

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

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
2nd Floor, Menapia House,
Drinagh Business Park,
Drinagh,
Wexford,
Y35RF29

www.maritimeregulator.ie

Part 1: Applicant Information	
1.1 Applicant Details	
Name of Applicant (the name that will appear on the licence)	Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council
Company/Organisation (if applicable)	Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council
Address/Company Address	2 Marine Rd, Dún Laoghaire, Dublin
Eircode/Postcode	A96 K6C9
Contact Name within Company/Organisation	
Contact Phone No.	
Contact Email Address	@dlrcoco.ie
Is the company registered in Ireland for tax purposes?	Local Authority

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

1.3 Agent Representing Applicant (if applicable)	
Person/Agency acting on behalf of Applicant	Gavin and Doherty Geosolutions Limited
Address	Unit A2, Nutgrove Office Park, Rathfarnham, Dublin
Eircode/Postcode	D14 X627
Contact Name (if applicable)	
Contact Phone No.	
Contact Email address	@venterra-group.com

1.4 Applicant's Legal Advisor (if applicable)

Name/Company Name	
Address	
Eircode/Postcode	
Contact Name (if applicable)	
Contact Phone No.	
Contact Email address	

Part 2: Proposal Details (Attach additional documents as required)

2.1 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.

No. A declaration has not been previously sought in relation to whether a licence was required for this usage.

2.2 Specify the Maritime Usage(s) being applied for with reference to Schedule 7 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 as amended:

Schedule 7, Paragraph 3: Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000.

2.3 Description of proposed Maritime Usage.

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council proposes to undertake a suite of marine site investigation (SI) activities to assess the feasibility of potential future dredging within the harbour. The dredging aims to remove approximately 56,400 m³ of material from Dún Laoghaire Harbour to achieve a target depth of -6.1 m.

This submission does not constitute an application for dredging; a separate application for dredging activities will be submitted at a later stage.

Details on the scope of the proposed Site Investigation (SI) activities to be undertaken under the licence are contained in the Assessment of Impact on the Maritime Usage (AIMU) Report submitted with this application and summarised in the table below:

Activity	Description	Sampling Effort
Vibrocore	<p>Vibrocoring, a technique for collecting core samples of the seabed sub-strata sediments, consists of a vibrating mechanism attached to a metallic core which is driven into the sediment by the force of gravity, enhanced by vibration energy.</p> <p>Typical estimated time required for activity – 30 min to 2 hours per location.</p> <p>Typically an area of 1 m² of seabed.</p>	<p>Up to 16 samples to be collected:</p> <p>6 primary samples for chemical testing and geotechnical analysis, with up to 10 additional identified as contingency sampling locations.</p>
Dropframe camera system & Grab Samples	<p>Seabed imagery will be collected by use of a dropframe camera system from up to 30 locations to characterise epibenthic communities and assess suitability of locations for grab sampling.</p> <p>Typical estimated time required for activity – 20 mins per location.</p> <p>A grab sample is a single sediment sample collected at a specific location and time, providing a snapshot of the conditions at that moment. It is a simple and quick method used to assess localized sediment characteristics without accounting for temporal or spatial variations. Grab samples are commonly analysed for grain size, contamination levels, organic content, and chemical composition.</p>	<p>Up to 30 locations for dropframe camera and grab sampling effort</p>

	Up to 4no replicates will be collected from up to 30 locations. Typical estimated time required for activity – 20 mins to 1 hour per location. Typically, an area of 1 m ² of seabed is sampled.	
Side Scan Sonar (SSS)	SSS surveys are used to determine sediment characteristics and seabed features. The EdgeTech 4125 may be taken as an indicate example of an SSS device and for these surveys will have a potential operating frequency range of approximately 600/1600kHz in nearshore areas such as the MUL Area. Total estimated time - 5 – 10 days	SSS may be undertaken across the MUL Area to a suitable percentage coverage
Magnetometer	A magnetometer is used to identify magnetic anomalies and hazard mapping for metal obstructions, shipwrecks and unexploded ordnance on the surface and in the shallow sub-surface. The Geometrics G-882 can be taken as an indicative equipment example, it is a passive device (i.e. it does not emit any sound waves into the marine environment). Total estimated time - 5 – 10 days	Magnetometer survey may be undertaken across the MUL Area to a suitable percentage coverage.

2.4 Describe the nature and scale of any structure to be erected in the maritime area.

No structures will be erected in the maritime area under this licence

2.5 Proposed licence duration and reasons for proposed duration.

A licence duration of up to 5 years is being sought to ensure that the licence can enable multiple campaigns to be undertaken under this licence, on a phased basis, over the duration of the licence as needed.

2.6 Indicative timing of the works/activity: (i) Start date (ii) Duration (iii) Any other information relevant to timing.

Start date: Works are proposed to start from as soon as possible, subject to the issuing of the licence, the procurement of survey contractors, weather windows and vessel availability.

Duration: Survey durations will also be dependent on the exact type and extent of each campaign, weather and workability. Approximate durations for each proposed survey type are included in the AIMU Report submitted with this application and summarised in the table in section 2.3 above.

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

The proposed maritime usage is to undertake marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

Site investigations are intended to inform the preliminary design of a concept dredging scheme for Dún Laoghaire Harbour. The data gathered will also contribute to the preparation of any potential Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), which will

support future consent applications for dredging (to MARA, under the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021) and for dumping at sea (to the Environmental Protection Agency, under the Dumping at Sea Act 1996, as amended).

