

Section 117(5)(a) of the Maritime Area Planning Act, 2001, as amended.

Consideration of Schedules 5 and 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, to determine whether it is necessary to carry out a screening for environmental impact assessment for a proposed maritime usage the subject of a licence application.

Maritime Usage Licence Application Number:	MUL240035
Date:	2 nd December, 2024
Name of Applicant:	GNI Cork Harbour
Description of Proposed Maritime Usage:	<p>Marine environmental surveys</p> <p>Gas Networks Ireland (GNI) are seeking a Maritime Usage Licence (MUL) to deploy temporary moorings equipped with acoustic receivers (one static acoustic monitoring device (SAM) and two Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers (ADCP) in Cork Harbour, Co. Cork to identify locations suitable for the development of a Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve. The moorings are proposed to be in place for up to 3 years and each mooring will be recovered every 3 to 4 months months for maintenance and redeployment. The redeployment may be in the same location or moved to new locations within the study area depending on data needs.</p> <p>The overall area subject to this licence application is 626 hectares.</p>
Type of maritime usage activity in accordance with Schedule 7 of the Maritime Area Planning Act, 2021):	<i>Marine environmental surveys for the purpose of site investigations</i>

Part A - Consideration of schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001

Question 1: Is the proposed maritime usage a project of a type listed in Schedule 5 Part 1, of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001?

If Yes, EIA screening is required.

If No, proceed to question 2.

Answer: No

Question 2: Is the proposed maritime usage a project of a type listed in Schedule 5 Part 2, of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001?

If Yes, proceed to question 3.

If No, EIA screening is not required.

Answer: No

Question 3: Is the proposed maritime usage a project of a type listed in Schedule 5 Part 2, of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 and does it meet/exceed the referenced thresholds?

If Yes, EIA screening is required.

If No, EIA screening is not required.

Answer: No

Part B Consideration of Schedule 7 to the Planning & Development Regulations 2001

Characteristics, location and the types & characteristics of the potential impacts of the proposed maritime usage comprising a project:

Given the nature and scale of the proposed activities and taking account of the information provided by the applicant no significant impacts are envisaged as result of the proposed activities.

I conclude, that after having regard to schedules 5 and 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 in the context of the above referenced proposed maritime usage, it is not necessary to carry out a screening for environmental impact assessment.

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Consultant to MARA