



Licence Ref: **MUL260003**
(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 testing equipment (underwater technology on ROVs and AUVs to survey and support salvage of anthropogenic structures (wrecks) by creating 3D and other models from data) in saline waters in the North Atlantic South Coast Cork

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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 information provided in support of the proposed maritime usage licence application for the deployment of remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) and autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) to undertake non-invasive surveys of shipwrecks located off the south coast of Ireland. The proposed activity involves the use of a single small survey vessel to deploy remotely operated electric underwater vehicles to collect photographic and acoustic data from wreck sites over a short survey campaign of approximately two weeks, with individual wreck sites surveyed for approximately one day. The activity does not involve diver operations, seabed disturbance, or the installation of any infrastructure.

Accordingly, NPWS concurs with the determination that the proposed activity is unlikely to give rise to significant ecological impacts and does not raise objections to the proposal as described. Standard best-practice measures, including the use of a Marine Mammal Observer and adherence to relevant guidance on underwater sound, should be implemented for the duration of the survey operations.



It is recommended that the applicant note that there may be a requirement for Regulation 54 consent under the EU Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations. Guidance on this process are available here <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/files/Applications-for-Regulation-54-Derogations-for-Annex-IV-species-Guidance-for-Applicants.pdf>

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)
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Development Applications Unit
Administration