

MARA

An tÚdarás Rialála Limistéir Mhuirí
Maritime Area Regulatory Authority

Guidance Note for Applicants applying for a Maritime Usage Licence (MUL)





Tracking Amendments to Guidance Note

Version No.	Date	Amendment	Reason
1	27/09/2023	N/A	
2	23/01/2024	Application Process Map	Updated process
3	31/05/2024	Change of Department Title	Transfer of Functions
4	21/06/2024	Additional Information on Pre-Application Meeting	Additional information included
5	13/09/2024	Additional Information on PDF format received	PDF files need to be visible in full
6	19/08/2025	Combined process, technical and mapping guidance note	Review of Documentation
7	05/11/2025	Wording of paragraph 5.5.6	Include reference to the NPWS derogation licence process



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Disclaimer

This document does not purport to be, and should not be considered, a legal interpretation of the provisions and requirements of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (the MAP Act), as amended.

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the material contained in this document, MARA assumes no responsibility and gives no guarantees, undertakings or warranties concerning the accuracy, completeness or up-to-date nature of the information provided herein and does not accept any liability whatsoever arising from any errors or omissions.

Unless specified otherwise, the terms used in this Guidance have the same meanings as given to them in the MAP Act. In the event of any inconsistency or ambiguity, the MAP Act takes precedence over this Guidance.

Should there be any contradiction between the information or requirements set out in the application form and any clarifying explanation contained in this guidance note, the requirements in the application form should take precedence.

MARA may elect to depart from, or amend, the methodology in this Guidance, as appropriate.

Glossary

Title/Phrase	Acronym	Details
Appropriate Assessment	AA	An Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Part 5 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations (S.I. No. 477 of 2011)
Birds Directive		Directive 2009/147/EC9 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds
Chief Boundary Surveyor	CBS	The individual responsible for overseeing the delimitation and delineation of statutory boundaries, both on the ground and on maps.
Environmental Impact Assessment Directive	EIA Directive	Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment
Environmental Impact Assessment	EIA	An assessment in accordance with Section 171A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended
Exclusive Economic Zone	EEZ	An area of free trade and free movement of peoples comprising the member states of the European Union (EU), in addition to Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.
European Site		A Site as defined in Article 2 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations (S.I. No. 477 of 2011), as amended
General Data Protection Regulation	GDPR	The General Data Protection Regulation is the EU regulation governing the processing of personal data, as given further effect by the Data Protection Act 2018.
Habitats Directive		Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, amended by Corrigendum to Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and any Act or Directive amending or replacing those Directives
High-water Mark	HWM	Normally the HWM as shown on the OSI Historic 1888-1913 25-Inch mapping, or occasionally as shown on the 6-Inch mapping with modern updates defined by the CBS through Maritime Boundary Orders. A digitised representation of the HWM as defined by the

Title/Phrase	Acronym	Details
		CBS is available High Water Mark - National Water Marks - Ungeneralised - 2024 Surveying Open Data Portal, but this is always subject to confirmation from the original source
Maritime Area		The area between the high-water line of ordinary or medium tides and the outer limit of the State's continental shelf
Maritime Area Consent	MAC	A MAC is a right to occupy a part of the maritime area for a specific maritime usage, conditional on securing any other necessary approvals
Maritime Area Planning Act 2021, as amended	MAP Act	The MAP Act provides the legislative framework for regulating the use, development, and protection of the State's maritime area.
Maritime Area Regulatory Authority	MARA	MARA is the national body responsible for overseeing and regulating activities within the maritime area, including the granting of MAC.
Maritime Spatial Planning Directive		Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning as amended by Commission Directive (EU) 2017/845 of 17 May 2017
Marine Strategy Framework Directive		Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy
Maritime Usage Licence	MUL	A licence to carry out certain activities in the maritime area, as listed in Schedule 7 of the MAP Act
National Marine Planning Framework	NMPF	NMPF is the State's overarching plan for managing marine activities and ensuring sustainable use of the maritime area.
Natura Impact Statement	NIS	A Natura Impact Statement as defined in Article 2 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations (S.I. No. 477 of 2011), as amended
Offshore Renewable Energy	ORE	The harnessing of energy from renewable resources like wind and waves located in Ireland's maritime area.
Water Framework Directive		Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy



1. Introduction and Context

1.1. Purpose of the Guidance

This guidance is issued to support an Applicant in preparing a complete application for a Maritime Usage Licence (MUL). MARA strongly recommends that an Applicant should seek a pre-application meeting with MARA prior to submitting a MUL application. A pre-application request form is available on the MARA website.

It is important to note that the content of an application and supporting documentation is for the Applicant to determine in conjunction with their own suitably qualified expert advisers, and, where necessary, following consultation with the relevant responsible government department and agencies.

1.2. MARA Privacy Policy

MARA may require applicants to provide certain personal data in order to carry out its legislative and administrative functions. MARA will treat all personal data that an applicant provides as confidential and will process the applicant's details in accordance with MARA's 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 the applicant provides, how that information will be used and what rights the applicant may exercise in relation to its personal data, is available in this link: [Privacy Policy - MARA - The Maritime Regulator](#).

1.3. Freedom of Information/Access to Information on the Environment

MARA is a public body for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, as amended (the "FOI Act") and is also subject to the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007-2018 (the "AIE Regulations") and MARA may be required to disclose information and records provided by the applicant in response to a request made under the FOI Act and/or the AIE Regulations, subject to applicable exemptions. Where the applicant considers that any information supplied to MARA is commercially sensitive, confidential or otherwise exempt from disclosure under the FOI Act or the AIE Regulations, the applicant must clearly identify such information at the time. Notwithstanding this, the final decision on disclosure rests with the MARA, in accordance with the applicable legislation. The applicant must, upon reasonable request and within a reasonable timeframe, provide all necessary assistance and cooperation to the MARA in connection with any request for information made under the FOI Act and/or AIE Regulations.

1.4. Confidential/Commercially Sensitive Information

Where the applicant considers that any information supplied to MARA is commercially sensitive and/or confidential, the applicant should clearly identify and separate the specific sections of their application containing such information. The applicant should specify the

reasons for its confidentiality/sensitivity with regard to the FOI Act and/or AIE Regulations, as per Section 1.3.

1.5. Legislative Background

The primary regulatory basis for MULs is set out in Part 5 of the MAP Act, as amended. The MAP Act is complimented by the Maritime Area Usage (Licence Fees) Regulations 2023 (S.I. No. 402/2023) which sets out the applicable fees for MUL applications.

2 Maritime Usage Licences (MUL)

2.1. Overview of a MUL

A MUL is a licence to carry out a specific activity in Ireland's maritime area, conditional on securing any other necessary approvals. The MAP Act also includes transitional provisions for existing foreshore authorisations and unauthorised maritime usages. Information on MARA's role in relation to Maritime Usage Licences is provided on MARA's website [Licensing of Maritime Usages - MARA - The Maritime Regulator](#). Should you wish to surrender an existing MUL, please contact MARA directly.

2.2. Maritime Usages which require a MUL

Table 1 below lists the Maritime Usages, as detailed in Schedule 7 of the MAP Act, which require a MUL under Section 110 of the MAP Act.

Table 1: Maritime Usages which require a MUL
1. Dredging (including dredging involving the use of a device to remove any material, whether or not suspended in water, from one part of the seabed to another part of the seabed) other than— (a) dredging carried out to create a new harbour, berth or waterway, or to deepen existing facilities in order to allow access for larger ships, or (b) dredging ancillary to development authorised under the Act of 2000, whether or not it involves the removal of any material from the sea or seabed.
2. Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of scientific discovery or research.
3. Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000.
4. The installation or placement of navigational markers or aids to navigation, or both, not undertaken or authorised by the Commissioners of Irish Lights.
5. The installation of non-permanent platforms, pontoons or slipways.
6. The deposit of any substance or object, either in the sea or on or under the seabed, from— (a) a vehicle, vessel (including a craft capable of travelling on, in or under water, whether or not self-propelled), boat, aircraft or marine structure (other than a pipeline), (b) a container floating in the sea, or (c) a structure on land constructed or adapted wholly or mainly for the purpose of depositing solids in the sea.

Table 1: Maritime Usages which require a MUL

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.
8. The use of explosives not related to development authorised under the Act of 2000 and not requiring authorisation under any other enactment.
9. The maintenance of any cable, pipeline, oil, gas or carbon storage facility structure that does not require an authorisation (whether the authorisation takes the form of the grant of a licence, consent, approval or any other type of authorisation) under any other enactment in order to be undertaken.
10. The harvesting, disturbance or removal of seaweed, whether growing or rooted on the seabed, or deposited in or washed up thereon by the action of any one or more than one of the following: (a) tides; (b) winds; (c) waves.
11. The deposit, construction or removal of any mooring not requiring authorisation under any other enactment.
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. (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.
13. The laying or installation of telecommunications cables or ducting by or between coastal States where such cables or ducting pass through the exclusive economic zone (as construed in accordance with the MAP Act) or the continental shelf but do not land in the State.
14. A maritime usage specified, for the purposes of this paragraph, in regulations made under section 113(2).”

