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Appropriate Assessment Screening and Determination Report			
	Maritime Authorisations Unit		Suzanne Wylde Se io Ma ne iso
Date:	12th November 2025	Maritime Usage Licence Application No	MUL250013
App	Uisce Éireann, Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot Street, Mountjoy, Dublin		
Type(s) of maritime usage activity in accordance with Schedule 7 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021:	3. Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in supp of app of t of		
Location of proposed maritime usage:	Greater Dublin Drainage Scheme, Irish Sea and Baldoyle Bay		
Licence application received:	1 st September 2025		

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 in accordance with Schedule 7(3) of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (the MAP Act). The information gleaned from the proposed maritime usage will inform and support the Greater Dublin Drainage project in its a upg d p additional wastewater infrastructure for the Greater Dublin Area.

2. Description mari usage(s)

2.1 Brief description of the maritime usage

The applicant proposes to undertake marine site investigations (Table 1) in the Irish Sea and in Baldoyle Bay. The applicant expects that the proposed maritime usage will take 8 weeks to complete. The applicant has applied for a licence duration of five years

Table 1: Marine environmental surveys proposed to be undertaken in Baldoyle Bay and the Irish Sea.

Marine environmental surveys
Land based techniques such as seismic refraction, ground -penetrating radar or electrical resistivity tomography.
Bathymetric techniques (multibeam echosounder (MBES), sidescan sonar (SSS)), and geophysical techniques (sub- bottom profiler (SBP) and ultra-high resolution seismic (UHRS) boomer or spark). Geomagnetic surveying using a magnetometer will also be undertaken. Positioning information will be provided via an ultra-short baseline (USBL) system.
Boreholes (4 no.) in the intertidal and in the Irish Sea (10 No.) and cone penetration testing within the boreholes.
Drop down video survey.
Benthic grab samples and water samples (conductivity, temperature and depth) will be taken from locations in the Irish Sea.

2.2 Brief description of the site characteristics

The proposed MUL area is comprised of two distinct areas – Baldoyle Bay and an area in the Irish Sea extending east from Portmarnock Beach. The portion of the MUL area in the Irish Sea consists of moderate energy sand and moderate and high energy coarse sediment. Baldoyle Bay is a transitional waterbody. The habitat types within the estuary consist predominantly of mud shores and some salt marshes

3. Identification of relevant European sites

The MUL application is subject to screening for appropriate assessment in accordance with Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended, to determine if it alone, or in-combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on a European sites, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the sites

The proposed maritime usage is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site(s). The European sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs)) listed on Table 2 have been considered for appropriate assessment, given the nature, scale and Zone of Influence of the maritime usage, the conservation objectives of the European sites and using the Source Pathway-Receptor model

The applicant submitted a Supporting Information (SISAA) report in support of the application.

Table 2 - Identification of relevant European sites, their qualifying interests and site-specific conservation objectives. Those Qualifying Interests marked in bold have been screened in for Stage 2 appropriate assessment.

European site code	Distance from proposed MUL area (km)	Qualifying	Connections (Source pathway-receptor)	European Sites Screened	Site-specific objectives
Baldoyle Bay SAC (Site Code IE000199)	With MUL area	Mudflats and sandflats not seawater at low tide [1140] Salicornia and other sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows [1410]	Yes – possible habitat degradation	Yes	NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Baldoyle Bay SAC 000199. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (Site Code IE003000)	With MUL area	Reefs [1170] <i>Phocaena phocaena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Yes – possible disturbance from underwater noise; possible habitat loss and/or degradation	Yes	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
Ireland's Eye SAC (Site Code IE003003)		Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Vegetated salt meadows [1310]			NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Ireland's Eye SAC 002193. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.
Malahide estuary SAC (Site Code IE000205)		Mudflats and sandflats not seawater at low tide [1140] Salicornia and other sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritima</i>) [1410] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]	No	No	NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Malahide Estuary SAC 000205. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

		Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation [20]				
Howth Head SAC (Site Code IE000202)	2km	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030]	No	No	NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives: Howth Head SAC 000202. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional,	
Rogerstown Estuary SAC (Site Code IE000208)	5	Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Salicornia and other low salt tolerating plants [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (including <i>maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (including <i>maritima</i>) [1410] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [220] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation [20]			NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Rogerstown Estuary SAC 000208. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.	
Lambay Is. SAC (Site Code IE000204)	7km	Reefs [1170] Vegetated sandflats [130] <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364] <i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1365] <i>Phocoena phocaena</i> (Common Dolphin) [1351] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mudflats and sand [1310] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	Yes – possible disturbance		NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: Lambay Island SAC 000204. Version 2. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	
South Dublin Bay SAC (Site Code IE000210)					NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay SAC 000210. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.	

Codling Fault Zone SAC (Site code IE003015)	25km	Subma [0]	by ing g	No		Yes	NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives: Codling Fault Zone SAC 003015. Version 2. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Departmen Housing, L tage
				Yes – possible disturbance from unde water noise			
North Dublin Bay SAC (Site C 000206)	m	<i>Phocoena phocaena</i> (Harbou Porpoise) [1351]					NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: North Dublin Bay SAC 000206. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Departmen ts, tag
		Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Humid dune slacks [2190] <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]					
North-West Irish Sea SPA (S 236)	Within area	MUL	Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001] Great Northern Diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>) [A003] Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>) [A013] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018] Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065] Little Gull (<i>Larus minutus</i>) [A177] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] Lesser Blac -backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] ing II ((<i>agra us</i>) [4]	Yes - possible above and under water noise disturbance; visual disturbance.			NPWS (2023) Conservation Objectives: North-west Irish Sea SPA 004236. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

			Great B [A187] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) [A195] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200] Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204]	II (s)			
Baldoye Bay S (Site Code 6)	Within area	MUL	Light-bellied B <i>hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	e (a	Yes - possible above and under water noise disturbance; visual disturbance; possible habitat loss and/or degradation.		NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Baldoye Bay SPA 004016. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department ts, tag
Ireland's Eye SPA (Site Code IE004117)	With		Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200]		Yes - possible above and under water noise disturbance; visual disturbance; possible habitat loss a d/ eg	Yes	NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: Ireland's Eye SPA 004117. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department Housing, L tage
Malahide Estuary SPA (Site C IE004025)	2k		Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067] Red-breasted erg nser (<i>ergus serrator</i>) [A069] Oyster r (atop alegus) [A130] r (ap ia) [0]		Yes – possible abo under water disturbance.		NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Malahide Estuary SPA 004025. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

			Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [1] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]			
Howth Head Coast SPA (Site Code IE004113)	2km		Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188]	Yes – possible above	Yes	NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: Howth Head Coast SPA 004113. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department Housing, L tag
North Bull Island SPA (Site Code 6)	2		Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] Oyster her (top <i>alegus</i>) [A130] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [1] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [7] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Black-headed Gull (<i>cep s</i> <i>ridibundus</i>) [A179] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla</i> <i>hrota</i>) [A046]	Yes – possible above water noise disturbance,		NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: North Bull Island SPA 004006. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department ts, tag

Rogerstown Estuary SPA (Site Code IE004015)	7km	Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] Oystercatcher (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A130] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	No	Yes	NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Rogerstown Estuary SPA 004015. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government
		Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043] Light-bellied Bunting (<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>) [A046] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A144] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200] Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018] Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193]	Yes - Possible above noise and/or disturbance		NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: Lambay Island SPA 004069. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka (Site Code IE004024)					NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA 004024. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government

		Black-headed Gull (<i>cepridibundus</i>) [A179] Light-bellied B (<i>hrota</i>) [A046]			
Skerries Isl (Site code: IE00 22)	16	Purple Sandpiper (<i>Calidris maritima</i>) [A148] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018] Light-bellied B (<i>ta</i>) [6]	No	No	NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: Skerries Islands SPA 004122. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Dalkey Isl (Site Code 2)		Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] n (a p ea) [4]			NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: Dalkey Islands SPA 004172. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Rockabill SPA (Site code: IE004014)		Purple Sandpiper (<i>Calidris maritima</i>) [A148] Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]			NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Rockabill SPA 004 Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of ts, tag

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Table 3: Identification of potential direct and indirect impacts that may have an effect on the conservation
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Potential Impacts	Possible significance of potential impacts (duration, magnitude, etc.)
Disturbance from underwater noise	mp mp
Visual disturbance and above water noise disturbance.	Possible temporal impacts on qualifying interests of SPAs.
Habitat loss and/or degradatio	The works will be temporary in nature and will not result i permanent habitat loss and/or degradation.

