

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	Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot Street, Mountjoy, Dublin
Eircode/Postcode	D01 NP86
Contact Name within Company/Organisation	
Contact Phone No.	
Contact Email Address	@water.ie
Is the company registered in Ireland for tax purposes?	Yes

1.2 Contact Details (if different from above)

Full Name	N/A
Address	N/A
Eircode/Postcode	N/A
Contact Name	N/A
Contact Phone No.	N/A
Contact Email Address	N/A

1.3 Agent Representing Applicant (if applicable)

Person/Agency acting on behalf of Applicant	RPS/Tetra Tech
Address	
Eircode/Postcode	
Contact Name (if applicable)	
Contact Phone No.	
Contact Email address	@tetrattech.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.
2.2	Specify the Maritime Usage(s) being applied for with reference to Schedule 7 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 as amended:
	<p>3. Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000.</p> <p>7. The use of a vehicle, vessel (including a craft capable of travelling on, in or under water, whether or not self-propelled), boat, aircraft, marine structure (other than a pipeline) or floating container to remove any substance or object from the seabed.</p> <p>12. (a) The removal of beach material from, or the disturbance of beach material in, the maritime area otherwise than in the course of the ordinary or reasonable recreational enjoyment of the maritime area.</p> <p>(b) In this paragraph, “beach material” means sand, clay, gravel, shingle, stones, rocks, mineral substances, seashells, coral and maerl and any flora, in or on the surface of the seabed or suspended in the water of the maritime area, and includes outcrops of rock or any other mineral substance above the surface of the seabed.</p>
2.3	Description of proposed Maritime Usage.
	<p>This Maritime Usage Licence Application is required to undertake site investigations (SI works), within Baldoyle Bay and the Irish Sea.</p> <p>Statement to inform MARA’s Application Prioritisation Scoring System</p> <p>These SI works are required to inform detailed engineering design of the marine elements of the GDD project and to provide baseline data for any subsequent environmental monitoring. The Greater Dublin Drainage (GDD) project will provide 500,000 PE wastewater Treatment within the GDA catchment and relieve network constraints in north & west of catchment Information collected by the SI works will support the overall GDD project in its aim to upgrade and provide additional wastewater infrastructure for the Greater Dublin Area. Therefore, this MUL represents a critical step towards meeting the current and future wastewater treatment demand within the Greater Dublin Area.</p> <p>Adequate wastewater collection and treatment capacity in the GDA is vital to social and economic growth including provision for new housing and protecting public health. The need for this MUL aligns with the needs of the Greater Dublin Area as Uisce Éireann (UÉ) have identified substantial wastewater treatment and network capacity issues in the current GDA system. Wastewater connection requests are assessed on a case-by-case basis. By 2028 Uisce Éireann will be unable to grant new connections to the wastewater network in major parts of the Greater Dublin Area. Further delays will severely constrain growth and development in the GDA, with serious consequences for current and future generations.</p> <p>The GDD is fully aligned with international, European and national policies on economic and social development, sustainable resource use, the environment and climate action, and supports the delivery of their targets. In particular, the GDD Project is included in both the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the National Development Plan (NDP) as an essential investment project to develop the capacity and quality of the region’s wastewater infrastructure, and to meet environmental requirements including Ireland’s obligations under the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD) and the Water Framework</p>

Directive (WFD). The GDD Project is acknowledged as providing further capacity to cater for a growing population, facilitate economic development in the GDA and protect the environment.

The aim of the SI works is to acquire data to a high quality and specification for the site (as summarised below) to provide a reliable basis for design development, and to support the construction phase.

The following activities are proposed:

Baldoyle Bay

Geophysical and bathymetric SI works within Baldoyle Bay will comprise:

- Land-based techniques such as seismic refraction, ground-penetrating radar (GPR) or electrical resistivity tomography (ERT),
- Marine (boat-based) surveys comprising bathymetric techniques (multibeam echosounder (MBES), sidescan sonar (SSS)), and geophysical techniques (sub-bottom profiler (SBP) and ultra-high resolution seismic (UHRS) boomer or spark). Geomagnetic surveying using a magnetometer will also be undertaken. Positioning information will be provided via an ultra-short baseline (USBL) system.

Geotechnical SI works within Baldoyle Bay will comprise:

- 4No. boreholes (rotary core) which will be undertaken within the intertidal zone (i.e. below the HWM) and accessed from the land side. Rotary core boreholes will be taken using a drilling rig, and cone penetration testing (CPT) will be undertaken within the boreholes.

No intrusive environmental sampling is required within Baldoyle Bay.

Irish Sea

Bathymetric SI works in the Irish Sea will comprise:

- Marine (boat-based) survey: MBES, SSS. Geomagnetic surveying using a magnetometer will also be undertaken. Positioning information will be provided via a USBL system.

