

## Application for a Maritime Usage Licence under the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021

### Important Information

Before completing this form please read the declaration and consent at the end of the application form

It is important to note that a change in applicant name will require a new application.

This application and supporting documentation should be submitted by email to [licence@mara.gov.ie](mailto:licence@mara.gov.ie)

Please complete the form electronically. Type details in the boxes provided, space will expand as you type. Please complete form to a high level, i.e. give comprehensive answers to questions, answers which only reference supporting documentation are not sufficient.

#### Maritime Usage Licence:

Part 5 (sections 110 to 133) of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (MAPA) provides for the granting of maritime usage licences.

Section 112 of the Act states that the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) is the competent authority for the purposes of Part 5 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) regulations 2011 (S.I No. 477 of 2011) and appropriate assessments to which that Part applies.

Section 114 of the Act states that the Minister may by regulations provide for class of Schedule 7 usage to be exempted usage for the purposes of this Part.

[Schedule 7](#) of the Act lists the Maritime Usages that may be undertaken in the maritime area pursuant to licence.

[Schedule 8](#) of the Act lists the types of conditions that MARA may attach to a licence.

#### Privacy Policy:

MARA may require you to provide certain personal data in order to carry out our legislative and administrative functions. MARA will treat all personal data that you provide as confidential and will process your details in accordance with its obligations under data protection legislation, including the Data Protection Act 2018 and the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

A Privacy Statement explaining how MARA, as the Data Controller, will process the personal data you provide, how that information will be used and what rights you may exercise in relation to your personal data, is available in this link: [Privacy Statement](#).

#### Freedom of Information (FOI)/ Access to Information on the Environment (AIE)

Applicants should be aware that under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007 to 2018, information provided by them to MARA may be liable to be disclosed.

Applicants are asked to consider if any of the information supplied by them in their application should not be disclosed and clearly identify the specific sections of their application containing such information, specifying the reasons for its confidentiality/sensitivity. MARA will consult with applicants about this information before making a decision on any Freedom of Information/Access to Information on the Environment request received.

MARA  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Menapia House,  
Drinagh Business Park,  
Drinagh,  
Wexford,  
Y35RF29

[www.maritimeregulator.ie](http://www.maritimeregulator.ie)

Part 1: Applicant Information	
<b>1.1 Applicant Details</b>	
Name of Applicant (the name that will appear on the licence)	Saoirse Wave Energy Ltd
Company/Organisation (if applicable)	Saoirse Wave Energy Ltd
Address/Company Address	27 Fitzwilliam Street Lower,  Dublin 2,  Ireland
Eircode/Postcode	D02 KT92
Contact Name within Company/Organisation	██████████
Contact Phone No.	██████████
Contact Email Address	██████████@esb.ie
Is the company registered in Ireland for tax purposes?	Yes

1.2 Contact Details (if different from above)	
Full Name	n/a
Address	n/a
Eircode/Postcode	n/a
Contact Name	n/a
Contact Phone No.	n/a
Contact Email Address	n/a

1.3 Agent Representing Applicant (if applicable)	
Person/Agency acting on behalf of Applicant	n/a
Address	n/a
Eircode/Postcode	n/a
Contact Name (if applicable)	n/a
Contact Phone No.	n/a
Contact Email address	n/a

1.4 Applicant's Legal Advisor (if applicable)	
Name/Company Name	n/a
Address	n/a
Eircode/Postcode	n/a
Contact Name (if applicable)	n/a
Contact Phone No.	n/a
Contact Email address	n/a

