



Maritime Usage Licence – “Minded To” Determination Case Worker Report	
To	Dr. Karen Creed, Director of Maritime Authorisations
From	Joanne Staunton, Licensing Caseworker
Reviewed by	Jacinta Ponzi, Head of MUL Unit
Date	07/04/2025
<b>Maritime Usage Licence Application:</b>	
Applicant Name	Amazon MCS Ireland Ltd
Applicant Address	One Burlington Plaza, Burlington Road, Dublin 4, Ireland
Application Received	06/06/2024
MUL Reference Number	MUL230031
Decision sought	<p>Approval sought for issuance of notice to the Applicant in accordance with Section 119(6)(b) of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021, to inform that:</p> <p>The Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) is minded to GRANT a Maritime Usage Licence in respect of their application and the reasons why MARA is so minded.</p>
Description of works	<p>This application from Amazon MCS Ireland Ltd. (‘the applicant’) is for a Maritime Usage Licence for marine survey and site investigations for a proposed transatlantic subsea fibre optic cable with a landfall at Glandore Bay and Castlerefke, Long Strand, Co. Cork and in the Southern Exclusive Economic Zone and Agreed Continental Shelf and to evaluate options for the route across the Celtic Sea and the Atlantic Ocean to a landfall on the East Coast of the United States.</p> <p>The activity falls under Schedule 7(3) of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021: <i>Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000.</i></p>
Schedule 7 activity	3 Marine environmental survey (site investigation)
Additional section 7 activity (if applicable)	Choose an item.
Documents submitted with application	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application Form <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maritime Usage Map <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment (SISAA) Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natura Impact Statement (NIS) Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assessment of Impact of Maritime Usage Report (AIMU) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species Report



	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Schedule of Works, Works Methodology, Ecological Impact Assessment and Foreshore Archaeology Impact Report
Section 117(3) notice issued: Request for Further Information -RFI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: Date(s) of RFI(s) issued: 31/07/2024 Document(s) submitted: GIS boundary files Date(s) submitted: 06/08/2024  <input type="checkbox"/> Not required



<b>Assessment, Research &amp; Data (ARD) Assessment:</b>	
Consideration of Screening for EIA: Section 117(5)(a)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Screening for EIA: NOT REQUIRED <input type="checkbox"/> Screening for EIA: REQUIRED  Date of Report: 14/09/2024 Signed by: Mary Hegarty
Screening for Appropriate Assessment:  Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Screened IN <input type="checkbox"/> Screened OUT  Date of AA Screening Report & Determination: 24/10/2024 Signed by: Mary Hegarty
<b>If <i>SCREENED IN</i>:</b> Was NIS/updated NIS requested in accordance with Section 117(6)(a)?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: <b>New</b> NIS requested <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: <b>Updated</b> NIS requested Date Requested: 31/10/2024 Date Received: 19/11/2024  <input type="checkbox"/> NO: Not Required
AA Screening Report and Determination published on MARA website:	Date: 29/10/2024
<b>Public Consultation – relevant where SCREENED IN</b>	
Date of public consultation: Section 117(6)(b)	Date starts: 11/01/2025 Date ends: 11/02/2025
Local Newspaper Name	The Southern Star
Local Newspaper Publication Date	11/01/2025
National Newspaper Name	The Examiner
National Newspaper Publication Date	11/01/2025
Date public consultation published on MARA website	10/01/2025
Submissions from public received?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: Number received 129 <input type="checkbox"/> NO



<b>Referral to Notified Consultees, as directed by Assessment, Research &amp; Data (ARD) Team:</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bord Iascaigh Mhara <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioners of Irish Lights <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dept. of Environment, Climate & Communications <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dept. of Housing, Local Government & Heritage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dept. of Transport - Marine Survey Office <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Protection Agency <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geological Survey of Ireland <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health and Safety Authority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inland Fisheries Ireland <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marine Institute <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Monuments Service <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Parks and Wildlife Service <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant Local Authority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant Harbour Authority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Sea Fisheries Protection Authority <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
Observations from notified consultees received?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: Number received 9 <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<b>Appropriate Assessment Determination (relevant where SCREENED IN)</b>	
AA Report & Determination	Date of final report: 04/04/2025
Determination Approved by Director of ARD Unit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
<b>ARD MUL Assessment Report:</b>	
Final ARD MUL Assessment Report <i>includes environmental &amp; engineering reports</i>	Date of final report: 04/04/2025 Signed by: Ciar O'Toole
Public Submissions taken into account in Final ARD MUL Assessment Report:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Notified Consultees Responses taken into account in Final ARD MUL Assessment Report:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> N/A



