



Maritime Usage Licensing,
Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA),
2nd Floor, Menapia House,
Drinagh Business Park,
Wexford, Y35RF29.

04th June 2025
Our Ref:651/CMS/20250604

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: MUL230026 - Request for Further Information

On behalf of the Wicklow County Council, and in response to your request for further information for the above application, please find below the responses to each of the items requested.

Request 1: Confirm that this Maritime Usage Licence application is being made under Schedule 7(1) (i.e. the dredging) and Schedule 7(6) (i.e. deposit of the dredge material at the dump site) of the Maritime Area Planning Act (2021, as amended).

Response 1: Yes. It is confirmed that the application is being made under Schedule 7(1) (i.e. the dredging) and Schedule 7(6) (i.e. deposit of the dredge material at the dump site) of the Maritime Area Planning Act (2021, as amended).

Request 2: The application form requests a licence timeframe from 1st January 2025 – 31st December 2032. Please clarify the timeframe requested for the proposed maritime usage.

Response 2: The application is for a period of eight years to replicate the concurrent Dumping at Sea permit application, where eight years is generally the maximum duration permitted. This period is requested to allow Wicklow County Council to maintain the harbour to a suitable standard in the medium term. This is a similar maintenance dredging strategy to that adopted by all other ports in Ireland. The schedule of maintenance dredging undertaken during this eight-year period cannot be known as it is dependent on weather patterns, associated sedimentation patterns and trade vessel requirements. However, based on assessments undertaken, the council has outlined within its application dredge volumes annually per dredging method from 2025 to 2031. These figures indicate the maximum allowance that could be dredged each year and all environmental assessments have been undertaken on this basis. This method replicates all other dredging applications in Ireland in recent years.

The dredging schedule provided is broken into primary and secondary dredging years, with varying dredging methods and volumes. It is requested that such years are interchangeable, with the condition that two primary years cannot be repeated in subsequent years.



Request 3: The application documentation includes a table of Dredge Quantities. Please revise this document to clarify the following:

- a) Reflect the quantities proposed to be dredged annually as per the requested clarification on the licence timeframe requested.*
- b) Table 2-1 Proposed programme of maintenance dredging and disposal activities states that the “plough dredge can move sediments to a location where it can be accessed safely, dredged and removed by TSHD”. Confirm if the quantities of dredge material attributed to Plough in the Dredge Quantities have been counted under TSHD also?*
- c) On the basis of the question above, confirm if the proposed dredge quantity totals (wet tonnes) of 562,500 for TSHD/Mechanical and 90,000 for Plough are correct.*

Response 3:

- a) It is our opinion that no revision is required. The application quantities stated are per method per year. The exact quantity dredged cannot be known and therefore maximum quantities are included.
- b) No. The quantities attributable to the Plough in the Dredging Quantities submitted are in isolation of any other dredging method.
- c) The quantity totals (wet tonnes) of 562,500 for TSHD/Mechanical and 90,000 for Plough are correct over the eight year period being applied for.

Request 4: It is unclear from the application the timing and duration of each dredge campaign. Provide details of the proposed duration of each dredge campaign. How many dredge campaigns are intended to be undertaken each year? Clarify if it is intended to undertake the dredge campaigns on a continuous 24hr basis.

Response 4: As above, the timing and duration of dredging campaigns cannot be known at this stage as it is primarily dependent on weather patterns over any given period of time. However, it is likely that a maximum of one campaign each year will be undertaken and, as per the dredge quantities submitted, the volumes requested fluctuate between primary and secondary years. As the dredging will be minor in nature, operations may be undertaken on a continuous 24hr basis.

Request 5: The application included a dispersion model that addressed water injection dredging. Please submit a dispersion model and assessment report to address the dispersion of the dredge material to account for all of the proposed dredging methods and also accounts dispersion in instances where multiple dredge methods may be undertaken simultaneously.

Response 5: As per our correspondence on the 21st January 2025, a new disposal site is currently being assessed. Should these assessments return positive results, it is likely that WCC will want to update the application to include this new offshore placement site. Should this occur further modelling will be undertaken and submitted. On this basis, we would request an extension of time on this request to allow such modelling to be undertaken concurrently with the new disposal site modelling.



Request 6: Further to the GIS data received by MARA on 10th July 2024 in response to a request for further information, please submit a revised version of the drawing entitled "Licence Map 1" (Drawing No.: FLM-001) to reflect the updated GIS data submitted. Please ensure documentation, diagrams, cartographic maps and GIS data are updated, in accordance with MARA Technical Mapping Guidance Notes for MAC/MUL Applications in the Maritime Area under the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021. Only areas that relate to the Maritime Usage Licence application should be included inside the red line boundaries.

Response 6: Please find an updated Proposed MUL Map (Drawing No.: FLM-001) attached to this submission.

I hope the above provides sufficient clarity to the queries raised. As per item 5 above, an update on the inclusion of a revised offshore disposal site may be submitted. An update will be provided as soon as it is available.

Yours sincerely,



Colm Sheehan
Partner
The Bates Partnership
On behalf of Wicklow County Council

Cc: Leslie Martin, Senior Executive Engineer, Wicklow County Council