

Maritime Usage Licensing and Planning Advisory Directorate			
Maritime Usage Licence Assessment Report			
To:	John Evans, Director	From:	Ross Fitzgerald, Marine Analyst
Date:	11/03/2026	Maritime Usage Licence Application No:	MUL240026
Applicant:	Uisce Éireann, Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot St, Dublin 1, D01 NP86		
Licence application received:	28/11/2024		
Types of maritime usage activities in accordance with Schedule 7 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021:	3. Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000		
Location of proposed maritime usages:	Off the Southeast coast of Ireland between Dungarvan, Co. Waterford and Greystones, Co. Wicklow		
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening	EIA not required (EIA Screening Form dated 07/10/2025)		
1st request for additional information (RAI) issued:	28/08/2025	Response to 1 st RAI received	26/09/2025
2nd RAI issued:	04/09/2025	Response to 2 nd RAI received	02/10/2025
3rd RAI issued:	16/10/2025	Response to 3 rd RAI received	07/11/2025
Notice requesting Natura Impact Statement (NIS) issued:	30/10/2025	NIS received:	27/11/2025
Public body consultation:	14/10/2025 – 13/11/2025	Observations from public bodies received:	Five
Public consultation:	27/01/2026 – 02/03/2026	Submissions from the public received:	One

Contents

1.	Background	3
2.	Location and Description of the Proposed Maritime Usage	3
2.1	Brief description of the site characteristics.....	3
3.	Assessment	6
3.1	National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF).....	6
3.2	Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2014/52/EU) (EIA Directive).....	7
3.3	National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP)	7
3.4	Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended.....	7
3.5	Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC).....	7
3.6	Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC).....	9
3.7	Annex IV species	10
3.8	Appropriate Assessment.....	11
3.8.1	Assessment of Likely/Potential Impacts on European Sites	11
3.8.1.1	Visual and above water noise disturbance and displacement.....	11
3.8.1.2	Underwater noise disturbance and displacement	12
3.8.2	Assessment of In-combination effects	13
3.8.3	Mitigation measures	16
3.8.3.1	Birds	16
3.8.4	Residual effects.....	16
3.8.5	Assessment of Transboundary effects	16
3.8.6	Appropriate assessment conclusion	16
4.	Consideration of other maritime users.....	17
5.	Site visit.....	17
6.	Public body consultation	18
7.	Public consultation	21
8.	Recommendation.....	23
9.	Approval and AA Determination	23
	Appendix 1.....	24

1. Background

Uisce Éireann (the applicant) has applied to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) for a Maritime Usage Licence (MUL) to undertake marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation, falling under Schedule 7(3) of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (the MAP Act). The proposed maritime usage is required to support the design and consenting of wastewater infrastructure.

2. Location and Description of the Proposed Maritime Usage

Uisce Éireann wish to conduct a strategic modelling study of water currents and bathymetry along the Southeast coast of Ireland between Dungarvan, Co. Waterford and Greystones, Co. Wicklow (see Figure 1). The proposed maritime usage requires the deployment of up to nine static and 14 vessel mounted Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers (ADCPs) at separate locations within the proposed maritime usage area. Ancillary instruments, to collect salinity and temperature data, may also be deployed at set intervals at each vessel mounted ADCP location. Bathymetric (multibeam and single beam) surveys and water sampling will also be carried out (see Table 1).

The applicant has applied for a licence duration of five years to allow for weather interruptions and potential delays in procurement of survey equipment.

2.1 Brief description of the site characteristics

The proposed maritime usage spans a large geographical area from Dungarvan in Co. Waterford to Greystones, Co. Wicklow, overlapping several Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). INFOMAR survey mapping indicates that a mosaic of different sediment types are recorded for this area. These include shallow sublittoral sand, shallow sublittoral mixed sediment, shallow sublittoral coarse sediment, shallow sublittoral mud and shallow sublittoral rock and biogenic reef.