<p><b>Upon completion of the Appropriate Assessment Determination the following specific conditions and reasons for conditions are DETERMINED by the Assessment, Research and Data Unit:</b></p>
<p>Landfall site/Intertidal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The Holder shall ensure that an ecologist will be on site during all terrestrial/intertidal surveys carried out as part of this Permitted Maritime Activity in order to minimise disturbance and ensure site integrity is maintained.</li> <li>ii. Access to the intertidal area shall be exclusively through existing access routes.</li> <li>iii. Disturbance of dune habitat shall be strictly avoided by machinery and personnel.</li> <li>iv. Any temporary access arrangements or structures that are put in place to allow machinery access to the shore area, shall be prepared or installed in consultation with the ecologist. The site shall be fully reinstated post works.</li> </ul>
<p>Marine Mammals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The Holder shall appoint a marine mammal observer(s) for the purposes of overseeing the Permitted Maritime Usage. The Holder shall ensure the marine mammal observer(s) shall satisfy the requirements of the most up to date national guidance. During the activity, the Holder shall comply with the directions of the marine mammal observer(s).</li> <li>ii. The Holder shall implement risk control and mitigation measures for marine mammals in strict accordance with the most up to date national guidance.</li> <li>iii. The Holder shall publish the report and recording and data forms on their website within 60 days of completion of the Permitted Maritime Usage unless otherwise agreed with the Grantor.</li> <li>iv. The Holder shall, within 30 days of completion of the Permitted Maritime Usage, forward a report of the marine mammal observer(s) operations and mitigation undertaken, to <a href="mailto:offshore@npws.gov.ie">offshore@npws.gov.ie</a> and <a href="mailto:compliance@mara.gov.ie">compliance@mara.gov.ie</a>.</li> </ul>
<p>Accidental events</p> <p>The Holder shall ensure that there is an oil pollution emergency plan on-board any survey vessels. This plan should specify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Information on the location and detail of spill response resources on-board.</li> <li>ii. Information on crew training in relation to oil pollution response.</li> <li>iii. How crew will interface with other site investigation operators, where applicable</li> </ul>
<p>In-combination effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Prior to the commencement of the Permitted Maritime Usage, the Holder shall coordinate with other authorisation holders carrying out geophysical, seismic and geotechnical activities within a 10 km radius of the site boundary.</li> <li>ii. Where a vessel-to-vessel distance of greater than 10 km cannot be maintained with respect to geophysical, seismic and geotechnical activities, the Holder shall co-ordinate with other authorisation holders to prevent temporal overlap of the activities. Where the Holder can submit evidence that there is a vessel-to-vessel distance of greater than 10 km, no temporal co-ordination of activities is required.</li> <li>iii. Where the Holder becomes aware of temporal overlap that cannot be resolved within the prescribed distance, the Holder shall notify the Grantor who shall determine the timing of activities.</li> <li>iv. Records of all engagements held, and agreements reached, if any, shall be maintained by the Holder and made available to the Grantor if requested.</li> </ul> <p><i>The Holder shall keep the following documents (if applicable) together and available for inspection by the Grantor:</i></p>



- (i) *a copy of the licence related to the Permitted Maritime Usage;*
- (ii) *all correspondence with the Grantor;*
- (iii) *up-to-date drawings, plans, and maps relating to the Permitted Maritime Usage;*
- (iv) *documents and photographs as requested by the Grantor from time to time;*
- (v) *the marine positional log; and*
- (vi) *any elements of the licence application and associated documentation referenced in this licence.*

*In addition, the Grantor may, by notice in writing, require the Holder to provide such additional information as the Grantor considers necessary in relation to any matters arising out of or in connection with this Licence. The Holder shall provide the requested information within the period specified in the notice.*

