

From: [Forrest, Carol](#)
To: [Marine](#)
Cc: [SeafoodClimate](#)
Subject: FW: ACP-323952-25 - Rosslare ORE Hub DAFM Observations
Date: Monday 20 April 2026 20:20:16
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[8a - MI_Obs ACP Case323952 - Iarnród Éireann Rosslare.pdf](#)
[17a - Rosslare Europort ORE Hub BIM comments.pdf](#)
[20.04.26 DAFM return - Rosslare ORE Hub.docx](#)
Importance: High

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Good Evening,

Please find DAFM return attached for your attention.

Please also find attached observations from the MI and BIM that were used to inform our comments.

Kind regards,
Carol Forrest



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Carol Forrest

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Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

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An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

Tá an t-eolas sa ríomhphost seo, agus in aon cheangaltáin leis, faoi rún agus tá sé dírithe ar an bhfaighteoir/na faighteoirí beartaithe amháin agus níor cheart ach dóibh siúd é a úsáid. D'fhéadfadh an t-eolas seo a bheith faoi réir pribhléid dhlíthiúil agus ghairmiúil. Mura tusa faighteoir beartaithe an ríomhphoist seo, níor cheart duit an teachtaireacht seo, nó aon chuid di, a úsáid, a nochtadh, a chóipeáil, a dháileadh nó a choinneáil. Má fuair tú an



28 April 2026

marine@pleanala.ie

RE: Proposed development of Rosslare Europort Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Hub located northwest of Rosslare Europort and on lands located in Ballygerry Townland, St Helen's, Co. Wexford

A Chara,

The Marine Divisions of the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine welcome the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed development of Rosslare Europort Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Hub.

DAFM wishes to stress at the outset that commercial sea fishing is a long standing, pre-existing, and traditional activity in the marine environment. The evaluation of potential impacts of the proposed development of the ORE hub at Rosslare Europort on commercial sea fishing activities and the seafood sector as a whole need to be considered within the context of the requirements set out under the Maritime Area Planning Act and the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF). It is acknowledged that the latter has been considered in the EAIR, however DAFM wish to take this opportunity to stress that the principles in the NMPF of *avoiding, minimising, or mitigating impacts on access to existing activities* (including specific policies on fisheries and aquaculture) should be followed and any proposed development activity should incorporate the principle of maximising coexistence with established activities in marine areas.

To inform the DAFM comments, the observations of the Marine Institute (MI) and Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) on the application were requested. These have been summarised below.

Marine Institute Response:

The MI note that there are no licensed aquaculture sites in the immediate proximity of Rosslare harbour although there are 36 in Wexford Harbour, and 8 SACs, 5 SPAs and two Shellfish Water Directive areas within 15 km.

Fishing activities are recorded in close proximity to the proposed development including dredge fishing for razor clam and mussel, and potting. Beam, otter and pelagic trawl effort is recorded in close proximity and adjacent to the broad spawning and nursery grounds of multiple species.

Regarding sea fisheries and the seafood sector, including aquaculture and fish ecology, and assuming any necessary Marine Notices are made, the MI note that the proposed development is unlikely to have substantial or lasting negative impact. **However, the potential for temporal and spatial cumulative impacts should be considered in relation to similar/other activities taking place in close proximity.**

Oifigí an Rialtais, An tIonad Náisiúnta Bia Mara, An Cloichín, Cloich na Coillte, Co. Chorcaí, P85 TX47.

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Bord Iascaigh Mhara Response:

BIM note that while a loss of some fishing grounds for lobster and shrimp is likely, the new additional rock armouring may provide additional habit **after completion of the development**. It should also be noted that **spider crabs** are likely to be pushed out beyond where they are currently fished and **may not be as easily accessible from the new small boat facility**. **BIM recommend monitoring catches of pot and dredge fisheries before, during and after the construction to record any impacts. They also note that fishing operators accessibility including road access to the fisherman's wall and the new small boat owners facility needs to be ensured.**

Seafood sector and food security:

Fishers and aquaculture site holders are primary food producers dependent upon certain marine areas which are particularly important for food production. This primary production is critical to supplying the downstream indigenous seafood processing and export industries and in sustaining the livelihoods of coastal communities. The importance of these primary and secondary food production activities is reflected in the Government's Food Vision 2030 policy.