<b>Part 2: Proposal Details (Attach additional documents as required)</b>	
<b>2.1</b>	<b>In relation to this application, have you previously applied for a declaration as to whether or not a licence was required for this usage? If so, please provide the reference number associated with that application.</b>
	The applicant has not previously applied for a declaration as to whether or not a licence is required for this usage.
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Specify the Maritime Usage(s) being applied for with reference to Schedule 7 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 as amended:</b>
	SCHEDULE 7. Item No.3. <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>
<b>2.3</b>	<b>Description of proposed Maritime Usage.</b>
	Saoirse Wave Energy Limited is seeking a Marine Usage Licence (MUL) to undertake marine site investigations (SI) off the Clare coast. The SI works include geophysical, geotechnical, metocean, environmental and archaeological surveys which are required to facilitate the future design of the wave energy site, define location of the array site, export cable corridor and landfall location options; and to support the project planning application.
<b>2.4</b>	<b>Describe the nature and scale of any structure to be erected in the maritime area.</b>
	No structures will be erected in the maritime area under this licence.
<b>2.5</b>	<b>Proposed licence duration</b>
	Duration: up to 5 Years – Staged series of investigations over 5 years
<b>2.6</b>	<b>Indicative timing of the works/activity: (i) Start date (ii) Duration (iii) Any other information relevant to timing.</b>
	<p>(i) Start Date: All surveys relevant to this application will begin as soon as possible following the MUL licence award, the procurement of survey contractors, suitable weather windows and vessel availability. It is intended that surveys will commence in the summer of 2025.</p> <p>(ii) Duration: Up to 5 Years – multiple campaigns will be undertaken over 5 years, on a phased basis. The intention is to begin the survey activities in summer 2025 following licence award, with a phased programme of investigations, over the subsequent four years (2026, 2027, 2028, 2029) capitalising on suitable weather windows over a total period of five years.</p> <p>(iii) Other Information:</p> <p>Geophysical survey - initial reconnaissance geophysical survey is planned for summer 2025 (with support from the National Marine Survey Programme) - subject to grant of MUL licence. Detailed surveys are planned for summer of 2026. Total duration of up to 6 months is estimated (weather permitting).</p> <p>Geotechnical survey - the survey will be informed by the geophysical survey results. Reconnaissance geotechnical campaign is planned for summer 2026. Potentially a refined detailed survey in summer of 2027. Total duration of up to 6 months is estimated (weather permitting).</p>

Benthic ecology survey - subject to availability of geophysical survey results. As part of summer survey 2026 campaign. Total duration of up to 3 weeks is estimated (weather permitting).

Metocean study - as soon as possible following the MUL licence award. Duration maximum 36 months is estimated.

Marine mammal acoustic monitoring - as soon as possible following the MUL licence award. Duration - up to 2 years of monitoring is envisaged.

Intertidal ecology survey - as soon as possible following MUL licence award. The surveys are planned for summer 2025 (weather and tide permitting).

Water quality - as a part of summer survey 2026 campaign.

Archaeological Survey - to be undertaken as part of geophysical survey 2025/2026. This survey will be conducted in advance of a geotechnical survey to inform the archaeological and UXO risk assessment. Intertidal archaeological survey is also considered to be carried out during summer 2025.

**2.7 Do the proposed maritime usages provide for public use, commercial use, or private use? Provide details.**

The proposed maritime usages are required to facilitate the future design of an innovative small - scale wave energy farm; define the location of the wave array site, cable corridor and landfall location options; and support the project planning application as appropriate.

The proposed works, being entirely exploratory in nature for the purposes of gathering information to facilitate the design and planning process of a research and innovation project. The maritime usages will provide for private use, but with the intent of data acquisition and knowledge sharing to support the development of an innovative renewable energy technology that can be deployed at scale in Ireland and Europe.

**2.8 Could the proposed works restrict public use/enjoyment of the nearshore e.g. fishing, sailing, surfing, swimming, walking or other activities? Provide details.**

Nearshore is area up to 3NM from the HWM.

The proposed SI works will involve work in the nearshore areas. Therefore, it is possible that the proposed works will restrict public use/enjoyment of the nearshore e.g. fishing, sailing, surfing, swimming, walking or other activities, but will be undertaken on a temporary, localised, and short-term basis.

All survey activities will be adequately planned to minimise the impact on other users. Early engagement will be undertaken with key stakeholders and other users of the nearshore area considered in this MUL licence application, prior to, and during survey periods. All required notices such as Marine Notices will also be published in advance of any SI activities undertaken as required.

**2.9 Please outline any engagements that have taken place with marine users or other stakeholders in the proposed area that may be affected by the proposal and attach supporting documentation where relevant.**

The Doonbeg Boatman's Association was briefed on the MUL application in March 2025.

The local fish producer and processor, CS Fish was briefed on the MUL application in March 2025.