Note that MARA cannot grant a MUL for a Maritime Usage that requires an Environmental impact Assessment (EIA). If an EIA is required, a MAC is generally required for any usage that also requires development permission under the Planning and Development Act 2000. Guidelines on the application criteria and forms for a MAC are available here [Applying for a Maritime Area Consent - MARA - The Maritime Regulator](#)

2.3. Maritime Usages which require another consent

Activities in the Maritime Area may also require authorisations under other legislation in addition to a MAP Act authorisation. A MUL will not remove any such requirement.

2.4. Matters to which MARA must have regard before determining a MUL

Pursuant to Section 121(2) of the MAP Act, before determining a MUL, MARA is obliged to have regard to:

- “(a) the National Marine Planning Framework,*
- (b) the State’s obligations under the following Directives in so far as those obligations are relevant to the undertaking of the Schedule 7 usage concerned:*
 - (i) Habitats Directive;*
 - (ii) Water Framework Directive;*
 - (iii) Marine Strategy Framework Directive;*
 - (iv) Birds Directive;*
 - (v) Environmental Impact Assessment Directive;*
- (c) The provisions of any enactment giving effect to these directives;*
- (d) Any other maritime usage lawfully undertaken in the same part of the maritime area to which the licence relates.”*

MARA has a general duty, under the MAP Act, to have regard to national policy, which includes the National Biodiversity Action Plan.

MARA is required to have regard to the State’s obligations under United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Maritime Jurisdiction Act.

Under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Act of 2015, as amended, MARA is a ‘relevant body’ and is required to perform its functions in so far as practicable in a manner consistent with the governance framework set out in the Act and in furtherance of the National Climate Objective.

MARA must take account of any submissions it receives on an application in response to public consultation.

2.5. Declaration by MARA as to whether or not a MUL is required

An application may be made under Section 115 of the MAP Act for a declaration as to whether or not a MUL is required. This application must be submitted using the appropriate form and be accompanied by the specified fee. MARA will endeavour to make the declaration within 30 days.

2.6. Application Fees

The cost for each type of application is set out in Table 2:



Table 2: Application	Fee
Declaration as to whether or not a licence is required under Section 115(1).	€500
Application for grant of licence under Section 117(1).	€2,000
The application for a licence referred to in section 117(1), is €1,000, together with a refundable amount of €1,000 where screening for appropriate assessment is not required to be carried out under section 117((4)(a)	€1,000 (refund)
Assignment of a licence under Section 124(2).	€500
Material amendment to a licence under Section 125(1).	€1,000
Surrender of a licence under Section 126(1)	€500

2.7. Enquiries to MARA

Any enquiries regarding MUL applications should be directed to licence@mara.gov.ie

It important to note that the content of an application and supporting documentation is for the applicant to determine in conjunction with their own suitably qualified expert advisers and, where necessary.

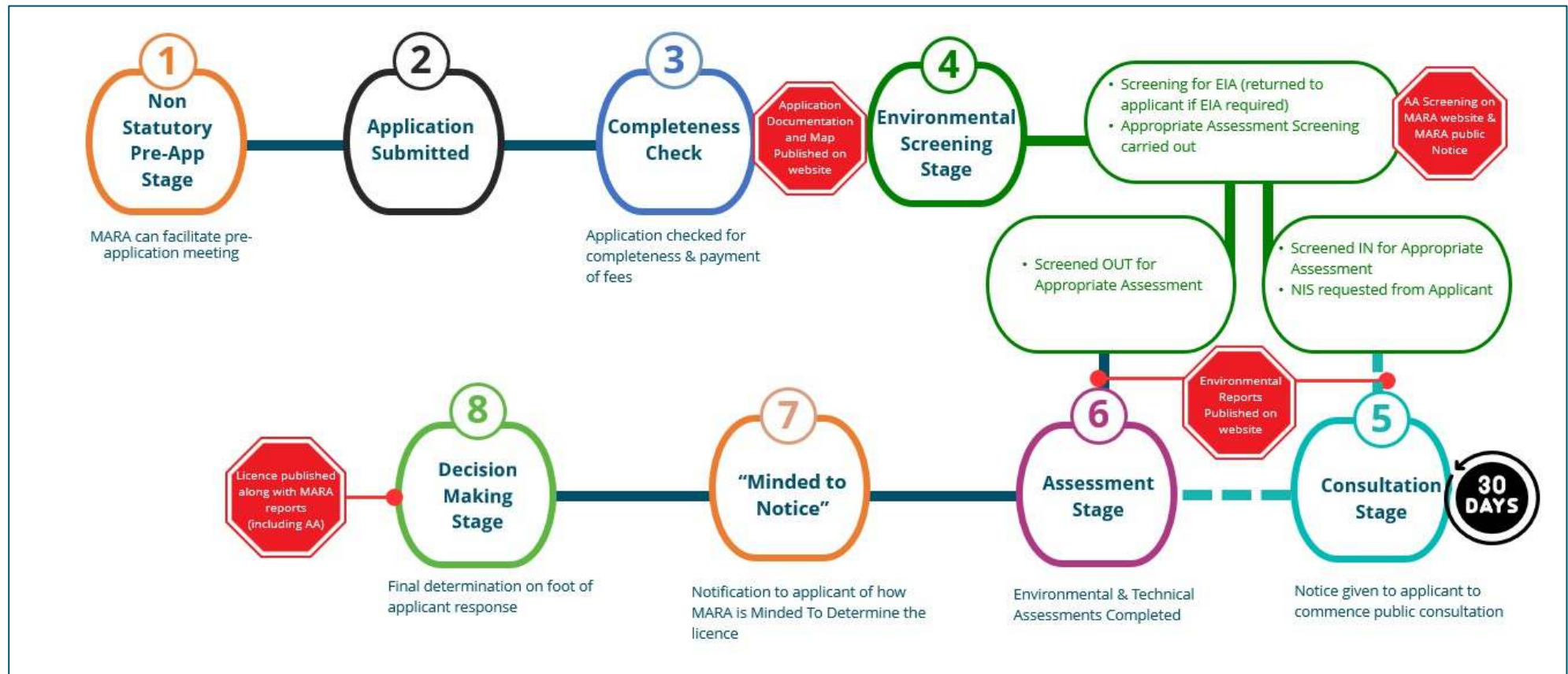


Figure 1 MUL Application Process Overview

3 MUL Application Process Overview

3.1. Application Completeness Check

Upon receipt of complete application documentation and fee, MARA will advise the Applicant of same. MARA will also publish the application documentation and maps on the MARA website.

MARA will then proceed to assess the application in accordance with the requirements of Part 5 of the MAP Act. The application will be prioritised for assessment in accordance with MARA's prioritisation system. Further details in relation to the prioritisation system can be found on the MARA website.

As part of the application assessment, MARA may request additional information under Section 117(3) of the MAP Act.

3.2. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening

MARA screens the proposed Maritime Usage to determine if an EIA is required, having regard to Schedules 5 and 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations S.I. 600 of 2001, as amended.

If the screening determines that an EIA is required, the application will be returned to the Applicant, as a MUL cannot be granted for a Maritime Usage which requires an EIA. MARA will publish its decision to return the application together with a notice stating that a person may question the validity of this decision by way of an application for judicial review.

If an EIA is not required, MARA will proceed to the next step which is AA screening.

3.3. Screening for Appropriate Assessment

MARA is the competent authority for carrying out AA screening of MUL applications, pursuant to Part 5 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. MARA will screen the application to determine whether or not an AA must be carried out.

MARA is aware that some Applicants, when applying for a MUL, may submit a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) with their application. In this instance, MARA will still conduct AA screening of the proposed Maritime Usage and make a determination as to whether AA is required, before progressing to the next step.

3.4. Where screening determines that an Appropriate Assessment is not required for the proposed Maritime Usage

If the screening determines that an AA is not required for proposed Maritime Usage, the Applicant will be advised of this determination, and MARA will complete its technical



assessment of the application. Refer to Section 2.4 above which lists the matters to which MARA must have regard in determining the application.

Where MARA is minded to grant a MUL with conditions, part grant with conditions or refuse an application, MARA must give a notice to the Applicant with the reasons for its decision, and reasons for any conditions if relevant, and allow the Applicant an opportunity to provide supplementary material in relation to the reasons for further consideration before MARA makes a final determination on the MUL application.

After considering any supplementary material provided by the Applicant, MARA will make a final determination on the MUL application. An Applicant will be advised of MARA's decision. A MUL, if granted, will issue as soon as practicable after this notification.

MARA will publish a notice on its website giving information on the MUL granted or refused, together with a notice stating that a person may question the validity of the decision by way of an application for judicial review.

3.5. Where screening determines that an Appropriate Assessment is required for the proposed Maritime Usage

- *Natura Impact Statement (NIS)*

If the screening determines that an AA is required for proposed Maritime Usage, the Applicant will receive a notice in writing requiring them, within a specified period, to prepare and submit an NIS, unless an NIS was submitted with the application. If an NIS has been submitted with the application MARA *may* require it to be revised in light of the AA Screening Determination.

