Leeanne Doyle (MARA)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday 19 October 2026 16:21
To: MARA Licence
Subject: Maritime Usage Licence MUL260006 ojection

Categories: Leeanne

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to formally object to the granting of Maritime Usage Licence MUL260006 for the proposed marine and intertidal site investigations in Liscannor Bay, associated with the Lahinch and Ennistymon Wastewater Treatment Plant project.

I live in Lahinch and am a regular surfer in the area. Liscannor Bay and Lahinch Beach are an important part of my life and the wider community. I am deeply concerned about the potential environmental, public health and recreational consequences of the proposed development, and whether the current plans adequately protect this important coastal environment.

I want to make clear that I fully support the development of modern, effective wastewater treatment infrastructure for Lahinch and Ennistymon. The existing situation is unacceptable and needs urgent improvement. However, that improvement must not come at the expense of the health of people using our waters, the local marine ecosystem or the natural environment that makes this area so special.

1. Public health and bathing water quality

My greatest concern is the potential impact on the health and safety of swimmers, bathers, surfers and others who regularly use Liscannor Bay.

Lahinch is a year-round destination for water activities, including swimming, surfing and sea bathing. People of all ages, including young children, enter these waters regularly.

I am particularly concerned that the proposed treatment system has been described as providing "at least secondary treatment", without clear evidence that this will adequately protect bathing waters in all conditions.

Clare County Council has already raised concerns that secondary treatment may not be sufficient to protect water quality and human health, particularly given the possibility of poor mixing in the waters around Cregg Beach.

I believe that public health must be the overriding priority. Before any marine investigations are approved in support of the proposed outfall location, there should be a transparent and scientifically

robust assessment of the wider range of potential discharge locations, treatment standards and associated risks.

This should include the effects of seasonal population increases, heavy rainfall, emergency overflows, tidal conditions and different sea states.

I would also strongly encourage consideration of tertiary treatment and appropriate disinfection to ensure the highest practical standard of water quality, rather than simply meeting minimum treatment requirements.

2. Protection of marine wildlife and biodiversity

Liscannor Bay supports an important and diverse marine ecosystem, including seals, fish, seabirds, intertidal habitats and other wildlife.

I am particularly concerned by reports of seal activity in the bay, the presence of honeycomb worm reef habitat at Cregg Beach and the potential effects of underwater noise, drilling and seabed disturbance associated with the proposed investigations.

I understand that Inland Fisheries Ireland has also raised concerns regarding the assessment of protected migratory fish species, including salmon and lamprey, as well as the critically endangered European eel.

These are not insignificant considerations. I believe detailed, independent ecological assessments should be completed and relevant local wildlife records fully examined before potentially disruptive survey activities are authorised.

The protection of habitats, marine mammals, fish populations and the wider coastal ecosystem must be central to the decision-making process.

3. Impact on surfing, recreation and the local economy

As a regular surfer, I have a strong personal connection to Lahinch and the surrounding coastline.

Surfing is far more than a recreational activity in this area. It is a significant part of Lahinch's identity, its tourism economy and its appeal as a place to live and visit.

Local surf schools, instructors, accommodation providers, cafés, restaurants and numerous other businesses benefit from people travelling to Lahinch specifically to enjoy its waves and coastal environment.

Any deterioration in water quality, restrictions on access, or potential changes to the physical characteristics of local surf breaks could have consequences for these businesses and the community.

I am especially concerned about any potential disturbance to the seabed and coastal environment associated with the proposed outfall and its construction. I would like to see a specific assessment of whether the eventual pipeline installation or related works could alter local wave behaviour, seabed profiles or surf quality.

These impacts should be properly investigated rather than assumed to be negligible.

4. Mental health, wellbeing and the importance of our natural environment

The importance of Liscannor Bay goes well beyond its economic value.

For many people, including myself, surfing and spending time in the ocean are essential to our physical and mental wellbeing.

Swimming, surfing, walking and simply having access to a beautiful, healthy coastline provide enormous benefits to the local community.

The ability to use these waters confidently, knowing they are clean and safe, is something we should be protecting and improving for future generations.

Any development that threatens this relationship with our natural environment deserves the highest level of scrutiny.

5. Transparency, consultation and consideration of alternatives

Finally, I am concerned about the apparent lack of meaningful public consultation regarding the proposed Calluragh location and the associated outfall at Cregg Beach.

I believe the community deserves a clear explanation of why this particular location has been selected, what alternatives were considered, and how the long-term environmental, public health and economic consequences have been evaluated.

I am concerned that granting the current survey licence without addressing these questions risks advancing a particular location before the community has had a meaningful opportunity to assess the alternatives.

I also want to see a clear plan for maintaining safe public access to Cregg Beach during any proposed marine or intertidal works.

My request

I respectfully request that MARA does not grant licence MUL260006 in its current form until the ecological concerns, impacts of the proposed survey activities, and adequacy of the supporting assessments have been fully addressed.

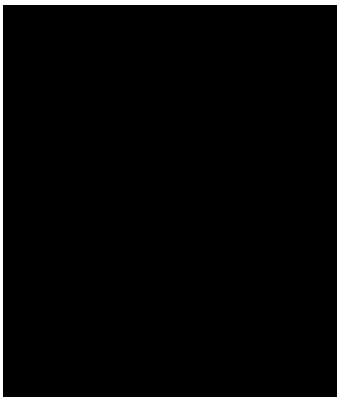
I further ask that the concerns raised by Clare County Council, Inland Fisheries Ireland and the local community be explicitly considered and addressed in MARA's determination.

I support the urgent delivery of a modern wastewater treatment solution. However, it must demonstrably improve public health and environmental protection, be based on transparent evidence, and preserve the natural and recreational value of Liscannor Bay.

Lahinch and its coastline are enormously important to those of us who live here. We owe it to our community, our children and future generations to ensure we get this right.

Thank you for considering my submission. I would appreciate confirmation of receipt and ask that my objection be formally recorded as part of the consultation process.

Kind regards,



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