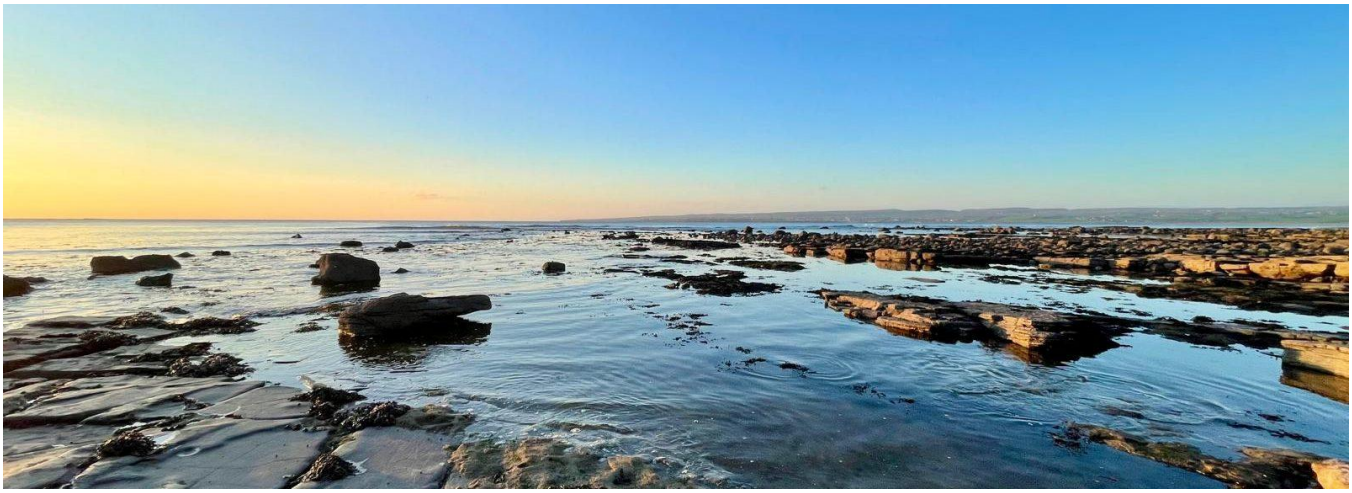


Cregg at low tide

Liscannor Bay needs your voice

Sign the community submission to MARA before 5.30pm, Monday 26 October 2026



Cregg Beach. A bathing place for generations.



Honeycomb worm (*Sabellaria alveolata*) **reef at Cregg**, found by local people. A reef habitat of European importance (EU Habitats Directive, Annex I).



A seal at Cregg. 2025 surveys of the bay logged 116 seal records.

Uisce Éireann wants a licence to survey Liscannor Bay for a new sewage outfall pipe coming ashore at Cregg. That means boreholes in the seabed, sound surveys, and trial pits up to 4 metres deep dug by excavator on Cregg Beach, this winter.

We support a new plant for Lahinch and Ennistymon. We want it done right.

Proper treatment that protects people in the water. A site chosen openly on evidence. A full answer to the concerns Clare County Council raised in April. Until then, we are asking MARA **not to grant this survey licence**.

Right Plant. Right Process. Right Place.

Three ways to help

- **Sign the sheet today.** Your name joins the community submission to MARA.
- **Send your own submission too.** Email licence@mara.gov.ie quoting MUL260006, with your name and address, before 5.30pm on 26 October.
- **Tell your neighbours.** Every voice counts.

Calluragh Cregg Lahinch Wastewater Action Group (CCLWAG) | cclwastewateractiongroup@gmail.com

What would the surveys involve?



- **Up to 20 boreholes** drilled up to 30 metres into the seabed, worked from a jack-up platform with a tug and crew boat.
- **Up to 20 seabed cores and 20 probe tests**, plus grab sampling of the seabed.
- **Sound surveys of the seabed** using boomer or sparker equipment towed behind a boat.
- **Trial pits on Cregg Beach** up to 4 metres deep, dug by excavator.
- **A licence lasting two years**, with work planned for this winter.
- **No plan for public access.** The application does not say how much of Cregg would be fenced off, for how long, or how people would be told. Shutting walkers, swimmers, surfers and school groups out of our beach without a plan agreed with the community is not acceptable.

Why it matters

- **Cregg has always been a bathing place.** A tourism survey of Lahinch signed in July 1942 records bathing "at Cregg". Swimmers and surfers use the bay all year round.
- **The Council's warnings are unanswered.** Clare County Council told MARA in April that secondary treatment will not guarantee no impact "in particular on human health", and that Cregg may have shallow water with poor mixing. We can find no reply on the public file.
- **Only the minimum treatment is promised.** Uisce Éireann's papers say "at least secondary treatment". Its own new plant at Kilfenora has tertiary filtration and UV disinfection.
- **Wildlife is at stake.** Seals, a honeycomb worm (*Sabellaria alveolata*) reef at Cregg, a habitat listed in Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive, and a rare protected snail that has declined sharply at Lahinch. The environmental assessment does not deal with these properly.
- **Heritage on the shore.** Uisce Éireann's own papers record two Bronze Age ring barrows about 140 metres from the survey area at Cregg.
- **Lahinch lost its Blue Flag in 2026.** We want it back, and we want the bay protected for the next generation.



