



Appropriate Assessment Report and Determination for Maritime Usage Licence Application

From

Amazon MCS Ireland Limited

FOR marine survey and site investigations for a fibre optic cable with a landfall
at Glandore Bay and Castlefcreke, Long Strand, Co. Cork and in the Southern
Exclusive Economic Zone and Agreed Continental Shelf.

Schedule 7 (3) application: Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of
site investigation or in support of an application under Part XX1 of the Act of
2000

Application Number No. MUL230031

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Statement of Authority

This Appropriate Assessment Report has been undertaken by the Assessment, Research and Data Unit within MARA, a specialist unit with appropriate expertise in ecological and environmental assessment.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The applicant plans to investigate the feasibility of constructing a new subsea telecoms cable system, linking the United States to Ireland, from a landfall on the northeast coast of the USA to a landfall at Glandore Bay, County Cork on the southwest coast of Ireland. The applicant intends to undertake the survey campaign across the Licence Application Area within the Irish Maritime Area in order to inform the location and design of the cable route and landfall. A NIS was submitted by the applicant dated 14 November 2024.

1.2 Legislative Context

This appropriate assessment report relates to a licence application for an activity in the maritime area in accordance with Part 5 of the Maritime Area Planning Act (2021) Section 117 of the Act sets out the requirements for MARA to undertake appropriate assessment in respect of proposed maritime usage. The EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EC) and Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) are transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and by Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 outline requirements for screening for appropriate assessment and for undertaking appropriate assessment. In addition, a 30-day public consultation is required on the Natura Impact Statement under Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 and Section 117 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021.

1.3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

MARA completed a screening for appropriate assessment and published an appropriate assessment screening determination on 24 October 2024. The determination stated that the proposal by Amazon to carry out site investigation works requires an Appropriate Assessment, as it cannot be excluded on the basis of objective scientific information, following screening, that the proposed activities, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European Site.

2 Description of proposed works

2.1 Project and Site Description

The site investigation works are proposed to be carried out within a 500m corridor within the licensed area, predominantly by seabed mapping techniques (geophysical survey) with some selective sampling of the upper layers of the seabed (geotechnical survey). The licence

application area is wider than the survey corridor to give flexibility to move the survey corridor within the permitted area. The application for the proposed maritime area usage is for three years, with the planned activities expected to take 31 days in total.

2.2 Location

The proposed maritime usage application area is situated off the coast of County Cork. The survey corridor has length of 898.5 km and a total area of 1705646.81 hectares. A cable route corridor of approximately 500m width will be surveyed within the licence application area. The survey corridor will be up to 10km in width in areas where the water depth is greater than 1500m. The areas of the proposed offshore survey corridors within Irish EEZ are shown in Figure 1 and the proposed landfall locations are shown in Figure 2. The sediment in the area ranges from sandy mud, muddy sand and biogenic reef. Water depths in the MUL area are from 0m at the high-water mark to over 4,000m depth at the western extent of the Agreed Continental Shelf.

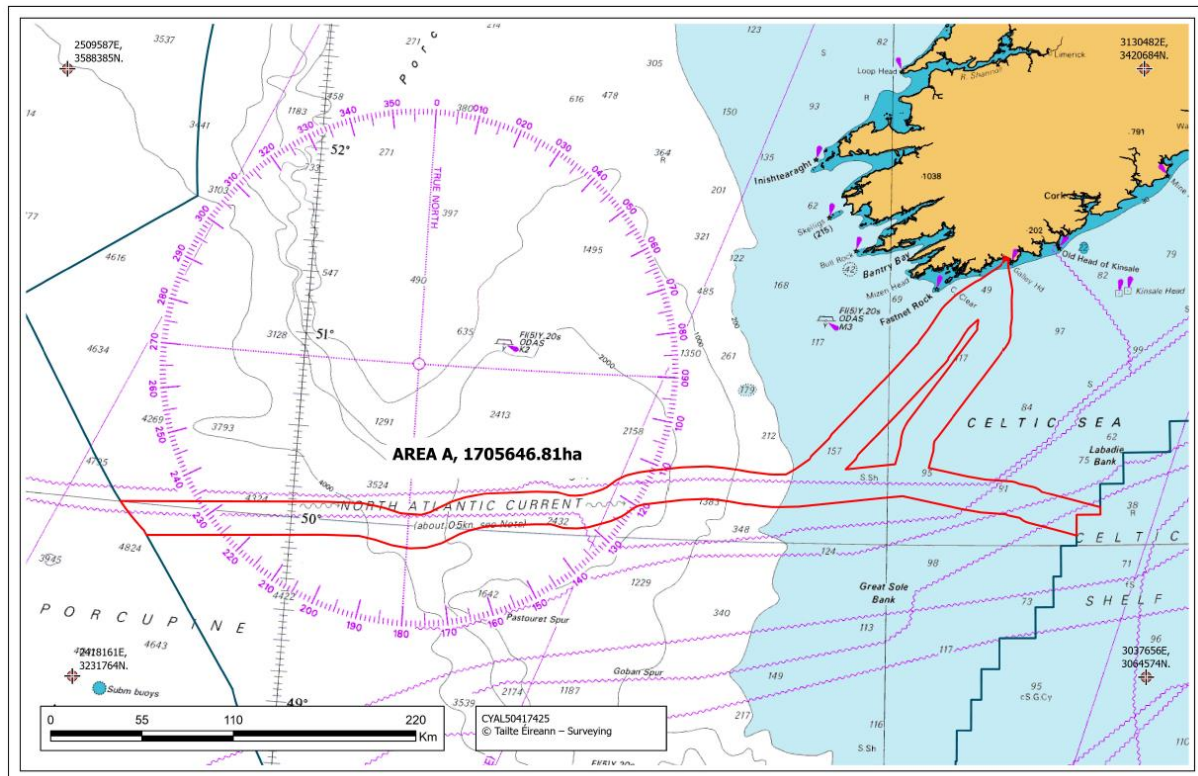


Figure 1: Map showing proposed Maritime Usage area outlined in red.

