

Assessment, Research and Data Unit			
Appropriate Assessment Screening and Determination Report			
To:	Maritime Authorisations Unit	From:	Ross Fitzgerald Marine Analyst
Date:	24/09/2025	Maritime Usage Licence Application No:	MUL230037
Applicant:		Uisce Éireann, [REDACTED]	
Type of maritime usage activity in accordance with Schedule 7 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021:		3. Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000	
Location of proposed maritime usage:		Clew Bay, Co, Mayo	
Licence application received:		24/01/2025	

1. Background

Uisce Éireann has applied to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) for a maritime usage licence for marine site investigation activities, falling under Schedule 7(3) of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (the MAP Act). The activities are required to inform the outfall discharge location for a proposed new Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to serve the Newport agglomeration in County Mayo.

2. Description of maritime usage and local site characteristics

2.1 Brief description of the maritime usage

The principal objective of the marine surveys is to help ensure robust assessments can be completed for the design of the new wastewater treatment plant which provides treated discharges in compliance with the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. The boundary for the maritime usage licence is illustrated in Figure 1. The applicant has applied for a licence duration of five years to enable works to be scheduled and completed in favourable weather conditions.

The applicant submitted a Supporting Information for Screening of Appropriate Assessment (SISAA) report, an Assessment of Impacts of the Maritime Usage (AIMU) Report and a Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species Report in support of their licence application which were referred to during this assessment.

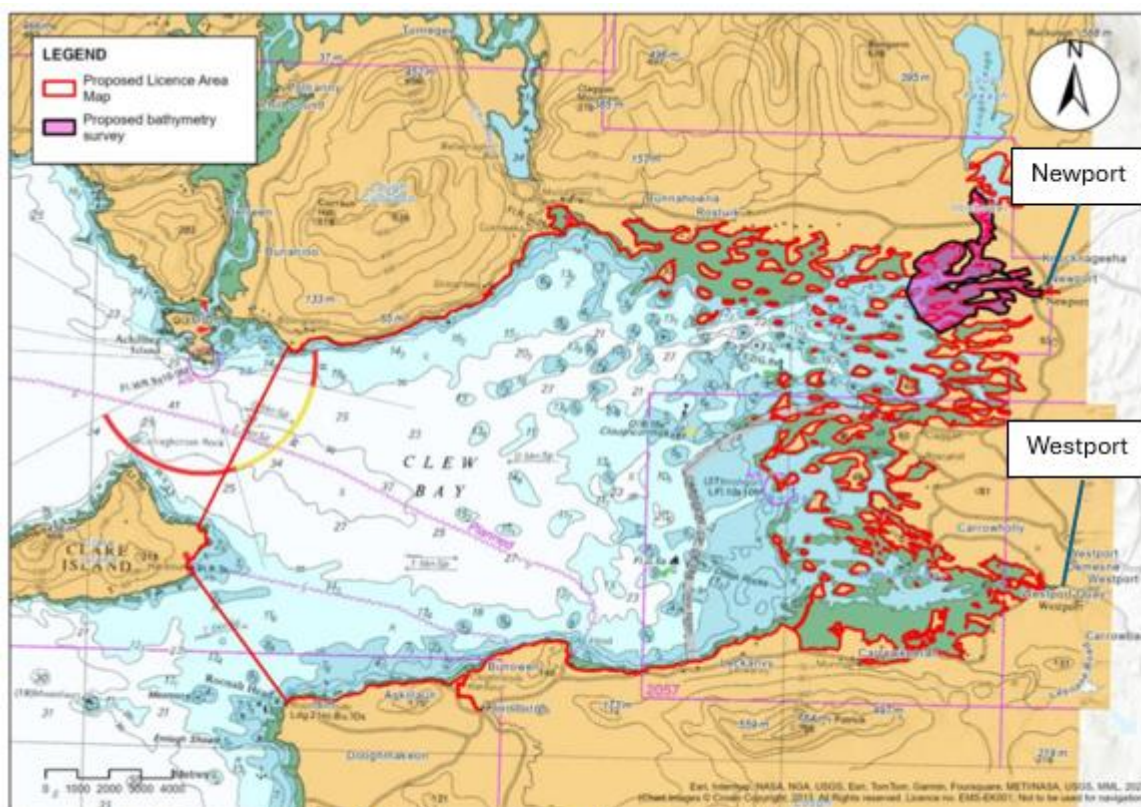


Figure 1 – Maritime usage boundary (red line) and location of proposed geophysical survey area (highlighted in purple)

2.2 Brief description of the site characteristics

Clew Bay is a wide, west-facing bay on the west coast of Co. Mayo. It is open to the westerly swells and winds from the Atlantic with Clare Island giving only a small amount of protection. The drumlin landscape was formed during the last glacial period when sediments were laid down and smoothed over by advancing ice. The sea has subsequently inundated this area, creating a multitude of islands. The geomorphology of the bay has resulted in a complex series of interlocking bays creating a wide variety of marine and terrestrial habitats, including several listed in Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive: large shallow bays, lagoon, Atlantic salt-meadows, drift lines, perennial vegetation of stony banks, embryonic shifting dunes, Marram dunes and dune slacks.

