

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)	Uisce Éireann
Company/Organisation (if applicable)	Uisce Éireann
Address/Company Address	[REDACTED]
Eircode/Postcode	[REDACTED]
Contact Name within Company/Organisation	[REDACTED]
Contact Phone No.	[REDACTED]
Contact Email Address	[REDACTED]
Is the company registered in Ireland for tax purposes?	Yes

1.2 Contact Details (if different from above)	
Full Name	Not Applicable
Address	Not Applicable
Eircode/Postcode	Not Applicable
Contact Name	Not Applicable
Contact Phone No.	Not Applicable
Contact Email Address	Not Applicable

1.3 Agent Representing Applicant (if applicable)	
Person/Agency acting on behalf of Applicant	AECOM Ltd
Address	[REDACTED]
Eircode/Postcode	[REDACTED]
Contact Name (if applicable)	[REDACTED]
Contact Phone No.	[REDACTED]
Contact Email address	[REDACTED]

1.4 Applicant's Legal Advisor (if applicable)

Name/Company Name	Uisce Éireann Legal Services
Address	[REDACTED]
Eircode/Postcode	[REDACTED]
Contact Name (if applicable)	[REDACTED]
Contact Phone No.	+ [REDACTED]
Contact Email address	[REDACTED]

<u>Part 2: Proposal Details (Attach additional documents as required)</u>	
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.	
2.2	Specify the Maritime Usage(s) being applied for with reference to Schedule 7 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 as amended:
Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of scientific discovery or research.	
2.3	Description of proposed Maritime Usage.
<p>Uisce Éireann is applying to MARA for a Maritime Usage License (MUL) to conduct a survey to support a strategic modelling study of water currents within Galway Bay and the exposed coast extending northwest to Roundstone, County Galway and southwest to Loop Head Lighthouse, County Clare.</p> <p>The proposed surveys are supporting the design and consenting of essential wastewater infrastructure to facilitate growth in communities, including provision of housing. These surveys are serving four agglomerations that were listed in the EPA 2023 Urban Wastewater Report an “Area Discharging Raw Sewage”, and non-compliant with Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. Where there is no wastewater treatment, Ireland is at risk of infringement proceedings from the European Court of Justice for non-compliance with the UWWTD. Additionally, a further five agglomerations are due for upgrade under the Uisce Éireann RC4 Capital Investment Plan and surveys are required to support these improvements. Accordingly, these proposed surveys are vital to the timely delivery of critical water infrastructure to ensure Ireland’s compliance with EU Directives, to protect and enhance our environment and to enable sustainable growth in our communities.</p> <p>The proposed works to be covered under this MUL are summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployment of up to twenty-three (23) bottom mounted ADCPs. Additionally, three (3) vessel mounted ADCP will be required for locations AADCP02, BADCP09 and CADCP06 (see Site Layout maps). • Deployment of eighteen (18) tide gauges. • Additional ancillary data will also be collected at the ADCP and tidal gauge locations such as conductivity, temperature and depth (CTD) measurements. • Bathymetric surveys of the intertidal areas using either single beam & multibeam echosounders, or a combination of these technologies. • Water quality sampling from the shoreline and from a vessel at multiple locations within each proposed licence area. <p><u>ADCPs</u></p> <p>Bottom mounted surveys will be conducted using an ADCP, exact make and model to be determined, with an operating frequency between 200 kHz to 500 kHz. The ADCPs will be carefully deployed from the vessel’s deck onto the seabed using a deck crane or A-frame with a winch at predetermined locations (see Site Layout Maps) in water depths less than 100 m only. The ADCP surveys will contain no more than a single ADCP within each proposed ADCP survey area – the exact placement location will be based on available charts and habitat maps to ensure they are placed on suitable flat sandy habitats only. During operation, the ADCPs will be left in place on the seabed for a minimum of 35 days and a maximum of 60 days contained within a trawl resistant housing. To facilitate recovery, an acoustic release mechanism will be employed. When activated, it sends a ranging ping to the release mechanism. If successful, this mechanism releases a buoy connected to a</p>	

recovery line. The vessel can then manoeuvre into position over the buoy and retrieve the ADCPs onto the boat using the crane. In cases where the acoustic release fails, the ADCPs are equipped with acoustic pingers that can be activated to assist in locating the ADCP instruments. Another attempt can then be made to activate the acoustic release. If this attempt also fails, the ADCP will be recovered using a grapple recovery method. This involves dragging a line with a grapple attached across the seabed in the deployment area to catch the grapple line between the ADCPs and the grapple anchor.

