Observation on Marine ecosystem in Liscannor Bay in relation to proposed Uisce Éireann application to MARA for proposed survey works the bay.

To the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority
Application MUL260006

[redacted]
Date 26th October 2026

[redacted]

Dear Sir or Madam,

I lived in Calluragh South, Lahinch from August 2005, looking down on Cregg Beach, Barr Tra and Liscannor Bay.

I make marine natural history documentaries for RTÉ, BBC, TG4, all set in Ireland, along are beautiful coastline with its rich biodiversity. These documentaries showing Ireland and our oceanic marine habitats in a beautiful light have been show on primetime broadcast TV in more than 30 countries around the world and feature along David Attenborough on BBC Earth's oceanic documentary.

I have made 10 documentaries now specifically on life in the shallow waters much of which was filmed in Liscannor Bay.
The rich benthic habitats are created by a combination of wave action into shallow water causing aeration / oxygenation, churning up of seabed nutrients, runoff of minerals and salts and have created a rich and diverse ecosystem consisting of huge varieties of marine flora, reef dwelling filter feeders such as mussels, barnacles whelks, honeycomb worms, various crustacea including hermit crabs, green crabs, brown crabs, lobsters and spider crab aggregations in early summer.

I have filmed purple urchins, who are currently defined as being locally extinct, but there is one remaining enclave of them on the south side of the Liscannor Bay, I have filmed multiple anemone species nudibranchs, sea hares (aplysisa).

I have found multiple egg cases from the critically endangered flapper skate meaning somewhere within or very close to the bay there is a breeding area.

Historically people caught blue and porbeagle sharks all around the Liscannor Bay, a local angler Jack shine is world famous for catching porbeagles on the south side of the Liscannor Bay, the only place outside of Australia and Florida the sharks were caught from the shore at that time. Those animals are also critically endangered and have been making a recovery in just the recent decade.

Liscannor Bay is a heaven for multiple species of jellyfish, I have filmed mating aggregations of moon jellyfish particularly on the south side of the bay where they get blown in on the south westerlies. I've also filmed huge

aggregations of compass jellyfish something very unique which would make me believe it is also an area for mating aggregations. We also see pelagia noctiluca, blue jellies, occasional Lion's mane, various medusa stage cnidaria and even Portuguese man of war.

The notion of pumping partially treated sewage into this marine habitat is absurd. All of this ecosystem which is struggling somewhat already with warming ocean waters, ocean acidification and existing eutrophication from run-off of nitrates and phosphate from agriculture as well as leaks from municipal and private dwelling house existing septic tank discharge.

Liscannor Bay is home to almost a dozen world-class surfing waves, and is regarded as likely Ireland's premier surf location due to the availability of different reef and beach break which work in differing weather conditions, the availability of waves for surfers of different competency from beginner beach breaks to the renowned and world class left-hand wave at Barr Tra reef.

The availability of these waves spawned a unique Irish surf culture in recent decades, leading to a vibrant surf community and marine Eco tourism businesses. Tens of thousands of people can be counted coming to Lahinch for surf, particularly in winter time when traditional tourists are not around. We all remember Lahinch which probably up to 20 years ago had little or no tourists from September 1 to end of May.

Kite surfing is also hugely popular. Sea swimming and beach usage has always been Lahinch's primary attraction, with a huge increase in sea swimming in recent years.

Releasing partially treated sewerage into the bay will clearly present water-usage health risks to surfers, swimmers, kite surfers and all other water users.

Action requested from MARA

Can UE respond with a detailed account of what environmental and ecosystem impact studies have been carried out into the potential impact on all of the above listed benthic life, and on the breeding areas of flapper skate, on the noise disturbance during construction phase for all of the above flora and fauna.

Can you provide similar detail for what potential impact there might be on all of the above flora and fauna by the release of partially treated sewage into the bay.

Can you provide detailed analysis of water movement modelling within the bay and the modelled movement of released effluent into the bay, taking into account tidal movement conditions, winds in particular and local water currents etc.

I also support the submission made by the Calluragh Cregg Lahinch Wastewater Action Group.

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]

[redacted]