3. Identification of relevant European sites

The MUL application is subject to screening for appropriate assessment in accordance with Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended, to determine if it alone, or in-combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on a European sites, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the sites.

The proposed maritime usage is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site(s). The European sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs)) listed on Table 1 have been considered for appropriate assessment, given the nature, scale and Zone of Influence of the maritime usage, the conservation objectives of the European sites and using the Source-Pathway-Receptor model.

Table 1 - Identification of relevant European sites, their qualifying interests and site-specific conservation objectives. Those Qualifying Interests marked in bold have been screened in for Stage 2 appropriate assessment.

European site & site code	Distance from the proposed MUL area (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-pathway-receptor)	European Site Screened in	Site-specific conservation objectives
SACs					
Clew Bay Complex SAC [001482]	Within MUL area	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Coastal lagoons [1150] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]	No	No	NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: Clew Bay Complex SAC 001482. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
		<i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] <i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1365]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise, above water noise and visual disturbance	Yes	
West Connacht Coast SAC [002998]	Within MUL area	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes	NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives: West Connacht Coast SAC 002998. Version 2.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Clare Island Cliffs SAC [002243]	Within MUL area	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]	No	No	NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives: Clare Island Cliffs SAC 002243. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Corraun Plateau SAC [000485]	<5km	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]	No	No	NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives: Corraun Plateau SAC 000485. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Oldhead Wood SAC [000532]	<5km	European dry heaths [4030] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]	No	No	NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: Oldhead Wood SAC 000532. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Newport River SAC [002144]	<5km	<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106]	No	No	NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives: Newport River SAC 002144. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Owenduff/Nephin Complex SAC [000534]	<5km	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculon fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] <i>Saxifraga hirculus</i> (Marsh Saxifrage) [1528] <i>Hamatocaulis vernicosus</i> (Slender Green Feathermoss) [6216] <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]	No	No	NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Owenduff/Nephin Complex SAC 000534. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Lough Cahasy, Lough Baun and Roonah Lough SAC [001529]	<5km	Coastal lagoons [1150] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0]	No	No	NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives Lough Cahasy, Lough Baun and Roonah Lough SAC 001529. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Keel Machair/Menaun Cliffs SAC [001513]	5-10km	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]	No	No	NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives: Keel Machair/Menaun Cliffs SAC 001513. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Achill Head SAC [002268]	5-10km	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170]	No	No	NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Achill Head SAC 002268. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Bellacragher Saltmarsh SAC [002005]	5-10km	Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]	No	No	NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives: Bellacragher Saltmarsh SAC 002005. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Inishbofin and Inishshark SAC [000278]	25-50km	Coastal lagoons [1150] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030]	No	No	NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: Inishbofin and Inishshark SAC 000278. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
		<i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes	

Kilkieran Bay and Islands SAC [002111]	25-50 km	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Coastal lagoons [1150] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> [3130] Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) [6510] <i>Najas flexilis</i> (Slender Naiad) [1833] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]	No	No	NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives: Kilkieran Bay and Islands SAC 002111. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
		<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] <i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1365]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes	
Slyne Head Peninsula SAC [002074]	25-50 km	Coastal lagoons [1150] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i>) [3110]	No	No	NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: Slyne Head Peninsula SAC 002074. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

		Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> [3130] Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140] European dry heaths [4030] <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210] <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty, or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410] Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>, <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) [6510] Alkaline fens [7230] <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395] <i>Najas flexilis</i> (Slender Naiad) [1833]			
		<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes	
Slyne Head Islands SAC [000328]	25-50 km	Reefs [1170]	No	No	NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: Slyne Head Islands SAC 000328. Version 2.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
		<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes	
Inishkea Islands SAC [000507]	25-50km	Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0] <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]	No	No	NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: Inishkea Islands SAC 000507. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
		<i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes	

Duvillaun Islands SAC [000495]	25-50km	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes	NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: Duvillaun Islands SAC 000495. Version 2.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Inishmore Island SAC [000213]	50-75km	Coastal lagoons [1150] Reefs [1170] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) [2170] Humid dune slacks [2190] Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) [6510] Limestone pavements [8240] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] <i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014]	No	No	NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives Inishmore Island SAC 000213. Version 2.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
		<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes	

Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC [000625]	75-100km	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Humid dune slacks [2190] Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0] <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Alkaline fens [7230] <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> (Marsh Fritillary) [1065] <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]	No	No	NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC 000625. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
		<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes	
St. John's Point SAC [000191]	75-100km	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410] Alkaline fens [7230] Limestone pavements [8240]	No	No	NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives St. John's Point SAC 000191. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

		Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> (Marsh Fritillary) [1065]			
		<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise	Yes	
SPAs					
Clare Island SPA [004136]	Within MUL area	Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018] Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200] Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]	No	No	<u>NPWS (2025)</u> Conservation Objectives: Clare Island SPA Site Code 004136. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Owenduff/Nephin Complex SPA [004098]	0-5km	Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]	No	No	<u>NPWS (2025)</u> Conservation Objectives: Owenduff/Nephin Complex SPA 004098. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Cross Lough (Killadoon) SPA [004212]	10-25km	Sandwich Tern (<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>) [A863]	No	No	<u>NPWS (2025)</u> Conservation Objectives: Cross Lough (Killadoon) SPA 004212. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Bills Rocks SPA [004177]	10-25km	Storm Petrel (<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>) [A014] Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204]	No	No	<u>NPWS (2025)</u> Conservation Objectives Bills Rocks SPA 004177. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA [004228]	25-50 km	Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061] Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065] Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	No	No	NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives: Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA 004228. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Lough Mask SPA [004062]	25-50 km	Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	No	No	NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives: Lough Mask SPA 004062. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Duvillaun Islands SPA [004111]	25-50 km	Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Storm Petrel (<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>) [A014] Barnacle Goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) [A045]	No	No	NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives: Duvillaun Islands SPA 004111. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
High Island, Inishshark and Davillaun SPA [004144]	25-50 km	Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Barnacle Goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) [A045] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]	No	No	NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives: High Island, Inishshark and Davillaun SPA 004144. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Inishglora and Inishkeeragh SPA [004084]	25-50 km	Storm Petrel (<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>) [A014] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018] Barnacle Goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) [A045] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]	No	No	NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives: Inishglora and Inishkeeragh SPA 004084. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Cruagh Island SPA [004170]	25-50 km	Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>) [A013] Barnacle Goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) [A045]	No	No	NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives Cruagh Island SPA 004170. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

4. Assessment of likely significant effects

Table 2 - Identification of potential direct and indirect impacts that may have an effect on the conservation objectives of European sites, taking into account the nature and scale of the proposed maritime usage.

Potential Impacts	Possible significance of Potential impacts (duration, magnitude, etc.)
Disturbance/displacement from underwater noise	Potential for sound sources from multibeam survey to be at a level and duration that could cause short term, temporary disturbance of marine mammals and otter
Visual and above water noise disturbance	Potential for survey activities generating noise, vibration and increased human presence, or vessel and drone activity to be at an intensity and duration that could cause short term, temporary disturbance of marine mammals and otter

In-combination effects

MARA has developed a stepwise approach for identifying other plans and projects that may impact on European sites in-Combination with the proposed maritime usage. Using professional and scientific judgement, the key steps for assessing cumulative effects are as follows:

1. Defining the Cumulative Effects Spatial Scope (CESS)
2. Defining the Cumulative Effects Temporal Scope (CETS)
3. Impact identification
4. Pathway identification
5. Prediction
6. Identification of Plans or Projects that could act in combination
7. Screening Stage Cumulative Effects Assessment conclusion
8. Managing cumulative impacts - to be carried out as part of Stage 2 AA process

The CESS has been defined as 10km and the CETS as five years. The definition of the CESS is based on acoustic survey equipment effective deterrence ranges as per *JNCC Guidance on Assessing the Significance of Noise Disturbance against Harbour Porpoise SACs Conservation Objectives* ([JNCC, 2020](#)). And the CETS is the proposed MUL duration.

A search of relevant databases was undertaken on the 17/09/2025, including, but not limited to; MARA MAC and MUL applications, Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment

Foreshore applications, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage EIA Portal, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Aquaculture Viewer (AQUAMIS), Mayo County Council Planning System, EPA authorisation databases.

Relevant projects within the CESS and the CETS were considered. No projects were found to have the potential to act in combination with the proposed maritime usage.

The following plans, related to the development of the maritime environment were also considered:

- The Climate Action Plan 2024
- Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028
- Water Action Plan 2024
- Uisce Éireann Regional Water Resources Plan – North-West

Likely significant in-combination effects between this application and the plans listed above and projects considered, on the conservation objectives of the European sites considered in this report can be excluded at this stage.

Were mitigation measures considered during the screening process?

No

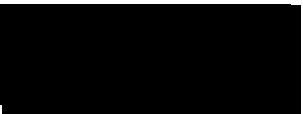
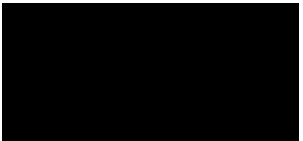
5. Screening Determination Statement

The assessment of significant effects:

On the basis of the information on file, and having regard to:

- The nature and scale of the proposed development
- The distance to the nearest European sites
- Possible disturbance from underwater noise
- Possible visual and above water noise disturbance

Having considered the legal framework applicable to appropriate assessment, it was concluded that the proposed maritime usage by **Uisce Éireann, 1 Foley St., Mountjoy, Dublin 1, DA01 WA07**, to carry out marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000 at Clew Bay, Co. Mayo (MUL230037) will require Stage 2 appropriate assessment. It cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective scientific information, that the proposed project, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.

Signature and Date of Recommending Officer	 Ross Fitzgerald Marine Analyst	Date: 24/09/2025
Signature and Date of Decision Maker	 John Evans Director of Assessment, Research and Data Unit	Date: 24/09/2025