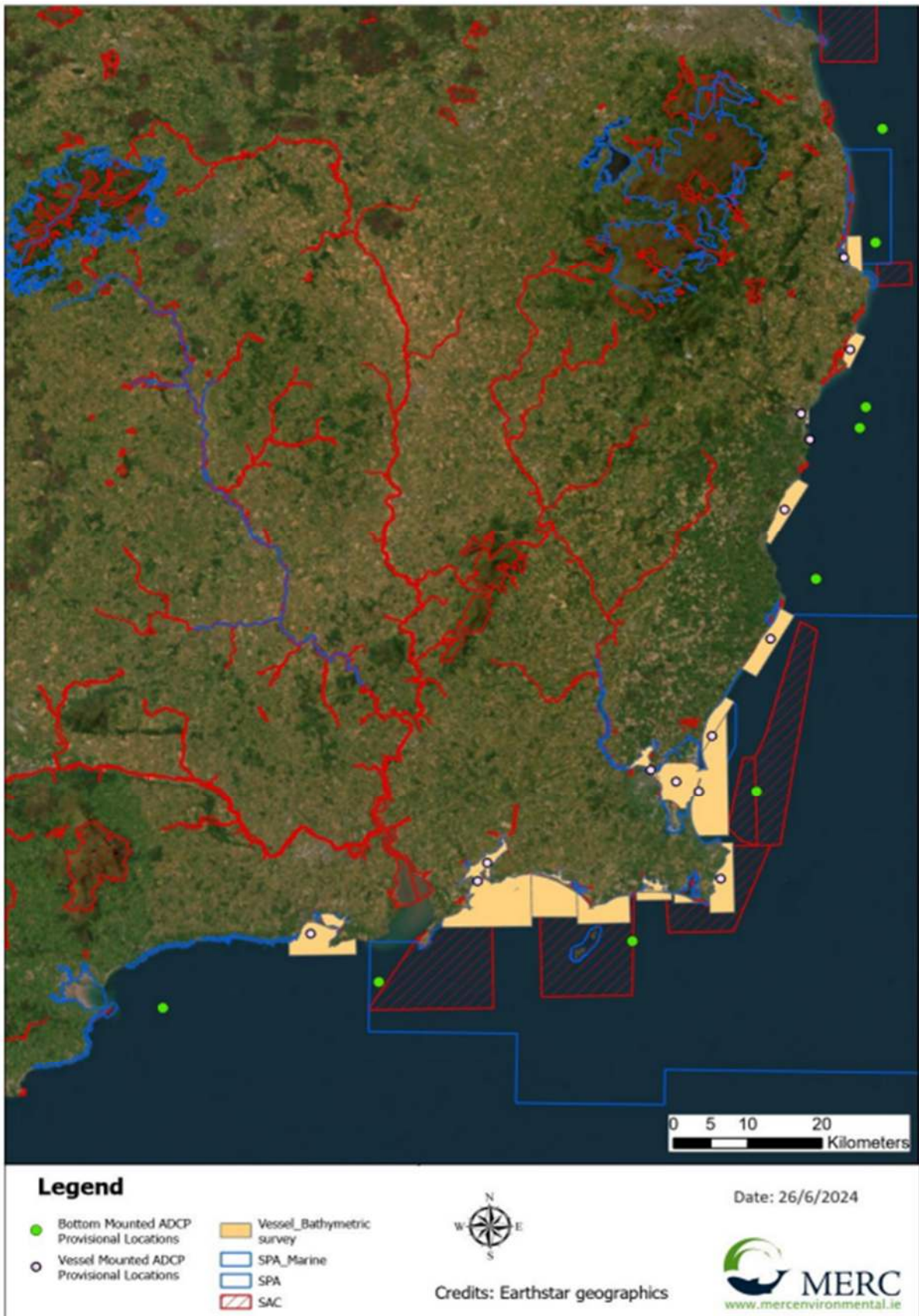


Figure 1 – Overview of the proposed maritime usage area (10 discrete areas shown in yellow).

Table 1 – Summary of activities under the proposed maritime usage

Proposed maritime usage activities ¹	Estimated timeframe for activities & maximum quantity (where relevant)
<p>Geophysical surveys (to be carried out in the areas highlighted in Figure 1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surveying of bathymetry may require a combination of methods including Multibeam and single beam echosounders 	<p>Approximately 700 days. To take place at any time during the licence period</p>
<p>Metocean device deployment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP) surveys will be conducted using a Nortek Acoustic Wave and Current profiler (600 Khz or 1 Mhz unit, or equivalent) deployed on seabed mounted frames. ADCP frames will be equipped with a recovery line attached to a small rigid buoy that is held in place by an acoustic release, which releases the buoy once triggered by a deck unit Vessel mounted ADCP (VMADCP) surveys will be conducted using a 600kHz Teledyne RD Instruments Workhorse monitor ADCP (or similar) to an aluminium pole that will be mounted to the side of a vessel. Measurements will be taken periodically at set stations as part of a transect which is repeatedly transversed over a tidal cycle, or taken continuously as the vessel remains on station over a tidal cycle Concurrently with the VMADCP surveys, Conductivity, Temperature and Depth (CTD) and Dissolved Oxygen (DO) surveys will take place from the vessel. This will involve deploying a Sonde at set intervals for the duration of the tidal survey at each VMADCP location 	<p>9 no. deployed (see Figure 1) for 32 days</p> <p>14 no. deployed (see Figure 1) for 13 hours of surveying on one spring and one neap tide</p> <p>Periodically over 13 hours of surveying on one spring and one neap tide</p>
<p>Water quality sampling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be undertaken concurrently with the VMADCP surveys. Samples will be taken from the surface layer of the water column via bucket and telescopic arm, and collected and stored for subsequent analyses 	<p>Periodically over 13 hours of surveying on one spring and one neap tide</p>

¹ The application supporting documents also included some additional activities not within the maritime area as defined in the Maritime Area Planning Act, 2021 (LiDAR and GPS Rover surveys), or subsequently excluded from the application by the applicant in accordance with MARA Circular MP01/2025 (installation of 2no. tide gauges). These are not considered as part of this MUL application.

3. Assessment

3.1 National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF)

In accordance with the MAP Act, MARA must have regard to the Marine Planning Policy Statement (MPPS) which outlines the government's overarching vision, policies, and principles for managing the country's maritime area. MARA must have regard to the NMPF, which sets the framework for implementing the forward planning component of our marine planning system as set out in the MPPS. The applicant has, as part of the Assessment of Impacts of the Maritime Usage report submitted in support of this application, identified and confirmed the relevant marine planning policies which apply to the proposed maritime usage.

A number of environmental policies detailed in the NMPF are covered below in other sections of this report, including, but not limited to, the National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP), the Birds and Habitat Directives, the Water Framework Directive (WFD), and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

Regarding the Key Sectoral Policies of the NMPF, the proposed maritime usage is consistent with Chapter 24 – Wastewater Treatment and Disposal and the policies within it. The objectives of this policy are to bring and maintain public water and wastewater services to acceptable international benchmarks and to support communities and sustainable development in coastal areas through the provision of resilient water services. The proposed maritime usage is directly linked to providing improved water quality and ensuring that economic and social development is not impeded. The proposed maritime usage therefore demonstrates compliance and consistency with sectoral policies for wastewater treatment and disposal.

The NMPF includes a policy on heritage assets (Heritage Assets Policy 1). The policy supports the conservation of the historic environment and heritage assets both along the coast and in the underwater environment. The aim of the policy is to ensure that proposals in the marine environment do not have a detrimental impact on marine and coastal heritage assets. The applicant carried out a review of historic wrecks in support of the application. The applicant has stated that the proposed project will have limited interaction with the seabed for the deployment of ADCPs none of which will be deployed within 100 meters of any wreck site. It is recommended to include a condition in the licence to ensure that the proposed maritime usage, if permitted, will be carried out in accordance with those plans and particulars submitted with the application. In addition, it is recommended that a condition be included in the licence, requiring the holder to consult with the Underwater Archaeology Unit of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage prior to the commencement of the proposed maritime usage and to comply with their requirements in relation to underwater cultural heritage.

