Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement

***Project reference*:** FS007383 Site Investigation works off the coast of Co. Louth

The Appropriate Assessment Screening process determined that likely significant effects could not be ruled out with respect to disturbance in the 17 European sites from underwater noise and accidental hydrocarbon spillage.
In accordance with Regulation 42(6) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 SI 477 as amended, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage made a determination following screening that an Appropriate Assessment was required as the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect the integrity of European sites, in view of the said sites' conservation objectives.

Measures to mitigate against the likely significant effect are identified in the Appropriate Assessment Report (September, 2022). The adherence to these measures is considered appropriate mitigation to avoid significant effects on conservation objectives of any European site.

It is therefore determined that the proposed project, either alone or in-combination with other projects, will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site.

Signature and Date of Recommending Officer - Marine Advisor Environment:

Healy 2nd September 2022

Signature & Date of Minister of State for Local Government and Planning:

Peter Burke 6/10/22