<p>The wider seafood community on the west coast received a number of briefings on the details of the project over the past two years, through a contracted Fishery Liaison Officer.</p> <p>There has been on-going engagement with the Marine Renewable Industry Association (MRIA).</p> <p>The management of the Sceirde Rocks Offshore Wind Farm were engaged and received a detailed briefing on the Saoirse Wave Energy project in 2024. Engagements have been ongoing since.</p>	
<p><b>2.10 Describe briefly any consultations undertaken with other relevant authorities (e.g. Local Authority, Port/Harbour authority etc.) or State Agencies. e.g. National Parks &amp; Wildlife Service, National Monuments Service of Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</b></p>	
<p>Extensive engagements have taken place with the Local Authority (Clare County Council), both at executive and elected member level, outlining the detail of the Saoirse Wave Energy project. In addition, Doonbeg based County Councillor Rita McNerney received extensive individual briefings in July and October of 2024 and a further briefing in March 2025.</p> <p>Saoirse Wave Energy have engaged with the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC), the Irish Marine Institute (MI) and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)</p>	
<p><b>2.11 Please provide the reference number and title of any existing Foreshore licence you may hold within the footprint, or otherwise in the vicinity of the proposed Maritime Usage area.</b></p>	
<p>N/A</p>	
<p><b>2.12 Please provide the reference number of any current application for a Foreshore Licence to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Does this application for a foreshore licence relate to or impact any part of the maritime area the subject of this licence application? If so, please provide details of the foreshore licence application.</b></p>	
<p>Reference no.: FS007372 Saoirse Wave Energy Limited Site Investigations for proposed Wave Energy Conversion (WEC) project, off County Clare. In this regard, a request to withdraw this undetermined application is due to be submitted to the Department of the Environment, Climate &amp; Communications (DECC) as appropriate.</p> <p>Available at: <a href="https://www.gov.ie/en/publications-and-resources/details/?document-id=63404">gov.ie - FS007372 Saoirse Wave Energy Limited Site Investigations for proposed Wave Energy Conversion (WEC) project, off County Clare</a></p>	
<p><b>2.13 What environmental reports, if any, have you submitted with this application? (Supporting information for screening for Appropriate Assessment/ Natura Impact Statement/ Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species/ Assessment of Impact on the Maritime Usage Report)</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting Information for Screening for AA (SISAA) Report</li> <li>• Natura Impact Statement (NIS)</li> <li>• Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species Report</li> <li>• Assessment of Impact on the Maritime Usage (AIMU) Report</li> </ul>	

<p align="center"><b>Part 3: Location and Spatial Extent of Proposed Maritime Area</b> <b>(Attach additional documents as required)</b></p>	
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Location of proposed Maritime Usage</b>
<p>It encompasses an area extending from Freagh point County Clare, south to Ballard Bay and out to a maximum distance of 10km from shore.</p>	
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Total size of the proposed Maritime Area (in m<sup>2</sup>, ha or km<sup>2</sup>, as appropriate).</b>
<p>The total Maritime Area is 114.57 km<sup>2</sup></p>	
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Please provide the distance of the main body of the proposed maritime area from the shore at its closest point in km.</b>
<p>0 km - It encompasses an area extending from Freagh point County Clare, south to Ballard Bay and out to a maximum distance of 10km from shore.</p>	
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Is any of the maritime area in the proposed site in private ownership? If yes, please provide documentary evidence of same (e.g. folio).</b>
<p>Yes, the MUL application area overlaps with a small area of privately owned land. In this regard, see folio CE24177, a copy of which is attached and submitted with this application.</p>	
<b>3.5</b>	<b>Any other site details considered relevant:</b>
<p>N/A</p>	

**Part 4: Maps and Drawings.**

Please refer to [Technical Guidance](#) on map and drawing requirements.

