



1. Maritime Usage Licence – “Minded To” Determination Case Worker Report	
To	Dr. Karen Creed, Director of Maritime Authorisations
From	Joanne Staunton, Licensing Caseworker
Reviewed by	Jacinta Ponzi, Head of MUL Unit
Date	03/06/2025
Maritime Usage Licence Application:	
Applicant Name	Gas Networks Ireland
Applicant Address	Gasworks Road, Cork, T12 RX96
Application Received	06/09/2024
MUL Reference Number	MUL240035
Decision sought	<p>Approval sought for issuance of notice to the Applicant in accordance with Section 119(6)(b) of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021, to inform that:</p> <p>The Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) is minded to GRANT a Maritime Usage Licence in respect of their application and the reasons why MARA is so minded.</p>
Description of works	<p>Marine survey within Cork Harbour to provide high-quality baseline data that can contribute to a reliable basis for site selection for the Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve. The surveys require the deployment and retrieval of Static Acoustic Monitoring (SAM) devices and up to two Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers (ADCP) within the study area.</p> <p>The licence term is for a duration of 2.5 years.</p>
Schedule 7 activity	3 Marine environmental survey (site investigation)
Additional section 7 activity (if applicable)	Choose an item.
Documents submitted with application	<div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application Form <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maritime Usage Map <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment (SISAA) Report <input type="checkbox"/> Natura Impact Statement (NIS) Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assessment of Impact of Maritime Usage Report (AIMU) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Indicative Schedule of Works </div>
Section 117(3) notice issued: Request for Further Information -RFI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: Date(s) of RFI(s) issued: 22/11/2024 Date(s) submitted: 28/11/2024 Document(s) submitted: Further information on the deployment of the Static Acoustic Monitoring (SAM) and the Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP).



	<p>The Applicant also submitted updated GIS DATA on 10/12/2024. This data was submitted on the Applicant's own initiative and was not requested by MARA.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not required</p>
Assessment, Research & Data (ARD) Assessment:	
Consideration of Screening for EIA: Section 117(5)(a)	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Screening for EIA: NOT REQUIRED</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Screening for EIA: REQUIRED</p> <p>Date of Report: 02/12/2024 Signed by: Jean Clarke</p>
<p>Screening for Appropriate Assessment:</p> <p>Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Screened IN</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Screened OUT</p> <p>Date of AA Screening Report & Determination: 16/12/2024 Signed by: John Evans</p>
AA Screening Report and Determination published on MARA website:	Date: 22/01/2025
Referral to Notified Consultees, as directed by Assessment, Research & Data (ARD) Team:	
<p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bord Iascaigh Mhara <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioners of Irish Lights <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dept. of Environment, Climate & Communications <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dept. of Housing, Local Government & Heritage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dept. of Transport - Marine Survey Office <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Protection Agency <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geological Survey of Ireland <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health and Safety Authority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inland Fisheries Ireland <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marine Institute <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Monuments Service <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Parks and Wildlife Service <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant Local Authority (Cork Co Co) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant Harbour Authority (Port of Cork) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Sea Fisheries Protection Authority <input type="checkbox"/> Other: </p> <p>Public consultation was not undertaken on this application as screening for appropriate assessment, by MARA, under Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations</p>	



<p>2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011), determined that Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment was not required in this instance.</p> <p>MARA referred to relevant public bodies in respect of the proposed maritime usage. Referral period from 25/02/2025 to 28/03/2025.</p>	
<p>Observations from notified consultees received?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: Number received 6 <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>
<p>ARD MUL Assessment Report:</p>	
<p>Final ARD MUL Assessment Report <i>includes environmental & engineering reports</i></p>	<p>Date of final report: 03/06/2025 Signed by: Philip Newell</p>
<p>Public Submissions taken into account in Final ARD MUL Assessment Report:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO - Application Screened out <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>
<p>Notified Consultees Responses taken into account in Final ARD MUL Assessment Report:</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>
<p>Upon completion of the Appropriate Assessment Determination the following specific conditions and reasons for conditions are DETERMINED by ARD: <i>(mitigation measures)</i></p>	
<p>N/A – Application screened out – Appropriate Assessment Determination Report not required.</p>	
<p>Upon completion of the <i>ARD MUL Assessment Report</i> the following conditions and reasons for conditions are RECOMMENDED by ARD:</p>	
<p>1. Recommended Term of licence to be 2.5 years from date of commencement.</p>	
<p>2. The Permitted Maritime Usage shall be carried out in accordance with the plans and particulars submitted in support of the application for this Licence. Reason: To clarify the scope of the licence.</p>	
<p>3. This licence is for the purposes of licensing under the Act and nothing in this licence shall be construed as negating the Holder’s statutory obligations or requirements under any other Law. Reason: To clarify the scope of the licence.</p>	
<p>4. The Holder shall, a minimum 14 days prior to the commencement of the Permitted Maritime Usage, arrange for the publication of a Marine Notice with the Marine Safety Policy Division, Department of Transport. Reason: To ensure the orderly undertaking of the proposed maritime usage.</p>	
<p>5. The Holder shall not damage or interfere with any third party’s property, infrastructure or fishing gear while conducting the Permitted Maritime Usage. Reason: To ensure the orderly undertaking of the proposed maritime usage.</p>	
<p>6. Prior to the commencement of the Permitted Maritime Usage the Holder shall consult with the Port of Cork Company to plan and schedule the Permitted Maritime Usage in order that any potential disruption to port operations is managed.</p>	



Reason: To ensure the orderly undertaking of the proposed maritime usage.	
7. The Holder shall ensure that all vessels engaged in this Permitted Maritime Usage conform to Irish Certification standards for vessels, as required by the Marine Survey Office.	
Reason: To ensure the orderly undertaking of the proposed maritime usage	
8. The Holder shall keep the following documents together and available for inspection by the Grantor:	
i) a copy of the licence related to this Permitted Maritime Usage;	
ii) all correspondence with the Grantor;	
iii) up to date drawings, plans and maps relating to the Permitted Maritime Usage;	
iv) such records and/or photographs required to demonstrate compliance by the Holder with the Specific Conditions;	
v) marine positional log to demonstrate compliance with the terms of the licence, including ensuring that the activity occurs within the licensed area; and,	
vi) any elements of the licence application and associated documentation referenced in this licence.	
Reason: To ensure the orderly undertaking of the proposed maritime usage	
9. Accidental events: The Holder shall ensure that there is an oil pollution emergency plan on-board any survey vessels. This plan should specify:	
i) Information on the location and detail of spill response resources on-board;	
ii) Information on crew training in relation to oil pollution response;	
iii) How crew will interface with other site investigation operators, where applicable.	
Reason: To ensure the protection of the marine environment.	
10. The Holder shall take all reasonable practical measures to ensure that all vessels used in the Permitted Maritime Usage are free of invasive marine species on their hulls and in their ballast water.	
Reason: To ensure the protection of the marine environment.	

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

Signed by (Caseworker): Joanne Staunton

Date: 03/06/2025



Annex 1 – List of Accompanying Documents:	
ARD MUL Assessment Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Screening for AA and Determination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed Licence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed Minded to Notice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed Minded to Notice Cover Letter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>