Calluragh Cregg Lahinch Wastewater Action Group (CCLWAG) | cclwastewateractiongroup@gmail.com

Maritime Usage Licensing, Maritime Area Regulatory Authority
2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park, Drinagh, Wexford, Y35 RF29
By email: licence@mara.gov.ie

October 14th 2026

Community submission on Maritime Usage Licence application MUL260006

Uisce Éireann, marine and intertidal site investigation surveys, Liscannor Bay, Co. Clare

Dear Sir or Madam,

This submission comes from the people of Lahinch, Ennistymon, Cregg, Calluragh and the communities around Liscannor Bay. The community people who have signed the attached sheets object to MARA granting this survey licence, and support the submission made by the Calluragh Cregg Lahinch Wastewater Action Group (CCLWAG).

We are not against a new wastewater plant. Lahinch and Ennistymon badly need one. Clare County Council told MARA on 17 April 2026 that the Lahinch plant floods so often it "cannot provide adequate and appropriate treatment". We agree, and we want it fixed. What we ask for is the right plant, built to the right standard, in a place that can be justified on evidence.

Liscannor Bay is not just a stretch of water to us. People have bathed at Cregg for generations. A tourism survey of Lahinch signed in July 1942 records "Bathing at any point along above stretch and also at Cregg." Today the bay is used all year by swimmers, surfers, walkers, families and fishermen, and it is at the heart of the local economy. Lahinch lost its Blue Flag this year, and people here feel that loss. Our concerns, in summary:

- **The Council's concerns have not been answered.** Clare County Council warned that secondary treatment will not guarantee no impact on water quality "and in particular on human health", that Area A is too restrictive, and that Cregg may have a shallow shelf with poor mixing. We can find no answer on MARA's public file. The revised Natura Impact Statement still describes the plant as providing "at least secondary treatment".
- **Heavy works on a shore people use.** Up to 20 boreholes in the bay, a jack-up platform, seabed sound surveys using boomer or sparker equipment, and trial pits on Cregg Beach up to 4 metres deep dug by excavator, under a licence sought for two years. The application says nothing about public access to Cregg during the works. Closing the shore to walkers, swimmers and surfers without a plan agreed with the community would be unacceptable.
- **Wildlife not properly assessed.** Seal surveys of the bay in 2025 logged 116 records of two species, but the Natura Impact Statement does not analyse them, and the surveys are planned for the grey seal breeding and moulting season. Local people have found a honeycomb worm (*Sabellaria alveolata*) reef at Cregg. Reefs of this kind are a habitat type listed in Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. The narrow-mouthed whorl snail, a protected species monitored by NPWS at Lahinch, is ruled out in a single sentence without any survey cited.
- **Heritage.** The applicant's own response of 26 June 2026 records two Bronze Age ring barrows about 140 metres east of the survey area at Cregg.

These points are set out in full in CCLWAG's own submission. We ask MARA to read the attached signatures as the voice of a community that cares deeply about this bay, and expects decisions about it to be made openly, on complete evidence, with the protection of the water and the people who use it at their heart. We ask MARA not to grant licence MUL260006, and to state in its determination how the matters raised by this community, and by Clare County Council, have been taken into account.

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]
Chair, CCLWAG

[redacted]
Vice-Chair, CCLWAG

[redacted]
Secretary, CCLWAG

[redacted]
Treasurer, CCLWAG

Community submission to MARA: licence application MUL260006, Liscannor Bay

I object to MARA granting licence MUL260006. I believe the proposed survey works would harm our bay, our bathing waters at Cregg, our wildlife and our heritage. I support the submission of the Calluragh Cregg Lahinch Wastewater Action Group (CCLWAG) and ask MARA not to grant this licence.

Your name and area will be sent to MARA with this submission and may be made public on MARA's file. They will not be used for any other purpose. One signature per person.

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Name (BLOCK CAPITALS)	Town or area	Signature
[redacted]	FARMILL LAHINCH Limerick / LAHINH Liner / LAHINCH	[redacted]