Geotechnical SI works in the Irish Sea will comprise:

- 10No. Boreholes (rotary core) undertaken from a survey vessel or a jack-up barge (JUB), and CPT investigations within the boreholes.

Environmental SI works in the Irish Sea will comprise:

- Drop-down video (DDV) and benthic grab sampling
- Water sampling, including Conductivity, Temperature and Depth (CTD) Measurements.

Further details on the scope of investigations and surveys to be undertaken under the licence are contained in the Project Description report submitted with this application and are shown on the plans and drawings referred to in Section 4.3 of this application form. Indicative timings of the SI works are set out in Section 2.6 of this application form.

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

No permanent structures will be erected in undertaking the proposed SI works.

The geotechnical surveys within Baldoyle Bay will be undertaken from land utilising a drilling rig, while geotechnical surveys within the Irish Sea will be undertaken from a survey vessel or JUB.

2.5 Proposed licence duration and reasons for proposed duration.

Uisce Éireann propose a site investigation activities schedule that will be phased over a total of 5 years. The intention is to begin the survey activities as soon as feasible following licence award, with a phased programme of investigations, capitalising on suitable weather windows over this time-period. The total expected duration of SI works is 8 weeks, however, a licence duration of 5 years is required to allow for uncertainties around weather, contractors and equipment availability etc.

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

- (i) April 2026.
- (ii) Up to 5 years.
- (iii) The full scope of surveys is expected to take 8-weeks to complete in total. However, to allow for uncertainties such as adverse weather conditions, contractor availability etc, a duration of 5 years is being applied for.

The indicative timing of the works/ activities is included in Section 2.2.2 Estimated Project Schedule/ Programme within the Project Description (report ref: 10028814-RPS-MO-XX-RP-N-RP0080 MUL Project Description).

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

The proposed SI works are required to inform the detailed design of the marine elements of the GDD project which will support the development of a new regional wastewater treatment facility and associated infrastructure to serve the population of Dublin and parts of Kildare and Meath. The data will be acquired by and for Uisce Éireann.

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.

Limited restrictions to the public use/ enjoyment at the SI work locations within Baldoyle Bay will be required for brief (less than one day) to temporary (days to weeks) periods, as follows. No public use/enjoyment restrictions are anticipated for the Irish Sea Surveys at Portmarnock Beach.

While survey and investigation vessels are active, other vessels and marine users will be requested to leave a wide berth and a Marine Notice will be published. The usual restrictions to prevent the risk of collision or damage to equipment will be in force as required under the International Regulations for Prevention of Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) that are implemented in Irish law by the Merchant Shipping (Collision Regulations) (Ships and Water Craft on the Water) Order 2012 [S.I. No. 507 of 2012], and the Signals of Distress (Ships) Rules 2012 [S.I. No.170 of 2012]. See Marine Notice No. 06 of 2013. Restrictions will be confined to those areas where SI works are actively being undertaken

Marine notices will be published in advance of the surveys and investigations to warn other users of the activities to be undertaken, where and when, and the vessel call-signs. The Commissioners of Irish Lights (CIL) standard navigational safety requirements will be adhered to with regards to the positioning, mooring, marking, and lighting of all equipment deployed in the licence area. Vessels will display lights and other internationally recognised identification and warning signals.

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.

None to date.

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.	
None to date specifically regarding this MUL Application.	
Consultations carried out during:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Development of EIAR with the various authorities like NMS. b) While planning to undertake vantage point surveys at Irelands Eye. 	
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.
FS006843 - Irish Water Greater Dublin Drainage Outfall FS007605 - Uisce Éireann (Irish Water) Benthic Survey FS006292 - Irish Water - Greater Dublin Drainage Project Uisce Éireann held this Foreshore Licence, for undertaking marine site investigation works extending across the study area of the proposed marine outfall, which lies south of Portmarnock and north of Ireland's Eye, County Dublin. Commencement Date of the licence was 15th June 2015 and it remained in force for a period of 1 year from the Commencement Date.	
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.
No.	
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)
The following environmental reports and support documents are submitted with this application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Description • Supporting information for screening for Appropriate Assessment (SISAA) • Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species • Assessment of Impact on the Maritime Usage Report (AIMU) • Natura Impact Statement (NIS) 	