Once MARA is satisfied with the adequacy of the NIS submitted by the Applicant, MARA will give the Applicant a notice in writing requiring them to commence a public consultation period.

- *MARA may request additional information*

During the course of its assessment of a MUL, MARA may require the Applicant to submit additional information on any matter to which the application relates.

Where an Applicant receives a request for additional information, only the specific information requested should be provided.

3.6. Public Consultation

The Applicant will be required to make the public aware, in a manner specified by MARA, that an application for a MUL, which included a NIS, has been made to MARA and that the application and NIS are available for viewing on MARA's website ([Home - MARA - The Maritime Regulator](#)) and at MARA's office. The public will have a minimum of 30 days from



the date of publication of the notice to make a submission to MARA. All submissions received by MARA will be published on its website.

MARA may also, during this period, consult with relevant public authorities which MARA believes might have appropriate observations to make on the application. MARA will also publish any replies, received during this consultation, on its website.

Once the public consultation has concluded, MARA will proceed to determine the outcome of the AA and to make a decision on the application.

Where MARA is minded to grant a MUL with conditions, part grant with conditions or refuse an application, MARA must give a notice to the Applicant with the reasons for its decision, and reasons for any conditions if relevant, and allow the Applicant an opportunity to provide supplementary material in relation to the reasons for further consideration before MARA makes a final determination on the MUL application.

After considering any supplementary material provided by the Applicant, MARA will make a final determination on the MUL application. An Applicant will be advised of MARA's decision. A MUL, if granted, will issue as soon as practicable after this notification.

MARA will publish a notice on its website giving information on the MUL granted or refused, together with a notice stating that a person may question the validity of the decision by way of an application for judicial review.

3.7. MARA application prioritisation criteria

MARA utilises an Application Prioritisation Scoring System to manage and sequence the assessment of MAC and MUL applications. This system ensures that applications of strategic national and European importance such as those related to offshore renewable energy, critical infrastructure, and emergency works are progressed efficiently. Applications are ranked based on their alignment with National and European priorities, Policy and Regulatory priorities, Assessment Status, and Application Age. MARA reviews these rankings monthly to reflect evolving priorities and maintain a fair, transparent process. Applications for Offshore Renewable Energy are prioritised by MARA in accordance with Government policy.

For more details, refer to the official MARA website: [Application Prioritisation Scoring System](#).

4 Before Making a MUL Application

4.1. Pre-application Consultation

MARA strongly recommends that a MUL Applicant should seek a pre-application meeting with MARA. A pre-application meeting request form is available on the MARA website: [Licensing of Maritime Usages - MARA - The Maritime Regulator](#).

Before the meeting the Applicant is advised to provide:

- a brief description of the proposed project,
- a map of the location of the proposed project, and
- an estimated timescale.

MARA recommends that, at the pre-application stage, the applicant should also engage with other relevant authorities regarding other statutory authorisations that may be required in respect of the proposed project.

4.2. Selection of appropriate MUL Application Form

Table 3 below indicates the relevant application form which the Applicant should use for different sections of the MAP Act. The forms are available at [Licensing of Maritime Usages - MARA - The Maritime Regulator](#).

Table 3: Relevant Application Form Purpose	Application Form to be used
Application for a declaration from MARA under Section 115 of MAP Act	Form DMUL
Application form to be used for a pre-application meeting	Form PMUL
Application for a MUL for a Section 117 (Schedule 7 Activity) 1. Dredging (including dredging involving the use of a device to remove any material, whether or not suspended in water, from one part of the seabed to another part of the seabed) other than— (a) dredging carried out to create a new harbour, berth or waterway, or to deepen existing facilities in order to allow access for larger ships, or (b) dredging ancillary to development authorised under the Act of 2000, whether or not it involves the removal of any material from the sea or seabed. 2. Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of scientific discovery or research. 3. Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000. 4. The installation or placement of navigational markers or aids to navigation, or both, not undertaken or authorised by the Commissioners	Form MUL1

Table 3: Relevant Application Form Purpose	Application Form to be used
of Irish Lights. 5. The installation of non-permanent platforms, pontoons or slipways. 6. The deposit of any substance or object, either in the sea or on or under the seabed, from— (a) a vehicle, vessel (including a craft capable of travelling on, in or under water, whether or not self-propelled), boat, aircraft or marine structure (other than a pipeline), (b) a container floating in the sea, or (c) a structure on land constructed or adapted wholly or mainly for the purpose of depositing solids in the sea. 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. 8. The use of explosives not related to development authorised under the Act of 2000 and not requiring authorisation under any other enactment. 9. The maintenance of any cable, pipeline, oil, gas or carbon storage facility structure that does not require an authorisation (whether the authorisation takes the form of the grant of a licence, consent, approval or any other type of authorisation) under any other enactment in order to be undertaken. 10. The harvesting, disturbance or removal of seaweed, whether growing or rooted on the seabed, or deposited in or washed up thereon by the action of any one or more than one of the following: (a) tides; (b) winds; (c) waves. 11. The deposit, construction or removal of any mooring not requiring authorisation under any other enactment. 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. (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. 13. The laying or installation of telecommunications cables or ducting by or between coastal States where such cables or ducting pass through the exclusive economic zone (as construed in accordance with the MAP Act) or	



Table 3: Relevant Application Form Purpose	Application Form to be used
the continental shelf but do not land in the State. 14. A maritime usage specified, for the purposes of this paragraph, in regulations made under section 113(2).	
Application under Section 129 of the MAP Act to amend an existing foreshore authorisation or continue to occupy that part of the maritime area after the expiration of the authorisation	Form MUL1
Application for a MUL under Section 130 of the MAP Act for an existing unauthorised maritime usage	Form MUL1
Application for a material amendment of a MUL under Section 125 of the MAP Act	Form MUL2
Joint Application for Assignment of a MUL under Section 124 of the MAP Act	Form MUL3

4.3. EIA Screening

As explained in Section 2.2 above, MARA cannot issue a MUL for a Maritime Usage for which an EIA is required. If an EIA is required, a MAC is generally required for any usage that also requires development permission under the Planning and Development Act 2000.

Before making a MUL application, the Applicant is strongly advised to consider the requirements of Schedules 5 and 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations S.I. 600 of 2001, in relation to the proposed Maritime Usage being proposed and the potential requirement for an EIA.

Guidance on EIA screening is provided in 'OPR Practice Note 02 Environmental Impact Assessment Screening' [Publications - The Office of the Planning Regulator](#), and *Environmental Impact Assessment Of Projects Guidance On Screening* (Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU) the European Union publications office [Environmental impact assessment of projects - Publications Office of the EU](#).

5 Maritime Usage Licence (MUL) General Application - Form MUL1

5.1. General Instructions

Before completing the application form the Applicant must read the declaration and consent at the end of the application form.

5.1.1 Application Fee

An application fee of EUR €2,000 applies for each MUL application. Should the Maritime Usage Licensing application screen out for Appropriate Assessment, a refund of EUR €1,000 applies.



The application fee must be paid by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) Bank. MARA Bank Details are provided upon request by email to licence@mara.gov.ie.

Proof of the application fee payment/confirmation of funds transfer must be provided with the application documentation.

Where requested by the applicant, MARA has discretion to waive a fee under the above Regulations. Fees may only be waived where the applicant is a non-profit entity being a legal person organised for a collective, public or social benefit and does not operate as a business whose aim is to generate a profit for its owners.

5.1.2 Completion of the Application

- **Complete application documentation and fee** must be submitted to licence@mara.gov.ie
- Before submitting an application form, the Applicant should ensure that all textboxes are expanded and readable in print preview.
- All relevant information must be provided in the application form and attachments..
- The form must be completed electronically, with information typed in the boxes provided. The space will expand as required.
- All sections of the application form must be answered. No section of the form should be left blank. If the subject matter is not applicable, 'not applicable' must be written in full in the space provided.
- All maps, GIS shapefiles, drawings and documents should be individually numbered. Documents providing information supporting the responses to the subsections of the application form should be labelled with the subsection number as well as the document name. For example, information to support the response to the query in subsection 2.X should be labelled Attachment 2.X as well as the document name.
- All maps, drawings and GIS shape files must comply with MARA's Technical Guidance on map and drawing requirements as specified in [MARA Technical Guidance Notes for MAC/MUL Applications in the Maritime Area](#).

5.2. Part 1 - Activity in Schedule 7 and relevant section of the MAP Act

5.2.1 Question 1.1 Part 1 Activity in Schedule 7, for which this MUL application is made
On the table in Part 1.1 of the form, the Applicant should indicate the Schedule 7 activity, for which the MUL application is being made.

Only the activity directly related to the purpose of the Maritime Usage should be ticked.

For example:

If the overall purpose of the Maritime Usage is marine environmental surveys for the purposes of a site investigation - tick only Box 3, '*Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000*'.



If the overall purpose of the Maritime Usage is dredging, and marine environmental surveys are to be carried out as part of the dredging project, then items 1, 3 and 6 should be ticked.

5.2.2 Question 1.2 Relevant section of the MAP Act

The Applicant must indicate the section of the MAP Act under which the application is being made.

