

To:	Laura Brien, CEO	From:	Dr Ciar O'Toole, Senior Marine Advisor, MULPA
		Date:	07/10/2026
Please see below for AA screening and determination report from external consultant Aisling Hearty of Aquafact, prepared using MARA procedures and templates with my supervision. I have reviewed the report below.			

Maritime Usage Licence and Planning Advisory Directorate			
Appropriate Assessment Screening and Determination Report			
To:	MULPA Directorate, MARA	From:	Aisling Hearty, Principal Ecologist, AQUAFAC (APEM Group)
Date:	29/09/2026	Maritime Usage Licence Application No:	MUL260003
Applicant: Oceyon Ag	Oceyon AG Grafenauweg 8 6300 Zug Switzerland		
Type of maritime usage activity in accordance with Schedule 7 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021:	<i>3. Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000.</i>		
Location of proposed maritime usage:	<i>South Coast of Ireland. 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 and to deployment of non invasive survey technology at a number of wrecks along the south coast</i>		
Licence application received:	06/02/2026		

1. Background

Oceyon AG (the applicant) has applied to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) for a Maritime Usage Licence (MUL) to undertake marine environmental surveys for the purposes of scientific discovery or research, falling under Schedule 7(2) of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (the MAP Act). The activities are required to test remotely operated vehicle and autonomous underwater vehicle survey technology on a series of shipwrecks off the south coast of Ireland and to collect photographic and acoustic data for the development of three dimensional and other models.

2. Description of maritime usage and local site characteristics

2.1 Brief description of the maritime usage

The proposed maritime usage comprises visual and acoustic surveys of ten wreck sites along the south coast of Ireland using remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) and autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) deployed from a small crew transfer vessel. The ROV will be deployed at each survey site and the AUV will be deployed as required. No divers are proposed and the survey equipment will not disturb the wrecks.

The ROV and AUV systems will use underwater positioning and acoustic survey equipment including obstacle avoidance sonar, Doppler velocity loggers, imaging sonar and side scan sonar operating at frequencies between approximately 400 kHz and 1,200 kHz. The proposed SeaTrac USBL positioning system uses broadband spread-spectrum acoustic signals in the 24–32 kHz frequency band at a reported source level of up to 186 dB re 1 µPa at 1 m.

Survey equipment will be deployed from the Fionn Mac Cumhaill, or a similar vessel depending on availability. The proposed vessel is approximately 16 m in length. Port and harbour facilities along the south coast will be used as required, with Cork Harbour, Wexford and Youghal identified as likely primary ports of call.

The surveys will remain within approximately 350 m² of the wreck structures. Survey activity is expected to take approximately one day at each wreck site, with a maximum of two days at any one site. The total survey duration is approximately 14 days over a period of two to three weeks, subject to weather and vessel availability.

The applicant has requested a two-year MUL duration to provide flexibility to undertake the survey during an appropriate weather window.

