

# MARA

An tÚdarás Rialála Limistéir Mhuiri  
Maritime Area Regulatory Authority

## Maritime Usage Licence (MUL)

### General Application (Form MUL1)





#### Important information:

Applicants are strongly advised to read the "[Guidance Note for Applicants applying for a Maritime Usage Licence](#)" before completing this application.

The application form and supporting documentation, including confirmation of payment of fee, must be submitted to [licence@mara.gov.ie](mailto:licence@mara.gov.ie).

Complete this form electronically using the free text and tick boxes provided, free text boxes will expand as required. Responses should, in so far as is possible, clearly and concisely address the information requested. Where appropriate, supporting documentation may be submitted for assessment, providing that any information relevant to the application is clearly referenced in the application form.

Before completing this form, the declaration and consent at the end of the application form should be read.

#### Application Fee:

An application fee of EUR €2,000 applies for each Maritime Usage Licence (MUL) application.

This requirement is detailed in legislation:

Section 117(1) of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 and Maritime Area Usage (Licence Fees) Regulations 2023, SI No 402/2003.

The application fee must be paid by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA). MARA Bank Details are provided upon request by email to [licence@mara.gov.ie](mailto:licence@mara.gov.ie)

Proof of application fee payment /confirmation of funds transfer must be provided with the application documentation.

Should the Maritime Usage Licensing application screen out for Appropriate Assessment, a refund of EUR €1,000 applies.

#### Privacy Policy

MARA may require applicants to provide certain personal data in order to carry out its legislative and administrative functions. MARA will treat all personal data that an applicant provides in accordance with MARA's obligations under data protection legislation, including the Data Protection Act 2018 and the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). A Privacy Statement explaining how MARA, as the Data Controller, will process the personal data the applicant provides, how that information will be used and what rights the applicant may exercise in relation to its personal data, is available in this link: [Privacy Policy - MARA - The Maritime Regulator](#).

#### Freedom of Information/Access to Information on the Environment

MARA is a public body for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, as amended (the "FOI Act") and is also subject to the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007-2018 (the "AIE Regulations") and MARA may be required to disclose information and records provided by the applicant in response to a request made under the FOI Act and/or the AIE Regulations, subject to applicable exemptions. Where the applicant considers that any information supplied to MARA is commercially sensitive, confidential or otherwise exempt from disclosure under the FOI Act or the AIE Regulations, the applicant must clearly identify such information at the time. Notwithstanding this, the final decision on disclosure rests with MARA, in accordance with the applicable legislation. The applicant must, upon reasonable request and within a reasonable timeframe, provide all necessary assistance and cooperation to MARA in connection with any request for information made under the FOI Act and/or AIE Regulations.

#### Confidential/Commercially Sensitive Information

Applicants are asked to consider if any of the information supplied by them in their application to MARA is commercially sensitive and/or confidential. The applicant should clearly identify and separate the specific sections of their application containing such information. The applicant should specify the reasons for its confidentiality/sensitivity with regard to the FOI Act and/or AIE Regulations.



## Form MUL1 – Application for a Maritime Usage Licence (MUL) for an activity listed in Schedule 7 of the MAP Act

### Part 1 Activity in Schedule 7 and relevant section of the MAP Act

#### 1.1 Part 1 Activity in Schedule 7, for which this MUL application is made.

Tick Maritime Usage applicable to the purpose of the MUL. The Applicant should refer to the MUL Guidance Note for Applicants before completing this section.	
1. Dredging (including dredging involving the use of a device to remove any material, whether or not suspended in water, from one part of the seabed to another part of the seabed) other than— (a) dredging carried out to create a new harbour, berth or waterway, or to deepen existing facilities in order to allow access for larger ships, or (b) dredging ancillary to development authorised under the Act of 2000, whether or not it involves the removal of any material from the sea or seabed.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of scientific discovery or research.	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. The installation or placement of navigational markers or aids to navigation, or both, not undertaken or authorised by the Commissioners of Irish Lights.	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. The installation of non-permanent platforms, pontoons or slipways.	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. The deposit of any substance or object, either in the sea or on or under the seabed, from— (a) a vehicle, vessel (including a craft capable of travelling on, in or under water, whether or not self-propelled), boat, aircraft or marine structure (other than a pipeline), (b) a container floating in the sea, or (c) a structure on land constructed or adapted wholly or mainly for the purpose of depositing solids in the sea.	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. The use of a vehicle, vessel (including a craft capable of travelling on, in or under water, whether or not self-propelled), boat, aircraft, marine structure (other than a pipeline) or floating container to remove any substance or object from the seabed.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. The use of explosives not related to development authorised under the Act of 2000 and not requiring authorisation under any other enactment.	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. The maintenance of any cable, pipeline, oil, gas or carbon storage facility structure that does not require an authorisation (whether the authorisation takes the form of the grant of a licence, consent, approval or any other type of authorisation) under any other enactment in order to be undertaken.	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. The harvesting, disturbance or removal of seaweed, whether growing or rooted on the seabed, or deposited in or washed up thereon by the action of any one or more than one of the following: (a) tides; (b) winds; (c) waves.	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. The deposit, construction or removal of any mooring not requiring authorisation under any other enactment.	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. (a) The removal of beach material from, or the disturbance of beach material in, the maritime area otherwise than in the course of the ordinary or reasonable recreational enjoyment of the maritime area. 12 (b) In this paragraph, “beach material” means sand, clay, gravel, shingle, stones, rocks, mineral substances, seashells, coral and maerl and any flora, in or on the surface of the seabed or suspended in the water of the maritime area, and includes outcrops of rock or any other mineral substance above the surface of the seabed.	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. The laying or installation of telecommunications cables or ducting by or between coastal States where such cables or ducting pass through the exclusive economic zone (as construed in accordance with the Act of 2021) or the continental shelf but do not land in the State.	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. A maritime usage specified, for the purposes of this paragraph, in regulations made under section 113(2).”	<input type="checkbox"/>