An application under Section 117 is for a new Schedule 7 maritime usage. To amend an existing foreshore authorisation or continue to occupy that part of the maritime area after the expiration of the authorisation, an application must be made under Section 129. An application must be made under Section 130 for a MUL for an existing unauthorised maritime usage.

5.2.3 Question 1.3 MUL application made under Section 129

Question 1.3 must be filled in by the Applicant when making an application to amend an existing foreshore authorisation or continue to occupy that part of the maritime area after the expiration of the authorisation. Information on the existing authorisation including a description of the existing authorised use must be provided. A copy of the authorisation and the foreshore consent map must also be provided. The reason for the transition to a MUL must be provided.

The copy of the authorisation and the foreshore consent map should be included as attachment 1.3.

5.2.4 Question 1.4 MUL application made under Section 130

Question 1.4 must be filled in by the Applicant when making an application for a MUL for an existing unauthorised maritime usage. Information on the existing unauthorised use including a description of the use, its location and commencement date must be provided.

5.3. Part 2 - Applicant Details and Preliminary Information

5.3.1 Question 2.1 Applicant name and address

Provide the information specified in Question 2.1. Use the space provided in the Application Form to answer questions.

Additional information can be included in Attachment 2.1.

Note that a change in Applicant Name prior to MUL issue will require submission of a *Certificate of Incorporation of Change of Name*.

If the Applicant is a non-profit entity which is a registered charity, the Registered Charity Number must be provided. The Applicant name and details must be as currently listed in the Register of Charitable Organisations.

5.3.2 Question 2.2 Authorised Contact Person for MUL Application

The Authorised Contact Person for the Application will be the person that MARA will contact in relation to any aspect of the application. The Authorised Contact Person can be the Applicant or the Applicant's agent.

5.3.3 Question 2.3 Application for Statutory Declaration

If MARA provided a statutory declaration as to whether the Applicant's proposed maritime usage falls within the scope of MARA's licensing regime, the reference number for this declaration should be provided.

5.3.4 Question 2.4 Existing Foreshore Authorisation, or current application

The Applicant should provide the reference number and details of any existing foreshore authorisation which they made hold, and which they do not wish to transition, or of a current application for a Foreshore, in the footprint, or otherwise in the vicinity of the proposed Maritime Usage area.

The Applicant should provide the reference number and details of any existing foreshore authorisation which they made hold, and which they wish to surrender.

Additional information can be included in Attachment 2.4.

5.3.5 Question 2.5 Other existing authorisations or consents in the footprint of or otherwise in the vicinity of the proposed Maritime Usage

The Applicant should provide the reference number, a brief description and the status (e.g. application made, authorisation/consent granted) of any other authorisations or consents which they hold in the footprint, or otherwise in the vicinity of the proposed Maritime Usage area.

Additional information can be included in Attachment 2.5.

5.4. Part 3 - Details of Maritime Usage

5.4.1 Drawing, Mapping and GIS shapefile requirements

MARA's requirements in relation to drawing and mapping formats are specified in [MARA Technical Guidance Notes for MAC/MUL Applications in the Maritime Area](#).

If the drawings and/or maps and GIS shape files in the application do not comply with MARA's mapping requirements

5.4.2 Question 3.1 Description of proposed Maritime Usage

The Applicant should provide a brief description of the proposed Maritime Usage. The description should include the types of equipment proposed to be used, volumes of material to be removed or deposited (e.g. in the case of dredging or seaweed harvesting), etc, where relevant.

Additional information can be provided in Attachment 3.1.

5.4.3 Question 3.2 Description of purpose of the proposed Maritime Usage

The Applicant should describe the purpose of the proposed Maritime Usage, with reference to the classes of usage in Schedule 7 of the MAP Act. Only the classes directly related to the purpose of the Maritime Usage should be described.

For example, if the purpose of the Maritime Usage is marine environmental surveys, the different types of proposed marine environmental surveys should be described. If the

purpose of the Maritime Usage is dredging, and marine environmental surveys are to be carried out as part of the dredging project, then the activities to be described are the marine environmental surveys, the dredging activity and the deposition of dredged material on the seabed.

5.4.4 Question 3.3 Overall MUL duration

The Applicant should indicate the overall MUL duration requested and indicate the duration of any individual activities included in the overall proposed Maritime Usage. The Applicant should give reasons for the proposed duration and indicate any seasonal, vessel or other schedule constraints.

Additional information can be provided in Attachment 3.3.

5.4.5 Question 3.4 Area of the proposed Maritime Usage

The area of the proposed Maritime Usage should be given in m², ha or km², as appropriate, on the map(s)/drawing(s) attached which show the area. If the application relates to more than one area, each area should be labelled on the accompanying maps/drawings and its area provided. E.g. Area 1 - 4ha, Area 2 - 6ha etc.

The Applicant should attach a map, titled 'Proposed MUL Map', clearly showing the proposed MUL area. The maps should be numbered sequentially if more than one map is required. The MUL area should be outlined red and labelled "Area A, XXha", XX being the area in hectares (or m² or km² if more appropriate). If more than one area is shown they should be labelled similarly and in alphabetic order. For geo-referencing purposes, labelled coordinate intersects should be shown in all four corners of the map.

GIS Shapefiles should be attached which outlines of the proposed MUL area(s).

The map(s) should preferably be at A3 size at an appropriate and suitable scale to accurately describe the area. Where possible, the map should include at least one townland or place name to enable the location to be reasonably determined by a person viewing the map. The map should be prepared by a suitably qualified person and should have standard details such as name and qualification of the person who prepared it, drawing number, revision, date, projection and MARA file reference if available.

The map(s)/drawing(s) should be included in Attachment 3.4.

Note that all maps, drawings and GIS shape files must comply with MARA's technical mapping guidance.

5.4.6 Question 3.5 Location of proposed Maritime Usage

The Applicant should describe the location of proposed Maritime Usage and provide the distance in kilometres and the direction of the main body of the proposed Maritime Usage area from the shore at its closest point, or from a prominent coastal feature.



If the Maritime Usage is adjacent to a coast, the relevant county/counties should be included in the description of the location. Where the proposed Maritime Usage refers to cable laying or a proposed cable route, the route should be described.

The applicant should attach map(s)/drawing(s) showing the location of the proposed Maritime Usage, at an appropriate scale, and give the map/drawing reference number(s) and name(s). Where the proposed Maritime Usage refers to cable laying or a proposed cable route, the route should be indicated on map(s)/drawing(s). The map/drawing number(s) and name(s) of the attached map/drawing should also be listed in the space provided.

The map(s)/drawing(s) should be included in Attachment 3.5.

All maps, drawings and GIS shape files must comply with MARA's technical mapping guidance.

5.4.7 Question 3.6 Is any part of the Maritime Area within the proposed site in private ownership

The Applicant should state if any part of the Maritime Area within the proposed site is in private ownership.

If yes, the Applicant should indicate on a drawing/map the area concerned and provide a letter confirming that the Applicant has obtained all necessary consents from the relevant owner(s).

The Applicant should state if they are aware of any actual or claimed legal rights or interests held by third parties in the proposed site.

If yes, the Applicant should indicate on a drawing/map the area concerned and provide a letter confirming that the Applicant has obtained all necessary consents from the relevant owner(s) of such legal rights or interests.

The drawing(s)/map(s) and letter(s) referred to above should be included in Attachment 3.6.

Note that all maps, drawings and GIS shape files must comply with MARA's technical mapping guidance.

5.4.8 Question 3.7 Planning permission or other authorisation(s) related to the Maritime Usage

The Applicant should state if the proposed Usage requires planning permission and/or other authorisation(s), or is it ancillary to or part of a proposed development which requires planning permission and/or other authorisation(s)?

If yes, the Applicant should state the status of the planning and/or other authorisation(s).

If applicable, the Applicant should provide a brief description of the proposed development, to which the proposed Maritime Usage is ancillary.

The Applicant should provide the planning and/or other authorisation file reference number(s) and link(s) to the website(s) where information on the planning application and/or other authorisation application(s) and/or permission/ authorisation(s) can be obtained.

5.5 Part 4 Marine Planning and Environmental Considerations

5.5.1 National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF)

Before determining a MUL, MARA is required to have regard to the objectives and policies of the NMPF. The NMPF is available at this link [national-marine-planning-framework](#).

5.5.2 Question 4.1 NMPF Objectives

The Applicant must provide sufficient information to demonstrate that the proposed Maritime Usage is consistent with the overarching environmental, economic and social objectives and policies and the sector-specific objectives and policies of the NMPF.

The information demonstrating consistency with the objectives of the NMPF should be provided as Attachment 4.1.

5.5.3 Question 4.2 Designated Marine Area Plan

If a Designated Marine Area Plan has been published for the area in which the proposed Maritime Usage is located, the applicant should provide information to MARA detailing how the proposed maritime usage is consistent with the Plan.

Additional information can be provided as attachment 4.2.

5.5.4 Habitats and Birds Directives

Guidance on the Appropriate Assessment process includes [Managing Natura 2000 sites The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC](#) published by the European Commission, Brussels 2018.

Before determining a MUL, MARA is required to have regard to the Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC, the EU Habitats Directive and Birds Directive, respectively, and the associated implementing national legislation, the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011.

