



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Scope of Works

DCEE Marine Usage Licence Application

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3.1 Scope of Works Overview

In support of Ireland's Ocean Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (ORESS), the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE) is planning a range of marine surveys. The programme comprises several survey components with the following indicative timings: Geophysical surveys are expected to run for around 3–4 months, with mobilisation currently anticipated in Q2/Q3 2026 or 2027. Geotechnical works would follow a similar seasonal window, lasting 2–3 months. Biological surveys will be undertaken periodically over 12–24 months, with benthic sampling anticipated to commence in Q2/Q3 2026 or 2027. Acoustic monitoring (typically for cetacean activity) is proposed over a 24-month period during 2027– 2028. Metocean surveys involve fixed deployments over 12–36 months, with intermittent site access for data retrieval and maintenance, with commencement also expected in Q2/Q3 2026 or 2027. Specific dates for the vessel schedule are pending. Data acquired will be made publicly available to participants in the ORESS energy auction process.

The reconnaissance survey data collected by this initial and future survey works will provide information in the upper 100 m of sub-surface geology, to inform the potential suitability of marine areas for possible offshore wind and grid infrastructure development, should these areas be identified as suitable for offshore wind and/or grid development within the final South Coast DMAP.

The proposed broad geophysical target survey area is 5653.88km². It encompasses an area from the nearshore out to the 75m contour stretching from approximately 8km east of Carnsore Point off the Wexford coast, west to Oyster Haven, County Cork.

This multi-disciplinary marine survey programme is planned to inform the final South Coast DMAP (SC-DMAP). Works will be conducted primarily within three maritime areas off Waterford and Wexford, with indicative transit lines from the Tonn Nua cable corridor (Cork side) to Li Ban, and a second indicative corridor beyond Li Ban within the SC-DMAP/MUL boundary. The overall objective of the surveys is to characterise seabed and sub-seabed conditions and to collect baseline metocean, benthic, and acoustic data to support the feasibility, design, and environmental assessment of future offshore wind and grid infrastructure. Coverage focuses on the three SC-DMAP maritime areas (Li Ban B, Manannán C, and Danu D) off Waterford/Wexford, transit

lines from Cork Harbour, and corridors between sites, and planned acoustic monitoring locations within the wider SC-DMAP area.

The MUL scope also comprises survey works across the wider SC-DMAP area, including locations outside the development areas. This is relevant to pre - and post-construction monitoring under the SC-DMAP implementation plan, which is expected to focus on biological surveys (benthic monitoring and passive acoustic monitoring) and may be undertaken at a regional scale. Small-scale benthic sampling is anticipated to inform the selection of long-term monitoring stations. In addition, passive acoustic monitoring will take place within the overall DMAP to support regional baseline and future monitoring.