

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Iarnród Éireann applied to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (“MARA”) for a maritime usage licence (reference no. MUL240023) under section 117 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (“the MAP Act”) to conduct geotechnical, geophysical, ecological and marine archaeological site investigations to inform design options for the proposed East Coast Railway Infrastructure Protection Projects (ECRIPP) required to defend long sections of the Dublin to Rosslare coastal rail line from coastal erosion and flooding. On 22nd October 2025, MARA determined to grant the licence, subject to conditions.

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 24/09/2025 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 Sites¹, in view of the European Sites’ conservation objectives, subject to the implementation of mitigation measures.

The appropriate assessment report and the appropriate assessment determination 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 Citizens Information Board, Ground Floor, George’s Quay House, 43 Townsend Street, Dublin 2 (www.citizensinformation.ie) or from the Courts website (www.courts.ie).

¹ As defined in the European Communities (Birds and Habitats) Regulations 2011

Dated this 22nd October 2025

The Maritime Area Regulatory Authority