MARA is obliged to screen for appropriate assessment and, if necessary, undertake an appropriate assessment when processing MUL applications, in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.

5.5.5 Question 4.3 Information for Appropriate Assessment screening

The Applicant should state if the proposed Maritime Usage is directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site. If not, MARA is the competent authority to determine if an Appropriate Assessment is required if the implications of the proposed Maritime Usage alone, or in combination with other plans or projects, for any relevant European site, in view of the site's conservation objectives.

If the proposed Maritime Usage is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site, the Applicant should provide a Supporting Information to Support Appropriate Assessment Screening (SISAA) report. The report should include all supporting information necessary for the MARA to make an Appropriate Assessment screening determination. The Appropriate Assessment screening report must be prepared by a suitably qualified person.

If MARA determines that Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is required, the Applicant will be requested to prepare a Natura Impact Statement (NIS). The NIS must be prepared by a suitably qualified person, and a summary of the person's qualifications and experience should be included in the NIS.

If the Applicant has prepared an NIS in anticipation of being requested to do so, they may submit it at initial application stage. However, the Applicant should be aware that they will be subsequently notified of the MARA's determination in relation to Screening for AA and they may be required to review/amend their NIS on foot of the MARA's Screening for AA Determination.

The SISAA report should be provided as Attachment 4.3.1, and a NIS, if submitted, as Attachment 4.3.2.

5.5.6 Question 4.4 Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species

Under Article 12 of the Habitats Directive, Annex IV species are protected wherever they occur. A risk assessment of the effects of the Maritime Usage on the Annex IV species must be provided in accordance with the most up to date national guidance. The Annex IV Risk Assessment report must be prepared by a suitably qualified person, and a summary of the person's qualifications and experience must be included in the report.

The Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species report should be provided as Attachment 4.4.

Where a derogation is required from NPWS, details of the application for a derogation, or where a derogation has been issued, the derogation number, should be provided on the application form. Further details of the derogation process can be found on the NPWS website.

5.5.7 Water Framework Directive

Before determining a MUL, MARA is required to have regard to the Directive 2000/60/EC, the EU Water Framework Directive, and the associated implementing national legislation, the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 and further implemented by the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Water) Regulations, 2009.

The Water Framework Directive requires all member states to protect and improve water quality in inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater so that good ecological status is achieved by 2027.

“Transitional waters’ are bodies of surface water in the vicinity of river mouths which are partly saline in character as a result of their proximity to coastal waters but which are substantially influenced by freshwater flows.”

“Coastal water’ means surface water on the landward side of a line, every point of which is at a distance of one nautical mile on the seaward side from the nearest point of the baseline from which the breadth of territorial waters is measured, extending where appropriate up to the outer limit of transitional waters.”

Water bodies in moderate, poor, or bad ecological status require mitigation and restoration to achieve the good status objective. Additional measures apply to protected areas under the Directive. Protected areas which may be relevant to the proposed Maritime Usage, include:

- Areas designated for the protection of economically significant aquatic species under the Habitats Directive,
- Bodies of water designated as recreational waters, including areas designated as bathing waters under the revised Bathing Water Directive (2206/7/EC)
- Nutrient-sensitive areas, including areas designated as vulnerable zones under Directive 91/676/EEC and areas designated as sensitive areas under Directive 91/271/EEC
- Areas designated for the protection of habitats or species where the maintenance or improvement of the status of water is an important factor in their protection, including relevant Natura 2000 sites designated under the Habitats Directive or Birds Directive.

5.5.8 Question 4.5 Water Framework Directive

Sufficient information addressing the consistency of the proposed Maritime Usage with the objectives of the Water Framework Directive must be provided.

The Applicant must identify the transitional and coastal waterbodies within the Zone of Influence (area over which the proposed usage will have a water quality impact) of the proposed Maritime Usage and provide information on the current hydromorphological, ecological and chemical status of each. The Applicant must also identify any protected areas within the Zone of Influence of the proposed Maritime Usage. The Applicant must provide details on the effect, if any, of the proposed Maritime Usage on the prospect of the waterbody achieving good ecological and chemical status. The Applicant must provide details on the effect, if any, of the proposed Maritime Usage the effect on any relevant protected area.

The information must be provided by a suitably qualified person, and a summary of the person’s qualifications and experience must be included.

Information on the consistency of the proposed Maritime Usage with the objectives of the Water Framework Directive should be provided as Attachment 4.5.

5.5.9 Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Ireland's Marine Strategy under the Directive

Before determining a MUL, MARA is required to have regard to Directive 2008/56/EC as amended by Directive (EU) 2017/845, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, and the associated implementing national legislation, European Communities (Marine Strategy Framework) Regulations, 2011.

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive establishes a framework within which Member States must take the measures necessary to achieve or maintain good environmental status in the marine environment by the year 2020 at the latest. The objective of the Directive is to protect and prevent deterioration of the marine environment and, where practical, restore marine ecosystems. Member States must prevent and reduce inputs in the marine environment, with a view to phasing out pollution, to ensure that there are no significant impacts on or risks to marine biodiversity, marine ecosystems, human health or legitimate uses of the sea.

The Directive applies to waters, the seabed and subsoil on the seaward side of the baseline from which the extent of territorial waters is measured extending to the outmost reach of the area where a Member State has and/or exercises jurisdictional rights.

There are eleven categories by which good environmental status is measured and monitored. These are:

- Biological diversity
- Non-indigenous species
- Population of commercial fish / shellfish
- Elements of marine food webs
- Eutrophication
- Sea floor integrity
- Alteration of hydrographical conditions
- Concentration of contaminations
- Contaminants in fish / seafood for human consumption
- Marine Litter
- Introduction of energy including underwater noise.

Ireland has developed targets and indicators with respect to measuring and monitoring these 11 descriptors, to ensure to ensure good environmental status. These are set out in Ireland's Marine Strategy Framework Directive Marine Strategy, available at this link: [Ireland's Marine Strategy Framework Directive Marine Strategy Part 1: Assessment \(Article 8\), Determination of Good Environmental Status \(Article 9\) and Environmental Targets \(Article 10\)](#).

5.5.10 Question 4.6 Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Ireland's Marine Strategy under the Directive

Sufficient information addressing the consistency of the proposed Maritime Usage with the objectives of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, and Ireland's Marine Strategy under the Directive, must be provided.

For the Zone of Influence (area over which the proposed Maritime Usage will have an ecological or other relevant impact) of the proposed Maritime Usage, the Applicant must provide information on the current status of the 11 descriptors with reference to the relevant indicators and targets set out in Ireland's Marine Strategy Framework Directive Marine Strategy. The Applicant must indicate the effect, if any, of the proposed Maritime Usage on achievement of the relevant targets for the 11 descriptors.

The information must be provided by a suitably qualified person, and a summary of the person's qualifications and experience must be included.

The information addressing the consistency of the proposed Maritime Usage with the objectives of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Ireland's Marine Strategy should be provided as Attachment 4.6.

5.5.11 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive

Before determining a MUL, MARA is required to have regard to Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, the EIA Directive, and the associated implementing national legislation, Section 117(5) of the MAP Act and Part X of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (also implemented in other legislation).

MARA cannot grant a MUL for a Maritime Usage which requires an EIA. Once a complete application has been received, MARA will screen the proposed Maritime Usage to determine if an EIA is required, having regard to Schedules 5 and 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations S.I. 600 of 2001, as amended.

5.5.12 Question 4.7 Information for EIA

The Applicant must indicate, with reference to Parts 1 and 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, S.I. 600 of 2001, as amended, whether the proposed maritime usage is of a class listed in either part, where no quantity, area or other limit is specified, or equals or exceeds a specified quantity, area or other limit. If the proposed usage is of a class listed in Part 2 but does not equal or exceed the specified quantity, area or other limit, the Applicant should provide the information for EIA screening specified in Schedule 7A of the Planning and Development Regulations S.I. 600 of 2001, as amended.

"1. A description of the proposed development, including in particular—

(a) a description of the physical characteristics of the whole proposed development and, where relevant, of demolition works, and

(b) a description of the location of the proposed development, with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected.

2. A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the proposed development.

3. A description of any likely significant effects, to the extent of the information available on such effects, of the proposed development on the environment resulting from—

(a) the expected residues and emissions and the production of waste, where relevant, and

(b) the use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity.

4. The compilation of the information at paragraphs 1 to 3 shall take into account, where relevant, the criteria set out in Schedule 7.”

The information specified in Schedule 7A should be provided as Attachment 4.7.

5.5.13 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Maritime Jurisdiction Act.

Before determining a MUL, MARA is required to have regard to the obligations of the Irish State under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Maritime Jurisdiction Act, 2021.

MARA may grant a MUL for the occupation of any part of the maritime area which comprises the territorial sea, the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf. The Irish State exercises different degrees of sovereignty and jurisdiction in these different maritime areas.