Food Vision 2030 recognises and values the role of primary food producers. The important contribution of the seafood sector to food sovereignty and security is paramount.

Seafood is a vital source of protein and the sustainable management of the sector should contribute to reducing our carbon emissions. The importance of our seafood sector should be taken into consideration when individual ORE plans and projects are being considered and implemented and adverse effects on the sector avoided as much as possible.

For 2024, the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) recorded a total of 1,137 landing events with a value of € 2,731,624 through the port of Rosslare, highlighting its importance as a fishery harbour. It is therefore essential that the socio-economic reliance on the seafood sector is fully recognised and is factored into the development of ORE, to avoid, minimise and mitigate adverse impacts on such employment and economic activity.

Engagement:

DAFM welcomes the engagement that has taken place with the Seafood operators in the area to date and would encourage further ongoing engagement at all stages of this process. DAFM welcomes the establishment of the Rosslare Harbour Fisheries Consultative Group, which has enabled meaningful dialogue and resulted in design adaptations. DAFM also welcomes the mitigation measures proposed, including the commitment to ensure that the existing Small Boat Harbour remains operational until replacement facilities are ready, the appointment of a Fisheries Liaison Officer, and the development of a Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy (FMMS) in partnership with local fishers as referenced in the NMPF. The aims of ensuring continuity of access for the inshore fleet and avoiding the temporary loss of harbour



infrastructure critical to fishing operations are required, as are steps designed to support co-existence and minimise disruption.

The contingency plan that will be developed by Iarnród Éireann to address any unforeseen impact on the local fleet, in particular any displacement of Rosslare fleet should be agreed with the local Seafood operators in advance of construction.

DAFM would strongly encourage Iarnród Éireann to prepare the FMMS as early as possible in the project timeline, setting out the approach to fisheries liaison and means of delivering co-existence and disruption agreements ahead of construction. DAFM notes that as per the NMPP, that the *“FMMS should be drawn up as part of readying a proposal prior to submission, with measures identified to be considered in finalising conditions of any authorisations granted. Development of the strategy should be coordinated with other relevant assessments such as EIA where possible.”*

DAFM note that a particular challenge for the inshore fleet is that vessels under 12 metres are not required to carry Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS), making their activity less visible in official fisheries data and highlighting the importance of direct engagement and ongoing consultation with the sector. This lack of VMS coverage means that the true scale and patterns of inshore fishing activity are not fully captured, which can complicate planning and impact assessments. The displacement of the inshore fleet is a concern in the context of the proposed development. Potential impacts include increased steaming times to fishing grounds, heightened fishing pressure on adjacent shellfish resources, gear conflicts, and economic effects on operators. These need to be fully considered and mitigated as far as possible in respect of the proposed development.

Finally, and as stated earlier, the MI and BIM have provided detailed observations on the proposed development, which have been attached to the DAFM submission. DAFM reiterates that it is critical that development is informed by the specific intensity of fishing in the proposed area, and that the developers need to work closely and constructively with our seafood sector to ensure that any adverse impacts are avoided, minimised or mitigated, in that order, in accordance with requirements set out under the Maritime Area Planning Act and the National Marine Planning Framework.

