

Marine Advisor's Environmental Assessment and Determinations Report

Hi Regina,

I reviewed the application and all the environmental documents associated with the Foreshore Licence Application FS007037 for maintenance dredging in Ballycotton Harbour, Co. Cork.

The **Appropriate Assessment Determination and Conclusion Statement** which are part of the Department's Statutory Obligations are attached as an appendix. My comments are as follows:

Article 6(3) of Directive (92/43/EEC) (as amended) (Habitats Directive): I refer you to my Marine Advisor Environmental Screening Stage Report of the 21st June 2022 where I, as the Department's Environment Marine Advisor, agreed with and accepted the Department's Independent Environment Consultant ARUP that the proposed project, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on European sites. The risk of likely significant effects on European sites cannot be excluded on the basis of objective scientific information and a stage 2 Appropriate Assessment was required.

Article 12 of Directive (92/43/EEC) (as amended) (Habitats Directive): Risk Assessment for Annex IV species likely to occur in Irish waters was carried out by the IEC. The Assessment determined that as a result of the underwater noise generated during the project injury or death to cetaceans could not be ruled out. However with the strict adherence to the DAHG 2014 Guidance to man-made sound sources in Irish waters it is very unlikely that there will be negative residual impacts from the proposed works on Annex IV species in the area. It is also very unlikely that any animals will be injured or killed as a result of the proposed works.

Conclusion/recommendations:

Having considered the information submitted in support of the application, I have no objection to the granting of this application subject to the following condition:

1. The licensee shall ensure that vessels used in the survey vessels are free of invasive marine species on their hulls and in their ballast water. Method statement to that effect should be submitted to the competent authority.
2. Strict adherence during dredging operations to the DAHG 2014 Guidance to man-made sound sources in Irish waters must be undertaken.