Under the Convention all other states have a right of innocent passage in respect of Ireland's internal waters and territorial sea, and enjoy the freedoms of navigation, and of laying and maintenance of submarine cables and pipelines within the Irish State's exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf. In exercising its rights and duties within the territorial seas, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf, the Irish State is required to have due regard to the freedoms and rights of all other states (Note: Schedule 7(13) of the MAP Act makes the installation of cables a licensable activity).

Under the Convention all states have a general obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment. States must take all measures necessary to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment from any source and ensure that activities under their jurisdiction are conducted so as not to cause damage or pollution.

5.5.14 Question 4.8 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Maritime Jurisdiction Act

The Applicant should provide sufficient information addressing the consistency of the proposed Maritime Usage with the Irish State's obligations under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Maritime Jurisdiction Act.

Additional information can be provided as attachment 4.8.

5.5.15 Climate Action and Low Carbon Act of 2015, as amended

MARA is a 'relevant body' under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Act of 2015, as amended. MARA is required to perform its functions in so far as practicable in a manner consistent with the governance framework set out in the Act and in furtherance of the National Climate Objective.

The National Climate Objective is defined in Section 3 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Act of 2015, as amended:

“National climate objective

3. (1) The State shall, so as to reduce the extent of further global warming, pursue and achieve, by no later than the end of the year 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy (in this Act referred to as the ‘national climate objective’).”

5.5.16 Question 4.9 Climate Action and Low Carbon Act of 2015, as amended

The Applicant should provide sufficient information addressing the consistency of the proposed Maritime Usage with the furtherance of the National Climate Objective.

Additional information can be provided as attachment 4.9.

5.5.17 Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030

Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan for the period 2023-2030 has been published.

Under MARA's general duty under the MAP Act to have regard to national policy, in its determinations of MUL applications, MARA is required to have regard to National Biodiversity Action Plan to the extent relevant. The 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan is available at this link [4th-national-biodiversity-action-plan](#).

5.5.18 Question 4.10 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030

The Applicant should provide sufficient information addressing the consistency of the proposed Maritime Usage with the objectives and policies of the 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030. If mitigation measures are required, to ensure that the proposed Maritime Usage is consistent the objectives of the National Biodiversity Action Plan, the mitigations measures should be described.

Additional information can be provided as attachment 4.10.

5.5.19 Question 4.11 Need for the Maritime Usage

The Applicant should provide any additional relevant information with regard to the overall purpose of the proposed maritime usage, with reference to, e.g. National or European strategic or policy objectives and national targets, and strategic research objectives.

Additional information can be provided as attachment 4.11.



6 Maritime Usage Licence (MUL) Application for Material Amendment - Form MUL2

6.1. General Instructions

For general instruction for making an application under Section 125 of the MAP Act for the Material Amendment of a MUL refer to Section 5.1 above.

An application fee of EUR €1,000 applies to an application for the Material Amendment of a MUL.

The application fee must be paid by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA).

6.2. Part 1 - Applicant Details

The Applicant should refer to Sections 5.3.1 and 5.3.2 of this guidance for instructions on completing Part 1 of the form, Applicant Details.

6.3. Part 2 Outline of Proposed Material Amendment(s)

6.3.1 Question 2.1 Reference number of existing MUL

The Applicant should provide the reference number for the MUL to which Material Amendment is sought.

6.3.2 Question 2.2 Material Amendment

The Applicant should provide an outline of the Marine Usage authorised in the existing MUL, including reference to the classes of usage in Schedule 7, and the proposed Material Amendment(s) to it.

6.3.3 Question 2.3 purpose of the proposed amendment(s)

Provide the information specified in Question 2.3.

6.3.4 Question 2.4 amendment(s) to the Duration of the MUL

The Applicant should indicate if an amendment(s) to the overall duration of the MUL and/or to the duration of any individual activities included in the overall activity, is proposed. The Applicant should give reasons for the proposed amendment(s) of the duration(s) and indicate any seasonal, vessel or other schedule constraints.

6.3.5 Question 2.5 amendments to the area of the Maritime Usage

The Applicant should refer to Section 5.4.5 of this guidance for instructions on completing Question 2.5 to provide information on the proposed amendments to the area of the Maritime Usage.

6.3.6 Question 2.6 amendments to the location of the Maritime Usage

The Applicant should refer to Section 5.4.6 of this guidance for instructions on completing Question 2.6 to provide information on the proposed amendments to the location of the Maritime Usage.



6.3.7 Question 2.7 amendments to any part of the Licensed Area in private ownership

The Applicant should refer to Section 5.4.7 of this guidance for instructions on completing Question 2.7 to provide information on proposed amendments to any part of licensed area in private ownership.

6.3.8 Question 2.8 Existing Foreshore Authorisations

The Applicant should provide the reference number and details of any existing foreshore authorisation which they made hold, and which they do not wish to transition, or current application for a Foreshore Licence made to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, in the footprint, or otherwise in the vicinity of the proposed Maritime Usage area.

Additional information can be included in Attachment 2.8.

6.3.9 Question 2.9 Other authorisations or consents

The Applicant should refer to Section 5.4.8 of this guidance for instructions on completing Question 2.9 to provide information on other authorisations or consents required for the amendment(s) to the existing Maritime Usage.

6.4. Part 3 Marine Planning and Environmental Considerations

The Applicant should refer to Section 5.5 of this guidance for instructions on addressing Part 3 of the application form, Marine Planning and Environmental Considerations.

7 Maritime Usage Licence (MUL) Joint Application for Assignment - Form MUL3

7.1 General Instructions

For general instruction for making an application for the Assignment of a MUL under Section 124 of the MAP Act refer to Section 5.1 above.

An application for assignment of a Maritime Usage Licence must be made jointly by the Holder of the MUL (*proposed assignor*) and the new Holder of the MUL (*proposed assignee*).

An application fee of EUR €500 applies to an application for the Assignment of a MUL.

The application fee must be paid by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA).

7.1.1 Part 1 - Holder of the MUL (the proposed Assignor) Details

7.1.2 Question 1.1 Name and address of the Holder of the MUL (the proposed Assignor)

Provide the information on the Holder of the MUL (the proposed Assignor) specified in Question 1.1. Use the space provided in the Application Form to answer questions.

Additional information can be included in Attachment 1.1.



Note that a change in the name of the MUL Holder prior to MUL Assignment will require submission of a *Certificate of Incorporation of Change of Name*.

If the Holder of the MUL is a non-profit entity which is a registered charity, the Registered Charity Number must be provided. The Holder name and details must be as currently listed in the Register of Charitable Organisations.

7.1.3 Question 2.2 Authorised Contact Person for the MUL Holder

The Authorised Contact Person will be the person that MARA will contact in relation to any aspect of the MUL Holder's part in the Assignment of the MUL. The Authorised Contact Person can be the Holder of the MUL or the Holder's agent.

7.2. Part 2 - Proposed Assignee Details

7.2.1 Question 2.1 Name and address of the new Holder of the MUL (proposed Assignee)

Provide the information on the legal or natural person that would become the Holder of the MUL (the proposed Assignee) specified in Question 2.1. Use the space provided in the Application Form to answer questions.

Additional information can be included in Attachment 1.1.

Note that a change in Assignee Name prior to MUL Assignment will require submission of a *Certificate of Incorporation of Change of Name*.

If the Assignee of the MUL is a non-profit entity which is a registered charity, the Registered Charity Number must be provided. The Assignee name and details must be as currently listed in the Register of Charitable Organisations.

7.2.2 Question 2.2 Authorised Contact Person for the MUL proposed Assignee

The Authorised Contact Person will be the person that MARA will contact in relation to any aspect of the proposed Assignee's part in the Assignment of the MUL. The Authorised Contact Person can be the Assignee or the Assignee's agent.

7.3. Part 3 Details of the MUL to be Assigned

7.3.1 General instruction

The details on the MUL to be Assigned to be provided in Part 3 of the application form should be consistent with the determined MUL.

7.3.2 Question 3.1. Reference number of the MUL to be assigned

Provide the reference number of the MUL to be assigned.

7.3.3 Question 3.2 Maritime Usage(s) under Schedule 7 of the MUL

Indicate the Maritime Usage(s) under Schedule 7 of the MAP Act as permitted in the MUL - refer to the Particulars Schedule of the MUL.

7.3.4 Question 3.3 Details of the Licensed Area to be assigned

Provide the details of the Licensed Area to be assigned - this must be as identified in Appendix 1 of the MUL.



7.3.5 Question 3.4 Term of the MUL

The Applicant should state the term of the MUL to be Assigned, with reference to the Particulars Schedule of the MUL.

7.3.6 Question 3.5 Commencement Date of the Permitted Maritime Usage

Provide details of the notice of commencement of permitted maritime usage as per Condition 4.1(ii) of the MUL.

8 Declaration

The declaration in each MUL application must be signed by the legal or natural person that is to be the entity that would be the MUL Holder and be recorded as same on the MUL. In the case of a company, the declaration must be signed by a company director or the Company Secretary as evidenced by current CRO details.

For a joint application for the Assignment of a MUL, both the Holder of the MUL (the Assignor) and the Assignee must sign the declaration. If the Assignor and/or Assignee is a company, the declaration must be signed by a company director or the Company Secretary as evidenced by current CRO details.

