Irish Dredging is a subsidiary of Royal Boskalis Westminster nv, one of the world’s largest dredging groups and with the support of other group subsidiaries Irish Dredging has the capability and resources to undertake the complete spectrum of dredging related tasks including coastal, inland waterway and seabed protection and have undertaken capital and maintenance dredging works throughout Ireland, in recent years operating in locations such as Dublin, Drogheda, Arklow, Foynes, Rosslare and Belfast.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Irish Dredging Limited were awarded the contract for the Season 2 Capital Dredging works. This is the second of six campaigns to widen and deepen the approach channel to Dublin Port.

The second season included the dredging of two areas within the navigation channel; with the outer section being completed first. The works were carried out over three campaigns; running from October 2018 to March 2019.

In total, approximately 1,045,815m³ of fine to medium sands, with the occasional gravel and clay lenses was removed from the navigation channel to the profiles, levels and tolerances. Due to strict EPA licence restrictions the total volume allowed to dredge per month was 176,969m³. For the first 3 months, this was dredged from the main outer area; from January onwards the inner area was also dredged.

The project was carried out using the trailing suction hopper dredger Freeway, supported by the survey launch Smit Neyland and the plough vessel Norma.

Dublin Port is located within an extremely environmentally sensitive area, with restrictions on operations stipulated within the Foreshore Licence and Dumping at Sea Permit, which IDC fully complied with. The contract required the use of Marine Mammal Observers and Marine Archaeologists throughout the dredging process, who were provided by DPC and based onboard the dredger.