

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **The Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011**

On the 19/04/2024, Deep Sea Fibre Networks Ltd applied to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (“MARA”) for a maritime usage licence (reference no. **MUL230024**) under section 117 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (“the MAP Act”) to undertake marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigations to inform the feasibility constructing a new subsea telecoms cable system PISCES which is proposed to link Ireland to EU member states. Specifically, the site investigations will inform the location and design of the cable route and landfall site. It is proposed that the cable will have landfall at Ballyloughane Strand in Galway Bay, prior to traversing Galway Bay a south westerly direction through the Irish maritime area. On 29/05/2025, MARA determined to grant the licence.

In connection with the above licence application and following a public consultation under section 117(6)(b) of the MAP Act, MARA carried out an appropriate assessment of the proposed maritime usage. On the 08/04/2025, MARA determined that the proposed maritime usage (either individually or in combination with any other plans or projects) would not adversely affect the integrity of any European Sites<sup>1</sup>, in view of the European Sites’ conservation objectives, subject to the implementation of mitigation measures.

The appropriate assessment report and the appropriate assessment determination dated 08/04/2025 are available on the MARA website.

#### **Judicial review of the appropriate assessment determination**

The validity of the screening for appropriate assessment determination may be questioned by judicial review under order 84 of the Superior Courts Rules (S.I. No 15 of 1986) in accordance with chapter 8, part 5 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021. Any application for leave to apply for judicial review shall be made within eight weeks of the date of this notice. Practical information on judicial review can be obtained from the

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<sup>1</sup> As defined in the European Communities (Birds and Habitats) Regulations 2011

Citizens Information Board, Ground Floor, George's Quay House, 43 Townsend Street, Dublin 2 ([www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie)) or from the Courts website ([www.courts.ie](http://www.courts.ie)).

Dated this 29/05/2025

The Maritime Area Regulatory Authority