Vessel mounted surveys will be conducted by lowering the ADCP from a vessel or bridge either manually or using a mechanical winch. The ADCP will remain vessel mounted (i.e. will not be placed on the seabed).

Tide Gauge

The proposed tide gauges will be mounted on existing fixed structures, quaysides or navigation markers. All tide gauges should be in place for a minimum of 35 concurrent days (see Site Layout Maps).

Water Sampling

Water sampling will either be undertaken from vessel or from shore. This will involve a hand-held multi-parameter passive sonde and/or Niskin bottle to collect water samples, required for calibrating a hydrodynamic model (see Site Layout Maps).

CTD Monitoring

Conductivity-temperature-depth sonde that passively monitors the conductivity, temperature and pressure to provide depth of water. The instrument may be deployed in one of the following ways:

1. Lowered and raised manually or using a mechanical winch from a vessel or bridge over a channel.
2. Attached to a tide gauge
3. Placed inside an ADCP mounting or trawl resistant housing.

Bathymetry

Surveying of intertidal areas may require a combination of vessel mounted methods including single beam & multibeam Echosounders (see Site Layout Maps).

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

Bottom mounted ADCPs and tidal gauges are the only element of the works that will be erected in the maritime area.

The tidal gauges will consist of a robust, weather-resistant sensor housed in a durable casing, mounted securely on a fixed structure such as a pier or seawall. The gauge will have a minimal footprint and will be installed in compliance with environmental and safety standards to ensure minimal disruption to maritime activities and the surrounding ecosystem.

Bottom mounted ADCPs will be deployed from a vessel deck onto the seabed using a deck crane or A-frame with a winch at predetermined locations (see Site Layout Maps) in water depths less than 100m only. The instrument will be contained within a trawl resistant housing with a footprint of less than 1 m² and will be deployed in compliance with environmental and safety standards to ensure minimal disruption to maritime activities and the surrounding ecosystem.

2.5 Proposed licence duration and reasons for proposed duration.

Licence duration is five (5) years from the licence date.

This is to allow the overall survey programme to be established with regard to specific constraints, including weather and prioritisation of Uisce Éireann projects.

2.6	Indicative timing of the works/activity: (i) Start date (ii) Duration (iii) Any other information relevant to timing.
i)	1 st April 2025 or licence date
ii)	1 – 3 months per survey campaign
iii)	Surveys of each licenced area may occur at the same or different times, determined by Uisce Éireann project prioritisation and Contractor availability.
2.7	Do the proposed maritime usages provide for public use, commercial use or private use? Provide details.
	<p>The proposed surveys are supporting the design and consenting of essential wastewater infrastructure to facilitate growth in communities, including provision of housing. These surveys are serving four agglomerations that were listed in the EPA 2023 Urban Wastewater Report an “Area Discharging Raw Sewage”, and non-compliant with Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. Where there is no wastewater treatment, Ireland is at risk of infringement proceedings from the European Court of Justice for non-compliance with the UWWTD. Additionally, a further five agglomerations are due for upgrade under the Uisce Éireann RC4 Capital Investment Plan and surveys are required to support these improvements. Accordingly, these proposed surveys are vital to the timely delivery of critical water infrastructure to ensure Ireland’s compliance with EU Directives, to protect and enhance our environment and to enable sustainable growth in our communities.</p> <p>The proposed maritime usages will therefore not provide for any change in 3rd party use during or after the surveys.</p>
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.
	Surveys are designed to have minimal impacts on marine users. We anticipate liaising with the appropriate authorities. We expect minimal if any impacts to public use of the area.
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 consultations have taken place with any other relevant authorities.
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.
	<p>The proposed surveys are supporting the design and consenting of essential wastewater infrastructure to facilitate growth in communities, including provision of housing. These surveys are serving four agglomerations that were listed in the EPA 2023 Urban Wastewater Report an “Area Discharging Raw Sewage”, and non-compliant with Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. Where there is no wastewater treatment, Ireland is at risk of infringement proceedings from the European Court of Justice for non-compliance with the UWWTD. Additionally, a further five agglomerations are due for upgrade under the Uisce Éireann RC4 Capital Investment Plan and surveys are required to support these improvements. Accordingly, these proposed surveys are vital to the timely delivery of critical water infrastructure to ensure Ireland’s compliance with EU Directives, to protect and enhance our environment and to enable sustainable growth in our communities.</p> <p>Uisce Éireann is in frequent dialogue with the Marine Institute, County Councils, SFPA and OPW with respect to these types of surveys. Galway County Council and Clare County Council have been consulted regarding the environmental information available. Uisce Éireann have then undertaken an Environmental Scoping Report (ESR) to define the survey requirements.</p>