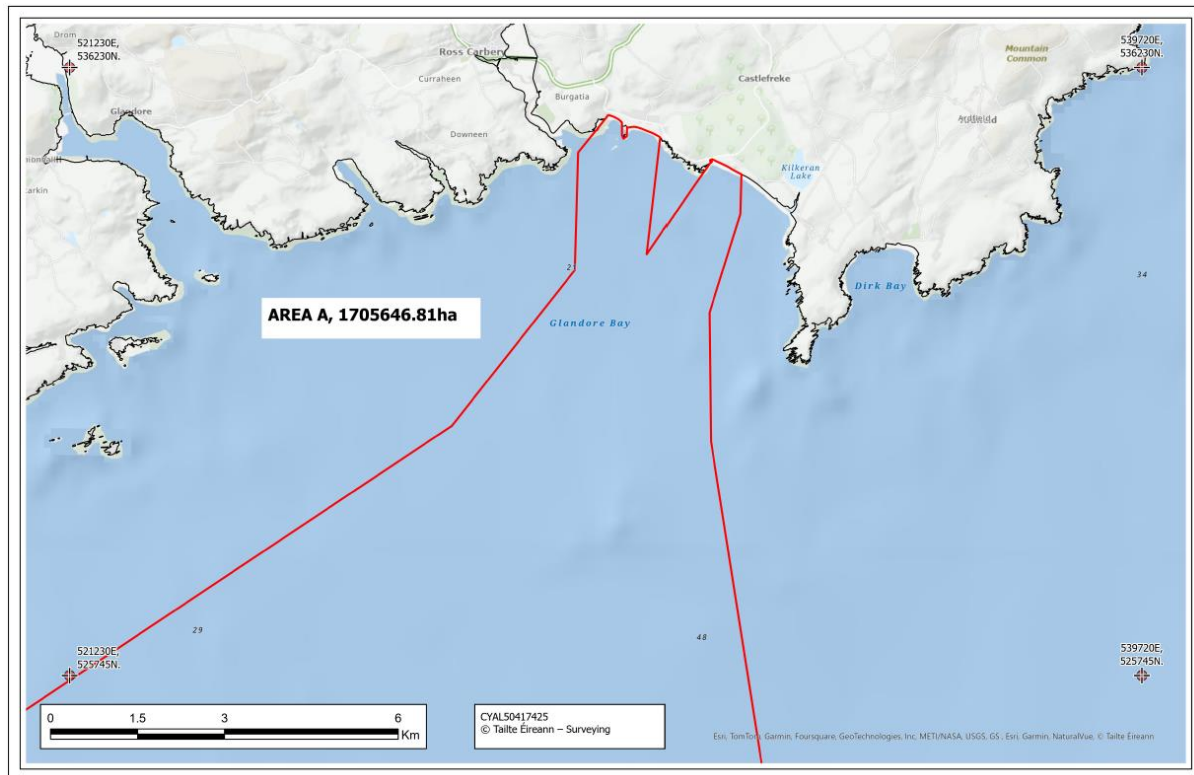


Figure 2 Map showing proposed landfall locations in Glandore Bay, Co. Cork, with the proposed Maritime Usage area outlined in red.

2.3 Description of the Proposed Survey Works

A full description of the proposed project and its associated scope of works is presented in the Works Methodology document provided by the applicants (MDM Engineers, 14 May 2024).

The proposed works comprise of:

- Intertidal beach survey and site investigations to 3m water depth, estimated to take 3-4 days, including:
 - Topographical survey using total station, drone or LiDAR,
 - Geophysical survey using ground penetrating radar or magnetometer/metal detector
 - Intertidal walk over survey,
 - Electrical resistivity tomography survey,
 - Up to 3 no. trial pits (target pit depth 2.5m) chosen after walkover survey,
 - Up to 8 no. bar probes on both beaches (16 total), from high to low water (at 10m spacing) and
 - Up to 16 no. bar probes from the low water to the 3m water depth contour (at 10m spacing).
- Inshore Marine Survey (3m to 15m water depth), estimated to take 3-4 days, including:

- Multibeam echo sounder,
- Side scan sonar and
- Sub-bottom profiler.
- Offshore and deep-water survey including geophysical and geotechnical site investigations, estimated to take up to 23 days, including:
 - Multibeam echo sounder and deep-water multibeam echo sounder,
 - Side scan sonar,
 - Sub-bottom profiler,
 - Ultra-short base line positioning system,
 - Magnetometer,
 - Up to 26 no. grab samples,
 - Up to 48 no. gravity cores or vibrocores,
 - Up to 96 no. cone penetration tests,
 - Underwater Video Survey and
 - Archaeological Survey.

Table 1: Geophysical survey equipment proposed for the site investigations, with frequencies and noise pressure levels as per licence application.

Survey equipment	Purpose	Frequency	Noise pressure level (dB re 1µPa @ 1m)
Multibeam Echosounder	Collect topographical data of the seabed (in both shallow and deep-water- beyond 200m)	12-500 kHz	210-245
Sub-bottom profiler All types	Identify geological layers and sediment thickness beneath the seabed	500 Hz to 13 kHz, 85 to 115 KhZ	185-247
Ultra-short base line positioning system	Subsea positioning system for tracking sensors	20 to 50 kHz	194-207
Sidescan sonar	Determine sediment characteristics and seabed features	100-900 kHz	200-240
Magnetometer	Identifies magnetic anomalies, hazard mapping on the seabed	Passive device, no sound emitted	
CPT rig	Core penetration test	28 Hz	118-145
Vibrocore rig	Vibrocore	30 Hz	approx. 187.4
Survey vessels		50-300 Hz	160-190

3 European Sites and Qualifying Interests

3.1 Identification of European sites likely to be affected

As the Consenting Authority for Maritime Usage Licensing and in line with Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, MARA carried out a screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) for these site investigations. This Screening for AA report and Determination is dated 24 October 2024 and is available on the MARA website.

Twenty-six Irish Special Area of Conservation (SAC) sites, eleven British and twenty-five French sites, were identified which were considered to be within the Zone of Influence of the proposed maritime usage activity. Eleven Special Protected Area (SPA) sites were identified that were considered to be within the Zone of Influence of the proposed maritime usage activity. These European sites, their Qualifying Interests, Special Conservation Interests and possible impact as a result of the proposed maritime usage are given in Table 4 below.

3.2 Description of the Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests affected

The appropriate assessment screening identified embryonic shifting dunes, shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes), Harbour Seal (*Phoca vitulina*) Grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*), Bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) and Harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) as qualifying interests that may be impacted as a result of the proposed maritime usage. This appropriate assessment has been undertaken in light of the descriptions of the qualifying interests and special conservation interests in the latest Article 17 report from the NPWS in 2019¹.

In addition, fifteen bird species were identified as needing further assessment due to the possibility for those species to be significantly negatively affected by disturbance from above water noise or underwater noise in the case of diving species (Screening for AA Report, 24 October 2024, Table 4). Seabird species profiles, population trends and species-specific threats used in this assessment were taken from the most recent Article 12 assessment produced by the NPWS in 2019².

3.3 Conservation Objectives, Overall Status and Trends of Species and Habitats with potential to be affected

Conservation objectives are intended to define as precisely as possible the desired state or degree of conservation to be reached in a particular site. The measures taken under the Habitats Directive are to ensure that the species and habitats listed in the Annexes achieve Favourable Conservation Status. The objective of the Birds Directive is formulated slightly differently but the ambition is the same.

¹ https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS_2019_Vol3_Species_Article17.pdf

² <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/IWM114.pdf>

Site-specific conservation objectives for sites, habitats and species listed in Table 4 were used when considering potential impacts of the proposed maritime usage activity. Details of these sites are available on the NPWS website (<https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites>). Conservation objectives are not yet available for some of the new QIs for existing SAC sites screened in as a result to the updated list of QI species for a number of SAC's published by the NPWS in March 2024. The Conservation objectives used in the assessment of these species comes from the nearest available SAC. For Bottlenose Dolphin, this is the Lower River Shannon SAC. For Harbour Porpoise, this is Blasket Islands SAC for sites on the South and West Coast, and Rockabill and Dalkey Islands SAC on the East Coast. These SAC sites represent two of the three sites with Harbour Porpoise as a QI before March 2024. A similar approach was taken for assessing French sites without Conservation objectives.