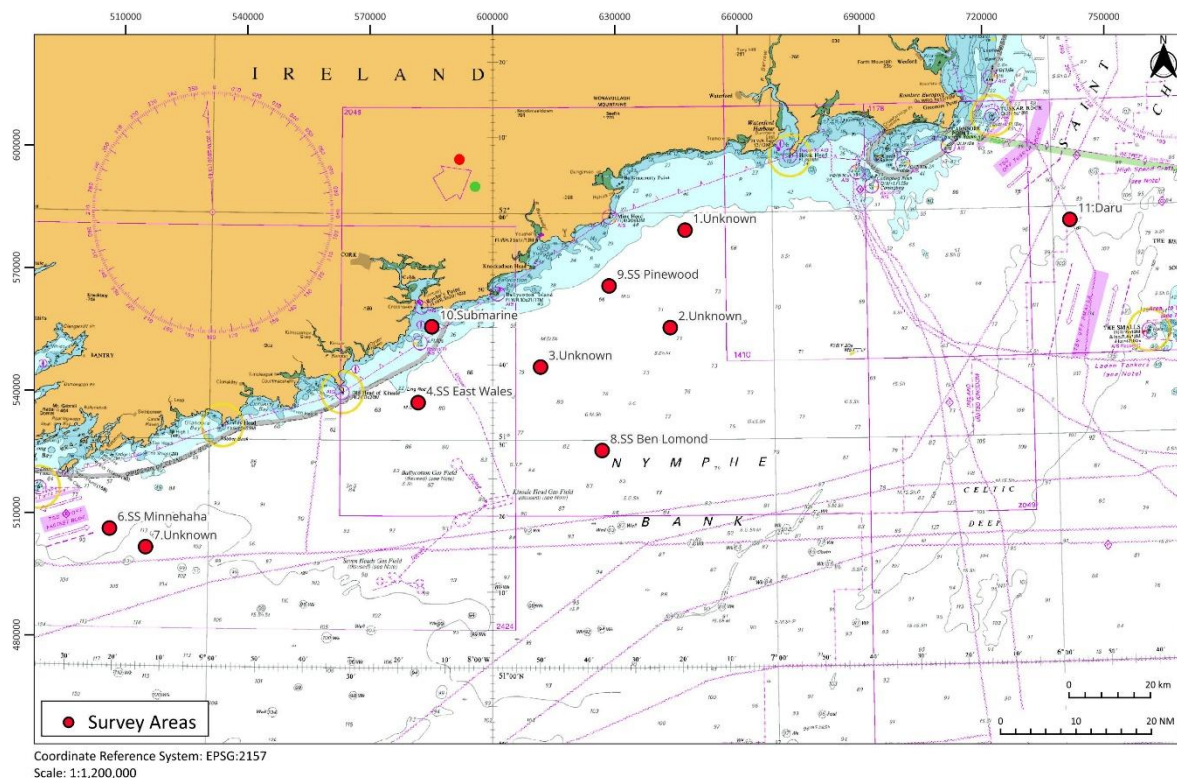


Figure 2-1: MUL survey area

2.2 Brief description of the site characteristics

The proposed maritime usage extends across ten sites in offshore waters along the south coast of Ireland. The proposed wreck sites are located approximately 2 to 25 nautical miles from the coast in water depths ranging from approximately 27 m to 110 m. The survey locations comprise existing anthropogenic wreck structures on the seabed and no intrusive works or seabed sampling are proposed. One survey location, the Daru wreck, overlaps the Seas off Wexford SPA. Other survey locations are ecologically connected to European sites designated for mobile marine mammal and seabird receptors.

3. Identification of relevant European sites

The MUL application is subject to screening for appropriate assessment in accordance with Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended, to determine if it alone, or in-combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on a European sites, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the sites. The applicant submitted a Supporting Information for Screening of Appropriate Assessment (SISAA) report in support of the application which was referred to during this assessment

The proposed maritime usage is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site(s). The European sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs)) listed on Table 1 have been considered for appropriate assessment, given the nature, scale and Zone of Influence of the maritime usage, the conservation objectives of the European sites and using the Source-Pathway-Receptor model.

Table 1 - Identification of relevant European sites, their qualifying interests and site-specific conservation objectives. Those Qualifying Interests marked in bold have been screened in for Stage 2 appropriate assessment.

European site and site code	Distance from proposed MUL area (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source pathway receptor)	European Site Screened in	Site specific conservation objectives
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)					
Ardmore Head SAC [002123]	14.05	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030]	No significant S-P-R.	No	NPWS 2016 Conservation Objectives: Ardmore Head SAC 002123. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
Great Island Channel SAC [001058]	17.5	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330]	No significant S-P-R.	No	NPWS 2014 Conservation Objectives: Great Island Channel SAC 001058. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Helvick Head SAC [000665]	17.78	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030]	No significant S-P-R.	No	NPWS 2016 Conservation Objectives: Helvick Head SAC 000665. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.
Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC [000101]	18.2	Grey Seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>) [1364] Harbour Porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>) [1351]	Yes. Mobile individuals associated with the SAC may occur within the zone of influence of the proposed project and may be exposed	Yes.	NPWS 2011 Conservation Objectives: Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC 000101. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of

			to underwater noise disturbance.		Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
		Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]	No significant S-P-R.		
Hook Head SAC [000764]	19.7	Harbour Porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>) [1351] Common Bottlenose Dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>) [1349]	Yes. Mobile individuals associated with the SAC may occur within the zone of influence of the proposed project and may be exposed to underwater noise disturbance.	Yes.	NPWS 2025 Conservation Objectives: Hook Head SAC 000764. Version 2. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
		Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	No significant S-P-R.		
Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC [002170]	20.2	Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]	No significant S-P-R.	No	NPWS 2012 Conservation Objectives: Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC 002170. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

		Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092] <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095] <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096] <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099] <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> (Twaiite Shad) [1103] <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] <i>Vandenboschia speciosa</i> (Killarney Fern) [6985]			
Lough Hyne Nature Reserve and Environs SAC [000097]	21.08	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] European dry heaths [4030] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]	No significant S-P-R.	No	NPWS 2025 Conservation Objectives: Lough Hyne Nature Reserve and Environs SAC 000097. Version 2. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC [000077]	21.4	Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]	No significant S-P-R.	No	NPWS 2026 Conservation Objectives: Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC 000077. Version 3. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

		Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]			
Carnsore Point SAC [002269]	31.77	Harbour Porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>) [1351]	Yes. Mobile individuals associated with the SAC may occur within the zone of influence of the proposed project and may be exposed to underwater noise disturbance.	Yes.	NPWS 2014 Conservation Objectives: Carnsore Point SAC 002269. Version 2. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
		Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Reefs [1170]	No significant S-P-R.		
Blackwater Bank SAC [002953]	36.2	Harbour Porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>) [1351]	Yes. Mobile individuals associated with the SAC may occur within the zone of influence of the proposed project and may be exposed to underwater noise disturbance.	Yes.	NPWS 2024 Conservation Objectives: Blackwater Bank SAC 002953. Version 3. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
		Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110]	No significant S-P-R.		
Saltee Islands SAC [000707]	37.68	Grey Seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>) [1364]	Yes. Mobile individuals associated with the SAC may occur within the zone of influence of the proposed project and may be exposed to underwater noise disturbance.	Yes.	NPWS 2011 Conservation Objectives: Saltee Islands SAC 000707. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
		Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	No significant S-P-R.		

		Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330]			
Long Bank SAC [002161]	38	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110]	No significant S-P-R.	No	NPWS 2013 Conservation Objectives: Long Bank SAC 002161. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Slaney River Valley SAC [000781]	48.1	Harbour Seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) [1365]	Yes. Mobile individuals associated with the SAC may occur within the zone of influence of the proposed project and may be exposed to underwater noise disturbance.	Yes.	NPWS 2011 Conservation Objectives: Slaney River Valley SAC 000781. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
		Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculon fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]	No significant S-P-R.		

		<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095] <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096] <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099] <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> (Twaite Shad) [1103] <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]			
Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC [000090]	84.67	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] <i>Geomalacus maculosus</i> (Kerry Slug) [1024] <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] Harbour Seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) [1365]	No significant S-P-R.	No	NPWS 2015 Conservation Objectives: Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC 000090. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Kenmare River SAC [002158]	86.23	Harbour Porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>) [1351]	Yes. Mobile individuals associated with the SAC may occur within the zone of influence of the proposed project and may be exposed to underwater noise disturbance.	Yes.	NPWS 2026 Conservation Objectives: Kenmare River SAC 002158. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
		Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]	No significant S-P-R.		

		Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] European dry heaths [4030] <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] <i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014] <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] Harbour Seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) [1365]			
Blasket Islands SAC [002172]	138.41	Harbour Porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>) [1351]	Yes. Mobile individuals associated with the SAC may occur within the zone of influence of the proposed project and may be exposed to underwater noise disturbance.	Yes.	NPWS 2014 Conservation Objectives: Blasket Islands SAC 002172. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
		Reefs [1170] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] Grey Seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>) [1364]	No significant S-P-R.		
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)					

Seas off Wexford SPA [004237]	0	Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] Mediterranean Gull (<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>) [A176] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Little Tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>) [A885] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] Sandwich Tern (<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>) [A863]	No significant S-P-R.	Yes	NPWS 2024 Conservation Objectives: Seas off Wexford SPA 004237. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
		Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>) [A013] Gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>) [A016] Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200]	Yes. Diving-bird SCIs may occur within the relevant survey areas and could be exposed while the equipment is operating. In the absence of sufficiently species- and source-specific information to exclude disturbance, likely significant effects cannot be ruled out at screening.		

