

GSPD

From: Environmental Co-ordination (Inbox) <Environmental_Co-ordination@agriculture.gov.ie>
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To: GSPD
Subject: SEA Scoping for Minerals Policy'

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Please find below comment from the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine in relation to the above.

We note mineral exploration and mining activities in the marine environment are not anticipated at this point. We further note any potential future activity in this area will depend on future technologies and require a better understanding of the impacts of mineral activities in the marine space. It would be imperative to carry out extensive studies on the marine environment should mineral extraction or exploration be carried out in the marine environment, it is vastly different to onshore processes and has an entirely different set of environmental concerns.

It should be noted that commercial sea fishing is a long standing, pre-existing and traditional activity in the marine environment. The evaluation and consideration of potential impacts on any commercial sea fishing activities needs to be given consideration as part of the planning for the mineral exploration and mining process and during the process itself. It is imperative that engagement should be sought with the fishing industry and other relevant stakeholders at as early a stage as possible, and at every stage of planning for this process and during the process itself, to discuss any changes that may affect them to afford a chance for their input. Fishers' interests and livelihoods must be fully recognised and taken into account.

In terms of possible interactions between marine exploration and mining activities we can only make some very generic observations without far more investigations being carried out:

- Where there is spatial overlap with fishing, there is potential for displacement of fishing activities.
- There may also be indirect interactions through potential environmental effects which may include damage or loss of habitat; sediment clouds that can smother or otherwise affect marine life; noise pollution and/or other kinds of pollution.

Kind regards

An tAonad um Chomhordú Timpeallachta, An Rannóg um Athrú Aeráide agus Beartas Bithfhuinnimh,
Environmental Co-ordination Unit | Climate Change & Bioenergy Policy Division |

An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

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Disclaimer:

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

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An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

Tá an t-eolais san ríomhphost seo, agus in aon ceangláin leis, faoi phribhléid agus faoi rún agus le h-agmaigh an seolaí amháin. D'fhéadfadh ábhar an seoladh seo bheith faoi phribhléid profisiúnta nó dlíthiúil. Mura tusa an seolaí a bhí beartaithe leis an ríomhphost seo a fháil, tá cosc air, nó aon chuid de, a úsáid, a chóipeál, nó a scaoileadh. Má tháinig sé chugat de bharr dearmad, téigh i dteagmháil leis an seoltóir agus scríos an t-ábhar ó do ríomhaire le do thoil.