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| <b>4.1</b> | Please draft a map, titled “Licence Map”, outlining the proposed Maritime Area in accordance with the Technical Guidance for Maritime Area Licence Applications and submit same with this application. |
| <b>4.2</b> | Please submit GIS Shapefiles, in accordance with the Applicant Technical Guidance Note and submit same with this application.  |
| <b>4.3</b> | Please list any Admiralty Charts, Maps, GIS Shapefiles and/or other Drawings submitted with this application.  |

Proposed MUL Map: MUL240054\_Proposed\_MUL\_Map.pdf

GIS Shape files: GIS\_File\_MUL240054.zip



### Part 5: Fishing/Aquaculture Considerations:

**Is the proposal located in proximity to any of the following:**

- aquaculture operation
- designated Shellfish Growing Waters
- fish spawning ground
- other sensitive fisheries location

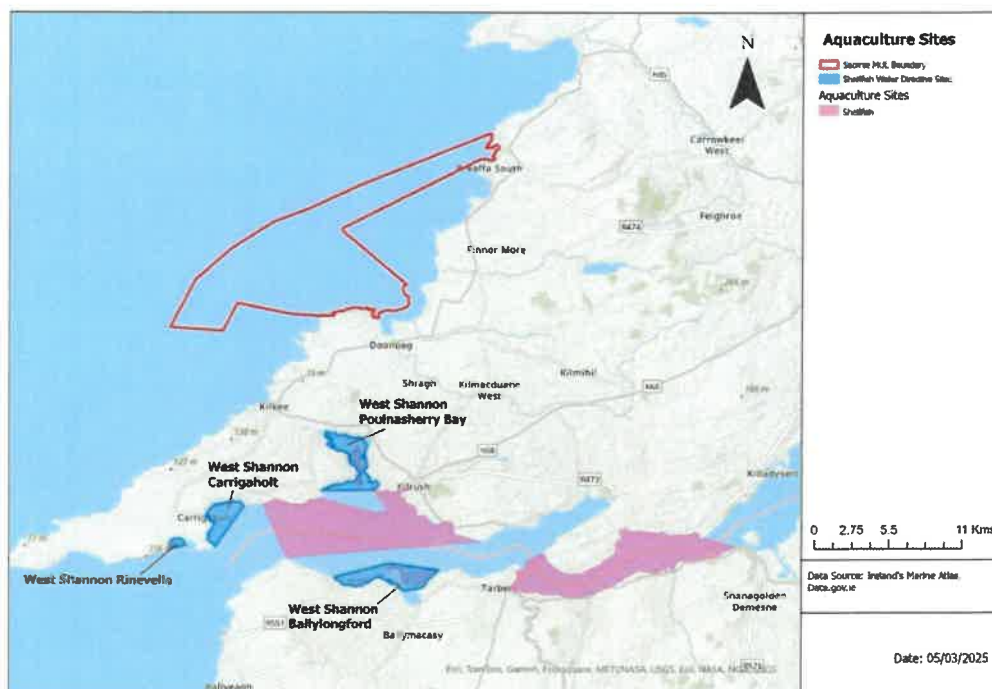
**Please Illustrate on appropriate chart including distance in Km.**

### Aquaculture Operation

There are no licensed aquaculture sites within the proposed MUL application area. The nearest licenced aquaculture sites are shellfish licenced sites and are located within the River Shannon Estuary (Figure 1).

### Designated Shellfish Growing Waters

There are no Designated Shellfish Growing Waters within the proposed MUL application area. The nearest Designated Shellfish Growing Waters are located within the River Shannon Estuary (Figure 1).



**Figure 1. Aquaculture and shellfish licenced sites**

### Fish Spawning Ground

The MUL application area is a nursery area for the Cod, Mackerel, Horse mackerel, Whiting, and White bellied monkfish (See Figure 2 to Figure 4). There are no recorded spawning areas within the MUL application area.