Cork Harbour SPA [004030]	6.75	Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179]	No significant S-P-R.	Yes	NPWS 2014 Conservation Objectives: Cork Harbour SPA 004030. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
		Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]	Yes. Diving-bird SCIs may occur within the relevant survey areas and could be exposed while the equipment is operating. In the absence of sufficiently species- and source-specific information to exclude disturbance, likely significant effects cannot be ruled out at screening.		
Ballycotton Bay SPA [004022]	15.62	Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183]	No significant S-P-R.	No	NPWS 2014 Conservation Objectives: Ballycotton Bay SPA 004022. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA [004156]	17.98	Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103] Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]	No significant S-P-R.	No.	NPWS 2025 Conservation Objectives: Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA 004156. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Sovereign Islands SPA [004124]	18.02	Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]	No significant S-P-R.	No.	NPWS 2025 Conservation Objectives: Sovereign Islands SPA 004124. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of

					Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Ballymacoda Bay SPA [004023]	25.92	Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183]	No significant S-P-R.	No	NPWS 2015 Conservation Objectives: Ballymacoda Bay SPA 004023. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Old Head of Kinsale SPA [004021]	27.01	Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188]	No significant S-P-R.	Yes	NPWS 2025 Conservation Objectives: Old Head of Kinsale SPA 004021. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
		Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199]	Yes. Diving-bird SCIs may occur within the relevant survey areas and could be exposed while the equipment is operating. In the absence of sufficiently species- and source-specific information to exclude disturbance, likely significant effects cannot be ruled out at screening.		
Courtmacsherry Bay SPA [004219]	32.86	Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182]	No significant S-P-R.	No	NPWS 2014 Conservation Objectives: Courtmacsherry Bay SPA 004219. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Blackwater Estuary SPA [004028]	33.31	Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]	No significant S-P-R.	No.	NPWS 2012 Conservation Objectives: Blackwater Estuary SPA 004028. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of

		Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>) [A855] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]			Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Seven Heads SPA [004191]	35.68	Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]	No significant S-P-R.	No.	NPWS 2025 Conservation Objectives: Seven Heads SPA 004191. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Lady's Island Lake SPA [004009]	37.05	Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] Sandwich Tern (<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>) [A863] Gadwall (<i>Mareca strepera</i>) [A889] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	No significant S-P-R.	No.	NPWS 2025 Conservation Objectives: Lady's Island Lake SPA 004009. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Galley Head to Duneen Point SPA [004190]	37.24	Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]	No significant S-P-R.	No.	NPWS 2025 Conservation Objectives: Galley Head to Duneen Point SPA 004190. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Tacumshin Lake SPA [004092]	41.94	Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004] Bewick's Swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>) [A037] Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061] Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]	No significant S-P-R.	No.	NPWS 2025 Conservation Objectives: Tacumshin Lake SPA 004092. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

		Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>) [A855] Shoveler (<i>Spatula clypeata</i>) [A857] Gadwall (<i>Mareca strepera</i>) [A889] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]			
Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA [004192]	43.86	Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188]	No significant S-P-R.	No	NPWS 2025 Conservation Objectives: Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA 004192. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Clonakilty Bay SPA [004081]	44.83	Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	No significant S-P-R.	No.	NPWS 2014 Conservation Objectives: Clonakilty Bay SPA 004081. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Wexford Harbour and Slob SPA [004076]	46.39	Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004] Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) [A028] Bewick's Swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>) [A037] Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053]	No significant S-P-R.	No.	NPWS 2012 Conservation Objectives: Wexford Harbour and Slob SPA 004076. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

		Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062] Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067] Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082] Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395] Wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>) [A855] Little Tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>) [A885] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]			
Saltee Islands SPA [004002]	47.47	Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188]	No significant S-P-R.	Yes	NPWS 2011 Conservation Objectives: Saltee Islands SPA 004002. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
		Gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>) [A016] Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200]	Yes. Diving-bird SCIs may occur within the relevant survey areas and could be		

			exposed while the equipment is operating. In the absence of sufficiently species- and source-specific information to exclude disturbance, likely significant effects cannot be ruled out at screening.		
Beara Peninsula SPA [004155]	48.81	Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009]	No significant S-P-R.	No	NPWS 2022 Conservation Objectives: Beara Peninsula SPA 004155. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
The Raven SPA [004019]	48.81	Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	No significant S-P-R.	No	NPWS 2012 Conservation Objectives: The Raven SPA 004019. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Ballyteigue Burrow SPA [004020]	51.64	Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	No significant S-P-R.	No.	NPWS 2014 Conservation Objectives: Ballyteigue Burrow SPA 004020. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Dungarvan Harbour SPA [004032]	51.92	Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]	No significant S-P-R.	No.	NPWS 2012 Conservation Objectives: Dungarvan Harbour SPA 004032. National Parks and Wildlife

		Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]			Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Keeragh Islands SPA [004118]	60.01	Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]	No significant S-P-R.	No.	NPWS 2025 Conservation Objectives: Keeragh Islands SPA 004118. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Mid-Waterford Coast SPA [004193]	62.59	Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]	No significant S-P-R.	No.	NPWS 2024 Conservation Objectives: Mid-Waterford Coast SPA 004193. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Bannow Bay SPA [004033]	63.87	Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054]	No significant S-P-R.	No.	NPWS 2012 Conservation Objectives: Bannow Bay SPA 004033. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife

		Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]			Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
The Bull and The Cow Rocks SPA [004066]	68.87	Storm Petrel (<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>) [A014]	No significant S-P-R.	Yes	NPWS 2025 Conservation Objectives: The Bull and The Cow Rocks SPA 004066. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
		Gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>) [A016]	Yes. Diving-bird SCIs may occur within the relevant survey areas and could be exposed while the equipment is operating. In the absence of sufficiently species- and source-specific information to exclude disturbance, likely significant effects cannot be ruled out at screening		
Iveragh Peninsula SPA [004154]	72.23	Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009]	No significant S-P-R.	No	NPWS 2025 Conservation Objectives: Iveragh Peninsula SPA 004154. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Deenish Island and Scariff Island SPA [004175]	76.6	Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Storm Petrel (<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>) [A014]	No significant S-P-R.	Yes	NPWS 2025 Conservation Objectives: Deenish Island and Scariff Island SPA

		Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>) [A013]	Yes. Diving-bird SCIs may occur within the relevant survey areas and could be exposed while the equipment is operating. In the absence of sufficiently species- and source-specific information to exclude disturbance, likely significant effects cannot be ruled out at screening.		004175. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Tramore Back Strand SPA [004027]	80.09	Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	No significant S-P-R.	No.	NPWS 2013 Conservation Objectives: Tramore Back Strand SPA 004027. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
Puffin Island SPA [004003]	93.73	Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Storm Petrel (<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>) [A014]	No significant S-P-R.	Yes	NPWS 2025 Conservation Objectives: Puffin Island SPA 004003. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
		Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>) [A013]	Yes. Vessel activity and operation of acoustic survey equipment will generate underwater sound. Diving-bird SCIs may occur within the relevant survey areas and could be exposed while the equipment is operating. In the absence of sufficiently species- and source-specific information to exclude		

			disturbance, likely significant effects cannot be ruled out at screening.		
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4. Assessment of likely significant effects

Table 2 identification of potential direct and indirect impacts that may have an effect on the conservation objectives of European sites, taking into account the nature and scale of the proposed maritime usage.

Potential impacts	Possible significance of potential impacts (duration, magnitude, etc.)
Underwater noise disturbance	USBL survey equipment may generate underwater noise which overlaps the hearing range of marine mammal species. Mobile marine mammals and diving birds associated with European sites may occur within the zone of influence and may experience temporary disturbance or displacement.
Visual and above water noise disturbance	The presence and movement of the survey vessel, personnel and deployed equipment may result in temporary visual and above-water noise disturbance. Given the single-vessel operation, the maximum one-to-two-day duration at each offshore site and the absence of works at breeding or roosting locations, likely significant effects from this pathway are not anticipated. Disturbance to QIs or SCIs—short duration with limited usage at each site (c. one day) over a large spatial area (250 km)

In-combination effects

The potential impacts of the proposed maritime usage must be considered individually and also in combination with other plans or projects. All types of plans or projects that could, in combination with this application, have a significant effect, have been considered. This in-combination assessment has been undertaken using professional and scientific judgement and is assessed primarily in terms of potential spatial and temporal impacts.

The spatial scope of the in-combination assessment is the extent of the MUL area (250 km) and is based on overlap and/or connectivity with the proposed project. The temporal scope of the in-combination assessment is based on the period over which the activities are proposed. While interactions may occur over two years, each site is expected to result in one-day at sea.

A search of relevant databases, including the MARA MAC and MUL Applications and Determinations database, Foreshore Licences, undertaken on the 29/09/2026. Table 3 below outlines those activities which are considered to have the potential to act in-combination with the proposed maritime usage.

Table 3: List of projects which were considered to have potential in-combination impacts on European sites.