Yours sincerely,

Marine Divisions

An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine

MI Obs- An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) Case 323952- Iarnród Éireann Rosslare

Jonathn White – Marine Institute – Version 1 – 19th March, 2026

Summary

- FEAS (Marine Institute) were asked if observations had been submitted directly to the applicant in relation to the application to An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) Case 323952 - Iarnród Éireann Rosslare -in relation to Chapter 15: Commercial Fisheries of the Rosslare Harbour EIAR and for any info that could be provided.
- Chapter 4 of the EIAR “Scoping and Consultation”¹ indicates an EIA scoping report was distributed in February 2023 to eleven state agencies for comment including the MI and that “no responses to EIA Scoping were received.”
- To date, no observations or comments have been requested by or submitted to Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) in relation to this application.
- The proposed development is intended to *“provide a facility for handling and storage, marshalling, staging and integration of ORE components to facilitate installation of offshore wind energy projects by ORE developers and operators.”*
- Chapter 15 considers potential impacts of the proposed development on commercial fishing and aquaculture activity, the supply chain and economic viability of fishing operations.
- There are no licensed Aquaculture sits in the immediate proximity of Rosslare harbour though 36 in Wexford Harbour, 8 SACs, 5 SPAs and two Shellfish Water Directive areas, within 15 km².
- Fishing activities are recorded in close proximity including dredge fishing for razor clam and mussel, and potting. Beam, otter and pelagic trawl effort is recorded in close proximity (2014-2018) and adjacent to the broad spawning and nursery grounds of multiple species³.
- Potential for cumulative impacts should be considered in relation to similar/other activities taking place in close proximity – temporal and spatial.
- **With regard to sea fisheries and the seafood sector, including aquaculture and fish ecology, and assuming any necessary Marine Notices are made, the proposed development is unlikely to have substantial or lasting negative impact.**

¹ <https://www.pleanala.ie/en-ie/case/323952>

² <https://dafm-maps.marine.ie/aquaculture-viewer/>

³ 2014 – 2018; Ireland's Marine Atlas: <https://atlas.marine.ie>

Proposed development of Rosslare Europort Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Hub

Located northwest of Rosslare Europort and on lands located in Ballygerry Townland, St Helen's, Co. Wexford.

Proposed activity:

The Proposed Development includes capital dredging to achieve navigable depths for vessels delivering ORE components; land reclamation to create a storage area for these components; and construction of two new berths to facilitate loading and unloading of ORE components. The land reclamation works include infilling the existing small boat harbour, after the construction of a new small boat harbour. The Proposed Development also includes the installation of a new slipway and facility for local clubs, such as the Sea Scouts.

BIM Comments:

17.04.26

Infrastructure

Currently fishermen land at the fishman's wall (larger fishing boats including some inshore)) within the harbour and a small boat owners cotsafe adjacent to the harbour (smaller inshore boats).

The proposed development will entail the construction of a new small boat owners marina type facility, which will have adequate capacity for the existing small inshore fishing boats with improved depth to also cater for the larger fishing boats. The existing cotsafe will continue in operation during construction of the proposed development until the new facility is ready for use. The existing fisherman's wall will continue to be available to fishermen during the overall project construction period, and will continue to be available to them afterwards.

The fisheries sector appear to be happy with all of this as the new small boat owners facility will have improved pontoon facilities with enhanced services.

One recommendation/comment, is to ensure that any harbour fees due by the fishermen to access the new facilities do not increase adversely/prohibitively from what they are currently paying. Also that road access to the fisherman's wall and the new small boat owners facility is made easy without too onerous security restrictions being put in place.

Impacts on fishing

The main fisheries that are within/adjacent to the port development are

- Pot fishing for lobster, spider crab and shrimp

They is likely to be a loss of some fishing grounds for lobster and shrimp due the new development, but this could be compensated for after the development is completed by the new additional rock armouring which will can provide additional habit.

The spider crabs are likely to be pushed out beyond where they are currently fished, but should not as easily accessible from the new small boat facility

- Dredge fishing at the Rosslare razor fishery

This fishery is north of the development and is unlikely to be impacted during the construction or operation of the new port facility

While the fisheries sector appear to be not too concerned about the construction and operational impacts, it could be recommended that monitoring on catches of the above fisheries should take place before, during and after the construction to record any impacts on the local fisheries.