The conservation status of a habitat or species relates to the nationwide status, while conservation objectives relate to a specific SAC or SPA. The Favourable Conservation Status of a species is achieved when:

- The population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats.
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- There is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

The overall conservation status in Ireland for embryonic shifting dunes and shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes), is Inadequate. Grey Seal, Harbour seal, Bottlenose dolphin, and Harbour Porpoise have Favourable conservation status in the Irish assessments. All Irish conservation status values are taken from the latest Article 17 report from the NPWS in 2019³.

Grey Seal, Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose dolphin have a favourable status for the British sites. The Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose dolphin have a Bad/Unfavourable conservation status for the French assessment.

Under the Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland Assessment⁴, of the birds that screened in for further assessment one is classified as Green (least concern), twelve are classified as Amber (medium concern) and two species classified as Red (high concern).

³ https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS_2019_Vol3_Species_Article17.pdf

⁴ [https://birdwatchireland.ie/birds-of-conservation-concern-in-ireland/#:~:text=The%20conservation%20status%20of%20species,%25\)%20on%20the%20Green%20list.](https://birdwatchireland.ie/birds-of-conservation-concern-in-ireland/#:~:text=The%20conservation%20status%20of%20species,%25)%20on%20the%20Green%20list.)

The most recent Birds Directive [Article 12 report](#)⁵ identified trends in seabird species relating to Breeding Population numbers and Breeding Distribution. For the relevant species under consideration in this assessment, declining long-term Breeding distribution trends were seen for the Black-headed gull, common gull, herring gull and kittiwake.

3.4 Pressures and threats to Habitats, Annex II species and Annex I species

Table 2 outlines the various pressures and threats experienced in Ireland by the Annex II species screened in for this assessment. It should be noted that under the European Environment Agency guidance on Article 17 guidance, noise pollution from marine seismic surveys was to be reported under C09 Geotechnical Surveying.

Table 2 Pressures and Threats for relevant Habitats and Annex II species as assessed for the NPWS 2019 Article 17 report.

	Pressure	Threat
Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	F07 Sports, tourism and leisure activities (H) F08 Modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures) (H) L01 Abiotic natural processes (e.g. erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization) (H) C01 Extraction of minerals (e.g. rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell) (M) E03 Shipping lanes, ferry lanes and anchorage infrastructure (e.g. canalisation, dredging) (M) F01 Conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions) (M) F06 Development and maintenance of beach areas for tourism and recreation incl. beach nourishment and beach cleaning (M) L02 Natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices) (M)	F07 Sports, tourism and leisure activities (H) F08 Modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures) (H) L01 Abiotic natural processes (e.g. erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization) (H) C01 Extraction of minerals (e.g. rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell) (M) E03 Shipping lanes, ferry lanes and anchorage infrastructure (e.g. canalisation, dredging) (M) F01 Conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions) (M) F06 Development and maintenance of beach areas for tourism and recreation incl. beach nourishment and beach cleaning (M) L02 Natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices) (M)
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]	F07 Sports, tourism and leisure activities (H) F08 Modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast	F07 Sports, tourism and leisure activities (H) F08 Modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast

⁵ <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/IWM114.pdf>

	Pressure	Threat
	protection works and infrastructures) (H) L01 Abiotic natural processes (e.g. erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization) (H) E01 Roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g. bridges, viaducts, tunnels) (M) E03 (Shipping lanes, ferry lanes and anchorage infrastructure e.g. canalisation, dredging) (M) F01 Conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions) (M) F06 Development and maintenance of beach areas for tourism and recreation incl. beach nourishment and beach cleaning (M) I02 Other invasive alien species (other than species of Union concern) (M)	protection works and infrastructures) (H) L01 Abiotic natural processes (e.g. erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization) (H) E01 Roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g. bridges, viaducts, tunnels) (M) E03 (Shipping lanes, ferry lanes and anchorage infrastructure e.g. canalisation, dredging) (M) F01 Conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions) (M) F06 Development and maintenance of beach areas for tourism and recreation incl. beach nourishment and beach cleaning (M) I02 Other invasive alien species (other than species of Union concern) (M)
Grey seal [1364], Harbour seal [1365] Harbour porpoise [1351] and Bottlenose dolphin [1349]	C09 Geotechnical surveying (M) G01 Marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species (M)	C09 Geotechnical surveying (M) G01 Marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species (M)

The most recent Birds Directive [Article 12 report](#) identified the main pressures and threats to Annex I breeding seabirds. Table 3 shows these main threats and their percentage relevance to seabirds.

Table 3 Pressures and Threats on Annex I bird species as assessed for the NPWS 2019 Article 12 report.

Code	Description	Percentage relevance
D01	Wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure	92
G12	Bycatch and incidental killing (due to fishing and hunting activities)	79
N06	Desynchronisation of biological/ecological processes due to climate change	75
N07	Decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change	75
I02	Other invasive alien species (other than species of Union concern)	71
F22	Residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, Styrofoam)	54

Code	Description	Percentage relevance
F23	Industrial or commercial activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, Styrofoam)	54
F07	Sports, tourism and leisure activities	46
G01	Marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species	46
J02	Mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal)	29

Table 4 below outlines the SAC and SPA sites that were screened in, the Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests related to each site, the reason why and provides links to the relevant Conservation Objectives document produced by the NPWS in each Irish site. Where site specific conservation objectives were not available for some SAC sites, those from the nearest similar site were used instead. For UK sites, their conservation objectives are used. For French sites, no conservation objectives were available, so conservation objectives from Irish sites with the same qualifying interests were used instead. Some sites included in Table 4 were not included in the screening document of 24 October 2024 but are included here for completeness and in line with comments raised during the public consultation period. These are marked with an asterix.

Table 4: Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protected Areas, qualifying interests and conservation objectives identified as requiring further assessment.

European Site Code	Distance from the Proposed MUL area (km) or another metric used	List of Qualifying Interests	Potential Source of Impact	Conservation Objective
Kilkeran Lake and Castlefreke Dunes SAC (Site Code IE001061)	Within proposed MUL area	Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]	Possible physical disturbance and habitat loss-trial pits in close proximity to 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes and 2120 White dunes	To maintain favourable conservation condition of habitats in the SAC as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO001061.pdf
Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC (Site Code IE000101)	Approx. 10 km	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise – within Grey Seal foraging range	To maintain favourable conservation condition of Harbour Porpoise in the SAC as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000101.pdf
Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC (Site Code IE000090)	Approx. 40 km	<i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1365]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise – within Harbour Seal foraging range	To maintain favourable conservation condition of Harbour seal in the SAC as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000090.pdf
Kenmare River SAC* (Site Code IE002158)	Approx. 50 km	<i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1365] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise -within Harbour Seal foraging range and within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	To maintain favourable conservation condition of Harbour seal in this SAC as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO002158.pdf There are no specific conservation objectives relating to this species in this SAC, so the conservation objectives from Blasket Islands