Application Ref.	Project description	Distance from proposed MUL area (km)	Project Status
MAC240057	The development of a 900 megawatt (MW) offshore windfarm	Overlap	Granted with conditions 26/03/2026
MUL250019	The proposed site investigation (SI) works are activities required to characterise the physical, biological, and environmental conditions of Maritime Area A - Tonn Nua. The data collected will underpin project design, environmental assessment, and consenting, for any future offshore wind development within Maritime Area A – Tonn Nua	Overlap	Granted 20/05/2026
MUL240036 and amendment MUL240036MA	The maritime usage proposed is for marine site investigation (SI) works to inform the engineering design and environmental assessments for two offshore substations (OSS) in the Tonn Nua Area A (as identified in the South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan), potential offshore transmission cable corridors, approaches to seven potential landfall zones, and seven landfall zones. Amendment to licence issued 06/07/2026 see MUL240036MA for further details.	Overlap	Granted 10/07/2025
MUL230031	Geophysical survey and site investigations for a proposed transatlantic subsea fibre optic cable having a landfall at Castlerefke, County Cork to evaluate options for the route across the Celtic Sea and the Atlantic Ocean to a landfall on the East Coast of the United States.	Overlap	Granted 22/04/2025
MAC250018	Proposed Activity - The installation, operation, monitoring, maintenance, repair and decommissioning of a subsea fibre optic cable system.	1.8 km	Applied 11/12/2025

Application Ref.	Project description	Distance from proposed MUL area (km)	Project Status
MAC20230016	Proposed Activity - The re-development of the decommissioned and depleted Ballycotton gas reservoir in the Kinsale Head area offshore Cork.	Overlap	Applied 17/07/2024
MUL260021	To conduct geophysical, geotechnical, metocean and biological surveys in the South Coast DMAP to inform future offshore renewable energy development	Overlap	Granted 28/07/2026
FS007136	Foreshore Licence for Site Investigations to inform the engineering and design of a potential offshore wind farm and associated export cable route at a site named "Helvick Head Offshore Wind".	Overlap	Under consideration. Received 18/12/2020
FS005115	Laying a pipeline to carry natural gas from the Kinsale Head Gas Field	1.5 km	Consented
FS007436	To undertake the surveys and site investigations to inform development and project design for the proposed site of Voyage Offshore Array Limited's proposed Voyage Offshore Array offshore wind project. The overall Voyage Offshore Array Project relates to an offshore floating wind farm located which will be located off the west coast of Ireland, predominantly off the coast of Waterford and south county Wexford. Proposed surveys include Geophysical, Geotechnical, and Environmental. A phased approach to development will be taken.	Overlap	Under consideration. Received 14/02/2022
FS007318	To investigate the feasibility of developing an offshore wind farm and is applying for a licence to undertake site investigation activities on a site called East Celtic Offshore Wind Park in the east Celtic Sea.	9.8 km	Under consideration. Received 10/03/2021
N/A	Cork shipping lane – commercial traffic	Overlap	N/A

The following plans, related to the development of the maritime environment were also considered:

- National Marine Planning Framework
- South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan 2
- Port of Cork Masterplan 2050 (including Ringaskiddy)

Likely significant in-combination effects between this application and the plans listed above and projects listed on Table 3 on the conservation objectives of the European sites considered in this report cannot be excluded at this stage as potential significant effects alone cannot be excluded at the screening stage.

Were mitigation measures considered during the screening process?

No

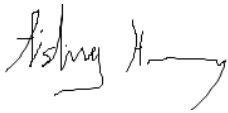
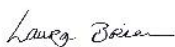
5. Screening Determination Statement

The assessment of significant effects:

Having considered the legal framework applicable to appropriate assessment, the information on file, and having regard to:

- The nature and scale of the proposed development
- The distance to the nearest European sites
- The potential for in-combination effects with other plans and projects
- Possible disturbance from underwater noise
- Visual and above water noise disturbance

It was concluded that the proposed maritime usage by Oceyon to carry out marine environmental surveys for the purposes of scientific discovery or research at a series of wreck sites along the south coast of Ireland (MUL260003) will require Stage 2 appropriate assessment. It cannot be excluded on the basis of objective scientific information, that the proposed project, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.

Signature and Date of Recommending Officer	 Aisling Hearty, Principal Ecologist, AQUAFACT	29/09/2026
Signature and Date of Decision Maker	 Laura Brien	07/10/2026