

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.

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

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/>
State Infrastructure (Other)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Telecoms	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tourism & Recreation	<input checked="" 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



Not Applicable

iii. Date of commencement of unauthorised maritime usage.

Not Applicable

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	Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Co. Council
Company/Organisation (if Applicable)	Not Applicable
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	Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council,
Address line 2	County Hall, Marine Road,
Address line 3	Dún Laoghaire,
City/Town	Dublin
Eircode	A96 K6C9
Applicant Email Address	tryan@dlrcoco.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.	Not Applicable
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 No Not Applicable

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	Aly Alvy
Authorised Contact Position	Architect, Director @ Reddy Architecture & Urbanism
Email	aalvy@reddyarchitecture.com
Telephone	+353 (0) 1 498 7000

- 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).

Existing Foreshore Leases

- Dún Laoghaire Marina: FS004490
- St Michaels Pier: FS006786
- Moorings: FS007613

- 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.

DLRCC propose to undertake a suite of marine site investigation (SI) activities to assess the feasibility of constructing components of a National Watersports Campus. This submission does not constitute an application for constructing such components.

Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000.

- 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.

Site investigation works

Schedule 7, Paragraph 3: Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000.

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.

8 weeks



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 m², ha or km², as appropriate), which is the subject of the application.

21,325 m²

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)'.

MUL MAP - MUL250023
GIS Shapefiles - MUL250023

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.

0.015km

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)'.

MUL MAP - MUL250023



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.

ADD
Part of the nearshore at the Carlisle Pier is in DLRCC ownership as a result of the attached Ministerial Warrant.

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.



An application for ~~PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN LODGED FOR PLANNING PERMISSION~~ as a MAC is required in order to do so. A MAC has been applied for (reference MAC250050)

Dún Laoghaire County Council are developing a National Watersports Campus within Dún Laoghaire Harbour. The purpose of the campus is to promote watersport activities and to make the Harbour more accessible to everyone therefore increasing the number of people that participate in watersports activities.

The MAC application is to facilitate the installation of slipways, a pontoon and the creation of areas of reclaimed land within designated zones to support community watersports activities and events.



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 No



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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input 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.



Consistency with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

The proposed maritime usage comprises site investigation activities only, which are temporary, limited in scale, and confined to a defined area. The activity is consistent with Ireland's obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), in particular the provisions relating to the protection and preservation of the marine environment and the sustainable use of marine spaces.

The site investigation will be undertaken in a manner that ensures due regard to the rights and duties of the coastal State and other marine users, in accordance with UNCLOS. Activities will be carefully planned and managed to avoid interference with navigation, fishing, or other lawful uses of the sea.

In line with Part XII of UNCLOS, which requires States to protect and preserve the marine environment, the proposed activity has been designed to avoid pollution and minimise environmental disturbance. The investigation will not involve the disposal of waste, dumping of materials, or the release of contaminants to the marine environment. Any interaction with the seabed or water column will be minor, localised, and reversible.

No permanent structures will be installed, and no long-term modification of the marine environment will occur as a result of the proposed activity. Appropriate operational controls will be applied to ensure that the site investigation does not cause harm to marine habitats or species.

Accordingly, the proposed site investigation is consistent with the principles and obligations of UNCLOS and supports Ireland's responsible management of its maritime area in accordance with international law.

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.

Climate Action & Low Carbon Act

Consistency with the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act

The proposed maritime usage comprises site investigation activities only, which are temporary, limited in scale, and non-extractive. The activity is consistent with the objectives of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act, which provides a framework for Ireland's transition to a climate-resilient, low-carbon, and environmentally sustainable economy.

The site investigation will be of short duration and will not involve the installation of permanent infrastructure or the long-term use of marine resources. As such, the activity will result in minimal greenhouse gas emissions, limited primarily to short-term vessel operations, and will not give rise to ongoing or operational emissions.

The proposed investigation supports the objectives of the Act by enabling the collection of baseline data necessary to inform future decision-making, planning, and assessment of potential maritime developments. This evidence-based approach facilitates the early identification of environmental constraints and opportunities, supporting climate-conscious planning and the avoidance of unnecessary environmental impacts.

The activity will be undertaken in accordance with applicable environmental protection measures and best practice, ensuring that it does not undermine Ireland's national climate objectives or carbon budgets.

Given its limited scope, duration, and emissions profile, the proposed site investigation is consistent with the principles and objectives of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act.



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.

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.

Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) 2023 - 2030 sets the national framework for biodiversity conservation and restoration over the next decade and represents the Government's approach to addressing urgent biodiversity loss across terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine environments. In support of the MUL application, the Annex IV Risk Assessment prepared for the Dún Laoghaire Harbour site investigation works provides a species-level evaluation of strictly protected taxa listed on Annex IV of the EU Habitats Directive, including bats, marine mammals (cetaceans), European otter, and other relevant taxa. The Risk Assessment used national and regional distribution data (e.g. NBDC records and marine mammal survey datasets) to assess the potential for the proposed works to interact with Annex IV species and identified that there is no plausible pathway for significant effects arising from the temporary, low-impact in-water surveys. The Annex IV report concluded that a derogation licence for Annex IV species is not required for these works.

Together, the 4th NBAP and the Annex IV Risk Assessment reinforce the biodiversity-focused decision-making framework relevant to this MUL application:

- The biodiversity duty under Irish law ensures that biodiversity considerations are integrated into planning, impact assessment and licensing decisions affecting marine and coastal environments, consistent with NBAP objectives.
- The strategic aim to enhance the evidence base for action on biodiversity aligns with the use of robust datasets and structured assessment (including that compiled in the Annex IV Risk Assessment) to inform screening of potential effects.
- The Annex IV Risk Assessment itself demonstrates the application of biodiversity evidence and risk-based evaluation to show that the proposed site investigation works do not have credible pathways to significantly affect strictly protected species, consistent with both national and EU biodiversity obligations.

The SI works contribute to the NBAP's strategic objectives in the following ways:

• **NBAP Objective 1 Mainstream biodiversity across decision-making and marine policy:**

The SI works are being undertaken with a biodiversity-informed decision-making process, including screening under the Habitats Directive and use of detailed ecological data (e.g. Natura site data and species records). This reflects integration of biodiversity considerations into marine planning and licensing decisions as envisaged by the NBAP's statutory biodiversity duty, which requires public bodies and decision-makers to have regard to biodiversity objectives.

• **NBAP Objective 2 Meet urgent conservation and restoration needs:**

While the proposed SI works are temporary and low impact, they are designed to avoid adverse effects on protected habitats and species. The AA screening and Annex IV Risk Assessment demonstrate that there are no credible pathways for significant effects on European sites (e.g. South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA, South Dublin Bay SAC) or on strict protection species such as bats and marine mammals. This is consistent with the NBAP's prioritisation of conservation needs and minimisation of disturbance pressures on biodiversity.

• **NBAP Objective 3 Secure nature's contribution to people:**

The SI works support sustainable use of a key marine and coastal resource (Dún Laoghaire Harbour) that underpins recreational, watersports, safety, and wider community uses. By ensuring that biodiversity and Natura site conservation objectives are considered, the project contributes to securing benefits of a



healthy natural environment for people and communities.

• **NBAP Objective 4 Enhance evidence base for action on biodiversity:**

The SI works generate high-resolution geotechnical data for the harbour environment. Although the primary objective is for marine usage planning and licensing, these data contribute to the broader national biodiversity evidence base by improving understanding of seabed conditions, hydrodynamics and potential habitat contexts adjacent to protected sites. This aligns with the NBAP's emphasis on enhanced evidence to support biodiversity assessment and informed management.

• **NBAP Objective 5 Strengthen Ireland's contribution to international biodiversity initiatives:**

By adhering to best practice in screening for likely significant effects, embedding biodiversity considerations in project design, and meeting EU obligations under the Habitats Directive and related biodiversity strategies, the project contributes to Ireland's broader commitments under EU and international biodiversity frameworks.

In addition, the Annex IV Risk Assessment prepared for the MUL application provides a species-level evaluation of strictly protected taxa under the Habitats Directive (e.g. bats, cetaceans), demonstrating that the proposed SI works pose no realistic pathways for significant impacts on Annex IV species and that derogation licensing is not required. This supports the overarching policy direction of the NBAP to embed biodiversity considerations into governance, planning and management of maritime activities. Overall, the proposed SI works align with national and European objectives to mainstream biodiversity into planning and licensing decisions, enhance the evidence base for biodiversity action, avoid harm to protected habitats and species, and uphold Ireland's commitments under the Habitats Directive and the NBAP 2023 - 2030.

In this context, the AA screening has been informed by both national policy and legal obligations for biodiversity conservation (as reflected in the 4th NBAP and associated biodiversity duty) and site and species specific risk assessment evidence for Annex IV species. This approach underpins the conclusion that the SI works will not result in likely significant effects on European sites or protected biodiversity interests.