3.2 Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2014/52/EU) (EIA Directive)

MARA carried out a screening for EIA of the proposed maritime usage having considered Schedules 5 and 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001. An EIA Screening Form was issued by MARA on 07/10/2025 and it was concluded that the proposed maritime usage does not fall within the scope of the EIA Directive and therefore an EIA is not required.

3.3 National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP)

Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan² sets the national biodiversity agenda for the period 2023–2030. The objectives of the NBAP focus on the conservation and restoration of biodiversity. Objective 2 of the NBAP is to meet urgent conservation and restoration needs. Part of its focus is to elevate efforts to tackle invasive alien species. It is recommended that a condition be included in the licence, if granted, to address the potential risks from invasive alien species as a result of the proposed maritime usage. Sections 3.5 – 3.8 of this report also address the WFD, MFSD and the Habitats and Birds Directives (including Annex IV species) and recommend conditions to minimise biodiversity impacts from the proposed maritime usage.

3.4 Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended

Section 15(1) of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act, as amended, requires relevant bodies, including MARA, to perform their functions in so far as practicable in a manner consistent with the governance framework set out therein. The Act sets legally binding targets for the reduction of greenhouse gases by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2050. Considering the temporary and short-term nature of the proposed maritime usage, no significant increases in carbon emission are expected and no potential for indirect effects on climate change.

3.5 Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) requires EU member states to protect and improve water quality in all waters to achieve at least good ecological status in inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater by 2027, at the latest. The ecological status of coastal waterbodies is based on the assessment of biological quality elements (phytoplankton, benthic invertebrates, macroalgae, angiosperms) as well as supporting chemical (specific pollutants), physico-chemical (e.g. temperature, salinity, nutrients) and hydromorphological quality elements. The proposed maritime usage will take place in a number of waterbodies, as outlined in Table 2.

² [Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030](#)

Table 2 – Information on the Water Framework Directive (WFD) waterbodies located within the MUL application area from the reporting period 2019–2024, including status, risk and significant pressures for the at-risk waterbodies³.

Waterbody	Waterbody Type	Water Quality in Ireland 2019-2024 Assessment ⁴	WFD Status ⁵	WFD Significant Issues & Pressures
Eastern Celtic Sea	Coastal	High	Not at risk	N/A
Tramore Bay	Coastal	Good	Not at risk	N/A
Tramore Back Strand	Coastal	High	Not at risk	N/A
Bannow Bay	Coastal	Poor	At risk	Nutrients, agriculture
Corock Estuary	Transitional	Moderate	At risk	Nutrients, agriculture, urban runoff
Bridgetown Estuary	Transitional	Moderate	Review	N/A
Bridgetown (Wexford)_040	River	Moderate	At risk	Nutrients, organic, agriculture
Bridgetown (Wexford)_030	River	Poor	At risk	Nutrients, organic, agriculture, DWTS
Tacumshin Lake	Transitional	Moderate	At risk	Morphological, nutrients, organic, hydromorphology, agriculture
Southwestern Irish Sea	Coastal	Good	Not at risk	N/A
Wexford Harbour	Coastal	Moderate	At risk	Nutrients, organic, urban wastewater, agriculture
Lower Slaney Estuary	Transitional	Poor	At risk	Nutrients, agriculture, urban wastewater
Sow_040	River	Moderate	Review	N/A
Southwestern Irish Sea - Brittas Bay	Coastal	High	Not at risk	N/A
Avoca Estuary	Transitional	Moderate	At risk	Chemical, historically polluted sites
Broad Lough	Transitional	Moderate	At risk	Nutrients, organic, urban runoff, agriculture
Southwestern Irish Sea - Killiney Bay	Coastal	Good	Not at risk	N/A

³ From www.catchments.ie

⁴ This included an assessment of ecological status, physicochemical elements and hydro morphological elements: [Water Quality in Ireland 2019-2024](#)

⁵ “At risk” means at risk of not achieving good status by 2027; “Not at risk” means no risk in maintaining current status, “Review” means waterbodies have insufficient information to determine the risk, or have had measures implemented but some additional monitoring is required to confirm that the expected improvements have been achieved

While a number of the waterbodies in the proposed licence area are considered to be of poor quality and/or at risk, the proposed maritime usage is of a type that is not likely to cause significant pollution. Given the recommended conditions as detailed in the Proposed Licence, there is not expected to be a deterioration in the ecological status of any WFD waterbody as a result of the proposed maritime usage.

3.6 Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC)

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) sets the framework for European marine environmental policy. It aims to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) for all marine waters in Europe and protect the resource base for marine related economic and social activities. Ireland’s 2024 assessment under Article 8 of the MSFD⁶ sets out the status of the 11 qualitative descriptors that describe the state of the marine environment and the pressures it faces. Table 3 sets out the current status of each of the descriptors and provides an assessment of the impacts of the proposed maritime usage on the descriptors relevant to this application.

Table 3: Assessment of impact of proposed maritime usage on MSFD descriptors

MFSD Descriptor	Good Environmental Status (GES) achieved	Assessment
Biological diversity	Partially achieved	As discussed in Section 3.8 below, MARA has undertaken an Appropriate Assessment (AA) in respect of the proposed maritime usage. Mitigation measures, which address potential impacts on biological diversity (including protected species), have been included Section 3.8.3 of this report and included as conditions in the Proposed Licence.
Non-indigenous species	Yes	To ensure that the proposed maritime usage does not result in the unintended introduction of non-indigenous species, the Proposed Licence includes a condition relating to the control of invasive species.
Population of commercial fish/shellfish	Partially achieved	There are a number of licensed aquaculture sites within the proposed licence area. There are no Fisheries Orders in the proposed licence area. Due to the limited interaction with the seabed, the proposed maritime usage will not impact on this descriptor, which relates to population size of commercially exploited stocks.
Marine food webs	Unclear	The balance and diversity in marine food webs is not expected be impacted as a result of the proposed maritime usage. Impacts on marine mammals and birds have been assessed in the AA.
Eutrophication	Yes	The proposed maritime usage does not involve the addition of nutrients to the marine environment and as such will not impact this descriptor achieving GES.
Sea floor integrity	No	Given the small scale and temporary nature of any ADCP installations, it is not expected that the proposed maritime usage will negatively impact on the GES status of this descriptor.
Alteration of hydrographical conditions	Yes	The proposed maritime usage will not significantly alter the hydrographical conditions in the proposed maritime usage area.

