

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011

National Oceanography Centre applied to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (“MARA”) for a maritime usage licence (reference no. MUL250021) under section 117 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (“the MAP Act”) to undertake Offshore activities as part of a scientific research project funded by the United Kingdom’s Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) to conduct systematic scientific surveys in the deep-sea Whittard Canyon and Gollum Channel, to perform a first of its kind characterisation of the transport of natural particles, nutrients, organic carbon and pollutants from the continental shelf to the deep-sea. On 7th July 2026, MARA determined to grant the licence, subject to conditions.

In connection with the above licence application and following a public consultation under section 117(6)(b) of the MAP Act, MARA carried out an appropriate assessment of the proposed maritime usage. On the 27th May 2026, MARA determined that the proposed maritime usage (either individually or in combination with any other plans or projects) would not adversely affect the integrity of any European Sites¹, in view of the European Sites’ conservation objectives, subject to the implementation of mitigation.

The appropriate assessment report and the appropriate assessment determination are available on the MARA website.

Judicial review of the appropriate assessment determination

The validity of the appropriate assessment determination may be questioned by judicial review under order 84 of the Superior Courts Rules (S.I. No 15 of 1986) in accordance with chapter 8, part 5 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021. Any application for leave to apply for judicial review shall be made within eight weeks of the date of this notice. Practical information on judicial review can be obtained from the Citizens Information Board, Ground Floor, George’s Quay

¹ As defined in the European Communities (Birds and Habitats) Regulations 2011

House, 43 Townsend Street, Dublin 2 (www.citizensinformation.ie) or from the Courts website (www.courts.ie).

Dated this 7th day of July 2026

The Maritime Area Regulatory Authority