<p align="center">Part 3: Location and Spatial Extent of Proposed Maritime Area (Attach additional documents as required)</p>	
3.1	Location of proposed Maritime Usage
<p>The location of the Maritime Usage is off the east coast of Ireland. This is illustrated in the drawings contained within the Project Description report (drawing ref: MDW0812-RPS-00-XX-DR-J-DR2600 Proposed Licence Area Map)</p> <p>The MUL Area comprises two areas, one within Baldoyle Bay (Area A) and the other (Area B) extending east from Portmarnock Beach into the Irish Sea. The total combined MUL Area encompasses an area of 748.6 ha. Area A is within Baldoyle Bay between the high water mark (HWM) running adjacent to the R106 on the west of Baldoyle Bay and the HWM on the east of Baldoyle Bay adjacent to the Portmarnock Golf Club. This encompasses an area of 35 ha. Area B extends east into the Irish Sea from the HWM at Portmarnock Beach. This encompasses an area of 713.6ha.</p> <p>Please note that the high water mark mapped in all drawings accompanying this MUL Application were sourced from the following source: High Water Mark - National Water Marks - Ungeneralised - 2024 Surveying Open Data Portal. Data were last accessed on 29/08/2025.</p>	
3.2	Total size of the proposed Maritime Area (in m², ha or km², as appropriate).
<p>The total combined MUL Area encompasses an area of 748.6 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 main body of the proposed maritime area is within the Irish Sea (Area B) directly adjacent the shoreline (i.e. 0 km).</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>Yes, land ownership data has been reviewed from Tailte Éireann has been reviewed. Within Baldoyle Bay, the following privately owned folios which overlap/abut MUL Area A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DN156305L • DN231776F • DN132779F • DN194793F 	
3.5	Any other site details considered relevant:
<p>MUL Area B is adjacent to busy shipping areas</p> <p>MUL Area B is within important fisheries areas and fish spawning and nursery grounds.</p> <p>MUL Area B is within an area of known and/or reported shipwrecks which can be viewed on the National Monuments Service (NMS) wreck viewer: ArcGIS Web Application</p>	

<p align="center">Part 4: Maps and Drawings. Please refer to Technical Guidance on map and drawing requirements.</p>	
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.
<p>GIS Files:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maritime Usage Licence Area <p>Drawings included in Project Description report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Licence Area Map - 10028814-RPS-ZZ-XX-DR-N-DR2220 • Proposed Geotechnical Survey Locations - 10028814-RPS-ZZ-XX-DR-N-DR2221 • Proposed Geophysical and Bathymetric Survey Locations – 10028814-RPS-ZZ-XX-DR-N-DR2222 • Proposed Environmental Survey Locations - 10028814-RPS-ZZ-XX-DR-N-DR2223 <p>Drawings also included with the application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inshore fishing within MUL Area - 10028814-RPS-ZZ-XX-DR-N-DR2224 • Fishing effort for all gear types within MUL Area - 10028814-RPS-ZZ-XX-DR-N-DR2225 • Licensed Aquaculture sites and designated shellfish waters within MUL Area - 10028814-RPS-ZZ-XX-DR-N-DR2226 • Fishing spawning grounds within MUL Area - 10028814-RPS-ZZ-XX-DR-N-DR2227 	

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.

The MUL Area is not within or adjacent to any Aquaculture sites.

The MUL area is within and adjacent to designated shellfish waters, fish spawning and nursery grounds and the Malahide classified area for live bivalve mollusc production (Malahide LBM). Drawings illustrating the fisheries areas are submitted as part of the MULA.

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

The MUL Area B within the Irish Sea overlaps several active fishing grounds as well as a number of important spawning and nursery grounds. The largest spatial extent of the proposed SI works is the bathymetric surveys within the Irish Sea MUL Area B. The bathymetric survey is mobile and therefore will be in almost continuous movement across the areas of survey. The magnitude of impact is related to the vessel movements and the underwater noise emissions. The vessel movements are not considered to be significant in terms of the existing vessel activity in the MUL Area. Standard operating procedures will be employed to ensure that the risk of vessel collisions is removed, including the publication of marine notices, use of marker buoys, and broadcasts. Other measures, such as consultations, will also be undertaken.

Geotechnical investigations will be focused on individual locations before moving on to the next location. Therefore the spatial extent of disturbance is limited to the area of investigation. The spatial extent is limited to the immediate environs of the investigation locations and/ or anchoring or spudding sites associated with the JUB. The vessel will be stationary during investigations. Standard operating procedures will be employed to ensure that the risk of vessel collisions is removed, including the publication of marine notices, use of marker buoys, and broadcasts. Other measures, such as consultations, will also be undertaken.

The bathymetric and geotechnical investigations within MUL Area B may result in some disruption to fishing activities where fishing activity will be undertaken where SI works vessel are active. However, the interactions can be managed in accordance with standard vessel practices for the avoidance of collisions at sea.

These impacts, and associated management measures, are described in more detail and assessed in the AIMU (report ref: 10028814-RPS-MO-XX-RP-E-RP0081 - AIMU Report)

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

No formal restrictions are sought. Notices to Mariners will be issued by the contractor for the proposed site investigations requesting that vessels keep a safe distance from the activities, typically 500m.

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 Marine Scientist

Date:

29.08.25

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