				SAC [Site code IE002172] were used in their absence (https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO002172.pdf)
Lower River Shannon SAC (Site Code IE002165)	Approx. 250 km	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	To maintain favourable conservation condition of Bottlenose Dolphin in the SAC as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in (https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO002165.pdf)
Blasket Islands SAC (Site code IE002172)	Approx. 80 km	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Grey Seal foraging ranges (Carter et al, 2022) ¹ and within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	To maintain favourable conservation condition of Grey Seal and Harbour Porpoise in the SAC as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO002172.pdf
Saltee Islands SAC (Site code IE000707)	Approx. 190 km	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise within Grey Seal foraging ranges	To maintain favourable conservation condition of Grey Seal in the SAC as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000707.pdf
Carnsore Point SAC (Site code IE002269)	Approx. 200 km	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	To maintain favourable conservation condition of Harbour Porpoise in the SAC as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO002269.pdf
Slaney River Valley SAC (Site code IE 000781)	Approx. 200 km	<i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1365]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Harbour Seal foraging range	To maintain favourable conservation condition of Harbour Seal in the SAC as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000781.pdf

				cted-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000781.pdf
Blackwater Bank SAC* (Site code: 002953) *	Approx. 220 km	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] *	Possible disturbance from underwater noise and vibration– within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	To maintain favourable conservation condition of Harbour Porpoise in the SAC as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO002953.pdf
Lambay Island SAC [Site code IE000204]	Approx. 340 km	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Grey Seal foraging range and within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	To maintain favourable conservation condition of Harbour Porpoise and Grey Seal in the SAC as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000204.pdf
Codling Fault Zone SAC [Site code IE003015]	Approx. 340 km	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise – within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	To maintain favourable conservation condition of Harbour Porpoise in the SAC as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO003015.pdf
Rockabill to Dalkey SAC [IE003000] *	Approx. 340 km	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise – within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	To maintain favourable conservation condition of Harbour Porpoise in the SAC as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO003000.pdf
Hook Head SAC* (Site code: IE000764)	Approx. 190 km	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] *	Possible disturbance from underwater noise – within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	To maintain favourable conservation condition of Harbour Porpoise in the SAC as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000764.pdf

Galway Bay Complex* (Site code IE000268)	Approx. 300 km	<i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1365]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Harbour Seal foraging range	To maintain favourable conservation condition of Harbour Seal in the SAC as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000268.pdf
Clew Bay Complex SAC* (Site code IE001482)	Approx. 350 km	<i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1365]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Harbour Seal foraging range	To maintain favourable conservation condition of Harbour Seal in the SAC as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO001482.pdf
Belgica Mound Province SAC [Site code IE002327]	Approx. 200 km	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise – within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	To maintain favourable conservation condition of Harbour Porpoise in the SAC as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO002327.pdf
Porcupine Bank Canyon SAC [Site code IE003001]	Approx. 400 km	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise – within Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	To maintain favourable conservation condition of Bottlenose Dolphin in the SAC as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO003001.pdf
Inishmore Island SAC [Site code IE000213]	Approx. 300 km	<i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1365] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise – within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	To maintain favourable conservation condition of Harbour seal and Harbour porpoise in the SAC as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000213.pdf
Kilkieran Bay and Islands SAC [Site code IE002111]	Approx. 330 km	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise – within Harbour Porpoise	There are no specific conservation objectives relating to this species in this SAC, so the conservation objectives from Blasket Islands SAC - To maintain favourable conservation

			Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	condition of Harbour Porpoise in the SAC. [Site code IE002172] were used in their absence (https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO002172.pdf)
Duvillaun Islands SAC (Site Code IE 000495)	Approx. 400 km	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Grey Seal foraging range and within Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	To maintain favourable conservation condition of Grey Seal and Bottlenose Dolphin in the SAC as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000495.pdf
West Connacht Coast SAC [Site code IE002998]	Approx. 340 km	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Bottlenose Dolphin and Harbour Porpoise Management Units (JNCC, 2023) ¹	To maintain favourable conservation condition of Bottlenose Dolphin and Harbour Porpoise in the SAC as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO002998.pdf
Slyne Head Islands SAC (Site Code IE000328)	Approx. 330 km	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Grey Seal foraging range and Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	To maintain favourable conservation condition of Bottlenose Dolphin and Grey Seal in the SAC as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000328.pdf
Slyne Head Peninsula SAC* [Site code IE002074]	Approx. 330 km	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	To maintain favourable conservation condition of Bottlenose Dolphin in the SAC as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO002074.pdf
Inishboffin and Inishshark SAC (Site Code IE000278)	Approx. 350 km	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Grey Seal foraging range (Carter et al, 2022) ¹	To maintain favourable conservation condition of Grey Seal in the SAC as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000278.pdf

				cted-sites/conservation objectives/CO000278.pdf
Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC [Site code IE000625]	Approx. 500 km	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	To maintain favourable conservation condition of Harbour Porpoise in the SAC. There are no specific conservation objectives relating to this species in this SAC, so the conservation objectives from Blasket Islands SAC [Site code IE002172] were used in their absence (https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation objectives/CO002172.pdf)
Lleyn Peninsula and the Sarnau SAC [Site code UK0013117]	Within Management Unit for Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹ and foraging range of grey seal.	To ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained and that it makes the best possible contribution to maintaining Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) for Bottlenose Dolphin in UK waters
Cardigan Bay SAC [Site code UK0012712]	Within Management Unit for Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) and foraging range of grey seal.	To ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained and that it makes the best possible contribution to maintaining Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) for Bottlenose Dolphin in UK waters
Moray Firth SAC [Site code UK0019808]	Within Management Unit for Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹¹	To ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained and that it makes the best possible contribution to maintaining Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) for Bottlenose Dolphin in UK waters
North Anglesey Marine SAC [Site code UK0030398]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	To ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained and that it makes the best possible contribution to maintaining Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) for Harbour Porpoise in UK waters
West Wales Marine SAC	Within Management Unit for	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise within Harbour Porpoise	To ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained and that it makes the best possible contribution to maintaining

[Site code UK0030397]	Harbour porpoise		Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹¹	Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) for Harbour Porpoise in UK waters
Bristol Channel Approaches SAC [Site code UK003039]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	To ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained and that it makes the best possible contribution to maintaining Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) for Harbour Porpoise in UK waters
North Channel* (Site code UK0030399)	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	To ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained and that it makes the best possible contribution to maintaining Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) for Harbour Porpoise in UK waters
Isles of Scilly Complex* (Site code UK0013694)	Within foraging range of grey seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Grey Seal foraging range (Carter et al, 2022) ¹	To ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained and that it makes the best possible contribution to maintaining Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) for Harbour Porpoise in UK waters
Pembrokeshire Marine/ Sir Benfro Forol * (Site code UK0013116)	Within foraging range of grey seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Grey Seal foraging range (Carter et al, 2022) ¹	To ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained and that it makes the best possible contribution to maintaining Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) for Harbour Porpoise in UK waters
The Maidens* (Site code UK0030384)	Within foraging range of grey seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Grey Seal foraging range (Carter et al, 2022) ¹	To ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained and that it makes the best possible contribution to maintaining Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) for Harbour Porpoise in UK waters
Lundy SAC (Site code UK0013114)	Within foraging range of grey seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Grey Seal foraging range (Carter et al, 2022) ¹	To ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained and that it makes the best possible contribution to maintaining Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) for Harbour Porpoise in UK waters
Chaussée de Sein SAC [Site code FR5302007]	Within Management	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within	There are no specific conservation objectives relating to these species in this SAC, so the