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.
No licences identified for the activities proposed.	
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.
None identified.	
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)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment (SISAA) Report • Assessment of Impacts of the Maritime Usage (AIMU) Report • Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species Report • Natura Impact Statement (NIS) 	

Part 3: Location and Spatial Extent of Proposed Maritime Area
(Attach additional documents as required)

3.1 Location of proposed Maritime Usage

The Maritime Usage Area is split across 4 areas. Area A is located at the North Sound and Outer Bay extents of Galway Bay. Area B is located at the Mid Bay and Inner Bay extents of Galway Bay. Area C extends from Liscannor Bay to Doughmore Bay and Area D is located at Moore Bay and Intrinsic Bay.

3.2 Total size of the proposed Maritime Area (in m², ha or km², as appropriate).

Area	Area (ha)
A	79,728
B	56,083
C	13,140
D	234
Total	149,185

The proposed maritime usages do not extend across the entirety of the Proposed Licence Area. Specific locations of the proposed usages are illustrated on the site layout maps.

3.3 Please provide the distance of the main body of the proposed maritime area from the shore at its closest point in km.

0 km – at the shoreline.

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).

No.

3.5 Any other site details considered relevant:

Not Applicable.

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"> • MUL240033-001: Proposed Licence Area Map (OSI background) • MUL240033-002: Proposed Licence Area Map (Admiralty chart background) • MUL240033-101: Licence Map A • MUL240033-102: Licence Map B • MUL240033-103: Licence Map C • MUL240033-104: Licence Map D • MUL240033-201: Site Layout Map A • MUL240033-202: Site Layout Map B • MUL240033-203: Site Layout Map C • MUL240033-204: Site Layout Map D • MUL240033-301: Fishing/Aquaculture Proximity Map A • MUL240033-302: Fishing/Aquaculture Proximity Map B • MUL240033-303: Fishing/Aquaculture Proximity Map C • MUL240033-304: Fishing/Aquaculture Proximity Map D • MUL240033.shp: Maritime Usage Licence Area polygon

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.

Aquaculture:

The Proposed Licence Area contains licenced aquaculture sites for fish, shellfish and seaweed species. There are 19 of these licenced aquaculture sites located within the Proposed Licence Area. The licensed aquaculture sites located in waters close to the coastline in Galway Bay consist of:

- One seaweed aquaculture site in Ballyvaughan/Poulnaclough Bay;
- Two finfish aquaculture sites in waters to the east of Carraroe South;
- Two shellfish aquaculture sites in a bay on the eastern coastline of Inishmore Island (part of the Aran Islands);
- One shellfish aquaculture site on the coast of Keeraunnagark South;
- Four shellfish aquaculture sites off the coast of Carrigaholt; and
- A further 43 shellfish aquaculture sites located on the coastline of inner Galway Bay.

Shellfish Waters:

There are 4 designated Shellfish Growing Waters located within the Proposed Licence Area.

- Kilkieran Bay
- Outer Galway Bay Indreabhán
- Clarinbridge/Kinvara Bay
- Ballyvaughan/Poulnaclough Bay Shellfish Waters / Bishopsquarter bathing waters

Fish Spawning Ground

Atlantic herring *Clupea harengus* is an important commercial species in Irish waters. Part of the Proposed Licence Area overlap with spawning grounds for Atlantic herring cover the outer Galway Bay up to the north-eastern coastline of the Aran Islands. A smaller spawning ground is also present off the coast of Aill Na Brun on the south-western tip of County Clare. Nursery grounds are considered to cover the entirety of Galway Bay but do not extend southwards beyond the Aran Islands. The nearest herring stock to Galway Bay is the Northwest Ireland stock, which are considered to spawn between August and September (Ellis et al., 2012).

Other Sensitive Fisheries Location

The most heavily fished locations (hectares per square kilometre per year) in the Study Area include a bay located off the eastern coast of Inishmore in the Aran Islands, where shellfish aquaculture farms are also based, Galway Estuary, off the coast of Mullach, and off the coast of Carrigaholt.

