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Menapia House
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Drinagh
Wexford
Y35 RF29

By email only licence@mara.gov.ie

30/04/2026

Re: Response to Request for Additional Information: Section 117(3) of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021

Maritime Usage Licence Application Reference: MUL250003

Dear Paula,

Please find below the responses to the additional information requested on the 21/04/2026:

Question: With reference to the strict protection of species listed under Annex IV of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), confirm if you are required, or not, to apply for a derogation under Regulation 54 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended.

Answer: NPWS have confirmed that with reference to the strict protection of species listed in Annex IV of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), we confirm that it would be prudent to apply for a derogation licence under Regulation 54 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended

Question: Please provide approximate diameter measurements for the proposed vibrocore cores, along with estimated maximum depths for these vibrocores.

Answer: Vibrocore sampling is planned to use a 100mm diameter core sampler and is expected to reach maximum depths of 3-4m, given the shallow nature of the overlying soft sediments.

Question: Please detail why a five-year term has been requested for the licence, and if consideration was given to a shorter term more appropriate to the scale and proposed duration of the investigations

Answer: A typical period of 5 years was requested to cover all eventualities, including correlation of the following: availability of finance from the council, appropriate time of year to minimise disturbance to harbour users and to align with best environmental practice, availability of sub-contractors and vessels to undertake marine works and procurement and tendering processes running to their conclusion with any associated



procedural delays. We would be content to accept a shorter two-year period, given the relatively small scale and proposed duration of the site investigation works.

Question: Are you aware of details or consents from other state bodies relating to a “Native Oyster Project” in Dun Laoghaire Harbour in 2025.

Answer: DLRCC are aware that a single string of floating oyster baskets are installed adjacent to (just north of) the Marina in Dún Laoghaire Harbour. DLRCC have engaged with the project promoters over the past 12 months and received confirmation from DAFM that Aquaculture licencing does not apply. The site is subject to an existing Foreshore Lease which DLRCC hold (Reference FS004490)). We understand that BIM are advising on the project and in addition to BIM’s advisory role, we understand that the oysters were transferred from Tralee Bay and deployed in Dun Laoghaire Harbour with the permission of the Marine Institute. DLRCC are, as always happy to engage further with MARA on the matter should this be required.

I hope that the above information is satisfactory.

Kind Regards

Peter Buckley
DLRCC: Harbour Section

