

Maritime Usage Licence MUL240048 – “Minded To” Determination Case Worker Report

To	Laura Brien, Chief Executive
From	Joanne Staunton, Licensing Caseworker
Reviewed by	1 st Review: Martina Monaghan, Licensing Manager 2 nd Review: John Evans, Director of Assessment, Research and Data Division
Date	31/10/2025

Maritime Usage Licence Application:

Applicant Name	Uisce Éireann,
Applicant Address	Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1, D01NP86
Application Received	13/03/2025 <i>Note: This application was submitted to the Foreshore Division, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on 30/09/2022 and transferred to MARA on 01/10/2024. The fee payment was received on 13/03/2025.</i>
MUL Reference Number	MUL240048
Decision sought	Approval sought for issuance of notice to the Applicant in accordance with Section 119(6)(b) of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021, to inform that: The Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) is minded to GRANT a Maritime Usage Licence in respect of their application and the reasons why MARA is so minded.
Description of works	Uisce Éireann 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 involves the deployment, operation and retrieval of acoustic doppler current profilers (ADCP) at nine locations within three specific areas of Cork Harbour.
Term of Licence	5 Years from the MUL Commencement Date
Schedule 7 activity	7(3) Marine environmental survey (site investigation)
Additional section 7 activity (if applicable)	Choose an item.
Documents submitted with application	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application Form <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maritime Usage Map & GIS Shape files <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Maps & Drawings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Assessment Screening Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compliance with Objectives of National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF)

	<input type="checkbox"/> Compliance with Objectives of Water Framework Directive (WFD) <input type="checkbox"/> Compliance with Objectives of Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) <input type="checkbox"/> Natura Impact Statement (NIS) Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Environmental Report	
Section 117(3) notice issued: Request for Additional Information -RAI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> Not required	
1 st RAI	Issued: 12/08/2025	Received: 09/09/2025
Document(s) submitted: Confirmation of Registered Name; Relevant Usage under Schedule 7, Total Duration of Licence Applied for, Duration of Licence Activities, Chart of Aquaculture Sites in Vicinity and Number & Types of Vessels to be used.		
2 nd RAI	Issued: 04/09/2025	Received: 02/10/2025
Document(s) submitted: Annex IV Exemption; Resubmission of GIS data and updated documentation.		
3 rd RAI	Issued: 22/09/2025	Received: 29/10/2025
Document(s) submitted: Justification for Requested Licence Duration		
4 th RAI	Issued: 03/10/2025	Received: 07/10/2025
Document(s) submitted: Further clarification On Multibeam and Single Beam Surveys and Justification for Requested Licence Duration		

Assessment, Research & Data (ARD) Assessment:	
Screening for EIA: Section 117(5)(a)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Screening for EIA: NOT REQUIRED <input type="checkbox"/> Screening for EIA: REQUIRED Date of Report: 18/09/2025 Signed by: Maria O'Connell and John Evans.
Screening for Appropriate Assessment: Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011)	<input type="checkbox"/> Screened IN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Screened OUT Date of AA Screening Report & Determination: 08/10/2025 Signed by: Maria O'Connell and John Evans.
If SCREENED IN : Was NIS/updated NIS requested in accordance with Section 117(6)(a)?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: New NIS requested <input type="checkbox"/> YES: Updated NIS requested Date Requested: DD MM YYYY Date Received: DD MM YYYY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO: Not Required
AA Screening Report and Determination published on MARA website:	Date: 10/10/2025

Referral to Notified Consultees, as directed by Assessment, Research & Data (ARD) Team:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bord Iascaigh Mhara <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioners of Irish Lights <input type="checkbox"/> Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine <input type="checkbox"/> Dept. of Environment, Climate & Communications <input type="checkbox"/> Dept. of Housing, Local Government & Heritage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dept. of Transport - Marine Survey Office <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Protection Agency <input type="checkbox"/> Geological Survey of Ireland <input type="checkbox"/> Health and Safety Authority <input type="checkbox"/> Inland Fisheries Ireland <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Institute <input type="checkbox"/> National Monuments Service	

<input type="checkbox"/> National Parks and Wildlife Service <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Local Authority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant Harbour Authority <input type="checkbox"/> The Sea Fisheries Protection Authority <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
Date of Referral to notified consultees	15/09/2025
Observations from notified consultees received?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: Number received 2 <input type="checkbox"/> NO
ARD MUL Assessment Report:	
Final ARD MUL Assessment Report <i>includes environmental & engineering reports</i>	Date of final report: 29/10/2025 Signed by: Maria O'Connell & John Evans <i>Note: This report was received by the MUL team on 31/10/2025</i>
Public Submissions taken into account in Final ARD MUL Assessment Report:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Notified Consultees Responses taken into account in Final ARD MUL Assessment Report:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Upon completion of the ARD MUL Assessment Report the following conditions and reasons for conditions are RECOMMENDED by ARD:	
Recommended term of licence for inclusion in the Particulars Schedule: Recommended Term of licence to be 5 years from date of commencement. Reason: To ensure the orderly administration of licensed maritime usages in the maritime area.	
1. The Permitted Maritime Usage shall be carried out in accordance with the plans and particulars submitted in support of the application for this Licence. Reason: To clarify the scope of this licence and ensure protection of the marine environment.	
2. The Holder shall, a minimum 14 days prior to the commencement of the Permitted Maritime Usage, arrange for the publication of a Marine Notice with the Marine Safety Policy Division, Department of Transport. This Marine Notice shall include details of the Licence Holder and the Licence Number as granted by MARA. Reason: To ensure safe navigation in Cork Harbour.	
3. The Holder shall not damage or interfere with any third party's property while carrying out the Permitted Maritime Usage. Reason: To minimise impact on other users of the marine environment.	
4. Prior to the commencement of the Permitted Maritime Usage the Holder shall consult with the Port of Cork Company to plan and schedule the Permitted Maritime Usage in order that any potential disruption to port operations is managed. Reason: To ensure the orderly undertaking of the proposed maritime usage.	
5. The Holder shall ensure that all vessels engaged in this Permitted Maritime Usage conform to Irish Certification standards for vessels, as required by the Marine Survey Office. Reason: To ensure protection of the marine environment.	

6. The Holder shall demonstrate all reasonable practical measures are taken to ensure that all vessels used in the Permitted Maritime Usage are free of invasive marine species on their hulls and in ballast water and that all equipment used in the permitted maritime usage is free of invasive marine species.
Reason: To ensure protection of the marine environment.

7. Accidental events

The Holder shall ensure that there is an oil pollution emergency plan on-board any survey vessels. This plan should specify:

- (i) Information on the location and detail of spill response resources on-board;
- (ii) Information on crew training in relation to oil pollution response;
- (iii) How crew will interface with other site investigation operators, where applicable.

Reason: To provide appropriate controls on the Permitted Maritime Usage to ensure protection of the marine environment

8. While conducting the Permitted Maritime Usage the Holder shall not interfere with any fishing gear or obstruct any fishers or fishing vessels engaged in fishing.

Reason: To minimise impact on other users of the marine environment.

Minded to Determination of Licence Application:	
Case Worker Recommendation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GRANT <input type="checkbox"/> PART GRANT <input type="checkbox"/> REFUSE
Period Specified to Applicant for submission of supplementary material in relation to the reasons for conditions: Section 119(6)(b)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 21 days <input type="checkbox"/> Other:

Signed by (Caseworker)

Joanne Staunton

Date

31/10/2025

Annex 1 – List of Accompanying Documents:

Screening for AA Report & Determination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ARD MUL Assessment Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed Licence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed Minded to Notice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>