A large proportion of Galway Bay is used for pot fishing, with several techniques and gear types used including creel and crab pots to target lobsters (e.g. *Nephrops norvegicus*) and/or crabs (e.g. velvet swimmer crab *Necora puber*), and shrimp pots. Long line fishing is also commonly used in the outer Galway Bay and around the Aran Islands, using troll lines to target pollack and mackerel. Net fishing is also common around the coastline of Galway Bay targeting bait species.

Various areas of dredging are also present in the Proposed Licence Area, with scallop *Pectinidae* spp. dredging both along the coastline and in deeper waters, hydraulic dredging for razor clams *Ensis magnus* on the northeast coasts of Inisheer and Inishmaan islands and on the coast of Barna and Ballinderreen, and oyster dredging for native oyster *Ostrea edulis* also

off the coast of Ballinderreen. Bottom (otter) trawling is also common across a large proportion of the marine environment which targets mixed demersal species, including whiting *Merlangius merlangus* and lemon sole *Microstomus kitt*.

Proximity of the Proposed Maritime Usage to Receptors

There are many fishing or aquaculture sites located in the Proposed Licence Area but the proximity of the proposed surveys to receptors are shown in the Fishing/Aquaculture Proximity Maps and outlined in Table 1 and Table 2 below.

Vessel mounted ADCP surveys may take place in proximity to these fishing or aquaculture areas. The majority of bed mounted ADCP areas are located more than 5km away from a Licenced Aquaculture site or Fisheries Order Site.

Table 1 – Distance of each Proposed ADCP area from Fishing / Aquaculture Receptors.

Survey ID	Designated Shellfish Waters	Classified Production Areas	Licenced Aquaculture Sites	Fisheries Orders
AADCP01	>5km	>5km	Fully within	>5km
AADCP02	>5km	>5km	4km	>5km
AADCP03	>5km	>5km	>5km	>5km
AADCP04	>5km	>5km	>5km	>5km
AADCP05	>5km	>5km	>5km	>5km
AADCP06	>5km	>5km	>5km	>5km
AADCP07	>5km	>5km	>5km	>5km
AADCP08	>5km	>5km	>5km	>5km
BADCP01	>5km	5km	>5km	>5km
BADCP02	>5km	5km	>5km	>5km
BADCP03	100m to >5km	100m to >5km	0 to 3km	3 to >5km
BADCP04	3.7km to >5km	400m to 3km	>5km	>5km
BADCP05	>5km	>5km	>5km	>5km
BADCP06	>5km	>5km	>5km	>5km
BADCP07	>5km	>5km	>5km	>5km
BADCP08	>5km	>5km	>5km	>5km
BADCP09	Fully within	Fully within	0 to 1.2km	0 to 1km
BADCP10	Fully within	Fully within	0 to 0.5km	0.6 to 1.1km
CADCP01	>5km	>5km	>5km	>5km
CADCP02	>5km	>5km	>5km	>5km
CADCP03	>5km	>5km	>5km	>5km
CADCP04	>5km	>5km	>5km	>5km
CADCP05	>5km	>5km	>5km	>5km
CADCP06	>5km	>5km	>5km	>5km
DADCP01	>5km	>5km	>5km	>5km
DADCP02	>5km	>5km	>5km	>5km

Bathymetric surveys may take place in proximity to these fishing or aquaculture areas, although the majority are located more than 5km away from a Licenced Aquaculture site or Fisheries Order Site.

Table 2 – Distance of each Proposed Bathymetric Survey from Fishing / Aquaculture Receptors.

Survey ID	Designated Shellfish Waters	Classified Production Areas	Licenced Aquaculture Sites	Fisheries Orders
ABS01	>5km	>5km	Fully within	>5km
ABS02	>5km	>5km	>5km	>5km
ABS03	>5km	>5km	>5km	>5km
ABS04	>5km	>5km	>5km	>5km
BBS01	0 to 4.5km	0 to >5km	0 to >5km	0 to >5km
BBS02	Fully within	Fully within	0 to 4km	0 to 3km
BBS03	>5km	4.2km	4.9km	>5km
CBS01	>5km	>5km	>5km	>5km
DBS01	>5km	>5km	>5km	>5km

Conclusion

The SISAA concluded no likely significant effects are anticipated either alone or in-combination with any other projects or plans to any European site (s) designated for fish, shellfish or their qualifying habitat.

The AIMU report concludes that due to the nature, scale and location of the marine surveys, there is expected to be no significant effects on marine receptors as a result of the proposed Maritime Usage.

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

No.

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

No.

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:

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Name of Signatory (block letters):

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Position Held:

PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT

Date:

17/12/2024

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