⁶ [Ireland's Marine Strategy Part 1: Article 8, 9 and 10 report 2024.](#)

Concentrations of contaminants	Yes	The licence, if granted, will require inclusion of a condition relating to preparation of an oil pollution emergency plan to mitigate for any accidental introduction of contaminants to the marine environment. Given the nature and duration of the proposed maritime usage, it is not expected that the maritime usage will negatively impact on the GES status of this descriptor.
Contaminants in fish/seafood for human consumption	Yes	The proposed maritime usage will not result in the introduction of contaminants in fish or seafood.
Marine Litter	No	The proposed maritime usage will not result in the introduction of marine litter to the marine environment and thus will not impact on the achievement of GES status of this descriptor. The Proposed Licence has a condition ensuring that the Holder removes all equipment following completion of the activities.
Introduction of energy including underwater noise	Yes	<p>The impacts of underwater noise introduced as a result of the proposed maritime usage are assessed in Sections 3.7 and 3.8 of this report. It is recommended that a condition relating to management of underwater noise disturbance be included in the licence if granted.</p> <p>In order to inform the data collected as part of MSFD requirements, it is recommended that the holder should provide details of all acoustic surveys to the Marine Environment section of the relevant government department in the reporting format of the OSPAR Impulsive Noise Registry.</p>

3.7 Annex IV species

Articles 12 and 13 of the Habitats Directive impose obligations on Member States to establish a system of strict protection for animal and plant species listed on Annex IV of the Directive. The applicant submitted a Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species in support of their MUL application and in line with national guidance on underwater noise⁷. The risk assessment considered the scope of the proposed maritime usage, the relevant Annex IV species (bats, otters, cetaceans and turtles) and the potential impacts of the proposed maritime usage on those species. The Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species concluded that the proposed maritime usage complies with the system of strict protection, considering that mitigation measures for underwater noise, in accordance with national guidance will be adhered to for marine geophysical surveys. The Proposed Licence includes a condition requiring the applicant to adhere to the national guidance for underwater noise and marine mammals.

The applicant has stated that a derogation is not required from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, for the proposed maritime usage under Regulation 54 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended.

⁷ [Guidance to Manage the Risk to Marine Mammals from Man-made Sound Sources in Irish Waters. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, 2014](#)

3.8 Appropriate Assessment

The Habitats Directive (92/43/EC) and the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) are transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended (the Regulations) and by Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000. The application was subject to screening for appropriate assessment (AA) by MARA in accordance with the Regulations. MARA made an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination on 29/10/2025 which concluded that the proposed maritime usage will require Stage 2 AA as it could not be excluded, on the basis of objective scientific information, that the proposed project, either individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on European sites.

Twenty-four European Sites were screened in for appropriate assessment by MARA. These included eight Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and sixteen Special Protection Areas (SPA). These European sites, their Qualifying Interests (QIs) also referred to as Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) for the SPA site and likely or potential source of impact as a result of the proposed maritime usages are given in Appendix 1. The applicant submitted a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) in support of the application, dated 27/11/2025.

3.8.1 Assessment of Likely/Potential Impacts on European Sites

The potential impacts on European sites and their QIs in view of the sites' conservation objectives are summarised as: above water noise and visual disturbance and displacement and underwater noise disturbance and displacement. This section discusses those impacts individually. Any mitigation measures recommended on foot of the assessment in this section are included in Section 3.8.3 - Mitigation Measures.

3.8.1.1 Visual and above water noise disturbance and displacement

The AA Screening Determination identified the potential for survey activities to generate visual and above water noise that could cause significant, short term, temporary disturbance and displacement of wintering waterbirds foraging in intertidal areas.

The proposed maritime usage area overlaps a number of important SPAs designated for wintering waterfowl, with several supporting nationally and internationally important populations. Wintering waterbirds may be disturbed due to vessel presence close to their intertidal foraging areas during bathymetry and/or VMADCP survey operations. The applicant notes that disturbance is more likely to occur near low tide when waders have followed the tide out to the low water mark, causing them to be displaced from their foraging area.

For SPAs where the information is available, the NPWS consider walking (including with dogs) to be the main cause of disturbance to waterbirds. Vessel noise and movements relating to the proposed maritime usage will not be significantly above background levels experienced in each of the SPAs screened in for above water noise and visual disturbance and displacement. Any noise and visual disturbance caused to birds in the intertidal part of these SPAs would be short-term and would not cause a significant decrease in the range, timing and intensity of use of areas by the SCI bird species. However, given that the NPWS state that the significance of the impact that results from even a short-term displacement should not be underestimated, it is recommended that vessel-based surveys should not be carried out within the SPAs screened in for visual and above water noise displacement and disturbance between the months of September to March. In order to avoid impact on the breeding seabird SPAs, survey vessels will be required remain >500 m distance from significant clusters of seabirds actively diving and/or fishing (see Section 3.8.3).

Taking into account the short-term, temporary nature of the proposed maritime usage and the mitigation outlined above, there will be no significant impact from above water noise and visual disturbance and displacement on the conservation objectives, or bird populations, of those SPAs screened in for visual and above water noise displacement and disturbance from the proposed maritime usage.

3.8.1.2 Underwater noise disturbance and displacement

Birds

The potential for underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities to cause significant, short term, temporary disturbance and displacement to birds was identified at the AA screening stage. The impact of underwater noise disturbance on birds is not greatly understood, though some studies have shown behavioural responses in diving birds (e.g. Cormorants, Guillemots and Lesser scaup). These species spend comparatively longer periods of time underwater than other birds. Flushing disturbance can be expected to displace diving seabirds in close proximity to the survey vessels and underwater equipment, thereby limiting their exposure to the highest sound pressures generated. The likelihood of these birds being in the vicinity of the noise generating activities is low, due to the surface activity associated with such operations disturbing the birds prior to commencement of the underwater noise. In addition, bathymetric surveys are proposed for intertidal and very shallow subtidal areas which would not provide optimal foraging habitat for these species

Given the temporary nature of the proposed activities, the mobile nature of the birds and their displacement due to flushing, underwater noise would be very unlikely to have a significant effect on diving seabird populations from those SPAs with diving bird species.