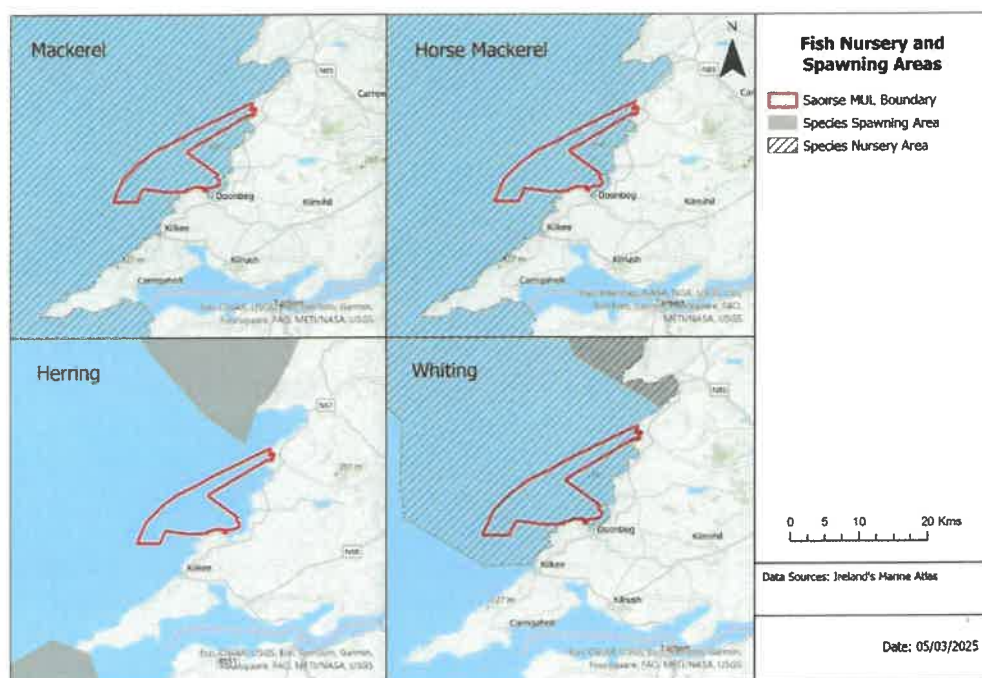


Figure 2. Nursery and spawning areas.

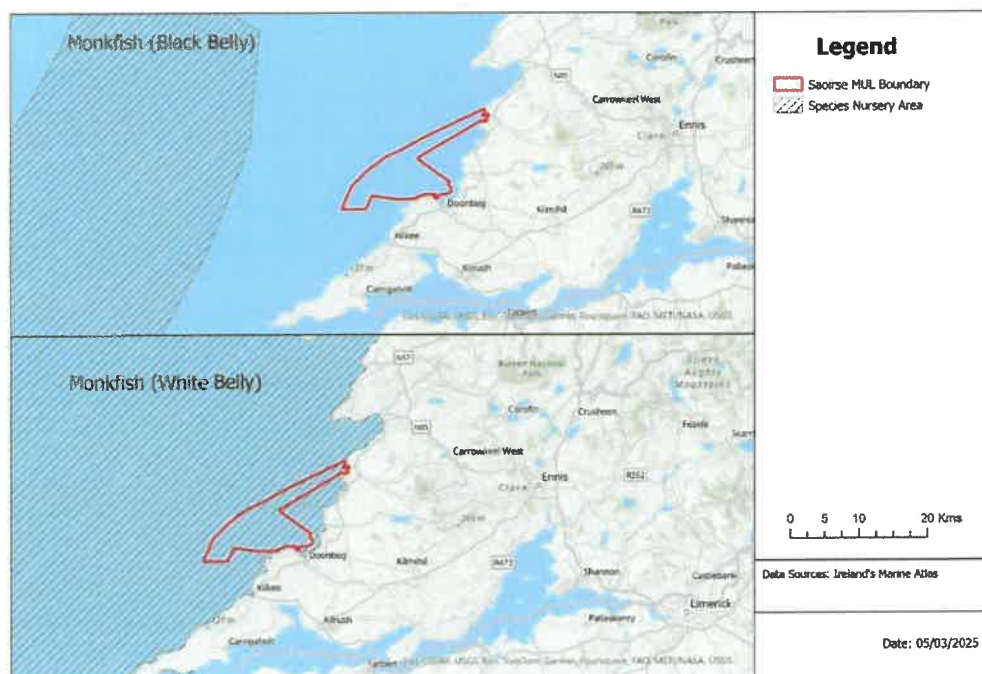


Figure 3. Nursery areas (Monkfish).

