



Licence Ref: MUL240050

(Please quote in all related correspondence)

16 February 2026

Maritime Area Regulatory Authority
2nd Floor
Menapia House
Drinagh Business Park
Drinagh
Wexford
Y35RF29

Via: licence@mara.gov.ie

Referral under Regulation 42(6) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011

Re: Maritime usage licence application for a marine environmental survey (scientific discovery or research) at two shipwreck sites off the Northwest coast of Ireland.

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I refer to correspondence on 14 January 2026 received in connection with the above.

Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations co-ordinated by the Development Applications Unit under the stated headings.

Nature Conservation

The National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has reviewed the Maritime Usage Licence application (MUL240050) and associated environmental documentation for the proposed non-intrusive shipwreck surveys at MV Accra and SS City of Simla. On the basis of the information provided, the National Parks and Wildlife Service considers that the proposed works are unlikely to give rise to likely significant effects on any European site subject to implementation of the proposed mitigation and adherence to best practice guidance.

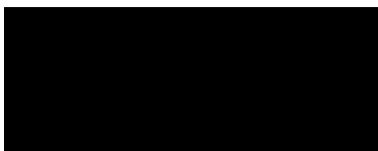


However, to ensure full legal compliance, it is recommended that the applicant note that there may be a requirement for Regulation 54 consent under the EU Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations. Guidance on this process is available here: <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/files/Applications-for-Regulation-54-Derogations-for-Annex-IV-species-Guidance-for-Applicants.pdf>

You are requested to send any further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) fem.dau@npws.gov.ie, or to the following address:

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Amy Thornton
Development Applications Unit
Administration