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.

The proposed SI activities may result in temporary and localised restrictions to navigation within Dún Laoghaire Harbour. However, these restrictions are expected to be minimal due to the short duration of the works (no longer than 2 weeks at a time) and the limited number of vessels involved (one or two). All vessels will be clearly marked, and a Marine Notice will be issued in advance of the works to inform harbour users. The Harbour Master will manage coordination and communication with other harbour users to minimise disruption and ensure safe and efficient use of the harbour during the SI activities. In addition, SI activities are likely to take place during the winter months, when overall levels of harbour use are typically lower.

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.

No formal engagement has taken place to date with marine users or other stakeholders in the proposed area. The current application relates solely to marine SI works within the confines of Dún Laoghaire Harbour. These activities are of limited spatial and temporal extent and involve minimally intrusive sampling techniques (such as grab and vibrocore sampling), intended to characterise sediment and benthic conditions. While no significant disruption to other marine users is anticipated, any necessary stakeholder engagement will be undertaken at a later stage as part of future applications for dredging and dumping at sea.

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 & Wildlife Service, National Monuments Service of Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

As Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown County Council is both the applicant and the relevant Local Authority and Harbour Authority, no formal consultation has been required with these bodies. Internal coordination has taken place to ensure alignment across relevant departments and to support the safe planning of the proposed SI activities within Dún Laoghaire Harbour. No consultations have been undertaken to date with other State agencies in relation to the proposed SI activities; however, engagement with relevant authorities will be carried out as required in support of future consent applications for dredging and dumping at sea.

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.

N/a

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

<p>part of the maritime area the subject of this licence application? If so, please provide details of the foreshore licence application.</p>
<p>N/a</p>
<p>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)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment (SISAA) • Assessment of Impact on the Maritime Usage Report (AIMU) • Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species (RAAIVS)

<p align="center"><u>Part 3: Location and Spatial Extent of Proposed Maritime Area</u> <u>(Attach additional documents as required)</u></p>	
3.1	Location of proposed Maritime Usage
<p>The proposed Maritime Usage will take place entirely within the marine environment, and will be located entirely within the Dún Laoghaire Harbour area. Dún Laoghaire Harbour is located approximately 12 km southeast of Dublin City.</p>	
3.2	Total size of the proposed Maritime Area (in m², ha or km², as appropriate).
<p>The total size of the proposed Maritime Area is 25.85 ha</p>	
3.3	Please provide the distance of the main body of the proposed maritime area from the shore at its closest point in km.
<p>The proposed Maritime Area adjoins the High Water Mark (HWM), as defined by the Chief Boundary Surveyor (CBS), in its closest point to the shore.</p>	
3.4	Is any of the maritime area in the proposed site in private ownership? If yes please provide documentary evidence of same (e.g. folio).
<p>No</p>	
3.5	Any other site details considered relevant:
<p>N/a</p>	

Part 4: Maps and Drawings. Please refer to Technical Guidance on map and drawing requirements.	
4.1	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.
4.2	Please submit GIS Shapefiles, in accordance with the Applicant Technical Guidance Note and submit same with this application.
4.3	Please list any Admiralty Charts, Maps, GIS Shapefiles and/or other Drawings submitted with this application.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNL-GDG-01-XX-MP-Z-0001_Rev00 • GIS_FILE_MUL250003 	

Part 5: Fishing/Aquaculture Considerations:

5.1 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.

Commercially important fish species, including their spawning and nursery grounds are considered in detail in section 5.3.2.4 of the AIMU Report, submitted in support of this application.

The MUL area overlaps with the spawning and/or nursery grounds of several commercially important species of fish, as identified in Ireland's Marine Atlas (2021), as listed in **Error! Reference source not found.** of the AIMU Report. However, the proposed SI activities will only take place within Dún Laoghaire harbour's walls. While the identification of Dún Laoghaire Harbour as overlapping with the spawning and nursery areas for various fish species suggests that these species utilize the broader coastal waters in this region for critical life stages, the likelihood of these species actively spawning or establishing nurseries within the confined and busy environment of Dún Laoghaire Harbour itself is relatively low. Busy harbours, characterized by constant vessel traffic, pollution, and anthropogenic noise, generally do not provide the tranquil and stable environments conducive to these activities. Therefore, while the coastal waters around Dún Laoghaire Harbour serve as important spawning and nursery grounds for various fish species, it is unlikely that these activities occur within the harbour's inner, high-traffic areas, as the environmental conditions within a busy harbour are typically unsuitable for the spawning and early development stages of these fish.

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

No. The proposed SI works are confined to the Dún Laoghaire Harbour area, which is not used for fishing or aquaculture activities. As such, no impacts on fishing or aquaculture are anticipated.

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

N/a

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 supporting documentation submitted with the application, to any further information, or submission provided by the applicant or on the applicant's behalf, including any supplementary material submitted in response to a notice to determine notice in respect of this licence application, and to the publication of the licence document.

Signed for and on behalf of the applicant:

[Redacted Signature]

Name of Signatory (block letters):

[Redacted Name]

Position Held:

Senior Executive Engineer

Date:

23.04.2025



An tÚdarás Rialála Limistéir Mhuiri
Maritime Area Regulatory Authority

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 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

Note Schedule of Works is included in AIMU Report.