

# MARA

An tÚdarás Rialála Limistéir Mhuirí  
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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>
Seaweed	<input type="checkbox"/>
State Infrastructure (Water/Sewage)	<input checked="" 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

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## 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 Street
Address line 3	Mountjoy
City/Town	Dublin
Eircode	D01 NP86
Applicant Email Address	Foreshore@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.	CRO Number: 530363 The current Directors of Uisce Éireann are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jerry Grant</li><li>• Niall Gleeson</li><li>• Patricia King</li><li>• John Douglas Millican</li><li>• Michael Nolan</li><li>• Michael Walsh</li><li>• Cathy Mannion</li><li>• Eileen Maher</li></ul>
If the Applicant is a non-profit entity, which is a registered charity, the Registered Charity Number	Not Applicable

Attachment 2.1 included (if required).

Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
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### 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	Robbie Clarke – Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd (Agent)
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Authorised Contact Position	Senior Environmental Project Manager
Email	[REDACTED]@nodwyer.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.

Not Applicable

#### 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).

Uisce Éireann does not hold any foreshore licences within or adjacent to the proposed MUL area.

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.

Uisce Éireann (UÉ) is applying to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) for a maritime usage license (MUL) to conduct marine Site Investigations (SI) and environmental surveys within the River Suir Estuary adjacent to the townlands of Kilmurry, Gorteens, Little Island, Ballycanvan Big and Faithlegg.

The purpose of the proposed marine site investigation works is to support the Waterford City Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) Upgrade Project. These investigations are required to provide high quality baseline data that can contribute to and inform the selection, design and environmental assessment of a new or upgraded marine outfall, which is a critical component of ensuring the continued compliance of the Waterford City WwTP with its Environment Protection Agency (EPA) Wastewater Discharge Licence and the requirements of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD). As such, the following survey investigations are considered necessary:

- Geophysical surveys, including:
  - o Magnetometer
  - o Sub-bottom profiler (SBP)
  - o Side-scan sonar (SSS)
  - o Multibeam Echo Sounder (MBES)
  - o Marine Refraction Seismic
  - o Marine Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT)
- Geotechnical surveys, including:
  - o Drop-down camera survey
  - o Boreholes
  - o Standard Penetration Testing (SPT)
  - o Grab samples
  - o Surface water samples
- Intertidal walkover survey
- Intertidal core/grab samples
- Bathymetric Survey
- CCTV survey of the existing outfall
- Archaeological surveys and other investigations (i.e., underwater inspections, walkovers, metal detectors, dive surveys).
- Deployment of metocean monitoring buoys to collect physical oceanographic data.

These works are collectively referred to as the site investigation works. It should be noted that all locations shown for sampling within the proposed MUL Area are indicative and may be subject to a degree of change on-site.

The following drawings have been prepared in support of the MUL application to the MARA:

- Proposed MUL Map
- Proposed Borehole Locations Map

There will be no permanent structures, and all site investigation works will be temporary in nature. The moving marine plant will remain on site for the duration of the works.



Further details of the maritime usage are provided in the Assessment of Impacts of the Maritime Usage (AIMU) Report.

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 these works falls under the activity as listed in Schedule 7 of the Map Act "*Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000.*"

The works include geophysical, geotechnical, bathymetric, metocean, environmental and archaeological surveys to be undertaken to characterise seabed conditions, sub-surface geology, hydrodynamic conditions, benthic ecology and cultural heritage features. These surveys are necessary to establish a robust baseline for route optioneering, detailed design, and environmental assessment of the proposed outfall upgrade.

The investigations are directly ancillary to a future maritime development, namely the construction of a new or upgraded wastewater outfall infrastructure serving the Waterford City WwTP. The data obtained will support statutory consenting processes, including Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment, and will inform the future Maritime Area Consent and planning application associated with the WwTP upgrade works.

The proposed MUL activity also falls under Schedule 7, Activity 12 (a) and (b) where benthic or sediment grab samples may be collected for analysis.

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 intention is to begin SI activities as soon as feasible once the MUL is granted. Timing of the SI activities is dependent on many factors, including weather, tidal flows, availability of vessels and the granting of the MUL. The granting of the MUL will have a direct effect on the timing of SI activities. The duration of the SI works is approximately 16 weeks and is currently scheduled for Q3 2026. The proposed license duration is for 3 years to account for potential delays in the consenting process.

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.

70.93 ha

- 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)'.