Select activity type from the list below:

Dredging/Deposits	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy Infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>
ORE Development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ports	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Seaweed	<input type="checkbox"/>
State Infrastructure (Water/Sewage)	<input type="checkbox"/>
State Infrastructure (Other)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Telecoms	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tourism & Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.2 Select the relevant section(s) of the MAP Act under which this MUL application is made. If more than one section applies, then select all applicable sections.

Section 117 application for a new Schedule 7 usage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Section 129 application to amend an existing foreshore authorisation or continue to occupy that part of the maritime area after the expiration of the authorisation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Section 130 application for an existing unauthorised maritime usage	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.3 Provide below details when MUL application is made under Section 129 of the MAP Act.

A. Confirm that you are transitioning from an existing foreshore authorisation to a MUL to continue the previously consented maritime usage, or to amend an existing authorisation.

Yes  No

B. If yes, provide the following details.

i. Foreshore authorisation reference number.

Not applicable.

ii. Date of Issue.

Not applicable.

iii. Expiration date.



Not applicable.

- iv. Description of Authorised Usage.

Not applicable.

- v. Reason for transition from foreshore authorisation to MUL.

Not applicable.

- vi. Confirm that you have attached a copy of the existing foreshore authorisation including foreshore consent map in this MUL application as Attachment 1.3.

Yes  No

1.4 Provide below details when MUL application is made under Section 130 of the MAP Act.

- A. Confirm that you are applying for a MUL for an existing unauthorised maritime usage.

Yes  No

- B. If yes, provide the following details.

- i. Description of existing unauthorised maritime usage.

Not applicable.

- ii. Location of unauthorised maritime usage.

Not applicable.



iii. Date of commencement of unauthorised maritime usage.

Not applicable.

### Part 2 Applicant Details

#### 2.1 Applicant Details

The name and address should be of the legal or natural person that is to be the MUL Holder. This information would be recorded on the MUL.	
Name of Applicant	Uisce Éireann
Company/Organisation (if Applicable)	Uisce Éireann
Applicant Address: Where a legal person would be the Holder of the MUL, these details must be as currently listed in the Companies Registration Office. Where a non-profit entity, which is a registered charity, would be the Holder of the MUL, these details must be as currently listed in the Register of Charitable Organisations.	
Address line 1	Colvill House
Address line 2	24-26 Talbot St
Address line 3	
City/Town	Dublin 1
Eircode	D01NP86
Applicant Email Address	██████@water.ie
If the Applicant is a legal person, Company Registration Office Number. A copy of the Certificate of Incorporation (certified copy provided by CRO) and a list of Directors must be provided as Attachment 2.1.	530363
If the Applicant is a non-profit entity, which is a registered charity, the Registered Charity Number	n/a

Attachment 2.1 included (if required).

Yes  No  Not Applicable

#### 2.2 Authorised Contact Person for MUL Application.



The Authorised Contact Person for the MUL Application will be the person that MARA will contact in relation to any aspect of the MUL application. The Authorised Contact Person can be a person within the Applicant Organisation or a person (agent) nominated by the Applicant

Authorised Contact Name	John Hegarty
Authorised Contact Position	Senior Engineer (Agent) – Mott MacDonald Ireland Ltd
Email	[REDACTED]@mottmac.com
Telephone	[REDACTED]

2.3 If MARA provided a statutory declaration under Section 115 of the MAP Act as to whether or not a MUL was required for the proposed usage, provide the reference number associated with that declaration.

This was not sought by MARA prior to this MUL application.

2.4 Existing Foreshore Authorisation

A. Provide the reference number and title of any existing Foreshore Authorisations you may hold, or have a current application for, within, or otherwise in the vicinity of the proposed Maritime Usage, which you do not wish to transition (refer to 1.3 for Foreshore Authorisations you wish to transition).

Not applicable.

B. Do you intend to surrender any existing foreshore consent(s) (Lease/Licence) for any maritime usage other than that granted by the foreshore authorisation?

Yes  No

C. If yes, provide description of the existing foreshore consent(s) authorised usage. If necessary, provide additional information as Attachment 2.4.