	Unit for Bottlenose Dolphin		Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹¹¹	conservation objectives from Lower Shannon River SAC (Site code: IE002165) was used - To maintain favourable conservation condition of Bottlenose dolphin in the SAC.
Cap Sizun SAC [Site code FR5300020]	Within Management Unit for Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹¹	There are no specific conservation objectives relating to these species in this SAC, so the conservation objectives from Lower Shannon River SAC (Site code: IE002165) was used - To maintain favourable conservation condition of Bottlenose dolphin in the SAC.
Côtes de Crozon [Site code FR5302006]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Bottlenose Dolphin and harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹¹	There are no specific conservation objectives relating to these species in this SAC, so the conservation objectives from Lower Shannon River SAC (Site code: IE002165) and Blasket Islands SAC [Site code IE002172] were used - To maintain favourable conservation condition of Bottlenose dolphin and Harbour Porpoise in the SAC.
Ouessant-Molène [Site code FR5300018]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Bottlenose Dolphin and Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹¹¹	There are no specific conservation objectives relating to these species in this SAC, so the conservation objectives from Lower Shannon River SAC (Site code: IE002165) and Blasket Islands SAC [Site code IE002172] were used - To maintain favourable conservation condition of Bottlenose dolphin and Harbour Porpoise in the SAC.
Côte de Granit rose-Sept-Iles [Site code FR5300009]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Bottlenose Dolphin and Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹¹	There are no specific conservation objectives relating to these species in this SAC, so the conservation objectives from Lower Shannon River SAC (Site code: IE002165) and Blasket Islands SAC [Site code IE002172] were used - To maintain favourable conservation condition of Bottlenose dolphin and Harbour Porpoise in the SAC.

Tregor Goëlo [Site code FR5310070]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Bottlenose Dolphin and Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹¹	There are no specific conservation objectives relating to these species in this SAC, so the conservation objectives from Lower Shannon River SAC (Site code: IE002165) and Blasket Islands SAC [Site code IE002172] were used - To maintain favourable conservation condition of Bottlenose dolphin and Harbour Porpoise in the SAC.
Cap d'Erquy-Cap Fréhel [Site code FR5300011]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Bottlenose Dolphin and Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹¹	There are no specific conservation objectives relating to these species in this SAC, so the conservation objectives from Lower Shannon River SAC (Site code: IE002165) and Blasket Islands SAC [Site code IE002172] were used - To maintain favourable conservation condition of Bottlenose dolphin and Harbour Porpoise in the SAC.
Côte de Cancale à Paramé [Site code FR5300052]	Within Management Unit for Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹¹	There are no specific conservation objectives relating to these species in this SAC, so the conservation objectives from Lower Shannon River SAC (Site code: IE002165) was used - To maintain favourable conservation condition of Bottlenose dolphin in the SAC
Recifs et marais arriere – littoraux de Cap Levi a la Pointe de Saire FR250085	Within Management Unit for Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹¹	There are no specific conservation objectives relating to these species in this SAC, so the conservation objectives from Lower Shannon River SAC (Site code: IE002165) was used - To maintain favourable conservation condition of Bottlenose dolphin in the SAC
Chausey [Site code FR2500079]	Within Management Unit Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹¹	There are no specific conservation objectives relating to these species in this SAC, so the conservation objectives from Lower Shannon River SAC (Site code: IE002165) was used - To maintain favourable conservation condition of Bottlenose dolphin in the SAC

Baie du Mont Saint-Michel [Site code FR2500077]	Within Management Unit for Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹¹	There are no specific conservation objectives relating to these species in this SAC, so the conservation objectives from Lower Shannon River SAC (Site code: IE002165) was used - To maintain favourable conservation condition of Bottlenose dolphin in the SAC
Nord Bretagne DH [Site code FR2502022]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Bottlenose Dolphin and Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹¹	There are no specific conservation objectives relating to these species in this SAC, so the conservation objectives from Lower Shannon River SAC (Site code: IE002165) and Blasket Islands SAC [Site code IE002172] were used - To maintain favourable conservation condition of Bottlenose dolphin and Harbour Porpoise in the SAC.
Mers Celtiques – Talus du golfe de Gascogne FR5302015	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Bottlenose Dolphin Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹¹	There are no specific conservation objectives relating to these species in this SAC, so the conservation objectives from Lower Shannon River SAC (Site code: IE002165) was used - To maintain favourable conservation condition of Bottlenose dolphin in the SAC
Baie de Seine Occidentale FR2502020	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Bottlenose Dolphin and Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹¹	There are no specific conservation objectives relating to these species in this SAC, so the conservation objectives from Lower Shannon River SAC (Site code: IE002165) and Blasket Islands SAC [Site code IE002172] were used - To maintain favourable conservation condition of Bottlenose dolphin and Harbour Porpoise in the SAC.
Baie de Seine Orientale FR2502021	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise - within Bottlenose Dolphin and Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹¹	There are no specific conservation objectives relating to these species in this SAC, so the conservation objectives from Lower Shannon River SAC (Site code: IE002165) and Blasket Islands SAC [Site code IE002172] were used - To maintain favourable conservation condition

				of Bottlenose dolphin and Harbour Porpoise in the SAC.
Baie de Canche et couloir des trois estuaries (Fr3102005]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Yes – within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	There are no specific conservation objectives relating to these species in this SAC, so the conservation objectives from Blasket Islands SAC [Site code IE002172] was used - To maintain favourable conservation condition of Harbour Porpoise in the SAC.
Récifs et landes de la Hague SAC [Site code FR2500084]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	There are no specific conservation objectives relating to these species in this SAC, so the conservation objectives from Blasket Islands SAC [Site code IE002172] was used - To maintain favourable conservation condition of Harbour Porpoise in the SAC.
Anse de Vauville SAC [Site code FR2502019]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	There are no specific conservation objectives relating to these species in this SAC, so the conservation objectives from Blasket Islands SAC [Site code IE002172] was used - To maintain favourable conservation condition of Harbour Porpoise in the SAC.
Banc et récifs de Surtainville SAC [Site code FR2502018]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹¹	There are no specific conservation objectives relating to these species in this SAC, so the conservation objectives from Blasket Islands SAC [Site code IE002172] was used - To maintain favourable conservation condition of Harbour Porpoise in the SAC.
Estuaire de la Rance SAC [Site code FR5300061]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	There are no specific conservation objectives relating to these species in this SAC, so the conservation objectives from Blasket Islands SAC [Site code IE002172] was used - To maintain favourable conservation condition of Harbour Porpoise in the SAC.

