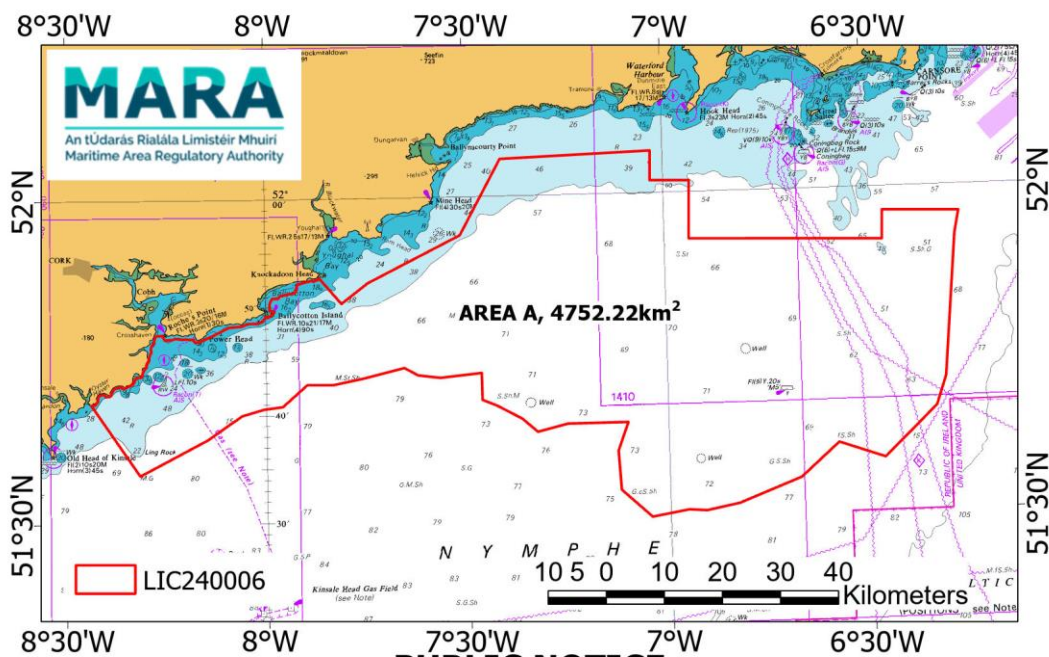


PUBLIC NOTICE

The Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011

Invitation for public submissions on an application for a maritime usage licence and an appropriate assessment

The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) has applied to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (“MARA”) for a maritime usage licence under section 117 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 to undertake marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation in the proposed south coast DMAP (Designated Maritime Area Plan) located off the coast of Counties Cork, Waterford and Wexford, to inform future offshore renewable energy development. The surveys will include geophysical surveys using multibeam echosounder, sub bottom profiler, surface towed sparkers, mini-air-gun and hydrophones. The surface towed sparker system will be the primary sound source used, with the mini-air-gun utilized when inadequate sub surface penetration is achieved due to local geological conditions. Other surveys will include Day Grab or Hammon Grab, drop camera and side scan sonar. The licence application is for a period of 12 months and the survey is expected to take place over a maximum duration of 52 days.



PUBLIC NOTICE PROPOSED MARITIME USAGE LICENCE LIC240006

A related Natura impact statement has been submitted with the above licence application. The licence application and the Natura impact statement are available for inspection on MARA's website <https://www.maritimeregulator.ie/applications/lic240006/> and at the following address by appointment– Maritime Area Regulatory Authority, 2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park, Drinagh, Wexford, Y35 RF29.

Members of the public who wish to make a submission in writing to MARA on the Licence application and the Natura impact statement may do so quoting ref: **LIC240006 DECC** to the following e-mail address – licence@mara.gov.ie or by post to the following address - Licence Unit, Maritime Area Regulatory Authority, 2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park, Drinagh, Wexford, Y35 RF29.

The closing date and time for a written submission to be received by MARA is 17.30 on 07 June.

MARA will then, as soon as practicable, carry out the appropriate assessment determination in accordance with regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. After the determination, MARA will either grant, part grant or refuse the Licence application.

Dated this 07 day of May 2024

The Maritime Area Regulatory Authority