In-combination effects

MARA has developed a stepwise approach for identifying other plans and projects that may impact on European sites in-combination with the proposed maritime usage. Using professional and scientific judgement, the key steps for assessing cumulative effects are as follows:

1. Defining the Cumulative Effects Spatial Scope (CESS)
 2. Defining the Cumulative Effects Temporal Scope (CETS)
 3. Impact identification
 4. Pathway identification
 5. Prediction
 6. Identification of Plans or Projects that could act in combination
 7. Screening Stage Cumulative Effects Assessment conclusion
- aging mp s p tag A p

The CESS has been defined as 5km and the CETS as 5 years. The definition of the CESS is based on the geophysical survey methods proposed and the Effective Deterrence Range¹ for Harbour porpoise, given their known sensitivity to anthropogenic noise sources. And the CETS is the proposed

A search of relevant databases undertaken on the 11th November 2025. Relevant projects within the CESS and the CETS were considered. Particular attention was given to the projects shown on Table 4 which have the potential to act in-combination with the proposed maritime usage

¹ [ep](#)

Table 4: List of projects which, in particular, were considered to have potential in-combination impacts on European sites.

App icatio Re	roje descriptio	Distance from proposed U area (m)	Projec
LIC230018	Microsoft Ireland (Site investigations)	<5km	Licensed
LIC230016	Microsoft Ireland (Site investigations)	<5km	Licensed
MUL230034	Codling Wind Park Limited (Site investigations)	5-10km	Licensed
MUL240023	Iarnród Éireann (Site investig ns)	5-10km	Licensed
MUL240010	Eirgrid (Site investigations)	5-10km	Applied
S0031-01	Malahide Marina Village Ltd (Dumping at Sea)	<5km	Permitted
S0004-03, S0024-02, S0033-01,	Dublin Port Company (Dumping at Sea)	5-10km	Permitted
S0038-0	Dub Port Company (Dumping at Sea)	5 10	Applied

The following plans, related to the development of the maritime environment were also considered:

- Climate Action Plan 2025,
- Water Action Plan 2022-2027,
- Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029.

Likely significant in-combination effects between this application and the plans listed above and projects listed on Table 4 on the conservation objectives of the European sites considered his rep t c b xcluded at s stag

Were mitigation measures considered during the screening process?

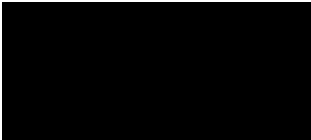
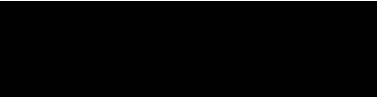
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The assessment of significant effects

n the basis of the information on file, and having regard to

- The nature and scale of the proposed development;
- The distance to the nearest European sites;
- The potential for in-combination effects with other plans and projects;
- Possible disturbance from underwater noise;
- Possible visual and above water noise disturbance;
- Possible habitat loss and/or degradation.

Having considered the legal framework applicable to appropriate assessment, it was concluded that the proposed maritime usage by **Uisce Éireann, Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot Street, Mountjoy, Dublin** to carry out **marine environmental surveys at Baldoye Bay and the Irish Sea (MUL250013)** will require Stage 2 appropriate assessment. It cannot be excluded on the basis of objective scientific information, that the proposed project, either individually with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.

Signature and Date of ec ing O	 Suzanne Wylde SENIOR MARINE ADVISOR	th 5
Signatu Make	 John Evans Director of Assessment,	th Nov b 025