Not applicable.

D. Attachment 2.4 included.

Yes  No  Not Applicable



## 2.5 Other authorisations or consents

- A. Provide the reference number, a brief description and the status (e.g. application made or authorisation/consent granted) of any other authorisations or consents in the footprint, or otherwise in the vicinity of the proposed Maritime Usage area, held by the applicant.

If necessary, provide additional information as Attachment 2.5.

Not applicable.

- B. Attachment 2.5 included.

Yes     No     Not Applicable



## Part 3 Details of Maritime Usage

### 3.1 Maritime Usage

- A. Provide a brief description of proposed Maritime Usage.

Additional information can be provided as Attachment 3.1.

AQUAFACT (APEM Group) has been commissioned by Uisce Éireann to prepare a Maritime Usage Licence (MUL) application for a programme of marine and intertidal site investigation surveys in Liscannor Bay, County Clare. The surveys are required to inform the design and consenting of a new Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to serve the agglomerations of Lahinch and Ennistymon.

The existing wastewater treatment plants in both towns are outdated and underperforming, currently discharging untreated or inadequately treated effluent into the Inagh River, contributing to water quality concerns. Uisce Éireann proposes to construct a new treatment facility on a greenfield site with a design capacity of approximately 9,300 Population Equivalent (PE). This facility will provide at least secondary treatment, improve compliance with the Water Framework Directive, and protect the ecological integrity of local riverine and coastal waters.

A key element of the project is the development of a new long sea outfall discharging treated effluent into Liscannor Bay from Cregg Beach. To support the final design, siting, and environmental assessment of this outfall and diffuser system, a suite of marine environmental and geotechnical surveys must be undertaken in the bay. The purpose of this MUL application is solely to secure permission for the temporary site investigation surveys within the defined maritime area.

#### Proposed Activities – Area A

The proposed investigation surveys will be undertaken across Area A, an area of approximately 287.4 hectares in Liscannor Bay and Area B, an area of approximately 6430.28 m<sup>2</sup> within Inagh River. Within Area A, the following activities are proposed:

#### Bathymetric and Geophysical Surveys

- Multibeam echo-sounder, side-scan sonar, and sub-bottom profiler to map seabed topography and subsurface features.
- Magnetometer surveys may be included to identify any ferrous material or archaeological features of interest.

#### Seabed Sampling and Benthic Surveys

- Grab samples and vibrocores to characterise sediment type and benthic fauna.
- Biotope classification of benthic communities to establish ecological baseline conditions.
- Drop-down video and still photography to visually assess seabed habitats and features.

#### Geotechnical Investigations

- Boreholes, Cone Penetration Tests (CPTs), vibrocores, and trial pitting in intertidal areas (particularly Area A at Cregg Beach) to assess ground conditions along the proposed pipeline and diffuser route.

#### Archaeological Survey

- Assessment of the potential for underwater cultural heritage features within the survey area.

#### Water Quality Sampling



- Collection of baseline samples for key physico-chemical parameters to support future monitoring and assessment.

Proposed Activities – Area B

Water Quality Sampling

- Kick sampling and water quality surveys will also be undertaken at Area B (upstream of the Waterfalls Hotel in Ennistymon).

Maps of the proposed maritime usage licence area (Area A, 287.4 ha and Area B, 6430.28 m<sup>2</sup>) are included as Attachment 3.4 and 3.5 of this application.

Activity Schedule

The site investigation surveys are provisionally scheduled to take place from Q4 2026 to Q1 2027. However, to account for contingency in sourcing appropriate contractors to carry out all SI works, potential weather down-time, unforeseen issues with scheduling or sequencing, a total duration of 24 months is being sought for this MUL.

All activities are temporary in nature and essential to inform the design and environmental assessment of the proposed outfall system. The site investigation surveys will be undertaken in line with best practice measures to minimise environmental disturbance, including the use of Marine Mammal Observers (MMOs), soft-start procedures for acoustic equipment, and timing of surveys to avoid sensitive ecological periods where necessary (please see attachment 4.3 and Attachment 4.4 for more on this).

Full details of each element of the proposed Maritime Usage are provided in Error! Reference source not found. below.

Table 1 – Indicative site investigation surveys and schedule.

Survey Type	Coverage / Location Focus	Max Quantity / Spacing	Worst-Case Equipment and Justification	Vessel Operations (length, width, duration)
<b>Geophysical Surveys</b>				
Sub-bottom profiling	Corridor extending 50-100m either side of the indicative pipeline route, including diffuser zone and trenchless construction exit area	25-50 m line spacing	Towed boomer/sparker system from survey vessel. Required to map sediment layers and bedrock depth for trenchless construction technique feasibility and diffuser siting.	Length: 10-15m, Width: 3-4m; 3 - 5 days total
Magnetometer	Corridor extending 50-100m either side of the indicative pipeline route and diffuser zone (UXO	25 m line spacing	Marine magnetometer (e.g., Geometrics G-882). Detects ferrous objects that may interfere with trenching or diffuser installation.	Length: 10-15m, Width: 3-4m; 3 - 5 days total



