



Marine Notice No. 66 of 2023

*Notice to all Shipowners, Fishing Vessel Owners, Agents, Shipmasters, Skippers, Fishers,
Yachtsmen and Seafarers*

Rosslare Europort Offshore Wind Hub-Marine Site Investigations

1. Notice of Activity:

The Department of Transport has been advised by Iarnród Éireann (Irish Rail) that it intends to undertake a Marine Benthic Ecology Survey, Geophysical Survey and Intrusive Ground Investigation on the proposed development area surrounding the existing Rosslare Europort, off the coast of county Wexford. This survey work is expected to be undertaken between **5 October 2023** and **5 January 2024** subject to weather and operational constraints.

The geophysical survey work will involve the deployment of hull mounted (multibeam echo sounder and high frequency sub bottom profiler) and towed geophysical sensors (side scan sonar, magnetometer and medium frequency sub bottom profiler) from a survey vessel. The geophysical survey works are anticipated to take place between **5 October 2023** and **11 October 2023**, subject to weather and operational constraints.

The marine benthic and ecology surveys will involve up to 80nr drop-frame camera survey and where suitable, grab samples will be obtained. The marine benthic ecology surveys are expected to be completed between **7 October 2023** and **5 January 2024**.

The intrusive ground investigation will involve up to 40nr over-water nearshore marine boreholes, up to 40nr over-water nearshore marine cone penetration tests with pore water measurement and up to 60nr over-water nearshore marine gravity corers (vibrocores) carried out from a jack-up barge. The site investigation shall also comprise relevant in-situ testing. The intrusive ground investigation works is expected to be completed between **30 October 2023** and **5 January 2024** subject to weather and operational constraints.

2. Location of Activity:

The ground investigation and ecology surveys will be confined to the proposed Rosslare Europort Development area. This area forms an irregular shape spanning 1.5 km north-south and 2km east-west at its widest point. The survey boundary is the shoreline along the southern extents.

The array area is bounded by the following points as mapped in the Appendix to this Marine Notice at the end of this document.

Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	52°15'5.772"	006°21'39.162"
2	52°15'7.882"	006°21'3.100"
3	52°15'11.630"	006°20'58.561"
4	52°15'14.700"	006°20'29.015"
5	52°15'9.169"	006°20'20.899"
6	52°15'16.469"	006°20'4.476"
7	52°15'23.159"	006°20'6.352"
8	52°15'47.882"	006°19'58.363"
9	52°15'50.047"	006°21'42.856"

3. Vessels Involved:

Name of vessel	Type of vessel	Call sign
Causeway Giant (CG2)	Jack-Up Barge	N/A
Ocean Clipper	Crew transfer / Safety	EIWW5
Ocean Supporter	Multicat Vessel	EITS6
Barnacle	Survey vessel	EIA2122
Ros Aine	Survey Vessel	EIZG5
Reef runner	RHIB	EI7039

As the survey vessels will be restricted in their ability to manoeuvre when surveying, due to the deployment of the towed survey equipment from the vessel for the duration of the survey activities, other vessels are kindly requested **to keep a wide berth**. The survey vessels will liaise with Rosslare Europort Harbour to ensure that the scheduled movements of regular ferry traffic to & from the port will be unaffected.

Vessels and Jack-Up Barges will display appropriate lights and signals. Surveys will include utilisation of hull mounted and towed multibeam echosounders, sub-bottom profilers, side-scan sonar, magnetometer, drop down camera systems and grab samplers. Typically, the towed cable lengths will be one to four times the water depth while acquiring survey data.

Geophysical survey works will be carried out between **7am and 7pm**. Intrusive Ground Investigation works will be conducted during **24 hr operations**. Marine benthic ecology surveys will be conducted during hours of daylight. Mariners are advised to keep continuous

watch on **VHF radio channel 16** when navigating the area. For communication between vessels, VHF radios will be employed using a designated working channel (to be agreed with the Rosslare Harbour on arrival to works area). In addition to this, each vessel will have a **second VHF** attuned to the local Harbour Operations channel **VHF Channel 12**.

4. Contact Details:

Enquiries regarding the contents of this Marine Notice, or any other relevant matters, should be directed to Rosslare's Harbour Master.

- **Captain Tom Curran**

Contact Number: +353 (0) 53 915 7921 (alt. +353 (0) 87 259 8536)

Note: Marine Notices are issued purely for maritime safety and navigation reasons and should not be construed as conferring rights or granting permissions.

Irish Maritime Administration,
Department of Transport,
Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 TR60, Ireland.

03/10/2023

Encl: Appendix: Map of Operations Area.

For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice, please contact:
The Marine Survey Office, email: MSO@transport.gov.ie
For general enquiries, please contact the Maritime Safety Policy Division, email:
MaritimeSafetyPolicyDivision@transport.gov.ie
Written enquiries concerning Marine Notices should be addressed to:
Dept. of Transport, Maritime Safety Policy Division, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 TR60, Ireland.
email: MarineNotices@transport.gov.ie or visit us at: www.gov.ie/transport

Appendix: Map of Operations Area