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 NPF sets out the Government's high level strategic vision for shaping future growth and development in Ireland up to the year 2040. The NPF represents the overarching national planning policy document, of direct relevance to the planning functions of regional and local Planning Authorities. The companion document to the NPF is the 'National Development Plan 2018-2027' which provides the accompanying investment strategy that aligns with the strategic objectives of the NPF. The NPF promotes 10 National Strategic Outcomes. Chapter 7 of the NPF is titled 'Realising our Island and Marine Potential' and provides detail on these topics:

- Integrated Land and Maritime Planning
- Maritime Economy
- Ports



- Coastal Environment and Planning for Climate Change
- Offshore Renewable Energy

The Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 is one component of the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) which was published in summer 2021.

The Maritime Area Planning Bill 2021 passed all stages of the Oireachtas on 17 December and was enacted on 23 December 2021. Replacing existing development consent regimes with a single consent principle, or Maritime Area

Consent (a seabed lease), it will enable development consent, or planning permission, with one environmental assessment. The new processes provided for within the Act will apply to foreshore licences and leases, as well as planning permissions for marine projects, from seaweed harvesting to offshore renewable energy infrastructure. The legislation also creates a new regulatory authority, the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority

(MARA). Alongside its enforcement functions, MARA will assume responsibility for issuing foreshore licences from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Likewise, the authority will also be empowered to issue Maritime Area Consents (equivalent to foreshore leases).

Similarly, while aquaculture activities will continue to be processed by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the Minister has indicated that this function will eventually transfer to MARA.

Maritime spatial planning Ireland's first maritime spatial plan, the NMPF, was published in tandem with the MAP Bill. While undertaking their functions, public bodies, particularly those responsible for issuing authorisation or

undertaking their functions, public bodies, particularly those responsible for issuing authorisation or consent for offshore activities, must comply with the objectives of the NMPF. Designated Maritime Area Plans providing for Designated Maritime Area Plans (DMAPs), or portions of the maritime area which are selected for specific usage, the Act also requires applications for Marine Area Consents (MACs) within DMAPs to be subject to a specific process.

The aim of the National Ports Policy was/is to allow a competitive and effective market for maritime transport services. Within the 2013 National Ports Policy, Dún Laoghaire Harbour was categorised as a "Port of Regional Significance" and the following was recommended:

While the port's location in the heart of Dún Laoghaire limits its potential as a transport hub, it provides significant opportunities. It has become increasingly clear over the past decade that the long-term future of Dún Laoghaire Harbour Company will be in terms of marine leisure, maritime tourism, cultural amenity, and urban redevelopment.

The Harbour Company has developed ambitious plans in this regard; these are incorporated in its 2011 Masterplan. The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport is not the appropriate body to oversee these proposals, which are focused on urban regeneration, cultural amenity, marine tourism and leisure facilities rather than fulfilling national transportation objectives. Therefore it is appropriate that the plans be developed under the aegis of and in co-operation with Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

In 2018 Dún Laoghaire Harbour Company was dissolved, and the Harbour transferred into DLRCC, which was as recommended in the National Ports Policy.

Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031

The RSES sets out the long-term spatial planning and economic framework for the Eastern and Midland Region, in accordance with the economic policies of the Government, for the proper planning and sustainable development of the Region to 2031 and beyond. Chapters 6 and 7 provide references to Marine Planning.

National Sports Policy 2018 - 2027



The National Sports Policy 2018 – 2027 sets out the vision for Irish Sports in 2027. Ever growing participation numbers in sporting activities, and high levels of performance, is a key ambition of the National Sports Policy. The policy is underpinned by a set of core values to be followed:

Is evidence-led and outcomes focused
Has a clear accountability framework
Promotes inclusion
Fosters collaboration
Emphasises excellent ethical standards
Adopts a life course perspective around participation
Encourages innovation

Five Strategic County Outcomes:

- Creation of a Climate Resilient County
- Creation of a Compact and Connected County
- Creation of a Network of Liveable Towns and Villages
- Creation of an Inclusive and Healthy County
- Creation of a Vibrant Economic County

The majority of the Harbour is zoned W: 'To provide for waterfront development and harbour related uses'. In addition, there are areas also zoned F, 'To preserve and provide for open space with ancillary active recreational amenities.

Attachment 4.11 included.

Yes No Not Applicable

See above



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:

ALY ALVY

Position held:

Director, Reddy Architecture & Urbanism

Date:

26th February 2026

Signed for and on behalf of the applicant:



Application Checklist

Complete the below application checklist

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



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

Please return completed applications, by email, to: licence@mara.gov.ie