	check, seabed obstructions)			
Side Scan Sonar	Corridor extending 50-100m either side of the indicative pipeline route and diffuser zone, especially nearshore and outlet areas	Dual-frequency, full coverage	Edgetech 4200 or Klein 3000 side scan sonar. Maps seabed features, habitats, and potential obstructions for routing and diffuser design.	Length: 10-15m, Width: 3-4m; 3 - 5 days total
<b>Geotechnical Surveys</b>				
Boreholes	1 at landfall (trenchless construction entry), 1 near trenchless construction exit/diffuser, others positioned at 100m centres	Up to 20 total (including contingency for repositioning / redrills to overcome obstructions)	Jack-up barge with soil and rotary drilling rig equipment (e.g., Dando 2000 / Commachio 3000 / GeoborS Drilling rig). Needed to confirm stratigraphy and trenchless construction technique feasibility; barge ensures safe access offshore.	Length: 20-30m, Width: 10-15m; 24hrs - 36hrs per borehole (24 hr working assumed) - up to 30 days total
CPTs (Overwater and Intertidal)	At landfall, at 200m centres along route, and diffuser zone	Up to 10 total	CPT rig on jack-up barge or floating platform (e.g., ROSON). Provides in-situ soil strength for trenchless construction pullback and trench stability.	Length: 15-25m, Width: 8-10m; 0.5 - 1 day per CPT - up to 10 days total
Vibrocores	Distributed along route, with focus on diffuser zone and sediment variability	Up to 15 total	OSIL Vibrocorer deployed from floating vessel. continuous sediment sampling for classification and environmental assessment.	Length: 10-15m, Width: 3-4m; 0.5 - 1 day per vibrocore - up to 15 days total
Seabed Sediment Sampling	Nearshore, mid-route, and diffuser zone	Up to 20 total	Van Veen or Day grab sampler from vessel. Environmental and chemical analysis; supports MARA's ecological impact review.	Length: 10-15m, Width: 3-4m; Up to 4 days total
Trial Pits (Intertidal)	Cregg beach landfall area, spaced across beach width	Up to 4 total	Mini-excavator or hand-dug pits. Confirms constructability of	Land-based mini-excavator; 1 day per



			trenchless construction entry pit or trench; low-impact equipment for sensitive zone.	pit, up to 4 days total
Dynamic Sampling and Probing (Intertidal)	Cregg beach landfall area, spaced across beach width	Up to 4 total	Tracked mini rig (Terrier or similar) to characterise ground conditions with <i>in situ</i> testing	Mini boring rig with probing attachment 0.5 day per position, up to 2 days total

B. Attachment 3.1 included.

Yes  No  Not Applicable

3.2 Describe the purpose of the proposed Maritime Usage, with reference to the classes of usage in Schedule 7 of the MAP Act.

The purpose of the proposed Maritime Usage is to undertake a suite of marine and intertidal site investigation surveys in Liscannor Bay and Inagh River, County Clare, to inform the design, environmental assessment, and consenting of a new Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and associated long sea outfall to discharge treated effluent beyond Cregg Beach. The new WWTP will serve the agglomerations of Lahinch and Ennistymon, both of which currently rely on outdated and underperforming treatment facilities that discharge untreated or partially treated wastewater to the Inagh River.

This activity falls within Schedule 7 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 under the category “marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Planning and Development Act 2000.” The temporary site investigation surveys are a prerequisite to defining safe, environmentally compliant and technically feasible routing for the marine outfall, ensuring that the future infrastructure can be consented and constructed with minimal risk to the marine environment and other users of Liscannor Bay.

The site investigation surveys represent an essential component of Uisce Éireann’s national programme to upgrade non-compliant wastewater infrastructure in line with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, the Water Framework Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. The project therefore meets the “critical State infrastructure or utilities” category in MARA’s prioritisation system. The site investigation surveys will directly contribute to the achievement of national environmental targets, including good ecological and chemical status of coastal and transitional waters under the Water Framework Directive, reduced nutrient loading and pollution in designated bathing waters, and improved compliance reporting to both the Environmental Protection Agency and the European Commission.

The proposed WWTP also aligns with the Climate Action Plan 2024 and National Adaptation Framework, which identify resilient and sustainable water-services infrastructure as a national climate-adaptation priority. By providing the baseline information necessary to design an energy-efficient treatment plant and long-term resilient outfall, the site investigation surveys advance Ireland’s national climate objectives while enabling decarbonisation of essential public services. In addition, the project supports the Programme for Government commitment to eliminate untreated discharges from towns and villages, improving water quality in bathing



and shellfish-growing areas and enhancing the amenity and tourism value of Ireland's coastal communities.

