

02/10/2025

Our Ref: 20860/RC/02102025

Maritime Area Regulatory Agency
2nd Floor,
Menapia House,
Drinagh Business Park,
Drinagh,
Wexford,
Y35RF29.

RE: UISCE EIREANN

MARITIME USAGE LICENCE APPLICATION REFERENCE: MUL240048

Dear Ms O'Toole,

We refer to your correspondence dated 04/09/2025 regarding the above-referenced Maritime Usage Licence application. We note the request for additional information under Section 117(3) of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 and have provided a respond to each of the points raised below.

1. Annex IV Exemption

Uisce Eireann can confirm that an application for a derogation under Regulation 54 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended is not required given that Annex IV populations will not suffer loss and that there will be no deterioration to their breeding or resting places, and as such these works are compliant with Regulation 51 and 52 (see findings set out in the submitted Annex IV Species Risk Assessment and Natura Impact Statement).

This approach aligns with the four-stage process set out in the National Parks & Wildlife Service Guidance on the Strict Protection of Certain Animal and Plant Species under the Habitats Directive in Ireland (2021), namely Stage 3 - Examination of Impacts and Satisfactory Alternatives, which states: If a suitable alternative is found which ensures that the local population does not suffer loss and that there is no deterioration to the breeding or resting places, then the works are compliant with Regulation 51 and 52. The inclusion of NPWS (2014) mitigation guidelines in the project design, which primarily involves the employment of an MMO, are to ensure no harbour porpoise or dolphins occur within an agreed mitigation zone during the start of multibeam and single beam surveys. This will result in no significant impacts on cetaceans and marine turtles.

2. Resubmission of GIS Data

The following amendments have been made and are attached:

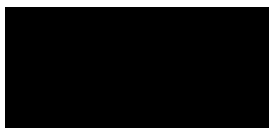
- i. The MUL240048 Shapefile has been updated to include all areas. An attributed polygon is included for each area and have been named sequentially.
- ii. The Overall Proposed MUL map has been updated and named accordingly. An updated series of Proposed MUL maps is provided showing each individual area.
- iii. GIS shapefile attribution have been updated in line with MARA's technical mapping guidance.
- iv. All Proposed MUL Maps and site layout maps have been updated to reflect revisions made to the MUL boundary.



3. Update of documentation

The application form has been revised and updated with the revised areas to reflect the changes made to the maps.

Yours faithfully,



for NICHOLAS O'DWYER LTD.
on behalf of Client (Uisce Éireann)