

MARA

An tÚdarás Rialála Limistéir Mhuiri
Maritime Area Regulatory Authority

Note for Maritime Usage Licence Applicants — Public Consultation





Introduction

This Note is intended to assist Maritime Usage Licence Applicants in the public consultation aspect of the maritime usage licensing process.

Upon review of this Note, it is advisable that Applicants review their current MUL applications and make the necessary, advance preparations to satisfy the public consultation requirements when this arises on each of their MUL applications.

Advance preparation in this regard will support efficient operation of the public consultation process in accordance with the legislative requirements of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (the MAP Act 2021).

Version	Date	Amendment	Detail
1	24/04/2026	N/A	Initial Version



MARA Notification of Public Consultation - Section 117.6.b

Public consultation does not arise in all Maritime Usage Licence applications.

Where MARA determines that the subject Maritime Usage Licence application screens **OUT** for Appropriate Assessment, public consultation does **NOT** arise.

Where MARA determines that the subject Maritime Usage Licence application screens **IN**¹ for Appropriate Assessment, the Applicant is required to submit a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) to MARA. Public Consultation can only then commence when MARA is satisfied with the Natura Impact Statement (NIS) as submitted by the Applicant.

At that point, MARA issues a **Section 117.6.b Public Consultation Notification** to the Applicant. This requires the Applicant to give the public 'relevant notice' regarding the MUL application.

The 'relevant notice' essentially requires the Applicant to publish a newspaper notice advising of their MUL application; where the MUL application may be inspected; how members of the public may make submissions in writing on same and the time period for making such submissions.

Public Consultation Notification - Newspaper Notice

In the **Section 117.6.b Public Consultation Notification**, MARA provides a Template Newspaper Notice with the detail as required by the MAP Act 2021.

This Template Newspaper Notice is provided in Appendix 1.

- MUL Applicants must ensure that the published map allows for the location of the proposed maritime usage to be clearly ascertained. MARA recommends publication of a coloured map in this regard.
- MUL Applicants that are subject to the requirements of the *Official Languages Acts 2003 and 2021* should arrange any necessary translation of this Template Newspaper Notice to support their fulfilment of obligations in this regard.

¹ Section 117.6.a of the MAP Act 2021.



Public Consultation Notification - Newspaper Publication

MUL Applicants must arrange for publication of the Newspaper Notice in at least **one national newspaper** and in the **local newspaper(s)** pertinent to the coastline/s that the proposed maritime usage is adjacent to.

- MUL Applicants should proactively identify the relevant national and local newspaper(s) for their current MUL applications.

Public Consultation Notification – Deadline for Newspaper Publication

MUL Applicants must arrange for publication of the Newspaper Notice no later than **four weeks** from the date of the **Section 117.6.b Public Consultation Notification**.

Advance preparation in this regard is advisable so that MUL Applicants can achieve this publication within the four week period.

The Applicant may request an extension to this publication deadline. Such an extension request must be made in writing to MARA (licence@mara.gov.ie) and must provide good and sufficient reason for same.

Where the Applicant fails to comply with the four week newspaper publication deadline (or any extension granted by MARA to that period), the MUL application shall be deemed to have been withdrawn.

Public Consultation Duration – Newspaper Publication Dates

The time period for the public to make submissions (public consultation time period) must be for a minimum of 30 days.

As publication dates of national newspapers and local newspapers can differ, the 30 day public consultation period begins on the publication date of the first newspaper notice and the 30 day period is counted from the last publication date of any relevant public notice.



MUL Applicant Communication to MARA

MUL Applicants must advise MARA of the anticipated publication dates in the national and local newspapers and await MARA approval of same.

Upon newspaper publication, MUL Applicants must provide MARA with copies of the published Public Notices in each of the national and local newspapers. To facilitate publication of same on the MARA website, these copies must show the newspaper page header displaying the Newspaper Title and Publication Date.

MARA shall have regard to submissions duly received during such public consultation.



Public Consultation MUL Applicants – Checklist

➤ Arrange for advance translation of the Template Newspaper Notice where the *Official Languages Act 2003 and 2021* is applicable.

➤ Identify the relevant national and local newspapers relevant to each MUL application where public consultation would arise.

➤ Prepare for publication of the Newspaper Notice no later than **four weeks** from the date of the **Section 117.6.b Public Consultation Notification**.

➤ Advise MARA of the anticipated publication dates in the national and local newspapers and await MARA approval of same.

➤ Provide MARA with copies of the published Public Notices in each of the national and local newspapers.



APPENDIX 1

Template Newspaper Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011

Invitation for Public Submissions on an Application for a Maritime Usage Licence and an Appropriate Assessment

<<MUL APPLICANT>> has submitted an application to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (“MARA”) for a maritime usage licence under Section 117 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 to undertake <<details of proposed maritime usage>>. The duration requested in the licence application is for a period of <<XX>> years.

<< Map to clearly show location of the proposed maritime usage. A colour map is recommended>>.

A related Natura Impact Statement has been submitted with the above licence application. The licence application and the Natura Impact Statement are available for inspection on MARA’s website << link to MUL on MARA website>> and at the following address by appointment– Maritime Area Regulatory Authority, 2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park, Drinagh, Wexford, Y35 RF29.

Members of the public who wish to make a submission in writing to MARA on the licence application and the Natura Impact Statement may do so quoting << MUL Reference Number>> by email to licence@mara.gov.ie or by post to Maritime Usage Licensing, Maritime Area Regulatory Authority, 2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park, Drinagh, Wexford, Y35 RF29.

The closing date and time for a written submission to be received by MARA is 17.30 on DD/MM/YYYY.

MARA will then, as soon as practicable, carry out the appropriate assessment determination in accordance with Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. After the determination, MARA will either grant, part grant or refuse the licence application.

Dated this XX day of MONTH YEAR.

[Signed: Representative of <<MUL APPLICANT>>