MUL250022 - Attachment 3.4 - Proposed MUL Map  
MUL250022 Shapefiles

- 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 proposed Maritime Area adjoins the High Water Mark (HWM), as defined by the Chief Boundary Surveyor (CBS), at its closest point to the 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)'.

MUL250022 - Attachment 3.5 - MUL Proposed Borehole Locations

- 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 Maritime Usage forms part of early-stage site investigation works in support of the Waterford City Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) Upgrade Project, which is being progressed by UÉ.

The overall Waterford WwTP Upgrade Project comprises upgrades to wastewater treatment infrastructure and the provision of a new or upgraded marine wastewater outfall within the River Suir estuary.

The proposed Maritime Usage does not itself constitute development requiring planning permission, however, it is ancillary to and necessary for the future consented development.

The MUL application relates solely to temporary investigative activities required to inform a future planning application and associated authorisations for the Waterford City WwTP Upgrade Project.



## Part 4 Marine Planning and Environmental Considerations

### **National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF)**

#### 4.1 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

#### 4.2 Designated Marine Area Plan

- A. Is the proposed Maritime Usage located in an area for which a Designated Marine Area Plan has been published?

Yes  No

- 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.

Not Applicable

- C. Attachment 4.2 included.

Yes  No  Not Applicable

### **Habitats and Birds Directives**

#### 4.3 Report for Appropriate Assessment Screening

- A. Is the proposed Maritime Usage directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site?

Yes  No

- 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.

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

#### 4.4 Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species

- A. Is there potential for Annex IV species to be impacted by 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, in accordance with national guidance. 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

- C. Are you required to apply for a derogation licence under Regulation 54 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended?

Yes  No

If yes, provide NPWS application reference number or derogation number:

Not Applicable



### Water Framework Directive

4.5 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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### Marine Strategy Framework Directive

4.6 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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### Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive

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

- 4.8 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 Maritime Usage is consistent with the Irish State's obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the Maritime Jurisdiction Act, as it involves temporary, non-exclusive and non-permanent investigative activities within Ireland's maritime area. The site investigation works will not impede the right of innocent passage for any UN Member State. All works are located within Ireland's territorial waters and respect the State's jurisdiction under national and international law.

The site investigation works will be undertaken in a manner that respects the State's sovereign rights and duties to manage, protect and preserve the marine environment, in accordance with the UNCLOS. The proposed activities are limited in duration and extent, will not result in permanent occupation or alteration of the seabed, and will be carried out using recognised best practice to minimise disturbance to the marine environment and other maritime users.

The Maritime Usage will not interfere with freedom of navigation or other legitimate uses of the sea, and all works will be conducted in compliance with applicable national legislation, including the Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2021, and subject to the conditions of the Maritime Usage Licence and any other relevant statutory requirements.

Attachment 4.8 included.

Yes  No  Not Applicable

### Climate Action and Low Carbon Act of 2015, as amended

- 4.9 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 Climate Action and Low Carbon Act 2015, as amended, provides the statutory framework for Ireland's transition to a climate-resilient, biodiversity-rich and climate-neutral economy by 2050. The Act establishes legally binding national climate objectives, including the achievement of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. It places obligations on public bodies to perform their functions in a manner consistent with these objectives. The Act ensures climate considerations are integrated into decision-making across all sectors of the economy.

The proposed Maritime Usage is consistent with achieving the National Climate Objective as defined in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Act 2015, as amended. The activities will be undertaken using established best practice to minimise greenhouse gas emissions, disturbance to the marine environment and interaction with other maritime users. The investigations are necessary to inform the sustainable design and delivery of the Waterford City Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades, which will support long-term environmental protection, improvements to water quality, climate resilience and compliance with national and EU environmental objectives.



Attachment 4.9 included.

Yes  No  Not Applicable

#### 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 – 2030

4.10 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 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 sets out Ireland's framework for halting and reversing biodiversity loss by protecting and restoring ecosystems, species and habitats while integrating biodiversity considerations across all sectors.

The proposed Maritime Usage (Site Investigations) and the subsequent Waterford City WwTP Upgrade project are consistent with the 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP), specifically supporting Objective 2 (Meeting Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs) and Objective 5 (Enhancing the Evidence Base for Nature).