Baie de Lancelieux, Baie de l'Arguenon, Archipel de Saint Malo et Dinard [Site code FR5300012]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	There are no specific conservation objectives relating to these species in this SAC, so the conservation objectives from Blasket Islands SAC [Site code IE002172] was used - To maintain favourable conservation condition of Harbour Porpoise in the SAC.
Baie de Saint-Brieuc [Site code FR5300066]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	There are no specific conservation objectives relating to these species in this SAC, so the conservation objectives from Blasket Islands SAC [Site code IE002172] was used - To maintain favourable conservation condition of Harbour Porpoise in the SAC.
Abers - Côte des légendes [Site code FR5300017]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	There are no specific conservation objectives relating to these species in this SAC, so the conservation objectives from Blasket Islands SAC [Site code IE002172] was used - To maintain favourable conservation condition of Harbour Porpoise in the SAC.
Rivière Leguer, forêts de Beffou, Coast an Noz et Coat an Hay [Site code FR5300008]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹¹	There are no specific conservation objectives relating to these species in this SAC, so the conservation objectives from Blasket Islands SAC [Site code IE002172] was used - To maintain favourable conservation condition of Harbour Porpoise in the SAC.
Récifs du talus du golfe de Gascogne [Site code FR5302016]	Within Management Unit for Harbour porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Possible disturbance from underwater noise within Harbour Porpoise Management Unit (JNCC, 2023) ¹	There are no specific conservation objectives relating to these species in this SAC, so the conservation objectives from Blasket Islands SAC [Site code IE002172] was used - To maintain favourable conservation condition of Harbour Porpoise in the SAC.
Galley Head to Duneen Point SPA (Site code IE004190)	Approx. 1km	Chough (<i>Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]	Possible visual & above water noise disturbance – within species foraging range of species	To maintain favourable conservation condition of the species in the SPA as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/prote

				cted-sites/conservation objectives/CO004190.pdf
Sheeps Head to Toe Head SPA (Site code IE004156)	Approx. 5km	Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103] Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]	Possible visual & above water noise disturbance – within species foraging range of species	To maintain favourable conservation condition of the species in the SPA as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation objectives/CO004156.pdf
Courtmacsherry Bay SPA (Site code IE004219)	Approx. 15km	Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus</i>)	Possible visual & above water noise disturbance – within species foraging range and habitat usage	To maintain favourable conservation condition of the species in the SPA as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation objectives/CO004219.pdf
Old Head of Kinsale SPA (Site code IE004021)	Approx. 30	Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199]	Possible underwater, visual & above water noise disturbance – within species foraging range and habitat usage	To maintain favourable conservation condition of the species in the SPA as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation objectives/CO004021.pdf
Cork Harbour SPA* (Site code 004030)	Approx. 70 km	Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183]	Possible visual & above water noise disturbance – within species foraging range and habitat usage	To maintain favourable conservation condition of the species in the SPA as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation objectives/CO004030.pdf
Ballycotton Bay SPA* (Site code 004022)	Approx. 95 km	Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183]	Possible visual & above water noise disturbance – within species foraging range and habitat usage	To maintain favourable conservation condition of the species in the SPA as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation objectives/CO004022.pdf

Seas off Wexford SPA* (Site code 004237)	Approx. 150 km	Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009], Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>) [A013] Gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>) [A016], Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199], Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200], Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204]	Possible underwater, visual & above water noise disturbance – within species foraging range and habitat usage	To maintain favourable conservation condition of the species in the SPA as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO004237.pdf
Beara Peninsula SPA (Site code IE004191)	Approx. 35 km	Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009]	Possible underwater, visual & above water noise disturbance – within species foraging range and habitat usage	To maintain favourable conservation condition of the species in the SPA as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in
The Bull and the Cows Rock SPA* (Site code 004066)	Approx. 100km	Storm Petrel (<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>) [A014], Gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>) [A016] Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204]	Possible underwater, visual & above water noise disturbance – within species foraging range and habitat usage	To maintain favourable conservation condition of the species in the SPA as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO004066.pdf
Deenish Island and Scarriff Island SPA* (Site code 004175)	Approx. 110km	Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009], Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>) [A013] Storm Petrel (<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>) [A014], Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183], Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]	Possible underwater, visual & above water noise disturbance – within species foraging range and habitat usage	To maintain favourable conservation condition of the species in the SPA as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO004175.pdf
Iveragh Peninsula SPA* (Site code 004154)	Approx. 120km	Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009], Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188], Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199]	Possible underwater, visual & above water noise disturbance – within species foraging range of species and habitat usage	To maintain favourable conservation condition of the species in the SPA as per the attributes, measures and targets set out in https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO004154.pdf

4 Assessment and Mitigation

4.1 Assessment of Likely/Possible Significant Impacts on European Sites and their conservation interests

The impacts that have been identified that have the potential to cause significant impacts on European sites and their designated species or habitats are physical disturbance and habitat loss to dune habitats, potential above water noise and visual disturbance, underwater noise disturbance and vibration for a number of qualifying interests and Special Conservation Interests at various SAC and SPA sites (Table 4) and impacts of accidental events.

These disturbances may cause deterioration of habitats, the displacement of individuals, changes in species behaviour, or the risk of morbidity or mortality. Any mitigation measures recommended on foot of the assessment in this section are included in Section 4.4 Mitigation Measures.

4.1.1 Physical Disturbance to Habitats and Habitat loss

The total affected areas of dune habitat will be small and represent a small proportion of the total areas of the relevant Annex I habitats within the SAC. The main activities proposed for the maritime usage licence application occur offshore, are temporary in nature and do not overlap with either Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] or Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120]. For intertidal activity, the proposed access routes will however cross these protected habitats and have the potential to cause disturbance and habitat loss. However, the access routes proposed by the applicant are existing routes in regular use by recreational users of both landfall sites. For the equipment proposed, no extension of the access routes will be required. Therefore, it is recommended that suitable mitigation measures be included in the Maritime Usage Licence, if granted, to ensure the exclusive use of these existing access routes is adhered to and rule out possible negative impacts on protected habitats due to physical disturbance.

4.1.2 Disturbance due to underwater noise and vibration (marine mammals)

Underwater noise resulting from the proposed survey has the potential to impact grey seal, harbour seal, bottlenose dolphin and harbour porpoise should they be within the Zone of Influence (Zoi) of the survey during operations. Marine mammals depend on sound for a wide range of functions including navigation, perception of their environment, communication, prey identification and capture, and the detection of predators. The hearing system of marine mammals, being highly sensitive and adapted to respond to changes in pressure in an aquatic environment, is particularly susceptible to damage. Auditory injury in marine mammals can be defined as a permanent threshold shift leading to non-reversible auditory injury or as a temporary threshold shift in hearing sensitivity, which can have negative effects on the ability to communicate, navigate, or locate prey for a period of minutes, hours or days. These

threshold levels as they relate to varying impact levels on marine mammals have been the focus of a number of research papers and resulted in guidelines being issued by the NPWS⁶.

The NIS found that adverse effects upon common bottlenose dolphin, harbour porpoise or grey seal populations, as a result of underwater noise and vibrational effects cannot be excluded in the absence of mitigation measures in respect of the proposed geophysical surveys. This concurs with the assessment of MARA, which finds that the possibility of impact on these marine mammals as a result of equipment proposed as per Table 1 of this report cannot be excluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt.

In-combination impacts resulting in a higher risk of negative impact are also considered possible in relation to underwater noise due to the potential for similar surveys and activities occurring at the same time in the same area, as outlined in Section 4.2. Therefore, it is recommended that suitable mitigation measures be included in any Maritime Usage Licence relating to this proposed maritime usage activity to rule out possible negative impacts on marine mammals due to underwater noise.

