



Licence Ref: **MUL260002**
(Please quote in all related correspondence)

8th April 2026

Maritime Area Regulatory Authority
2nd Floor
Menapia House
Drinagh Business Park
Drinagh
Wexford
Y35RF29

Via email: licence@mara.gov.ie

Referral under Regulation 42(6) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations

Re: Maritime usage licence application for marine environmental surveys to investigate the effect of an electromagnetic field (EMF) from a buried high voltage cable on a sensitive elasmobranch (sharks, skates & rays) species; the lesser spotted catshark *Scyliorhinus canicula* in the Port of Cork.

A chara

I refer to correspondence received in connection with the above. Outlined below are heritage related observations/recommendations of the Department co-ordinated by the Development Applications Unit under the stated heading(s).

Nature Conservation

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) has reviewed the Supporting Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment (SISAA) prepared in support of the proposed CABLES – Capturing elasmobranch Behaviour in Electromagnetic Fields project in Cork Harbour. The documentation describes the temporary deployment of mesh enclosures, acoustic receivers and navigation buoys to support research examining the behavioural responses of small-spotted catshark to electromagnetic fields associated with subsea power transmission cables.

Having reviewed the information provided, NPWS concurs with the conclusions of the screening assessment that the proposed activity, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, is not likely to have significant effects on any European site in view of their conservation objectives. On this basis, NPWS agrees that the project does not require progression to Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.



You are requested to send any further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) at FEM.dau@npws.gov.ie, or to the following address:

The Manager
Development Applications Unit (DAU)
Government Offices
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

Is mise, le meas

Development Applications Unit
Administration