Red seaweeds on the rocks at Cregg.



Surfing at Cregg. Surfers and swimmers use the bay all year round.



An outdoor classroom. For years, school groups have come to Cregg for coastal geography fieldwork. Its natural, unspoilt shore and rich variety of species make it a living lesson.

Questions people ask

Are you against a new treatment plant? No. Both towns need one. We want it done right.

Is this about keeping it away from your homes? No. It is about water quality, Liscannor Bay, sound engineering and value for public money.

Who are you? CCLWAG is a group of local volunteers, with no paid staff and no connection to any developer.

Sources: MARA file MUL260006 (maritimeregulator.ie): Clare County Council observation, 17 April 2026; Uisce Éireann response, 26 June 2026; revised Natura Impact Statement, August 2026. I.T.A. Topographical and General Survey 1942/3, Lahinch (Clare County Library). NBDC, Liscannor Bay Seal Surveys 2025. NPWS Irish Wildlife Manuals No. 159 (2025). Uisce Éireann, Kilfenora WWTP. Clare FM, 15 May 2026.

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Maritime Usage Licensing, Maritime Area Regulatory Authority
2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park, Drinagh, Wexford, Y35 RF29
By email: licence@mara.gov.ie

October 14th 2026

Community submission on Maritime Usage Licence application MUL260006

Uisce Éireann, marine and intertidal site investigation surveys, Liscannor Bay, Co. Clare

Dear Sir or Madam,

This submission comes from the people of Lahinch, Ennistymon, Cregg, Calluragh and the communities around Liscannor Bay. The community people who have signed the attached sheets object to MARA granting this survey licence, and support the submission made by the Calluragh Cregg Lahinch Wastewater Action Group (CCLWAG).

We are not against a new wastewater plant. Lahinch and Ennistymon badly need one. Clare County Council told MARA on 17 April 2026 that the Lahinch plant floods so often it "cannot provide adequate and appropriate treatment". We agree, and we want it fixed. What we ask for is the right plant, built to the right standard, in a place that can be justified on evidence.

Liscannor Bay is not just a stretch of water to us. People have bathed at Cregg for generations. A tourism survey of Lahinch signed in July 1942 records "Bathing at any point along above stretch and also at Cregg." Today the bay is used all year by swimmers, surfers, walkers, families and fishermen, and it is at the heart of the local economy. Lahinch lost its Blue Flag this year, and people here feel that loss. Our concerns, in summary:

- **The Council's concerns have not been answered.** Clare County Council warned that secondary treatment will not guarantee no impact on water quality "and in particular on human health", that Area A is too restrictive, and that Cregg may have a shallow shelf with poor mixing. We can find no answer on MARA's public file. The revised Natura Impact Statement still describes the plant as providing "at least secondary treatment".
- **Heavy works on a shore people use.** Up to 20 boreholes in the bay, a jack-up platform, seabed sound surveys using boomer or sparker equipment, and trial pits on Cregg Beach up to 4 metres deep dug by excavator, under a licence sought for two years. The application says nothing about public access to Cregg during the works. Closing the shore to walkers, swimmers and surfers without a plan agreed with the community would be unacceptable.
- **Wildlife not properly assessed.** Seal surveys of the bay in 2025 logged 116 records of two species, but the Natura Impact Statement does not analyse them, and the surveys are planned for the grey seal breeding and moulting season. Local people have found a honeycomb worm (*Sabellaria alveolata*) reef at Cregg. Reefs of this kind are a habitat type listed in Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. The narrow-mouthed whorl snail, a protected species monitored by NPWS at Lahinch, is ruled out in a single sentence without any survey cited.
- **Heritage.** The applicant's own response of 26 June 2026 records two Bronze Age ring barrows about 140 metres east of the survey area at Cregg.

These points are set out in full in CCLWAG's own submission. We ask MARA to read the attached signatures as the voice of a community that cares deeply about this bay, and expects decisions about it to be made openly, on complete evidence, with the protection of the water and the people who use it at their heart. We ask MARA not to grant licence MUL260006, and to state in its determination how the matters raised by this community, and by Clare County Council, have been taken into account.

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Community submission to MARA: licence application MUL260006, Liscannor Bay

I object to MARA granting licence MUL260006. I believe the proposed survey works would harm our bay, our bathing waters at Cregg, our wildlife and our heritage. I support the submission of the Calluragh Cregg Lahinch Wastewater Action Group (CCLWAG) and ask MARA not to grant this licence.

Your name and area will be sent to MARA with this submission and may be made public on MARA's file. They will not be used for any other purpose. One signature per person.

Name (BLOCK CAPITALS)	Town or area	Signature
[redacted]	CARHUGAR LAHINCH	[redacted]

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