From a policy and regulatory perspective, the proposed site investigation surveys also support implementation of the National Marine Planning Framework. The National Marine Planning Framework identifies wastewater infrastructure as a key marine sector necessary for sustainable coastal development, with policy objectives to ensure resilient and compliant wastewater treatment and disposal infrastructure. The data obtained through the proposed marine site investigation surveys will allow Uisce Éireann to identify and avoid sensitive habitats and species, minimise cumulative disturbance to the seafloor, and design the diffuser and outfall to achieve optimal dispersion and water-quality outcomes. Accordingly, the proposed Maritime Usage contributes to the framework's overarching environmental, social and economic pillars—improving ecosystem health, supporting public health and community wellbeing, and maintaining tourism and recreation opportunities dependent on clean coastal waters.

In terms of national and European priorities, the project delivers a clear public-interest benefit. It addresses a documented compliance deficit in wastewater infrastructure and will bring two high-profile coastal towns into alignment with EU directives. Progress towards the development of the WWTP will therefore help Ireland meet infringement-avoidance commitments to the European Commission under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and the Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plans (2022–2027). Given the location adjacent to designated bathing areas at Lahinch Beach and to an environmentally sensitive receiving waterbody within Liscannor Bay, the site investigation surveys underpin public-health and environmental-protection objectives.

The project forms part of a nationally scheduled capital programme under Uisce Éireann's Investment Plan 2025–2029, and delays to site investigation survey acquisition could directly impact the ability to progress the planning application for the WWTP in Liscannor. Prioritising this Maritime Usage Licence will enable essential fieldwork to be undertaken to ensure that the design, environmental impact assessment and planning submission can proceed on schedule. This in turn will accelerate delivery of infrastructure critical to achieving compliance with EU law and safeguarding the coastal environment before further deterioration occurs.

The proposed maritime usage constitutes an evidence-gathering exercise fundamental to a project of national strategic importance. It will lead to tangible improvements in environmental quality, fulfil State obligations under multiple EU directives, support national climate and biodiversity objectives, and provide long-term public-health and socio-economic benefits to the people of County Clare.

All activities are temporary, reversible and designed in accordance with best-practice environmental management. On completion, the surveys will leave no lasting trace in the maritime area but will enable the design and implementation of wastewater infrastructure that delivers enduring improvements in water quality, ecosystem health and community resilience for the Liscannor Bay catchment.

### 3.3 Duration

- A. Indicate the overall MUL duration requested. Indicate the duration of any individual activities included in the overall activity. Give reasons for the proposed durations. Indicate any seasonal, vessel or other schedule constraints.

Additional information can be provided as Attachment 3.3.

The site investigation surveys are provisionally scheduled to take place from Q4 2026 to Q1 2027. However, to account for contingency in sourcing appropriate contractors to carry out all SI works,



potential weather down-time, unforeseen issues with scheduling or sequencing, a total duration of 24 months is being sought for this MUL.

The indicative schedule is outlined below:

- Mobilisation and setup: 1–2 weeks
- Geophysical surveys: approximately 2 weeks
- Ground investigation surveys: approximately 4–6 weeks
- Demobilisation: approximately 1 week

The site investigation surveys are expected to be undertaken sequentially and may overlap where operationally feasible to maximise vessel efficiency and minimise overall duration. Survey timing will be planned to take advantage of favourable weather windows, avoiding peak marine tourism activity at Cregg Beach and periods of ecological sensitivity.

A breakdown of the estimated duration of individual survey elements is provided below. Further detail on vessel specifications, coverage, and justification for each activity is presented in Attachment 3.3.

- Bathymetric survey (multibeam echosounder): approximately 1 day
- Sub-bottom profiling: 3–5 days
- Magnetometer survey: 3–5 days
- Side-scan sonar survey: 3–5 days
- Boreholes: 24–36 hours per borehole (up to 20 boreholes), assuming 24-hour working conditions, Up to 30 days total
- Cone Penetration Tests (CPTs): 0.5–1 day per test (up to 10 locations) – up to 10 days total
- Vibrocores: 0.5–1 day per core (up to 15 locations) – up to 15 days total
- Seabed sediment sampling: 3–4 days total – up to 4 days total
- Trial pits (intertidal): approximately 1 day per pit (up to 4 locations) – up to 4 days total
- Dynamic sampling and probing (intertidal): approximately 0.5 day per position (up to 4 locations) – up to 2 days total

The proposed MUL duration of 24 months allows sufficient time for safe and efficient completion of all survey activities, accounting for mobilisation, equipment calibration, and potential weather downtime. The overall 24-month period represents a realistic and conservative estimate for completing all surveys while maintaining flexibility to manage environmental and operational constraints effectively.

B. Attachment 3.3 included.

Yes  No  Not Applicable

### 3.4 Describe the area of proposed Maritime Usage

A. State the total size of the Maritime Area (in m<sup>2</sup>, ha or km<sup>2</sup>, as appropriate), which is the subject of the application.

Total MUL Area (Area A + Area B) = 288.04 ha



Area A = 287.4 ha  
Area B = 6430.28 m<sup>2</sup>

- B. Attach map, titled 'Proposed MUL Map' and GIS Shapefiles outlining the proposed Maritime Area(s). If the application relates to more than one area, each area should be labelled on the accompanying maps/drawings and its area provided. The map(s)/drawing(s) should be included as Attachment 3.4. List the attached map/drawing number(s) and map/drawing name(s) in the space below.