Note: When submitting an application form, the applicant agrees that the details provided (with personal contact details redacted) shall be published on the MARA website and also that the full information provided, including contact details, are to be processed and retained by MARA and may be shared with appropriate bodies when considering the application.

9 Application Checklist

All relevant information must be provided in the application form and attachments.

The Applicant should use the check list at the back of the application form to ensure that the application is complete and that all the required information has been provided.



Appendices



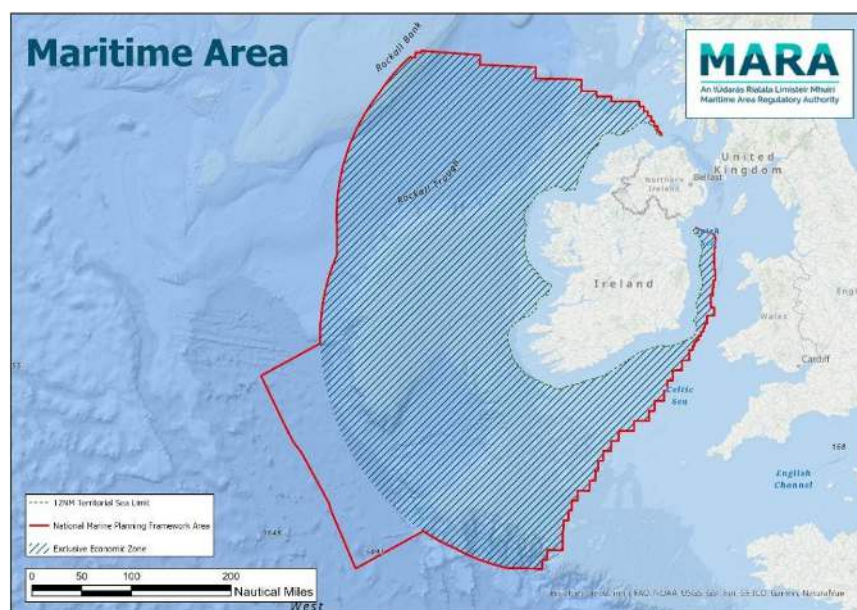
Appendix A: MARA Technical Mapping Guidance Notes for MAC/MUL Applications in the Maritime Area under the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (MAPA)

This guidance is issued to support an applicant in preparing a valid MAC/MUL application for a Maritime Area Consent (MAC) or Maritime Usage Licence (MUL).

It is important to note that the content of the application and supporting documentation is for the applicant to determine in conjunction with their own suitably qualified expert advisers and, where necessary, following consultation with the relevant responsible government department and agencies.

Maritime Area

1. The limit of the Maritime Area at its landward extent is defined by the High Water line of ordinary or medium tides which is the High Water Mark (HWM) as defined by the Chief Boundary Surveyor (CBS). This is normally the HWM as shown on the OSI Historic 1888-1913 25 Inch mapping, or occasionally as shown on the 6 Inch mapping with modern updates defined by the CBS through Maritime Boundary Orders.
2. Where the MAC/MUL area abuts the land, the boundary of the MAC/MUL area must coincide with and map exactly to the High Water Mark as defined by the Chief Boundary Surveyor.
 - For MULs, including marine environmental surveys, it is only necessary to map the area of proposed maritime usage and therefore if the proposed area does not abut the land it is not necessary to map to the High Water Mark.
3. A digitised representation of the HWM as defined by the CBS is available at <https://arcg.is/1GqHWr2> but this is always subject to confirmation from the original source.
4. The limit of the Maritime Area to seaward is the outer limit of the Continental Shelf and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). This is recognised as the National Marine Planning Framework Area and is available to download, as a zipped ESRI Shapefile, from MARA's Data Download section: <https://www.maritimeregulator.ie/knowledge-centre/data-downloads/>





Mapping Deliverables to MARA

Submit the following with all Maritime Area Consent (MAC) and Maritime Usage Licence (MUL) applications.

1. Proposed MAC/MUL Map

1.1 Map Layout

1.1.1. MAC/MUL Map to be titled “Proposed MAC/MUL Map”:

- Number MAC/MUL map sequentially if more than one map is required

1.1.2. MAC/MUL Map Area Label:

- Outline the proposed MAC/MUL area in red;
- Label “Area A, XXha”, XX being the area in m², hectares or km² as appropriate using the appropriate unit of measurement;
- Label Multiple areas alphabetically, e.g. Area A, XXha, Area B, XXha etc.;
- For proposed MAC/MUL areas in the Outer Maritime Area (beyond 3NM) display MAC/MUL boundary centroids on the map in the appropriate coordinate system, see Section 2.2.

Area Plots	
Size	Decimal & Rounding
<1000 metre squared	Use m ² with no decimal place
> 0.1 hectare $\approx$ 1 hectare	Use m ² rounded 2 decimal place
> 1 hectare $\approx$ 100 hectare	Use ha rounded 2 decimal place
> 100 hectares	Use km ² rounded 2 decimal place

Unit of measurement		
Metre	Hectare	Km ²
1000	0.1	0.001
10000	1	0.01
100000	10	0.1
	100	1
	1000	10
	10000	100
	100000	1000

1.1.3. Area calculations (i.e. geometry calculation) to be calculated using appropriate coordinate system:

- Nearshore (up to 3NM from the HWM) use ITM or ETRS 1989 UTM Zone 28N, 29N or 30N as relevant;
- Outer Maritime Area (beyond 3NM) use ETRS 1989 UTM Zone 28N, 29N, or 30N as relevant or ETRS 1989 LAEA if across multiple UTM Zones.



- 1.1.4. Labelled coordinate intersects to be shown in all four corners of the map for geo-referencing purposes:
 - ITM grid coordinate intersects to be Easting and Northing in Metres (whole numbers);
 - ETRS 1989 grid coordinate intersects to be in the relevant coordinate system Easting and Northing in Metres (whole numbers).
- 1.1.5. MAC/MUL map projection to be displayed on applicant map.
- 1.1.6. MAC/MUL map to be at A3 size; at an appropriate and suitable scale to accurately describe the area:
 - If, for example, a cable corridor or similar study area corridor, is to be included in the MAC/MUL area, include a landing map with the digital High Water Mark clearly displayed on an inset map or second map.
- 1.1.7. MAC/MUL map to include at least one townland or place name to enable the location to be reasonably determined by a person viewing the map.
- 1.1.8. MAC/MUL map to be prepared by a suitably qualified person and have standard details; name, qualification of the person who prepared it, drawing number, revision, date, projection and MARA file reference if available.

1.2. Projection for Mapping

- 1.2.1. For applications entirely within the nearshore (up to 3NM from the HWM) the map(s) to be submitted in Irish Transvers Mercator (ITM) or ETRS 1989 UTM Zone 28N, 29N or 30N as relevant.
- 1.2.2. For applications in the Outer Maritime Area (beyond 3NM) the map(s) to be submitted in ETRS 1989 UTM Zone 28N, 29N, 30N as relevant or ETRS 1989 LAEA if across multiple UTM Zones.
- 1.2.3. For applications in the Outer Maritime Area (beyond 3NM) that cover multiple UTM Zones, the map(s) to be submitted in ETRS 1989 LAEA.

1.3. Background Mapping

- 1.3.1. For applications entirely within the nearshore applicants can use an OSI map where the HWM shown is confirmed by the applicant to be the same as the HWM as defined by the CBS or where the HWM is not contiguous, adjacent or relevant to MAC area.
- 1.3.2. For all applications in the Outer Maritime Area the appropriate navigation chart should be used as the background mapping.
- 1.3.3. Where a navigation chart or similar is used as the background mapping due to the scale of the map the boundary abutting the HWM is not clearly defined the following note should be clearly displayed on the MAC/MUL map “Where the MAC/MUL area abuts the land, the boundary of the MAC/MUL area should coincide with and follow exactly the High Water Mark as defined by the Chief Boundary Surveyor”.
- 1.3.4. The coordinates of the vertices of the MAC/MUL area should not be shown on the MAC/MUL map.
- 1.3.5. The proposed structures, activity or development should not be shown on the MAC/MUL map.



2 GIS Data

2.1 Shapefile Format

2.1.1. Submit MAC/MUL Area polygon in Shapefile format:

- MAC/MULs are for areas only i.e. MAC/MUL areas for linear or point features must be buffered to create a polygon to match the Maritime Usages footprint.
- For MAC/MUL applications with multiple areas a single shapefile with an attributed polygon for each area to be submitted, named sequentially, A, B, C, D etc.

2.2 Coordinate Reference System

- 2.1.1. For applications entirely within the Nearshore (up to 3NM from the HWM) the coordinate reference system Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM) (EPSG:2157) or ETRS 1989 (EPSG:4258).
- 2.1.2. For applications in the Outer Maritime Area (beyond 3NM) the coordinate reference system ETRS 1989 (EPSG:4258) or ETRS 1989 UTM Zone 28N (EPSG:25828), 29N (EPSG:25829) or 30N (EPSG:25830) as relevant.
- 2.1.3. For applications in the Outer Maritime Area (beyond 3NM) that cover multiple UTM Zones the coordinate reference system ETRS 1989 LAEA (EPSG:3035).