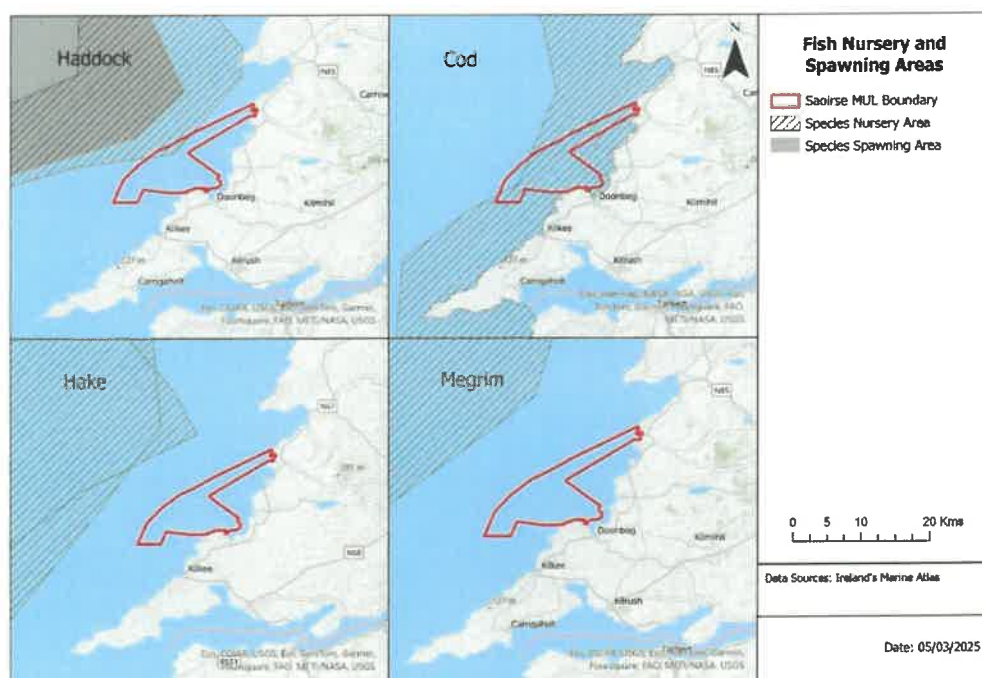


Figure 4. Nursery and spawning grounds.

## Other Sensitive Fisheries Location

No other sensitive fisheries locations were identified.

## Are there other potential impacts of the proposal on fishing/aquaculture in the area? If yes, please describe.

Only minimal impact related to disturbance of fishing activities is expected. However, the same will be localised and short term.

No potential impacts are expected in relation to aquaculture operations or shellfish as a result of the proposed SI activities.

## Are there any measures proposed to mitigate potential impacts on fisheries or aquaculture? If yes, please describe.

All survey activities will be adequately planned to minimise the impact on fishing activities. Early engagement will be undertaken with local fishing representative associations prior to, and during survey periods. All required notices such as Marine Notices will also be published in advance of any survey activity undertaken as required.

A Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) has been appointed for the project. Early engagement by the FLO with the local fishing community is being carried out, to determine the full extent of fishing activity in the MUL application area, and to minimise disruption to the fishing activity. In addition, an Offshore FLO will be appointed to assist during survey activities as required. This will ensure further mitigation for interactions between the survey vessels and fishers and other commercial and related offshore activities within the MUL application area.

## Declaration and Consent:

The details provided here are correct to the best of my knowledge.

I understand that no works will be commenced, by the applicant or the applicant's agents on the proposed site, without a valid licence from MARA. The granting of any Maritime Usage Licence will not give rise on the part of the applicant to any expectation whatsoever for, right or entitlement to a grant of any future licence in respect of all or any part of any area of the Maritime Area.

By submitting this application form, the applicant agrees that the details provided (with personal contact details redacted) are to be published on MARA's website and also that the full information provided including contact details are to be processed and retained by MARA and shared with all relevant public authorities in furtherance of consideration for a Maritime Usage Licence under the MAPA.

I give consent to MARA and its agents to copy this application and to make (a redacted) copy available for inspection and copying by the public. This consent relates to this application, to any further information, or submission provided by the applicant or on the applicant's behalf and to the publication of the licence document.

**Signed for and on behalf of the applicant:**



**Name of Signatory (block letters):**



**Position Held:**

**Date:**



Applicant Checklist	
Document	Included
Application Form (Parts 2 to 5 inclusive)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Supporting Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment (SISAA) Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Natura Impact Statement (NIS), if initially included	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assessment of Impact of the Maritime Usage (AIMU) Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schedule of Works	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Licence Mapping (including GIS Shapefiles)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please list below)	

**Other**

Please note a Schedule of Works is included in the AIMU Report which accompanies this application.

Copy of folio CE24177