Map(s)/GIS Shapefiles must comply with 'MARA Technical Mapping Guidance Notes for MAC/MUL Applications in the Maritime Area under the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (MAPA)':

Proposed MUL Map - Area A = 287.4 ha  
Proposed MUL Map - Area B = 6430.28 m<sup>2</sup>

- C. Attachment 3.4 included.

Yes  No

### 3.5 Describe the location of proposed Maritime Usage

- A. Provide the distance in kilometres and direction of the main body of the proposed Maritime Usage area from the shore at its closest point.

The eastern and southern boundary of the proposed maritime usage area borders the high water mark and shore.

- B. Attach map(s)/drawing(s) showing the location of the proposed Maritime Usage. The attached map/drawing number(s) and map/drawing name(s) should also be listed in the space below. The map(s)/drawing(s) should be included as Attachment 3.5.

Map(s)/GIS Shapefiles must comply with 'MARA Technical Mapping Guidance Notes for MAC/MUL Applications in the Maritime Area under the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (MAPA)':

10020408-MMD-XX-XX-DG-Z-0206 – Area A location and potential access points  
10020408-MMD-XX-XX-DG-Z-0207 – Area B location and potential access points

- C. Attachment 3.5 included.

Yes  No

### 3.6 Ownership

- A. Is any part of the Maritime Area within the proposed site in private ownership?



Yes  No

- B. If yes, indicate on a drawing/map the area concerned in relation to the proposed maritime usage area and provide a letter confirming that the Applicant has obtained all necessary consents from the relevant owner(s).
- C. Is the Applicant aware of any actual or claimed legal rights or interests held by third parties in the proposed site that may be affected by the proposed Maritime Activity?

Yes  No

- D. If yes, indicate on a drawing/map the area concerned in relation to the proposed maritime usage area and provide a letter confirming that the Applicant has obtained all necessary consents from the relevant owner(s) of such legal rights or interests.
- E. The letter(s) and drawing(s)/map(s) referred to in B and D above should be included as Attachment 3.6. List the attached letters, map/drawing number(s) and map/drawing name(s) in the space below.

Not applicable.

- F. Attachment 3.6 included.

Yes  No  Not Applicable

### 3.7 Planning permission and/or other authorisation(s)

- A. Does the proposed Usage require planning permission and/or other authorisation(s), or is it ancillary to or part of to a proposed development which requires planning permission and/or other authorisation(s)?

Yes  No

- B. If yes, what is the status of the planning and/or other authorisation(s)? If applicable, provide a brief description of the proposed development, to which the proposed Maritime Usage is ancillary.

Provide the file reference number(s) and link(s) to the websites where information on the planning and/or other authorisation application(s) and/or planning permission/ authorisation(s) can be obtained.

The proposed marine and intertidal site investigation surveys in Liscannor Bay and Inagh River are required to inform the design and consenting of a new Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and long sea outfall at Cregg Beach, County Clare. The new facility will serve the agglomerations of Lahinch and Ennistymon and is being developed by Uisce Éireann under its national wastewater capital investment programme.

Planning permission for the WWTP and outfall will be sought separately from Clare County Council under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), following completion of the engineering and environmental assessments informed by these site investigation surveys.



This Maritime Usage Licence application relates solely to the temporary marine and intertidal site investigation surveys and does not seek permission for any permanent infrastructure or construction activity. These data collected under this licence will provide the technical and environmental baseline necessary to determine the optimal outfall alignment, diffuser location and design, supporting compliance with the Water Framework Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.

At the time of submission, no planning application has yet been lodged for the WWTP or associated marine site investigation surveys. The project is currently at pre-planning and data-collection stage, with Mott MacDonald as lead design consultant and AQUAFAC (APEM Group) providing marine environmental support. The results will inform the project design and planning documentation, expected for submission in 2026.

No other authorisations have been granted to date.



## Part 4 Marine Planning and Environmental Considerations

### National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF)

#### 1.1 NMPF Objectives

- A. Describe how the proposed Maritime Usage is consistent with the objectives of the NMPF. Provide sufficient information addressing the consistency of the proposed Maritime Usage with the objectives of the NMPF. This information should be provided as Attachment 4.1.
- B. Attachment 4.1 included.

Yes  No

#### 1.2 Designated Marine Area Plan

- A. Is the proposed Maritime Usage located in an area for which a Designated Marine Area Plan has been published?
- B. If yes, indicate if the proposed Usage is consistent with the Designated Marine Area Plan. Additional information can be provided as Attachment 4.2.

Yes  No

Not Applicable.

- C. Attachment 4.2 included.

Yes  No  Not Applicable

### Habitats and Birds Directives

#### 1.3 Report for Appropriate Assessment Screening

- A. Is the proposed Maritime Usage directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site?
- B. If not, provide an Appropriate Assessment screening report to provide sufficient information for MARA to undertake screening to determine if an Appropriate Assessment is required of the implications of the proposed Maritime Usage alone, or in combination with other plans or projects, for any relevant European site, in view of the site's conservation objectives.

