



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

09<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
Our Ref:651/CMS/20260109

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 dated the 12<sup>th</sup> August 2025, please find below the responses to each of the items requested.

*Request 1: Clarify the estimated maximum length of dredging campaign will be 9 weeks.*

Response 1: The maximum duration of dredging cannot be categorically stated for the reasons previously outlined but a period of nine weeks is not anticipated to be exceeded. All environmental assessments have been undertaken for the highest production rates expected and therefore shortest duration, as this corresponds with a precautionary approach. Campaigns with longer durations with have lower production rates and therefore lower associated potential impacts.

*Request 2: Clarify the dredging method(s) that will be employed for the purposes of this licence application.*

Response 2: The dredging methods sought, and duely considered in the environmental assessments undertaken, are:

- Trailing Suction Hopper Dredger;
- Mechanical Dredging;
- Water Injection Dredging; and
- Plough Dredging.

*Request 3: Further to the response to request for further information received on 9th July 2025, please confirm the proposed location of the offshore site where the dredge spoil from Wicklow Harbour may be deposited.*

Response 3: The proposed location of the proposed offshore disposal site is as follows:

Offshore Dumping Area	WGS84 Coordinates		Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM)	
	Latitude	Longitude	Eastings (m)	Northings (m)
New Proposed Disposal at Sea Site	+53° 3.8142'	-6° 0.0594'	733979.10	703306.20
	+53° 3.8125'	-5° 59.5195'	734582.25	703319.86
	+53° 3.4147'	-5° 59.5327'	734588.11	702582.02
	+53° 3.4168'	-5° 59.8312'	734254.66	702576.50
	+53° 3.5993'	-5° 59.8297'	734246.85	702914.97
	+53° 3.6047'	-6° 0.0599'	733989.43	702917.84



*Request 4: In the instance that an alternative deposit site has been chosen, provide the following:*

- i) General information relating to the reasons for proposing an alternative location for the deposit of the dredge spoil, including distance from Wicklow Harbour.*
- ii) A map showing the proposed offshore deposit location. Please refer to MARA Technical Mapping Guidance to ensure all documentation, diagrams, cartographic maps and GIS data files are updated accordingly. Only areas that relate to the Maritime Usage Licence application should be included inside the red line boundaries.*
- iii) A sediment dispersion model to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed deposit of dredge material on the receiving environment.*
- iv) An assessment of the benthic habitat at the proposed new deposit site, including a discussion on the potential impacts of dredge spoil on the benthic habitat at the proposed site.*

Response 4: WCC responds to each of the requests as follows:

- i. Historically, Wicklow Port previously used a disposal at sea site only 1.5km from the harbour. However, in the process of developing the required applications (permit/licence), a benthic survey of this site found it to be a diverse and rich community, with high benthic value. Due to this, Wicklow County Council took the decision for environmental reasons to propose the identified disposal at sea site off the Wicklow coast, 8.5km North of the Harbour.  
The proposed site is a new area off the coast of Wicklow, 8.5km NNE of Wicklow Harbour. After significant site identification processes, environmental assessments and consultation, a Disposal Site Suitability Assessment has been undertaken to justify its proposed use and suitability. This is included as an attachment to this response.
- ii. GIS data files and a chart outlining the position of the proposed offshore disposal site have been included as an attachment to this response.
- iii. A dispersion model to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed disposal site of dredge material on the receiving environment has been included as an attachment to this response. This document has been used to inform the required environmental assessments.
- iv. A benthic survey of the proposed site has been undertaken and has been included as an attachment to this response. Furthermore, due to the change in the proposed offshore disposal site, the Assessment of Impact on the Maritime Usage Report, Annex IV Species Risk Assessment and Supporting Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment have also been updated and included as attachments to this response.

Due to the time passed since the submission of the application, WCC would also like to update the duration of MUL sought. On this basis, revised dredging and disposal quantities have been included as attachments to this response, with updated years applied. As previously stated, WCC seeks a license that provides a degree of flexibility on when operations can occur. The application contains proposed tonnages annually over the eight-year permit, consisting of primary years, once every three years, and secondary intervening years. It is proposed that primary years can be moved in their respective sequence (i.e. brought forward or pushed out a year), on the condition that primary campaigns will not occur in sequential years. It is hoped that MARA can facilitate this flexibility as it has been requested from the EPA as part of the Dumping at Sea permit application process, and has been granted for other harbours. Such a feature would allow the Port to potentially extend periods between the primary campaigns and not have to dredge at a set frequency due to license restrictions.



It is recognised that a new public notice will be required to advertise the significant change in the application and this can be actioned upon your instruction.

I hope the above provides sufficient clarity to the queries raised.

Yours sincerely



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

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

Attachments:

1. Disposal Site Suitability Assessment
2. GIS shape files of the Proposed Disposal Site
3. Chart of the Proposed Disposal Site
4. Proposed Disposal Site Dispersion Modelling Assessment
5. Benthic Survey of Disposal Site
6. Supporting Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment (Revision)
7. Annex IV Species Risk Assessment (Revision)
8. Assessment of Impact on the Maritime Usage Report (Revision)
9. Dredging and Disposal Quantities (Revised)