4.1.3 Disturbance due to underwater noise and vibration (birds)

Diving birds can be sensitive to disturbance from underwater noise and fatalities can occur at close distance. Flushing disturbance can be expected to displace these diving seabirds from close proximity to the survey vessel and any towed equipment, thereby limiting their exposure to the highest sound pressures generated. The likelihood of these birds being in the vicinity of a noise generating operation is low due to the surface activity associated with such operations disturbing the birds prior to commencement of the underwater noise. There is a low likelihood of interaction between the sound source and diving birds due to the relatively short exposure time when they dive, the temporary nature of the survey work, the mobile nature of the birds and the displacement of most diving species due to flushing disturbance. Therefore, it can be determined that underwater noise would be very unlikely to have a significant effect on diving seabirds in the vicinity of the survey area and no further mitigation is required.

4.1.4 Disturbance due to above water noise(birds)

Temporary displacement from boat activity and above water noise can be expected for bird species also. In the intertidal, disturbance is also possible to breeding and feeding birds due to noise and activity disturbance. This is unlikely to be significant, due to the temporary and short-term nature of the intertidal disturbance.

⁶ https://sea-inc.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Southall-et-al_2019_MM-Noise-criteria-update-with-errata_Aq-Mammals.pdf
https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/general/Underwater%20sound%20guidance_Jan%202014.pdf
<https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/e2a46de5-43d4-43f0-b296-c62134397ce4/jncc-guidelines-seismicsurvey-aug2017-web.pdf>

While it is acknowledged that the species that use the offshore survey area for feeding may be disturbed by the activities of the survey vessel, visual or above water noise disturbance from an additional vessel is unlikely to be significant given the temporary nature of the activities. In-combination impacts in relation to disturbance are possible in relation to above water noise and bird activity due to the potential for other surveys and activities to occur at the same time in the same area, as outlined in Section 4.2. However, given the short duration of the proposed site investigations, the significance of effects on birds in the environment from the proposed site investigations, including due to visual or above water noise disturbance, will be temporary and therefore, will not be significant and no further mitigation is required.

4.1.5 Disturbance due to accidental incidents

It is proposed to carry out surveys in the intertidal and offshore. The use of survey vessels presents the risk of diesel or oil spills which can impact foraging ability, health and mortality of the species identified as susceptible to potential impacts from the proposed project. While the risks associated with this form of disturbance is low, the impact could be significant, and mitigation is required. Therefore, it is recommended that suitable mitigation measures be included in a Maritime Usage Licence relating to the proposed maritime usage activity.

4.2 Assessment of In-combination effects

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires that an Appropriate Assessment be carried out in respect of any plan or project which is likely to have a significant effect on one or more European sites, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects. Therefore, regardless of whether or not the likely or possible effects of a plan or project are significant when considered in isolation, the potential for the plan or project to significantly affect European sites in combination with other past, present or foreseeable future plans or projects must also be assessed. All types of plans or projects that could, in-combination with the project under consideration, have a significant effect, should be taken into account. This in-combination assessment has been undertaken using professional and scientific judgement.

4.2.1 Defining the Cumulative Effects Spatial Scope (CESS)

Impacts of underwater noise associated with the proposed maritime usage are considered to have the widest spatial reach, with Harbour porpoise being most sensitive to noise disturbance. The definition of the CESS is based on acoustic survey equipment effective deterrence ranges as per JNCC Guidance on Assessing the Significance of Noise Disturbance against Harbour Porpoise⁷. The CESS was defined at Appropriate Assessment screening stage as 10km, based on acoustic survey equipment effective deterrence ranges for Harbour

⁷ JNCC Guidance on Assessing the Significance of Noise Disturbance against Harbour Porpoise SACs Conservation Objectives (<https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/2e60a9a0-4366-4971-9327-2bc409e09784/JNCC-Report-654-FINAL-WEB.pdf>)

porpoise, as they were identified as the species most sensitive to disturbance in this assessment⁸.

4.2.2 Defining the Cumulative Effects Temporal Scope (CETS)

The temporal scope for examination of cumulative effects has been defined considering the period over which the proposed maritime usage would take place. For this project, this is three years, the requested Marine Usage period and the time period assessed in the AA screening report and determination. Therefore, the Cumulative Effects Temporal Scope (CETS) is three years.

4.2.3 Impact identification

The impacts identified are:

- Physical disturbance and habitat loss
- Disturbance from underwater noise and vibration
- Visual and above water noise disturbance
- Accidental incidents
- Invasive species

4.2.4 Pathway Identification

Impact	Potential Cumulative Pathway
Disturbance from underwater noise	Pathway possible via sound travelling through water with impacts possible within CESS where there is temporal overlap with other underwater noise producing projects.
Visual and above water noise disturbance	Pathway possible via light and sound travelling through air with impacts possible within CESS where there is temporal overlap with other visual and above water noise producing projects.
Physical disturbance and habitat loss	Pathway requires direct spatial overlap. Potential pathway for physical disturbance and habitat loss impact where there is spatial and temporal overlap.
Accidental incidents	Potential pathway for impact where there is spatial and temporal overlap.

4.2.5 Prediction:

The magnitude and extent of identified likely cumulative effects have been predicted below.

Disturbance from underwater noise

⁸ Effective Deterrence Range – the radius of a circular area assumed to be disturbed.

There is the potential for increased underwater noise disturbance effects if geophysical activities with other projects were to take place at the same time.

Visual and above water noise disturbance

There is the potential for increased visual and above water noise disturbance if geotechnical activities with other projects were to take place at the same time.

Physical disturbance and habitat loss

There is the potential for increased physical disturbance and habitat loss within the SAC if similar activities within other projects were to take place during the CETS period.

Accidental Incident

Multiple survey and other vessels in an area increase the possibility of an accidental incident.

4.2.6 Identification of Plans or Projects that could act in combination:

A search was carried out of relevant databases (e.g. EPA, Foreshore, MARA, aquaculture, planning authorities, etc.) for other plans/projects with characteristics that may cause in-combination or cumulative effects with the project being assessed, on Natura 2000 sites. All plans and projects within the CESS and CETS have been identified. All projects within the CESS and CETS have been considered for their potential to cause cumulative effects in combination with the site investigation activities proposed under this Maritime Usage Licence Application, on the qualifying interests of Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas.

Following a search of relevant databases undertaken on the 28 February 2025, the projects in Table 5 were identified as having potential in-combination impacts with the proposed maritime usage activity. No other projects were identified as having the potential for causing in-combination impacts.

Table 5: Projects identified with the potential to cause in-combination effects with the project being assessed.

