



Marine Notice No. 08 of 2021

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

Development of a fibre-optic approach for offshore site investigation

1. Notice of Activity

The Department of Transport has been advised that a survey to investigate the use of fibre-optic cables for use in site investigations will be carried out from 16 - 25 March 2021 in the North Irish Sea.

2. Details of Survey Activity

This survey is being carried out in support of ongoing research at the Irish Centre for Research in Applied Geosciences (Further information is available at <https://www.icrag-centre.org/>).

The equipment and techniques to be used include:

Distributed Acoustic Sensing (DAS) using fibre-optic cables

A 1000m length of fibre optic cable will be placed temporarily on the seabed in order to carry out the survey. The position of the cable will be marked using surface buoys.

OBS deployment

2 x ocean bottom seismometers will be deployed c. 3km apart on transect TRANS_001. These will be deployed at the start of the survey and will remain in position until retrieval at the end of the survey.

Sparker seismic profiling

This will be carried out as mobile work towing a transducer a short distance behind the vessel (RV Celtic Voyager).

3. Location of Survey Activity

The approximate locations of each survey transect is given below.

Location ID	Latitude (start)	Longitude (start)	Latitude (end)	Longitude (end)
TRANS_001	53° 48' 32.22"N	006° 05' 39.66"W	53°47'41.424"N	005°58'30.72"W
TRANS_002	53° 54' 30.888"N	006° 03' 58.968"W	53° 56' 02.76"N	006°03'04.464"W
TRANS_003	53° 48' 12.852"N	005° 53' 09.672"W	53°49'42.276"N	005°52'38.928"W
TRANS_004	53° 49' 02.676"N	005° 57' 59.256"W	53°47'29.112"N	005°58'37.416"W

Further information is provided in Annex 1.

4. Details of Survey Vessels

The survey will be conducted by the R.V. Celtic Voyager (callsign: **EIQN**) and Fionn Mac Cumhaill (callsign: **EIDN2**). The two vessels will work close by each other and the Fionn Mac Cumhaill is assisting with marine mammal observer work. The vessels will display appropriate lights and signals.

Please note, seismic surveying using DAS equipment will be performed during daylight hours.

5. Contact Details

If you have any queries in relation to this survey activity, please contact:

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All mariners are reminded of their responsibilities under the International Collision Regulations and are reminded of [Marine Notice No. 17 of 2007](#), which gives general advice in relation to the activities of vessels engaged in survey work for hydrographic, seismic, fishing research and underwater operations.

The International Regulations for Prevention of Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) are implemented in Irish law by the *Merchant Shipping (Collision Regulations) (Ships and Water Craft on the Water) Order 2012* [S.I. No. 507 of 2012], and the *Signals of Distress (Ships) Rules 2012* [S.I. No.170 of 2012]. [See Marine Notice No. 06 of 2013](#). These Statutory Instruments may be purchased by mail order from Government Publications, Office of Public Works, 52 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2. Tel: (01) 6476834/1890-213434. They are also available online at: www.irishstatutebook.ie

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.

10/02/2021

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

Annex 1: Location of Survey Activity