Marine Mammals

The appropriate assessment screening report and determination issued by MARA identified the potential for underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities (Single-beam Echosounder (SBES) and Multibeam Echosounder (MBES)) to cause significant, short term, temporary disturbance and displacement of marine mammals in overlapping and nearby SACs.

Marine mammals depend on sound for a wide range of functions including navigation, perception of their environment, communication, prey identification and capture, and the detection of predators. The production of underwater noise from the proposed bathymetry activities could interfere with these functions by inducing permanent auditory injury (or Permanent Threshold Shift (PTS)) at very close range or temporary hearing impairment (or Temporary Threshold Shift (TTS)) and disturbance at further distances from the noise source. The applicant states that the proposed MBES and SBES equipment to be used may be operating in the range of 300 to 500 KHz and as such are outside of the upper functional hearing limits of Harbour porpoise, Bottlenose dolphin, Grey seal and Harbour Seal. In addition, MBES and SBES will only be conducted in the intertidal area. In this case the fan of insonification will be very narrow and will dissipate within about 200m to levels below those documented to lead to TTS, or indeed behavioural changes within all marine mammal functional groups. Taking these factors into account underwater noise will not have a significant effect on marine mammal populations. This is in line with recent guidance from the UK's Joint Nature Conservation Committee.⁸

3.8.2 Assessment of In-combination effects

The potential impacts of the proposed maritime usage must be considered individually and also in combination with other plans or projects. All types of plans or projects that could, in-combination with this application, have a significant effect, have been considered. This in-combination assessment has been undertaken using professional and scientific judgement and is assessed primarily in terms of potential spatial and temporal impacts. Table 4 below outlines those activities which are considered to have the potential to act in-combination with the proposed maritime usage.

Visual and above water noise disturbance impacts are considered to have the widest spatial reach. The Cumulative Effects Spatial Scope (CESS) of the in-combination assessment was defined at appropriate assessment as the extent of the proposed maritime usage area. The Cumulative Effects Temporal Scope (CETS) of the in-combination assessment is based on the

⁸ [JNCC Report 803](#)

period over which the activities are proposed. The applicant has applied for a five-year licence duration and thus CETS is five years.

Table 4 - Potential sources of impact that could act in-combination with the application

Impact	Potential Cumulative Pathway
Above water noise and visual disturbance and displacement	Pathway possible via survey vessel activity and sound travelling through air with impacts possible within the CESS where there is spatial and temporal overlap with other visual and above water noise producing projects.
Disturbance and displacement from underwater noise	Pathway possible via sound travelling through water with impacts possible within the CESS, and where there is temporal overlap with other underwater noise producing projects.

Prediction:

The magnitude and extent of identified likely cumulative effects have been predicted below.

Above water noise and visual disturbance and displacement

There is the potential for increased visual and above water noise disturbance and displacement if other relevant projects were to take place at the same time.

Disturbance and displacement from underwater noise

There is the potential for increased underwater noise disturbance effects if other relevant projects, capable of producing similar underwater noise sources, were to take place at the same time.

Identification of Plans or Projects that could act in combination

A search was carried out on 04/03/2026 of relevant databases (including EPA, An Coimisiún Pleanála, Foreshore Unit, MARA, planning authorities) for other plans and projects with characteristics that may cause in-combination effects with the proposed maritime usage, on the QIs of the European sites identified in Appendix 1. The projects shown on Table 5 are within the CESS and CETS of the proposed maritime usage.

Table 5: Projects identified with the potential to have in-combination effects given the nature and location of the activities

Application Ref.	Project description	Distance from proposed MUL area (km)	Project Status
MUL240023	Iarnród Éireann – marine survey activities	Overlap	Determined
MUL240036	Eirgrid – marine survey activities	Overlap	Determined
MUL26005	Wexford County Council – marine survey activities	Overlap	Applied
An Coimisiún Pleanála, Case Reference: 319864	Planning application: Arklow Bank Wind Park II	Overlap	Applied
FS007546	Codling Wind Park – marine survey activities	Overlap	Determined

The following plans were identified as having the potential to result in in-combination effects:

- The Climate Action Plan 2024
- South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan 2024
- Waterford City & County Development Plan 2022-2028
- Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028
- Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028
- Water Action Plan 2024
- Uisce Éireann Regional Water Resources Plan – South-East
- Uisce Éireann Regional Water Resources Plan – Eastern and Midlands

These plans promote sustainable development and integrated management planning in the maritime environment. It is unlikely that any of these plans will result in a negative in-combination effect on the conservation objectives of the identified European sites.

In-Combination Effects Assessment conclusion

Given the temporary duration and nature of the proposed activities, and the mobile nature of birds and marine mammals, significant in-combination effects between this project, the projects in Table 5 and plans listed above on the conservation objectives of European sites taken into consideration in this report can be excluded for disturbance and displacement from underwater noise.

It is not possible to exclude the possibility of likely significant in-combination effects on the conservation objectives of the European sites considered in this assessment as a result of this

proposed maritime usage and the projects identified in Table 5 in relation to above water noise and visual disturbance and displacement of wintering waterbirds. However, the mitigation proposed in Section 3.8.3.1 will also ensure that there are no significant in-combination effects. Therefore, no specific in-combination mitigation is required.

3.8.3 Mitigation measures

Mitigation measures for those impacts identified in Section 3.8.1 are detailed below. These mitigation measures are included as conditions in the Proposed Licence.

3.8.3.1 Birds

Visual and above water noise disturbance

- (i) To avoid disturbance to foraging wintering waterbirds, geophysical surveys should not be carried out within 1km of the Tramore Back Strand SPA, the Bannow Bay SPA, the Ballyteige Bay SPA, the Tacumshin Lake SPA, the Wexford Harbour and Slobbs SPA, the Raven SPA and the Murrough SPA during the period September to March.
- (ii) Where the Holder observes significant clusters of birds, actively fishing and/or diving, within 500m of the survey vessel, in carrying out the Permitted Maritime Usage, the survey route shall be altered to maintain a 500m buffer from the birds. Appropriate records must be retained by the Holder.