2.3 Shapefile File Reference Name

- 2.1.4. Filename: File Reference Number as assigned by MARA i.e. MAC/MUL#####.

2.4 Shapefile Schema

- 2.1.5. Polygon Shapefile Schema to be attributed:

MARA MAC/MUL Shapefile Schema			
Field Name	Alias	Data Type	Length
OBJECTID	OBJECTID	Object ID	
FileRecordNumber	File_R_N	Text	255
SiteReference	Site_Ref	Text	255
AreaXX (Unit of Measurement)	AreaXX	Double	
Projection	Projection	Text	255
Shape (Default)	Shape	Geometry	
Shape_Length (Default)	Shape_Length	Double	
Shape_Area (Default)	Shape_Area	Double	

- AreaXX - Insert Unit of Measurement used in calculating area, e.g. m², ha, km²;
- Projection - Insert Projection used in calculating area, e.g. ITM, ETRS 1989 UTM Zone.

2.5 Submission Format

2.1.6. The MAC/MUL area(s) shapefile and associated files (.shp, .shx, .dbf, .prj) to be submitted in a single zip file named:

- **GIS_File_MAC#####.zip**
- **GIS_File_MUL#####.zip**
 - MAC##### / MUL##### being the File Reference Number as assigned by MARA.

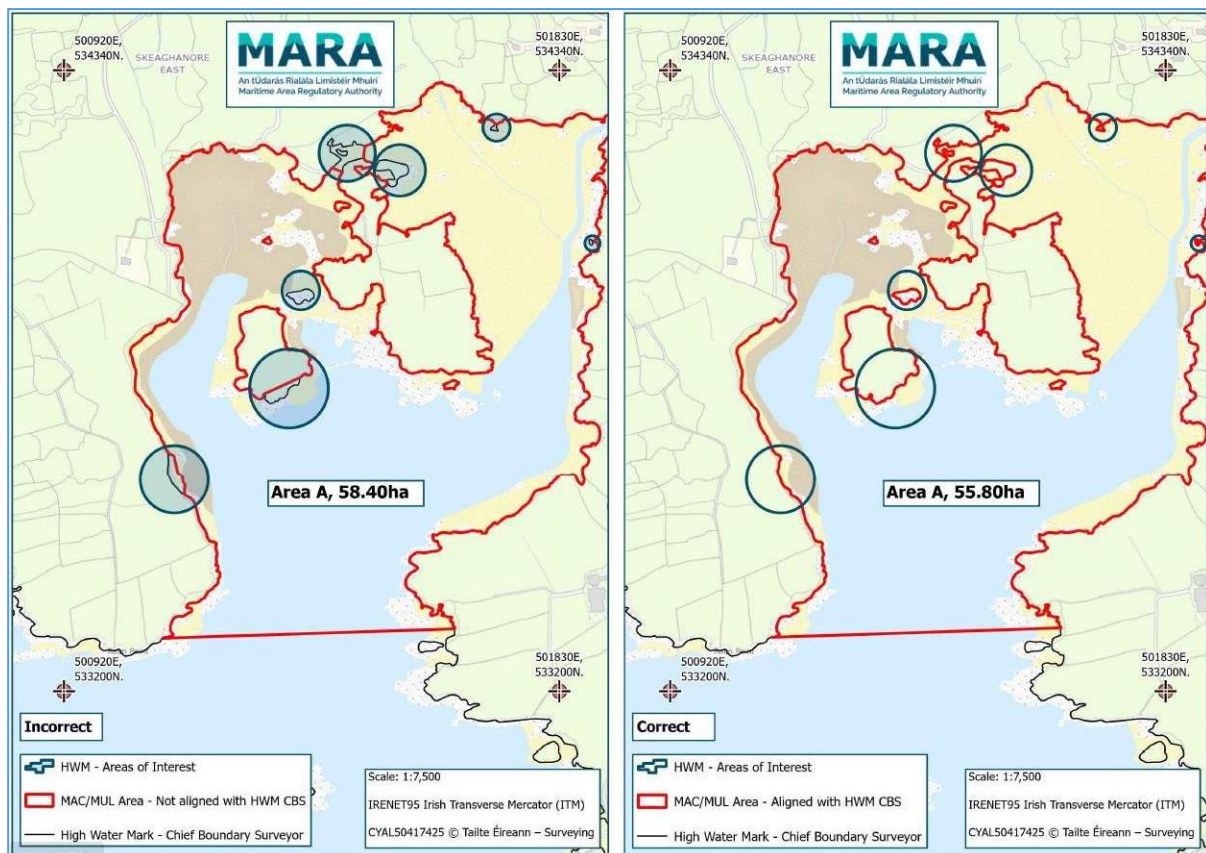
3 MARA Reference Maps

• MARA High Water Mark - Example Maps

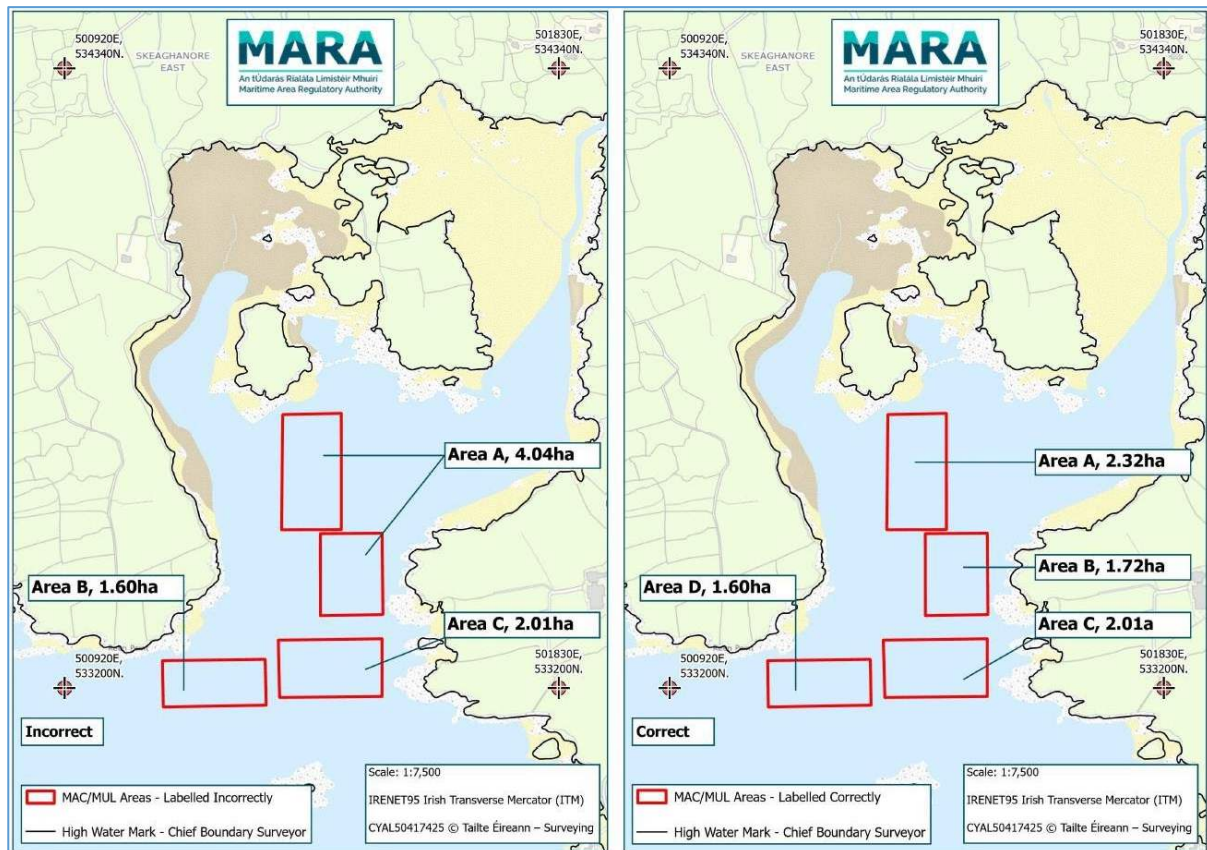
- MARA Map to the left highlights where the High Water Mark as defined by the Chief Boundary Surveyor has not been used correctly in defining the proposed MAC/MUL area, i.e.

“MAC/MUL area abuts the land, the boundary of the MAC/MUL area should coincide with and follow exactly the High Water Mark as defined by the Chief Boundary Surveyor”

- MARA Map to the right highlights where the High Water Mark as defined by the Chief Boundary Surveyor has been used correctly in defining the proposed MAC/MUL area.



- **MARA Multiple Areas - Example Maps**
 - MARA Map to the left highlights where proposed MAC/MUL areas are labelled incorrectly;
 - MARA Map to the right highlights where proposed MAC/MUL areas are labelled correctly.



4 Mapping Queries to MARA

Submit all queries to the MAC/MUL Case Worker at the following email address referencing your MARA File Reference Number (i.e. MAC##### / MUL#####):

- mac@mara.gov.ie
- licence@mara.gov.ie