##### **Consistency with Objective 2: Meet Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs**

The proposed works directly support Objective 2 by facilitating essential upgrades to the Waterford City WwTP, which are critical for meeting UWWTD compliance and restoring water quality in the River Suir Estuary. By reducing nutrient enrichment, the project aids the recovery of marine ecosystems. Furthermore, strict adherence to National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS, 2014) guidelines during site investigations ensures that immediate conservation needs, such as the protection of marine mammals from man-made sound, are actively managed and prioritised.

##### **Consistency with Objective 5: Enhance the Evidence Base for Nature**

The support Objective 5 by gathering high-quality, site-specific environmental data through comprehensive geophysical and geotechnical surveys, including benthic sampling and drop-down camera inspections. This process establishes a robust scientific baseline for the local marine environment. The collected data will directly inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA), ensuring that future infrastructure planning is evidence-based and designed to minimise biodiversity loss while avoiding sensitive habitats.

Attachment 4.10 included.

Yes  No  Not Applicable



## National or European Strategic or Policy Objectives

4.11 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 maritime usage comprises essential SI works required to inform the design and delivery of the Waterford City WwTP Upgrade. This project is a critical enabler for national infrastructure and environmental compliance. The alignment with specific strategic objectives is detailed below:

### **International – UN Sustainable Development Goals**

The proposed usage directly supports SDG 6: “Ensure Access to Water and Sanitation for All,” specifically Target 6.3, which aims to improve water quality by reducing pollution and minimising the release of untreated chemicals and materials. The Site Investigations are the prerequisite step to upgrading the Waterford City WwTP, ensuring the agglomeration has adequate treatment capacity to protect the marine environment and public health in the long term.

### **European – Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)**

Compliance with the UWWTD is the primary driver for the wider project. The proposed marine surveys will provide the necessary bathymetric, geophysical, and geotechnical data to design an optimised outfall solution. The upgrades will ensure that the upgraded plant will meet the emission limit values and treatment standards required by the Directive, thereby resolving any potential compliance deficits associated with the existing infrastructure.

### **European – Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)**

The project is important for meeting the objectives of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), particularly regarding the protection of the River Suir Estuary (Transitional Waterbody). The data gathered during this maritime usage will inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and hydrodynamic modelling. This ensures the final outfall design prevents the deterioration of water status and supports the achievement of “Good Ecological Status” by managing nutrient loads effectively.

### **National – Project Ireland 2040 – National Planning Framework (NPF)**

Waterford is designated as a regional city and a key driver of economic growth under the NPF. The proposed works support National Strategic Outcome (NSO) 9: “Sustainable Management of Water, Waste and other Environmental Resources.” By facilitating the upgrade of the WwTP, these surveys ensure that Waterford City has the utility capacity required to support the population growth, housing delivery, and commercial development envisaged in the NPF without compromising environmental integrity.

### **National – Project Ireland 2040 - National Development Plan Review 2025**

The National Development Plan (NDP) prioritises investment in water services infrastructure to support balanced regional development. The Waterford City WwTP Upgrade is consistent with the NDP’s commitment to Uisce Éireann’s capital investment programme. The proposed maritime usage is the critical “design and planning” phase required to deliver this capital project, ensuring the efficient and timely delivery of essential infrastructure for the South-East region.

### **National - Climate Action Plan**

The proposed usage aligns with the Climate Action Plan through both mitigation and adaptation strategies. Modernising the WwTP will allow for the integration of more energy-efficient treatment processes



(Mitigation). Furthermore, the metocean and geophysical surveys included in this application are important to inform measures for climate adaptation. They will characterise the seabed and wave climate to ensure the new outfall infrastructure is designed to withstand changing sea states associated with climate change.

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:

Darren Hourihane

Position held:

Project Manager – Infrastructure Delivery

Date:

21/01/2026

Signed for and on behalf of the applicant:

Signed by:  
  
839EDF37CDD9425...



### Application Checklist

Complete the below application checklist

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



<b>4.8</b>	Attachment 4.8 – UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Maritime Jurisdiction Act Compliance Details	Yes (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>4.9</b>	Attachment 4.9 – National Climate Objective Compliance Details	Yes (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>4.10</b>	Attachment 4.10 – National Biodiversity Action Plan Compliance Details	Yes (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>4.11</b>	Attachment 4.11 – National or European strategic or policy objectives Compliance Details	Yes (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>0.0</b>	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)

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darren.hourihane

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Robbie Clarke

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Security Level: Email, Account Authentication  
(None)

## Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:

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<b>Notary Events</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Timestamp</b>
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<b>Envelope Summary Events</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Timestamps</b>
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