3.8.4 Residual effects

This assessment has identified likely/potential significant impacts on European Sites and their conservation interests in Section 3.8.1 and recommends mitigation measures as conditions in the Proposed Licence. It is considered that the mitigation measures described and their implementation through licence conditions will remove, or reduce to imperceptible levels, all negative impacts and that residual effects will not arise.

3.8.5 Assessment of Transboundary effects

The mitigation measures proposed as part of this appropriate assessment will mitigate against any transboundary effects on other European sites

3.8.6 Appropriate assessment conclusion

The appropriate assessment screening process identified likely/potential significant impacts due to above water noise and visual disturbance and displacement and underwater noise disturbance and displacement. Likely significant impacts from the proposed marine usage could not be ruled out, beyond reasonable scientific doubt, without mitigation. The potential

for in-combination effects from the proposed maritime usage with other plans and projects could not be ruled out, beyond reasonable scientific doubt, without mitigation.

Mitigation measures were identified to ensure that impacts on European sites and their QIs and SCIs do not occur. Therefore, with adherence to the mitigation measures specified in Section 3.8.3 and in view of best scientific knowledge, and of the sites' conservation objectives, the project, individually, or in-combination with other plans or projects, will not have adverse effects on European sites.

The appropriate assessment determination is included in Section 9.

4. Consideration of other maritime users

MARA has had regard to the rights of other users as set out in Section 3 (3)(b) of the MAP Act 2021. Potential impacts on commercial fishers and recreational users of the maritime area have been assessed. There will be very minimal disturbance to recreational users.

There is the potential for overlap between the proposed maritime usage and a number of commercial fisheries and licensed aquaculture sites. Inshore pot fishing occurs along the southern and eastern coastline of Ireland targeting crab, lobster and whelk. Dredging for razor clams is carried out along the coast north of Rosslare Harbour. In addition, some bottom otter trawling (for mixed species of demersal fish) and pelagic trawling (for herring, sprat and other small pelagic species) occurs within and around the proposed maritime usage area⁹. Regarding aquaculture, the proposed maritime usage overlaps with licensed oyster sites in Bannow Bay, Co. Wexford and licensed oyster and bottom mussel sites in Wexford Harbour.

In order to ensure fishers and other vessel users are notified of the proposed maritime usage, a condition is included in the Proposed Licence in respect of the requirement to publish a marine notice via the Marine Safety Division of the Department of Transport, prior to the commencement of activities. It is also recommended to include conditions ensuring that the holder does not interfere with any fishing gear or obstruct fishing vessels, or damage or interfere with any third party's property and to appoint a Fisheries Liaison Officer.

5. Site visit

A site visit was not undertaken for this application.

⁹ [Ireland's Marine Atlas mapping system](#)

6. Public body consultation

Observations on the MUL application were invited from relevant public bodies to ensure that MARA takes account of all other relevant maritime usages and interests in the consent area. Five responses were received. The following tables summarise the observations from public bodies with a response given below each submission summary. The MARA website should be consulted to view the full details of the observations received.

1. Observations summary – Marine Survey Office
<p>A submission was received on 17/10/2025 from the MSO, which states they have no objection to the proposed maritime usage from a navigational safety perspective. The MSO recommended conditions to be applied to the licence if granted, which relate to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navigational safety, 2. The requirement for a marine notice to be issued, 3. The requirement for <i>Navtex</i> broadcasts, 4. The need to liaise with the MSO and Commissioner for Irish Lights (CIL) regarding the marking and lighting of any moored instruments 5. The particulars of information to be provided to the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO), and 6. The need for vessels to be suitably certified

MARA Response:

MARA notes the issues raised by the MSO. Conditions are included as standard in Marine Usage Licences in respect of the requirement to publish marine notices, the need for vessels to conform with the requirements of Irish certification standards and to provide information to the UKHO, where relevant. In addition, MARA is required to have regard to the rights of the public or any class of the public over the foreshore in relation to navigation and navigational safety – this requirement has been incorporated into MARA’s overall assessment of the licence application.

2. Observations summary – Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)
<p>A submission was received on 13/11/2025 from DAFM, which along with its own comments, summarises comments and observations from the Marine Institute and Bord Iascaigh Mhara. These are made in more detail in these agencies’ separate submissions and are considered under the relevant separate headings in this section of the report.</p>

DAFM note that the waters within the proposed maritime usage area are used the Irish inshore fishing fleet. DAFM recommends early, effective and ongoing engagement with stakeholders and note that relevant local fishing organisations should be included in the provision of any Notices to Mariners and advise that a Fisheries Liaison Offer (FLO) be appointed. DAFM also note that any evaluation of potential impacts on commercial sea fishing activities needs to be given consideration within the context of the requirements of the Maritime Area Planning Act and the National Marine Planning Framework.

MARA response:

MARA notes the issues raised by DAFM and consider any disturbances to be short term given the nature of the works being carried out. Regarding notification of local fishers and other stakeholders, it is recommended that a condition relating to this is included as a condition of any licence granted. Conditions are included as standard in Marine Usage Licences in respect of accidental events and the need for licence holders not to interfere with any fishing gear or obstruct fishers, or fishing vessel activities.

The importance of fishing in the proposed maritime usage area and the potential impacts of this proposed maritime usage application have been assessed under Sections 3 and 4 above. The inclusion of an FLO is a condition in the Proposed Licence.

3. Observations summary – Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)

A submission was received on 13/11/2025 from BIM, which states that the proposed maritime usage would be of low concern to fishers. BIM consider the main concern from a fisheries context to be the disturbance to fishing, and accidental entanglement with static fishing gear by survey vessels. They identify a number of potential overlaps between the proposed maritime usage and various fisheries, as well as noting that some of the proposed maritime usage areas overlap with fish spawning and nursery areas.