Yes  No



If the Applicant has already determined that it is likely that an Appropriate Assessment will be required and have prepared an NIS, it may be submitted.

The Appropriate Assessment screening report and/or NIS must be prepared by a suitably qualified person, and a summary of the person's qualifications and experience must be included in the report/NIS.

The Appropriate Assessment screening report and/or NIS should be provided as Attachment 4.3.

Attachment 4.3 included.

Yes  No

#### 1.4 Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species

- A. Do species listed in Annex IV of the Habitats Directive occur in the zone of influence of the proposed Maritime Usage?

Yes  No

- B. If yes, the Applicant should provide an assessment of the risk posed to such species by the proposed Maritime Usage. The Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species report must be prepared by a suitably qualified person, and a summary of the person's qualifications and experience must be included in the report.

The Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species report should be provided as Attachment 4.4.

Attachment 4.4 included.

Yes  No

#### Water Framework Directive

- 1.5 Provide sufficient information addressing the consistency of the proposed Maritime Usage with the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. This information should be provided as Attachment 4.5.

Attachment 4.5 included.

Yes  No

#### Marine Strategy Framework Directive

- 1.6 Provide sufficient information addressing the consistency of the proposed Maritime Usage with the objectives of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Ireland's Marine Strategy under the Directive. This information should be provided as Attachment 4.6.

Attachment 4.6 included.

Yes  No



## Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive

### 1.7 EIA Screening

A. With reference to Parts 1 and 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, S.I. 600 of 2001, as amended confirm that the activity:

- i. Is not of a class listed, where no quantity, area or other limit is specified in that Part, or
- ii. Does not either equal or exceed, any relevant quantity, area or other limit specified for a class listed in that Part.

Yes – is not of a class/does not equal or exceed a threshold	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No – is of a class/equals or exceeds a threshold	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. If yes, confirm if the activity is of a class listed in Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, S.I. 600 of 2001, as amended, but does not equal or exceed the relevant quantity.

Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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C. If yes to '4.7 B', provide the information for EIA screening specified in Schedule 7A of the Planning and Development Regulations, S.I. 600 of 2001, as amended. The information specified in Schedule 7A should be provided as Attachment 4.7.

Attachment 4.7 included.

Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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## UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Maritime Jurisdiction Act

1.8 Provide sufficient information addressing the consistency of the proposed Maritime Usage with the Irish State's obligations under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Maritime Jurisdiction Act.

Additional information can be provided as Attachment 4.8.

The proposed site investigation surveys are fully consistent with Ireland's obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2021. These instruments establish Ireland's sovereign rights and responsibilities within its maritime zones and require the protection and sustainable use of the marine environment.

The Maritime Jurisdiction Act gives domestic legal effect to UNCLOS by defining Ireland's maritime boundaries and setting out the framework for environmental protection and regulation of marine activities. The proposed site investigation surveys will be undertaken within Ireland's internal waters, under full State jurisdiction, and are regulated to ensure compliance with UNCLOS provisions on pollution prevention and seabed protection (Articles 192-194 and 214).

The site investigation survey methodology which is small-scale, and environmentally controlled, will avoid



unnecessary seabed disturbance, prevent pollutant release, and ensure all waste is managed responsibly onshore. Accordingly, the proposed site investigation surveys are environmentally responsible, legally compliant, and aligned with Ireland's international and domestic maritime obligations.

Attachment 4.8 included.

Yes  No  Not Applicable

Climate Action and Low Carbon Act of 2015, as amended

1.9 Provide sufficient information addressing the consistency of the proposed Maritime Usage with achieving the National Climate Objective, as defined in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Act of 2015, as amended.

Additional information can be provided as Attachment 4.9.

The proposed site investigation surveys demonstrate consistency with the National Climate Objective by (i) minimising emissions associated with necessary marine investigations, (ii) enabling the development of infrastructure that improves environmental sustainability and water quality, and (iii) protecting biodiversity and ecosystem resilience, all of which are central pillars of Ireland's transition to a climate-neutral economy.

Attachment 4.9 included.

Yes  No  Not Applicable

4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 – 2030

1.10 Provide sufficient information addressing the consistency of the proposed Maritime Usage with the 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 – 2030.

Additional information can be provided as Attachment 4.10.

The proposed site investigation surveys are fully consistent with the objectives of the Fourth National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) 2023-2030, which seeks to halt and reverse biodiversity loss while ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources. The site investigation surveys are small-scale, temporary, and non-extractive, designed to inform the optimal design and location of a new wastewater outfall that will improve local water quality and reduce pressures on marine habitats.

The project directly supports NBAP objectives by:

- Mainstreaming biodiversity into project planning and decision-making through ecological assessment and mitigation design;
- Improving the evidence base for biodiversity action via the collection of detailed baseline data on seabed, habitat, and species characteristics;
- Conserving and restoring biodiversity by avoiding sensitive habitats, minimising disturbance, and facilitating long-term ecosystem recovery through better wastewater management; and
- Securing nature's contribution to people by supporting public health, recreation, and local economic activities dependent on a clean marine environment.

Although local in scale, the site investigation surveys and the overall project contributes to Ireland's wider commitments under the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the Convention on Biological Diversity,



demonstrating how evidence-based marine investigation surveys can inform sustainable infrastructure while enhancing biodiversity outcomes.

Attachment 4.10 included.

Yes  No  Not Applicable

#### National or European Strategic or Policy Objectives

1.11 Provide any additional relevant information with regard to the overall purpose of the proposed maritime usage, with reference to, e.g. National or European strategic or policy objectives and national targets, and strategic research objectives.

Additional information can be included as Attachment 4.11.

The proposed site investigation surveys will generate essential baseline data to inform the design and siting of a new marine outfall linked to the upgrade of the Lahinch and Ennistymon wastewater treatment plants. This upgrade will address long-standing non-compliance issues identified by the EPA and support improvements in the ecological quality of receiving waters in Liscannor Bay.

The project aligns with Project Ireland 2040 and the National Development Plan (2018–2027), supporting balanced regional growth, critical water infrastructure investment, and environmental compliance. It also contributes to the objectives of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (EU 2024/3019), Water Framework Directive, and Marine Strategy Framework Directive, ensuring sustainable management of coastal and marine environments.

Regionally, the purpose of the surveys are consistent with the Clare County Development Plan, supporting population, tourism, and economic growth in the Lahinch–Ennistymon area along the Wild Atlantic Way. Overall, the results advance Ireland’s national and EU policy goals for sustainable development, water quality improvement, and climate resilience.

Attachment 4.11 included.

Yes  No  Not Applicable



### Declaration and Consent

I declare that all information provided with this application, including this completed form and all attachments confirmed as included in the application checklist, is correct at the time of submission and that I will notify MARA of any changes to this information that may arise during the application process. MARA may, by notice in writing given to the applicant, require the applicant to provide in the specified form, by affidavit or otherwise, such additional information in relation to any matter to which the application relates as MARA reasonably considers necessary to assist it to determine the application.

By submitting this application form, I agree that certain details provided may be published on MARA's website and that the information provided in this form will be processed and retained by MARA and may be shared with bodies appropriate to assessing aspects of this application in furtherance of consideration of the granting of a MUL in accordance with the MAP Act.

This consent relates to this application and to any further information provided by me, or on my behalf, for the purposes of this application.

Name of Signatory:

Angus Hall

Position held:

Programme Manager - Infrastructure Delivery

Date:

26/01/2026

Signed for and on behalf of the applicant:

Angus Hall

Digitally signed by Angus  
Hall  
Date: 2026.01.26  
13:01:04 Z



Application Checklist

Complete the below application checklist

Section No.	Document	Required	Submitted
<b>Application Form</b>			
Part 1	Activity in Schedule 7	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Part 2	Applicant Details	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Part 3	Details of Maritime Usage	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Part 4	Marine Planning and Environmental Considerations	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Declaration and Consent	Signed Declaration and Consent	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Application Checklist	Application Checklist	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Supporting Documentation</b>			
1.3	Attachment 1.3 – Existing Foreshore Authorisation(s) wish to transition	Yes (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.1	Attachment 2.1 – List of Directors	Yes (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.4	Attachment 2.4 – Details of Foreshore Authorisation(s)	Yes (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.5	Attachment 2.5 – Details of Other Authorisation(s)	Yes (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.1	Attachment 3.1 – Proposed Maritime Usage	Yes (if applicable)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.3	Attachment 3.3 – MUL Duration	Yes (if applicable)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.4	Attachment 3.4 – MUL Map and GIS Shapefiles	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.5	Attachment 3.5 – Other Maps and Drawings	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.6	Attachment 3.6 – Private Ownership Details	Yes (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.1	Attachment 4.1 – Compliance with Objectives of NMPF	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.2	Attachment 4.2 – Designated Marine Area Plan Compliance Details	Yes (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.3	Attachment 4.3 – Appropriate Assessment Screening Report	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.3	Attachment 4.3 – NIS	Yes (if applicable)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.4	Attachment 4.4 – Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species report	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.5	Attachment 4.5 – Compliance with Objectives of the Water Framework Directive	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.6	Attachment 4.6 – Compliance with Objectives of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.7	Attachment 4.7 – Information for EIA screening	Yes (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.8	Attachment 4.8 – UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Maritime Jurisdiction Act	Yes (if applicable)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Compliance Details			
4.9	Attachment 4.9 – National Climate Objective Compliance Details	Yes (if applicable)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.10	Attachment 4.10 – National Biodiversity Action Plan Compliance Details	Yes (if applicable)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.11	Attachment 4.11 – National or European strategic or policy objectives Compliance Details	Yes (if applicable)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
0.0	Confirmation of Payment of Fee	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Please return completed applications, by email, to: [licence@mara.gov.ie](mailto:licence@mara.gov.ie)