMS data cannot be taken to mean that inshore vessels do not fish near the FLA. A large number of vessels less than 12m operate and are not included in the VMS data.	In advance of surveys being undertaken, the Applicant will consult with fishermen, their representative Producer Organisations, relevant Inshore Fisheries Forums and charter vessel operators with the objective of ensuring that survey activities can be completed safely and without damage to fishing gear, survey equipment or vessels. Commencement of survey activities is subject to Foreshore Licence consent and the availability of suitable survey contractor. The Applicant will consult with local fishermen to develop and implement where possible a survey programme which minimises the risk of any potential losses through effective planning and coordination of the survey activities.
				Strongly recommend consultation with: The National Inshore Fisheries Forum The West Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum The Irish Islands Marine Resource Organisation The National Inshore Fishermen's Association	In advance of surveys being undertaken, the Applicant will consult with fishermen, their representative Producer Organisations, relevant Inshore Fisheries Forums and charter vessel operators with the objective of ensuring that survey activities can be completed safely and without damage to fishing gear, survey equipment or vessels. Commencement of survey activities is subject to Foreshore Licence consent and the availability of suitable survey contractor. The Applicant will consult with local fishermen to develop and implement where possible a survey programme which minimises the risk of any potential losses through effective planning and coordination of the survey activities.
				Inner Galway Bay is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Special Protection Area (SPA). The MI advised that the foreshore licence application area (proposed cable route) does not encroach onto the SAC, but it is unclear what works will be required on the foreshore at landfall (Kilcolgan Point). There is foreshore also east of this Point, an area potentially sensitive to disturbance with respect to birds in the SPA	The Applicant has confirmed that no intrusive survey work will take place within an SAC or SPA. The assessments provided in the Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment and Natura Impact Statement demonstrates that survey work outwith the designated sites will have no significant effect on the qualifying features of designated sites in the vicinity of the survey work.
FS007161	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine National	Foreshore Section	Fishing	DAFM welcomes the appointment of a Fisheries Liaison Officer to engage with the fishing community to ensure effective communications during the planning and execution of the proposed surveys. DAFM would urge timely consultation and active engagement.	In advance of surveys being undertaken, the Applicant will consult with fishermen, their representative Producer Organisations, relevant Inshore Fisheries Forums and charter vessel operators with the objective of ensuring that survey activities can be completed safely and without damage to fishing gear, survey equipment or vessels. Commencement of survey activities is subject to Foreshore Licence consent and the availability of suitable survey contractor. The Applicant will consult with local fishermen to develop and implement where possible a survey programme which minimises the risk of any potential losses through effective planning and coordination of the survey activities.
FS007161	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine National	Foreshore Section	Fishing	Marine Engineering Division of this Department has no objection to any licence that issues	Noted

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	Seafood Centre Clonakilty			Site investigations could impact on fisheries as the FSL are in active fishing grounds and local communities depend on inshore fishing.	<p>The information provided in our Environmental Assessment and EIA Screening Report demonstrates that any disruption from survey activity will be short term, temporary and not significant on both fishing activity and fish ecology.</p> <p>In advance of surveys being undertaken, the Applicant will consult with fishermen, their representative Producer Organisations, relevant Inshore Fisheries Forums and charter vessel operators with the objective of ensuring that survey activities can be completed safely and without damage to fishing gear, survey equipment or vessels.</p> <p>Commencement of survey activities is subject to Foreshore Licence consent and the availability of suitable survey contractor. The Applicant will consult with local fishermen to develop and implement where possible a survey programme which minimises the risk of any potential losses through effective planning and coordination of the survey activities.</p>