



Maritime Usage Licensing Team

MARA

Drinagh

Wexford

8/4/2026

MUL260002 Request for observations from public bodies – University College Cork shark survey Cork Harbour

To whom it may concern,

Having reviewed the MUL260003 application from the perspective of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974 and the requirement therein to provide such aids to navigation as the volume of traffic justifies and the degree of risk requires, the Commissioners of Irish Lights as the National competent authority for marine aids to navigation under the Merchant Shipping Act 1894, wishes to make the following observations regarding this application.

For Site A, this application proposes to place a 50mx15mx5m steel cage on the seabed directly above a buried submarine power cable carrying 220kV which is operated by Eirgrid. The associated anchor arrangements will involve 60 to 100m of 12mm steel wire rope connected to each corner of the rectangular cage with mooring anchors at a minimum distance of 10m from the power cable charted position. A separate cage of similar dimensions and associated moorings is proposed to be sited further East as a control for the scientific experiment to be undertaken. The average charted depth in the area is 2m plus tide, meaning that a 5m high structure will likely remain visible by day either side of Low Water, but would present a hazard to navigation at higher tides and during the hours of darkness and/or restricted visibility. Although outside the main navigation channels and also outside the typical channels used by smaller vessel to access the Eastern side of the harbour & Great Island/East Ferry area, the available water depth would normally allow for surface navigation and the presence of these two new large obstacles and associated moorings will require marking with IALA standard Special Mark buoys. These buoys will be required to carry lights to mark the site during the hours of darkness.

The number, position and light characteristics of these buoys shall be agreed with Irish Lights and a Statutory Consent granted in accordance with the Merchant Shipping Act in advance of works



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commencing. Irish Lights as the general lighthouse authority, provides statutory consents to what are termed Local Lighthouse Authorities (LLA) to establish, amend, or disestablish marine buoyage as required. As the submarine power cable was installed by Eirgrid in 2008 at a cost of Euro 35 Million, as Eirgrid is an existing LLA and as the notation on UKHO Chart 1777 of Cork Harbour states that “*Submarine cables support national infrastructure; damage to them may affect critical services and can result in serious consequences, as well as creating a potential hazard to mariners.*”, it is recommended that Eirgrid would act as the LLA for submission of the statutory consent application to the Commissioners of Irish Lights.

For any queries, please contact operations@irishlights.ie

Yours sincerely,

Captain Catriona Schmegner Tosco
Navigation Services Manager