



Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

Stage 1 - Appropriate Assessment Screening

Conclusion Statement

Introduction:

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) are the Irish state body responsible for the protection, management and conservation of the inland fisheries and sea angling resources. In accordance with the EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (BIRDS AND NATURAL HABITATS) REGULATIONS 2011, as amended, IFI are required to determine if plans or projects that they propose, or wish to adopt, could act either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects to cause a significant effect on a European site.

This determination is carried out following a review of the Appropriate Assessment Screening document submitted to IFI for review, and is the result of the Inland Fisheries Ireland comprehensive and objective Appropriate Assessment determination process.

This process is aligned with the IFI vision to position Ireland's inland fisheries and sea angling resources as sustainably as possible for the benefit of future generations. This document informs stakeholders of this commitment and its rationale by outlining the decision-making process and IFI's final determination on the specific plan or project below, with a clear and transparent justification.

Synopsis:

This review is carried out by an independent external environmental expert agency that provides professional advice if an Appropriate Assessment (NIS) is required for the plan or project, or not. A further review of this process is then carried out by a relevant Inland Fisheries Ireland Head of Function who will either validate the conclusion of the determination, or not, as appropriate.

As part of the EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (BIRDS AND NATURAL HABITATS) REGULATIONS 2011, as amended, and in accordance with Regulation (18) (a) Inland Fisheries Ireland as a public authority shall make available for inspection any determination that it makes in relation to a plan or project and provide reasons for that determination, as soon as may be after the making of the determination or giving the notice, as appropriate, by members of the public during office hours of the offices of the authority and shall also make the determination or notice available in electronic form including by placing the documents on the authority's website.

This determination will be available on the IFI website at <https://www.fisheriesireland.ie/what-we-do/conservation-and-development/determinations>.

Project Reference	DET-2026-000308
Project Name	Oyster Dredging Tralee Bay
Project Description	Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is the State agency responsible for the protection, management, conservation and development of Ireland's inland fisheries resources and fish habitats. IFI also undertakes applied fisheries research, including monitoring fish stocks and assessing environmental pressures affecting fish and their habitats. As part of its statutory functions, IFI administers licences that permit certain fishers to undertake dredging for native oysters (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>) within designated fishing areas. Dredging licenses are issued for a period of ten years. The Project comprises the licensed dredging of native oysters within defined areas of Tralee Bay by licensed fishers.
Accompanying Report	P21371_AANIS_Tralee_v1.pdf,
Consultations	
Agency	Observations
European Sites	
Site Name (1)	IE0000101 - Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC
Proximity / Connection to Site	Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC is approximately 165.39 km from the Project.
Qualifying Interest	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364]
Connections	No direct, hydrological, or functional pathway has been identified between the dredge activities and this SAC
Effect	<i>Potential Effects:</i> No <i>Significant:</i> <i>Reason:</i>
Site Name (2)	IE0000278 - Inishbofin and Inishshark SAC
Proximity / Connection to Site	Near
Qualifying Interest	Coastal lagoons [1150] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364]
Connections	No impact mechanism identified
Effect	<i>Potential Effects:</i> No <i>Significant:</i> <i>Reason:</i>
Site Name (3)	IE0000328 - Slyne Head Islands SAC

Proximity / Connection to Site	Slyne Head Islands SAC is approximately 133.62 km from the Project.
Qualifying Interest	Reefs [1170] Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364]
Connections	Likely significant effects can be excluded.
Effect	<i>Potential Effects:</i> No <i>Significant:</i> <i>Reason:</i>
Site Name (4)	IE0004003 - Puffin Island SPA
Proximity / Connection to Site	Connected
Qualifying Interest	Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis) [A009] Manx Shearwater (Puffinus puffinus) [A013] Storm Petrel (Hydrobates pelagicus) [A014] Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183] Razorbill (Alca torda) [A200] Puffin (Fratercula arctica) [A204]
Connections	No Credible Pathway
Effect	<i>Potential Effects:</i> No <i>Significant:</i> <i>Reason:</i>
Site Name (5)	IE0004008 - Blasket Islands SPA
Proximity / Connection to Site	Near
Qualifying Interest	Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis) [A009] Manx Shearwater (Puffinus puffinus) [A013] Storm Petrel (Hydrobates pelagicus) [A014] Shag (Phalacrocorax aristotelis) [A018] Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183] Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184] Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188] Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea) [A194] Razorbill (Alca torda) [A200] Puffin (Fratercula arctica) [A204] Chough (Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax) [A346]
Connections	No Credible pathway
Effect	<i>Potential Effects:</i> No <i>Significant:</i> <i>Reason:</i>
Site Name (6)	IE0004029 - Castlemaine Harbour SPA
Proximity / Connection to Site	The Project is 9.43 km from the SPA, marginally beyond the maximum range presented in the report.

Qualifying Interest	Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062] Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) [A164] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346] Wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>) [A855] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]
Connections	No credible pathway
Effect	<i>Potential Effects:</i> No <i>Significant:</i> <i>Reason:</i>
Site Name (7)	IE0004038 - Killarney National Park SPA
Proximity / Connection to Site	The Project is 25.5 km from the SPA
Qualifying Interest	Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098] Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395]
Connections	No credible pathway
Effect	<i>Potential Effects:</i> No <i>Significant:</i> <i>Reason:</i>
Site Name (8)	IE0004119 - Loop Head SPA
Proximity / Connection to Site	Near
Qualifying Interest	Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199]
Connections	No credible pathway,
Effect	<i>Potential Effects:</i> No <i>Significant:</i> <i>Reason:</i>
Site Name (9)	IE0004153 - Dingle Peninsula SPA
Proximity / Connection to Site	The Project is approximately 0.73 km from the boundary of Dingle Peninsula SPA and lies within the extensive foraging range reported for Fulmar.
Qualifying Interest	Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103] Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]
Connections	No credible pathway

Effect	<i>Potential Effects:</i> No <i>Significant:</i> <i>Reason:</i>
Site Name (10)	IE0004154 - Iveragh Peninsula SPA
Proximity / Connection to Site	The Project is 21.29 km from the SPA
Qualifying Interest	Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]
Connections	No credible pathway
Effect	<i>Potential Effects:</i> No <i>Significant:</i> <i>Reason:</i>
Site Name (11)	IE0004161 - Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA
Proximity / Connection to Site	The Project is 9.85 km from the SPA and is confined to marine dredging grounds.
Qualifying Interest	Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082]
Connections	No credible pathwa
Effect	<i>Potential Effects:</i> No <i>Significant:</i> <i>Reason:</i>
Site Name (12)	IE0004189 - Kerry Head SPA
Proximity / Connection to Site	Within
Qualifying Interest	Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]
Connections	No credible pathway
Effect	<i>Potential Effects:</i> No <i>Significant:</i> <i>Reason:</i>

Assessment & Determination

Assessment of likely significance of effects

The screening identified direct spatial relationships between the proposed dredging areas and constituent benthic communities of Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane SAC, including the mapped *Ostrea edulis* dominated community and other sensitive benthic communities.

Determination

On the basis of the best available scientific information and objective evidence, likely significant effects on the Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests of relevant European sites cannot be excluded as a result of the Project, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, in the absence of mitigation. The Project is therefore required to proceed to Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment

Conclusion: NIS Required, effect on European site or protected species likely or uncertain without implementing mitigation measures necessary for the protection of Natura 2000 sites.

We, the undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above, agree with and adopt the reasoning and conclusions presented

Validated by: Barry Fox

Date: 14-10-2026

Inland Fisheries Ireland, Head of Function



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Inland Fisheries Ireland