Regarding aquaculture, BIM note overlaps between the proposed maritime usage and several bottom mussel and oyster licensed sites and identify the following potential impacts:

1. Interference with bottom mussel operations for certain VMADCP locations
2. Interactions between bathymetric vessel operations and oyster trestles / navigational poles at licensed oyster sites
3. Interactions between deployment of bottom-mounted ADCPs and mussel seed bed formation/prevention of seed harvesting
4. Vessels spills at aquaculture sites

Where applicable, BIM recommend timely notification of fishers and aquaculture operators through:

1. Direct contact using the Irish Fleet Register
2. Marine Notices
3. The relevant Producer Organisations
4. The relevant harbour port offices and local authority offices
5. Local and industry media

MARA response:

MARA notes the issues raised by BIM and consider any disturbances to be short term given the nature of the works being carried out. Regarding notification of local fishers and other stakeholders, it is recommended that a condition relating to this is included as a condition of any licence granted. Conditions are included as standard in Marine Usage Licences in respect of accidental events and the need for licence holders not to interfere with any fishing gear or obstruct fishers, or fishing vessel activities. The inclusion of an FLO is a condition in the Proposed Licence.

4. Observations summary – Marine Institute (MI)

A submission was received on 13/11/2025 from the MI, noting that while the proposed maritime usage does coincide with fishing areas, fish stocks and aquaculture activities, it should not substantially interfere with these. The MI recommends that the necessary notices to mariners / fishing vessels be made. The MI also highlight the overlaps between the proposed maritime usage area and several fish spawning and nursery grounds and note the potential for cumulative impacts between the proposed maritime usage and other surveys activities.

MARA response:

MARA notes the issues raised by the MI and agree that any disturbances will be short term, given the nature of the works being carried out. Regarding notification of mariners and fishers, a condition relating to this is included as a condition of the Proposed Licence. Conditions are included as standard in Marine Usage Licences in respect of accidental events and the need for licence holders not to interfere with any fishing gear or obstruct fishers, or fishing vessel activities. The inclusion of an FLO is a condition in the Proposed Licence.

Given the short term of the proposed maritime usage and the nature of the works being carried out, MARA considers that it will not have any significant impacts on any overlapping fish spawning or nursery areas. Regarding potential cumulative effects, a condition has been included in the Proposed Licence to address the duplication of survey effort in the proposed

maritime usage area. Section 3.8.2 of this report also considers in-combination impacts for relevant habitats and species.

5. Observations summary – Geological Survey Ireland (GSI)

A submission was received on 31/10/2025 from GSI recommend the use of their various data sets when conducting the EIAR, SEA, planning and scoping processes for any developments, plans and policies.

MARA response:

MARA notes the comments from GSI, however the proposed maritime usage is for Schedule 7(3) site investigations only, and EIAR, SEA and planning are not applicable.

7. Public consultation

A public consultation was undertaken between 27/02/2026 and 02/03/2026, under Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 and under section 117(6)(b) of the MAP Act. One submission was received from a member of the public. A summary of the submissions is provided below along with MARA’s response. The MARA website should be consulted to view the full details of the submissions received.

3. Submission summary – Mr. Martin Doyle

A submission was received by MARA dated 03/02/2026 from member of the public objecting to the granting of the licence. The submission included a number of documents including maps, folios, and letters.

The following points were asserted by the submitter:


- That he is the owner of fishing rights, sporting rights and an owner of lands registered under the Registration of Title Act 1964
- That Uisce Éireann does not have consent from him to apply to MARA for this licence on his registered lands.
- That MARA can grant a licence on state owned foreshore but not on privately owned foreshore without obtaining consent. If MARA grants the licence, it should be made clear on the licence that his private foreshore lands are not included within any licence granted.
- That MARA is obliged to uphold Section 99 of the MAP Act in regard to private foreshore lands.

MARA Response:

MARA notes the issues raised by Mr. Doyle. MARA has reviewed and had regard to the points raised in this submission and the documents included. Section 99 of the MAP Act, in relation to privately owned parts of the maritime area, applies to applications for Maritime Area Consents (MAC) and does not apply to Maritime Usage Licence (MUL) applications. MARA has assessed the impacts of the proposed activities on fisheries and fish spawning areas (see Sections 3.6 and 4 of this report). MARA has had regard to the state's obligations under the Birds and Habitats Directives (79/409/EC and 92/43/EEC), the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC) – see Sections 3.4–3.8 of this report. Mitigation measures have been recommended to ensure that there will be no adverse impacts on habitats and species.

8. Recommendation

Having considered the information submitted in support of the application, I recommend that a Maritime Usage Licence of five years duration, in accordance with Section 119 of the MAP Act, be granted to **Uisce Éireann, Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot St, Dublin 1, D01 NP86** for the purposes of Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000, subject to the conditions in the Proposed Licence.

Signed:	
Prepared by:	Ross Fitzgerald Marine Analyst
Date:	13/03/2026

9. Approval and AA Determination

Having considered this report, the documents submitted by the applicant the observations received on foot of the public consultation and public body consultation on the application, along with my own assessment, it can be concluded, and I determine, for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and Regulation 42(11) of the Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations, that the proposal to carry out **marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation, falling under Schedule 7(3) of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (MUL240026)** (either individually or in combination with any other plans or projects), will not adversely affect the integrity of any European sites, in view of the sites' conservation objectives, subject to the implementation of the mitigation measures specified in Section 3.8 – Appropriate Assessment, which have been included in the Proposed Licence which must be incorporated into any consent that may be granted in respect of the respective maritime usage licence application.

Signed:	
Approved and determined by:	John Evans Director of Maritime Usage Licensing
Date:	13/03/2026

Appendix 1

European sites and qualifying interests which were screened in for appropriate assessment along with potential source of impact and site-specific conservation objectives.