Application reference	Project description	Distance from proposed MUL area	Project Status	Cumulative effects
LIC230033	Cable laying - Apollo Submarine Cable System Limited	0km - Within MUL area	Maritime Usage Licence granted 28/06/2024	Spatially overlaps with Amazon Maritime Usage Licence Area. Within the CESS. Possible temporal overlap
MUL230024	Marine Survey and Site Investigations for proposed PISCES subsea telecoms cable system from a landfall at Ballyloughane County Galway traversing the	0km - Within MUL area	Application for Maritime Usage Licence dated 17/04/2024	Spatially overlaps with Amazon Maritime Usage Licence Area. Within the CESS. Possible temporal overlap

	Irish Maritime Area to the southwest of Ireland.			
FS007431	Tulca Offshore Array Application for ORE Site Investigation licence	0km - Within MUL area	Application for Foreshore Licence dated 14/02/2022	Spatially overlaps with Amazon Maritime Usage Licence Area. Within the CESS. Possible temporal overlap
FS007471	Marine Survey and Site Investigations for proposed Floating Cork Offshore Wind Limited, with three potential landfalls in Co. Cork	0km - Within MUL area	Application for Foreshore Licence dated 30/11/2022	Spatially overlaps with Amazon Maritime Usage Licence Area. Within the CESS. Possible temporal overlap
FS006971	Cork County Council, Dredging at Reen Pier, Co. Cork	4.5km	Foreshore licence granted 23/09/2022	No spatial overlap with Amazon Maritime Usage Licence Area. Within the CESS. Possible temporal overlap
FS007258	Irish Water, construction of a storm water overflow outfall – geotechnical survey works	Less than 10km	Foreshore licence granted 04/07/2022	No spatial overlap with Amazon Maritime Usage Licence Area. Within the CESS. Possible temporal overlap

The following plans, related to the development of the maritime environment were also identified:

- The Climate Action Plan 2024
- The National Marine Planning Framework
- The Water Action Plan 2024

These plans promote sustainable development and integrated management planning in the maritime environment. It is unlikely that any of these plans will result in a negative in-combination effect on the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites.

4.2.7 In-Combination Effects Assessment conclusion

Based on insufficient clarity when projects will be carried out and using the precautionary principle the above projects are considered to have potential in-combination effects should there be temporal overlap with the proposed maritime usage activity.

It is not possible to exclude the possibility of likely significant in-combination effects on the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites considered in this assessment as a result of this proposed maritime usage activity and the projects identified in Table 5. Therefore, it is

recommended that suitable mitigation measure be included in a Maritime Usage Licence relating this proposed maritime activity for the possibility of likely significant in-combination effects.

4.3 Assessment of Transboundary effects

The mitigation measures proposed as part of this appropriate assessment will mitigate against any transboundary effects on the qualifying interests from the British and French protected sites.

4.4 Public consultation

A 30-day public consultation was undertaken commencing on 11 January 2025, with the public invited to make observations. In addition to the public consultation, observations were invited from relevant public bodies. 138 submissions were received, nine from public bodies and 129 from members of the public. These submissions are dealt with in detail in Table 1 of the ARD MUL report and have been considered in the Appropriate Assessment as appropriate. Relevant mitigation measures are included in Section 4 of this report and Section 6 of the ARD MUL report.

4.5 Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures for those impacts identified in Section 4.1 *Assessment of Likely/Possible Significant Impacts on European Sites and their conservation interests* are detailed below.

4.5.1 Physical Disturbance to Habitats

Due to the potential for disturbance to dune habitats, it is recommended a condition be included in any maritime usage licence that may be granted as follows:

Landfall site/Intertidal

1. 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.*

4.5.2 Disturbance due to underwater noise and vibration (marine mammals)

An appropriate mitigation for the effects of underwater noise on marine mammals is the implementation of the most up to date national guidance to manage the introduction of manmade sound sources into the marine environment. When carrying out geotechnical and geophysical surveys particular attention should be paid to the sections of the guidance relating to drilling (in relation to seabed cores) and geophysical acoustic surveys. It is recommended a condition be included in any maritime usage licence that may be granted as follows:

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 offshore@npws.gov.ie and compliance@mara.gov.ie.*

4.5.3 Disturbance due to underwater noise and vibration (birds)

No mitigation is required for birds relating to survey disturbance due to underwater noise and vibration in the proposed Maritime Usage Area.

4.5.4 Disturbance due to above water noise

No mitigation is required for birds relating to survey disturbance due to above water noise in the proposed Maritime Usage Area.

4.5.5 Disturbance due to accidental incidents

Mitigation is required to minimise the risk of impacts as a result of accidental spills from small craft or survey vessels. It is recommended a condition be included in any maritime usage licence in relation to this activity that may be granted as follows:

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.*

4.5.7 In-combination effects

To minimise any in-combination effects as a result of other projects or plans, it is recommended a condition be included in any maritime usage licence that may be granted as follows:

In-combination effects

- 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.*
- 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.*
- 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.*
- 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.*

To ensure appropriate records of the above mitigation measures are maintained, it is also recommended a condition be included in any maritime usage licence that may be granted as follows:

The Holder shall keep the following documents (if applicable) together and available for inspection by the Grantor:

- (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.

4.5 Residual effects

This assessment has identified Likely/Possible Significant Impacts on European Sites and their conservation interests at Section 4.1 and identified mitigation measures for each at Section 4.5. It is considered that the mitigation measures described and their implementation through licence conditions will remove, or reduce to imperceptible levels, all negative impacts and that residual effects will not arise.

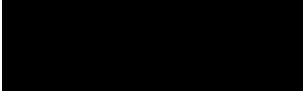
5 Appropriate Assessment Conclusion

The applicant provided a Natura Impact Statement which detailed the potential impact of the proposed project on relevant European sites and whether these impacts would adversely affect the integrity of the sites in light of their conservation objectives.

The Appropriate Assessment process identified likely/possible significant impacts due to disturbance to habitats, above and underwater noise and disturbance from geotechnical and geophysical surveys on habitats and Annex II marine mammal species, as well as accidental incidents. These likely significant impacts could not be ruled out, beyond reasonable scientific doubt, without mitigation.

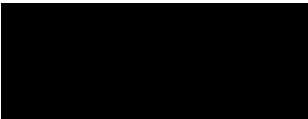
The same impacts were identified as having the potential to cause in-combination impacts, as well as accidental incidents which could not be ruled out, beyond reasonable scientific doubt, without mitigation.

Mitigation measures were identified to ensure that impacts on European sites and their qualifying interests and special conservation interests do not occur. Therefore, with adherence to the mitigation measures specified in section 4.5 Mitigation Measures, and in view of best scientific knowledge, and of the site's conservation objectives, I find that the project, individually, or in-combination with other plans or projects, will not have adverse effects on European sites.

Signature and Date of Recommending Marine Advisor	 Dr Ciar O'Toole Senior Marine Advisor Assessment, Research and Data Unit 18/03/2025
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6 Appropriate Assessment Determination

Having considered this report, the documents submitted by Amazon MCS Ireland Limited, along with my own assessment, it can be concluded, and I determine, for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and Regulation 42(11) of the Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations, that the *proposal for marine survey and site investigations for a fibre optic cable with a landfall at Glandore Bay and Castlefreke, Long Strand, Co. Cork and in the Southern Exclusive Economic Zone and Agreed Continental Shelf* (either individually or in combination with any other plans or projects), will not adversely affect the integrity of any European sites, in view of the sites' conservation objectives, subject to the implementation of the mitigation measures specified in section 4.5 Mitigation Measures adopted and outlined above, which must be included as conditions to any consent that may be granted in respect of the respective maritime usage licence application.

Signature and Date of Decision Maker	 <hr/> John Evans Director of Assessment, Research and Data 04 April 2025
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