**Upon completion of the ARD MUL Assessment Report the following conditions and reasons for conditions are RECOMMENDED by the Assessment, Research and Data Unit:**

1. The Permitted Maritime Usage shall be carried out in accordance with the plans and particulars submitted in support of the application for this Licence.  
Reason: To clarify the scope of this licence and ensure protection of the marine environment.
2. This licence is for the purposes of licensing under the Act and nothing in this licence shall be construed as negating the Holder’s statutory obligations or requirements under any other Law.  
Reason: To clarify the scope of this licence.
3. Prior to the commencement of the Permitted Maritime Usage the Holder shall consult and comply with the requirements of the Underwater Archaeology Unit of the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage. National Monuments Service, G37, Custom House, Custom House Quay, Dublin 1, D01 W6X0.  
Reason: To ensure protection of maritime heritage
4. The Holder shall, a minimum 14 days prior to the commencement of the Permitted Maritime Usage, arrange for the publication of a Marine Notice with the Marine Safety Policy Division, Department of Transport.  
Reason: To ensure safe navigation in the maritime area
5. The Holder shall not damage or interfere with any third party’s property, infrastructure or fishing gear while conducting the Permitted Maritime Usage.  
Reason: To minimise impact on other users of the marine environment and ensure the orderly undertaking of the proposed maritime usage
6. At least two weeks prior to the commencement, and for the duration, of the Permitted Maritime Usage the Holder shall engage a Fisheries Liaison Officer to consult with and fully inform relevant fishers in order that interactions with ongoing fishing activities in the area are minimised during the course of the Permitted Maritime Usage.  
Reason: To minimise impact on other users of the marine environment
7. At least two weeks prior to the commencement, and for the duration, of the Permitted Maritime Usage the Holder shall engage a Community Liaison Officer to consult with and fully inform relevant users of the marine environment in order that interactions with ongoing recreational and other activities in the area are minimised during the course of the Permitted Maritime Usage.  
Reason: To minimise impact on other users of the marine environment
8. The Holder shall time the Permitted Maritime Usage to ensure that geophysical surveys are undertaken in advance of all geotechnical works to ensure potential significant effects on underwater cultural heritage are avoided.  
Reason: To ensure the protection of the marine environment.



9.	Landfall site/Intertidal
i.	The Holder shall ensure that an ecologist will be on site during all terrestrial/intertidal surveys carried out as part of this Permitted Maritime Activity in order to minimise disturbance and ensure site integrity is maintained.
ii.	Access to the intertidal area shall be exclusively through existing access routes.
iii.	Disturbance of dune habitat shall be strictly avoided by machinery and personnel.
iv.	Any temporary access arrangements or structures that are put in place to allow machinery access to the shore area, shall be prepared or installed in consultation with the ecologist. The site shall be fully reinstated post works.
Reason: To ensure protection of the intertidal environment and protected species and habitats	
10.	During the course of the intertidal trial pit and bar probe operations the Holder shall ensure that existing public access arrangements are maintained, where possible, and all necessary precautions are put in place to protect the public. The Holder shall retain photographic evidence of all such arrangements made and precautions taken during the course of the works.
Reason: To minimise impact on other users of the intertidal area and ensure the orderly undertaking of the proposed maritime usage	
11.	The Holder shall ensure that all vessels engaged in this Permitted Maritime Usage conform to Irish Certification standards for vessels, as required by the Marine Survey Office.
Reason: To ensure protection of the marine environment	
12.	The Holder shall demonstrate that all reasonable practical measures are taken to ensure that all vessels used in the Permitted Maritime Usage are free of invasive marine species on their hulls and in their ballast water and that all vehicles and equipment used in the intertidal portion of the Permitted Maritime Usage are free of invasive marine species.
Reason: To ensure protection of the marine environment	
13.	Marine Mammals
i.	The Holder shall appoint a marine mammal observer(s) for the purposes of overseeing the Permitted Maritime Usage. The Holder shall ensure the marine mammal observer(s) shall satisfy the requirements of the most up to date national guidance. During the activity, the Holder shall comply with the directions of the marine mammal observer(s).
ii.	The Holder shall implement risk control and mitigation measures for marine mammals in strict accordance with the most up to date national guidance.
iii.	The Holder shall publish the report and recording and data forms on their website within 60 days of completion of the Permitted Maritime Usage unless otherwise agreed with the Grantor.
iv.	The Holder shall, within 30 days of completion of the Permitted Maritime Usage, forward a report of the marine mammal observer(s) operations and mitigation undertaken, to <a href="mailto:offshore@npws.gov.ie">offshore@npws.gov.ie</a> and <a href="mailto:compliance@mara.gov.ie">compliance@mara.gov.ie</a> .
Reason: To ensure protection of the marine environment and protected species	
14.	Accidental events
The Holder shall ensure that there is an oil pollution emergency plan on-board any survey vessels. This plan should specify:	
i.	Information on the location and detail of spill response resources on-board.
ii.	Information on crew training in relation to oil pollution response.
iii.	How crew will interface with other site investigation operators, where applicable.
Reason: To provide appropriate controls on the Permitted Maritime Usage to ensure protection of the marine environment.	
15.	In-combination effects