European site & site code	Distance from proposed MUL area (km)	Qualifying Interests	Potential Source of Impact	Site-specific conservation objectives
SACs				
Hook Head SAC [000764]	Within MUL Area	1349 Common Bottlenose Dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>) 1351 Harbour Porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>)	Disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives: Hook Head SAC 000764. Version 2.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Saltee Islands SAC [000707]	Within MUL Area	1364 Grey Seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>)	Disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: Saltee Islands SAC 000707. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Carnsore Point SAC [002269]	Within MUL Area	1351 Harbour Porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>)	Disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: Carnsore Point SAC 002269. Version 2.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Slaney River Valley SAC [000781]	Within MUL Area	1365 Harbour Seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>)	Disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: Slaney River Valley SAC 000781. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Blackwater Bank SAC [002953]	Within MUL Area	1351 <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise)	Disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: Blackwater Bank SAC 002953. Version 3.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC [003000]	5-10	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC 003000. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Lambay Island SAC [000204]	25-50	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364] <i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1365]	Disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives. Lambay Island SAC 000204. Version 2.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Codling Fault Zone SAC [003015]	25-50	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives. Codling Fault Zone SAC 003015. Version 2.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
SPAs				
Mid-Waterford Coast SPA [004193]	<5km	Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]	Disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives. Mid-Waterford Coast SPA 004193. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Tramore Back Strand SPA [004027]	Within MUL Area	<p>Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]</p> <p>Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]</p> <p>Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]</p> <p>Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142]</p> <p>Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]</p> <p>Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]</p> <p>Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</p> <p>Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]</p> <p>Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>	Visual and above water noise disturbance and displacement from survey vessel activity	NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives. Tramore Back Strand SPA 004027. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Seas off Wexford SPA [004237]	Within MUL Area	<p>Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001]</p> <p>Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009]</p> <p>Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]</p> <p>Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018]</p> <p>Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>) [A013]</p> <p>Gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>) [A016]</p> <p>Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188]</p> <p>Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199]</p> <p>Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200]</p> <p>Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204]</p>	Disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives. Seas off Wexford SPA 004237. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

		<p>Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065]</p> <p>Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192]</p> <p>Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193]</p> <p>Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]</p> <p>Sandwich Tern (<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>) [A863]</p> <p>Little Tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>) [A885]</p>	Disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities. Visual and above water noise disturbance and displacement from survey vessel activity	
Bannow Bay SPA [004033]	Within MUL Area	<p>Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]</p> <p>Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]</p> <p>Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054]</p> <p>Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]</p> <p>Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]</p> <p>Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]</p> <p>Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142]</p> <p>Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143]</p> <p>Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]</p> <p>Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]</p> <p>Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</p> <p>Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]</p> <p>Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]</p> <p>Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>	Visual and above water noise disturbance and displacement from survey vessel activity	NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives. Seas off Wexford SPA 004237. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Keeragh Islands SPA [004118]	Within MUL Area	Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]	Disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives. Keeragh Islands SPA 004118. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Ballyteige Burrow SPA [004020]	Within MUL Area	Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Visual and above water noise disturbance and displacement from survey vessel activity	NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives. Ballyteige Burrow SPA 004020. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Saltee Islands SPA [004002]	<5km	Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>) [A016] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200] Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204]	Disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives. Saltee Islands SPA 004002. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Tacumshin Lake SPA [004092]	Within MUL Area	Bewick's Swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>) [A037] Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>) [A855] Shoveler (<i>Spatula clypeata</i>) [A857]	Visual and above water noise disturbance and displacement from survey vessel activity	NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives. Tacumshin Lake SPA 004092. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
		Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004] Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061] Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125] Gadwall (<i>Mareca strepera</i>) [A889] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities. Visual and above water noise disturbance and displacement from survey vessel activity	

Lady's Island Lake SPA [004009]	Within MUL Area	<p>Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192]</p> <p>Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193]</p> <p>Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]</p> <p>Sandwich Tern (<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>) [A863]</p> <p>Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>	<p>Disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities. Visual and above water noise disturbance and displacement from survey vessel activity</p>	<p>NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives. Lady's Island Lake SPA 004009. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht</p>
---------------------------------	-----------------	--	--	---

Wexford Harbour and Slob SPA [004076]	Within MUL Area	<p>Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) [A028]</p> <p>Bewick's Swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>) [A037]</p> <p>Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038]</p> <p>Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]</p> <p>Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]</p> <p>Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]</p> <p>Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053]</p> <p>Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054]</p> <p>Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082]</p> <p>Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]</p> <p>Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]</p> <p>Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]</p> <p>Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142]</p> <p>Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143]</p> <p>Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144]</p> <p>Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]</p> <p>Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]</p> <p>Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</p> <p>Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]</p> <p>Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]</p> <p>Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179]</p> <p>Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183]</p>	Visual and above water noise disturbance and displacement from survey vessel activity	<p>NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives. Wexford Harbour and Slob SPA 004076. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht</p>
---------------------------------------	-----------------	---	---	---

		<p>Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395]</p> <p>Wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>) [A855]</p>		
--	--	---	--	--

		<p>Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004]</p> <p>Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005]</p> <p>Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]</p> <p>Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062]</p> <p>Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067]</p> <p>Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069]</p> <p>Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125]</p> <p>Little Tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>) [A885]</p> <p>Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>	Disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities. Visual and above water noise disturbance and displacement from survey vessel activity	
The Raven SPA [004019]	Within MUL Area	<p>Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]</p> <p>Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144]</p> <p>Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395]</p>	Visual and above water noise disturbance and displacement from survey vessel activity	NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives. The Raven SPA 004019. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
		<p>Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001]</p> <p>Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]</p>	Disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	
		<p>Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065]</p> <p>Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>	Disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities. Visual and above water noise disturbance and displacement from survey vessel activity	

Wicklow Head SPA [004127]	<5km	Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188]	Disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives. Wicklow Head SPA 004127. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
The Murrough SPA [004186]	Within MUL Area	Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>) [A855]	Visual and above water noise disturbance and displacement from survey vessel activity	NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives. The Murrough SPA 004186. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
		Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001]	Disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	
		Little Tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>) [A885] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities. Visual and above water noise disturbance and displacement from survey vessel activity	
Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA [0041952]	5-10	Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188]	Disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives. Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA 0041952. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Ireland's Eye SPA [004117]	25-50	Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200]	Disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives. Ireland's Eye SPA 004117. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Lambay Island SPA [004069]	25-50	Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204] Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200]	Disturbance and displacement from underwater noise from bathymetry survey activities	NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives. Lambay Island SPA 004069. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht