Leeanne Doyle (MARA)

From: MARA Licence
Sent: Monday 28 September 2026 12:29
To: [redacted]
Cc: MARA Licence
Subject: FW: MUL260006 – currency of NPWS nature-conservation input following the August 2026 revise

Good afternoon,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your email regarding MUL260006.

Regards,

Leeanne Doyle
Maritime Usage Licence and Planning Advisory

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W: www.maritimeregulator.ie

An tÚdarás Rialála Limistéir Mhuirí
An Dara Urlár, Teach Menapia, Páirc Ghnó Dhraighneach, Draighneach, Loch Garman, Y35RF29

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

MARA
An tÚdarás Rialála Limistéir Mhuirí
Maritime Area Regulatory Authority

From: Calluragh Cregg Lahinch Wastewater Action Group <cclwastewateractiongroup@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday 26 September 2026 14:48
To: FEM.dau@npws.gov.ie,natureconservation@npws.gov.ie,info@npws.gov.ie,burrennationalpark@npws.gov.ie
CC: timmy.dooley@oireachtas.ie,Minister Dooley <Minister.Dooley@agriculture.gov.ie>
Subject: MUL260006 – currency of NPWS nature-conservation input following the August 2026 revise

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A Chara,

We write on behalf of the Calluragh Cregg Lahinch Wastewater Action Group(CCLWAG), a residents' committee following the proposed Lahinch and Ennistymon Wastewater Treatment Plant project and the related Maritime Usage Licence application MUL260006, in respect of which your Unit provided a

referral under Regulation 42(6) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, dated 8th April 2026.

That referral recorded, under the heading “Nature Conservation”, that NPWS supported the conclusion then advanced in the applicant's original screening documents — namely, that the proposed marine and freshwater survey works could be screened out at Stage 1 of the Appropriate Assessment process, with no Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment required.

We understand that, following MARA's own screening determination of 7 August 2026, Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment was in fact required, and that the applicant subsequently submitted a revised Screening for Appropriate Assessment and Natura Impact Statement in August 2026. That revised document reaches its own conclusion, at page 44, *that there are no established haul-out sites or core resting areas for grey or harbour seal in Liscannor Bay.* We have separately obtained the underlying record for a project-adjacent 2025 seal-survey initiative (National Biodiversity Data Centre, Local Biodiversity Action Fund database, Survey ID 1820, **“Liscannor Bay Seal Surveys 2025”,** provided by IWDG/Simon Berrow), which records six surveys between June and September 2025 and *116 records across two species at known and suspected haul-out sites including Bar Trá and Coolrone.* We understand this initiative is acknowledged, but not analysed, within the revised NIS.

We would be grateful if the Department could clarify:

1. Whether NPWS or the Development Applications Unit has had the opportunity to review the August 2026 revised Screening for Appropriate Assessment and Natura Impact Statement for MUL260006, given that this post-dates your 8th April 2026 referral.

2. Whether NPWS's stated support, as recorded in that referral, relates only to the original Stage 1 screening conclusion, or whether it has been or is intended to be extended to the Stage 2 assessment now under consideration.

3. Whether NPWS holds, or is aware of, the 2025 Liscannor Bay Seal Surveys data referred to above, and if so, whether that data has informed any updated view on the adequacy of the seal baseline presented in the revised NIS.

4. Whether NPWS intends to provide MARA with updated nature conservation observations addressing the revised NIS and the 2025 Liscannor Bay seal survey evidence before MARA completes its Appropriate Assessment.

We raise this because MARA is currently assessing MUL260006 and must undertake the applicable statutory public consultation before determining the application. We believe it is important that any nature conservation input relied upon reflects the revised NIS and the current site specific evidence, rather than an earlier assessment that has since been superseded.

We would welcome any clarification you are able to provide, and we thank the Department for its attention to this matter.

Is mise le meas,

[redacted]
Chair, CCLWAG

cc Timmy Dooley, Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and at the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment
Disclaimer:

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

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An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

Tá an t-eolas sa ríomhphost seo, agus in aon cheangaltáin leis, faoi rún agus tá sé dírithe ar an bhfaighteoir/na faighteoirí beartaithe amháin agus níor cheart ach dóibh siúd é a úsáid. D'fhéadfadh an t-eolas seo a bheith faoi réir pribhléid dhlíthiúil agus ghairmiúil. Mura tusa faighteoir beartaithe an ríomhphoist seo, níor cheart duit an teachtaireacht seo, nó aon chuid di, a úsáid, a nochtadh, a chóipeáil, a dháileadh nó a choinneáil. Má fuair tú an ríomhphost seo go hearráideach, cuir an seoltóir ar an eolas láithreach agus scrios gach cóip den ríomhphost seo ó chóra(i)s do ríomhaire, le do thoil.