<p>i. Prior to the commencement of the Permitted Maritime Usage, the Holder shall coordinate with other authorisation holders carrying out geophysical, seismic and geotechnical activities within a 10 km radius of the site boundary.</p> <p>ii. Where a vessel-to-vessel distance of greater than 10 km cannot be maintained with respect to geophysical, seismic and geotechnical activities, the Holder shall co-ordinate with other authorisation holders to prevent temporal overlap of the activities. Where the Holder can submit evidence that there is a vessel-to-vessel distance of greater than 10 km, no temporal co-ordination of activities is required.</p> <p>iii. Where the Holder becomes aware of temporal overlap that cannot be resolved within the prescribed distance, the Holder shall notify the Grantor who shall determine the timing of activities.</p> <p>iv. Records of all engagements held, and agreements reached, if any, shall be maintained by the Holder and made available to the Grantor if requested.</p> <p>Reason: To ensure protection of the marine environment and protected species and habitats</p>
<p>16. On completion of the activity, the Holder shall provide the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) at bathysurveys@ukho.gov.uk with the final bathymetric data from this Permitted Maritime Usage so that the appropriate charts can be updated.</p> <p>Reason: To ensure protection of the marine environment through availability of monitoring data</p>
<p>17. The Holder, upon completion of the Permitted Maritime Activity, shall submit details of all acoustic surveys undertaken in accordance with this licence to Marine Environment, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage at marine.env@housing.gov.ie. This data shall be provided in the reporting format of the OSPAR Impulsive Noise registry.</p> <p>Reason: To ensure protection of the marine environment through availability of monitoring data.</p>
<p>18. The Holder shall keep the following documents (if applicable) together and available for inspection by the Grantor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. a copy of the licence related to the Permitted Maritime Usage;</li> <li>ii. all correspondence with the Grantor;</li> <li>iii. up-to-date drawings, plans, and maps relating to the Permitted Maritime Usage;</li> <li>iv. documents and photographs as requested by the Grantor from time to time;</li> <li>v. the marine positional log; and</li> <li>vi. any elements of the licence application and associated documentation referenced in this licence.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the Grantor may, by notice in writing, require the Holder to provide such additional information as the Grantor considers necessary in relation to any matters arising out of or in connection with this Licence. The Holder shall provide the requested information within the period specified in the notice.</p> <p>Reason: To provide appropriate controls on the Permitted Maritime Usage to ensure protection of the marine environment</p>





Minded to Determination of Licence Application:	
Case Worker Recommendation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GRANT <input type="checkbox"/> PART GRANT <input type="checkbox"/> REFUSE
Period Specified to Applicant for submission of supplementary material in relation to the reasons for conditions: Section 119(6)(b)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 21 days <input type="checkbox"/> Other:

Signed by (Caseworker)

Joanne Staunton

Date

07/04/2025



<b>Annex 1 – List of Accompanying Documents:</b>		
<b>Tab 01</b>	Screening for AA Report & Determination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Tab 02</b>	Appropriate Assessment Report and Determination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Tab 03</b>	ARD MUL Assessment Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Tab 04</b>	Proposed Licence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Tab 05</b>	Proposed Minded to Notice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Tab 06</b>	Proposed Minded to Notice Cover Letter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>