

# 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.

N/A

ii. Date of Issue.

N/A

iii. Expiration date.

N/A



iv. Description of Authorised Usage.

N/A

v. Reason for transition from foreshore authorisation to MUL.

N/A

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.

N/A

ii. Location of unauthorised maritime usage.

N/A

iii. Date of commencement of unauthorised maritime usage.

N/A

**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	Limerick City and County Council
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Company/Organisation (if Applicable)	Limerick City and County Council
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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	City Hall
Address line 2	Merchant's Quay
Address line 3	
City/Town	County Limerick
Eircode	V94 EH90
Applicant Email Address	<b>John.moloney@limerick.ie</b>
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.	N/a – Local Authority
If the Applicant is a non-profit entity, which is a registered charity, the Registered Charity Number	N/a – Local Authority

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	Aoife Edgely
Authorised Contact Position	Associate Marine Scientist
Email	aoife.edgely@tetrattech.com
Telephone	+353 1 488 2900

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.

N/A

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).

Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) was granted a foreshore licence (FS00190) to undertake upgrades and additions to flood protection measures around King's Island in Limerick City. This licence was for a period of 35 years from the commencement date (18/04/2024). As of 10/02/2026, construction for this project is still ongoing. Therefore, there is possible spatial or temporal overlap with the proposed SI works.

- 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.

N/A

- 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.

LCCC were granted planning permission (ACP306270) to construct a Flood Relief Development on King's Island in Limerick City, < 1km from the proposed MUL Area. This was approved subject to conditions on 21/05/2021. Construction works are ongoing and within the Cumulative Effects Spatial Scope (CESS) of the proposed SI works, therefore there is potential for spatial and temporal overlap with the proposed SI works.

LCCC were granted planning permission (ACP312559) for ground investigation (GI) works to inform the option selection and design of the proposed Limerick FRS within the proposed MUL Area. This was approved with conditions on 20/09/2022. This GI work has been fully completed.

- 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.

Tetra Tech have been commissioned by LCCC as Engineering and Environmental Consultants to design and progress the delivery of a Limerick City and Environs Flood Relief Scheme (hereafter referred to as the Limerick FRS). The objective of the overall project is the identification, design and submission (for planning consent) of a flood scheme, that is technically, socially, environmentally and economically acceptable, to alleviate the risk of flooding to the community of Limerick to a determined standard of protection, and to procure, manage and oversee the construction of that scheme.

The Scheme area for the Limerick FRS is located within the Shannon upper and lower river basin and is subject to both coastal and fluvial flooding. The OPW working in partnership with LCCC and Clare County Council, completed the Shannon Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Study in 2018. The Shannon CFRAM Study identified Limerick City as an Area of Further Assessment and concluded that a flood relief scheme is to be undertaken.

In order to provide a reliable basis for design and development, the following surveys and investigations are required. The aim of the SI works is to acquire data to a high quality and specification for the site as summarised below and described in the following sections. For the avoidance of doubt, no construction works associated with the flood relief scheme are included under this MUL application.

LCCC are seeking a MUL for a period of five years from the date of the granting of the licence. It is expected that the SI works will be undertaken over different periods within the licence period, with the geophysical surveys being undertaken first to inform the drilling corridors for the boreholes and rotary cores. It is expected that each geotechnical sampling location will take two days to complete; however, this is dependent on weather conditions and contractor/vessel availability. The geophysical survey is likely to take approximately one week to complete, while the environmental survey is likely to take approximately two weeks to complete dependant on weather conditions and contractor/vessel availability.

It is noted that the requirement for additional and more refined works may arise as the SI works progress and data are analysed. This may include areas of particular interest using more targeted techniques and/or refined sampling locations and quantities.

**Geophysical SI works**

- Land-based (below the high-water mark) topographical surveying and archaeological investigations.
- Marine (boat-based) surveys comprising geophysical techniques (MBES, SSS, SBP). Geomagnetic surveying using a magnetometer will also be undertaken. All equipment will be hull-mounted with no requirements for an ultra-short baseline (USBL) system to provide positioning information.

**Geotechnical SI works**

- 51 No. boreholes with rotary core boreholes and cable percussion boreholes will be taken within the MUL Area below the HWM using a rotary and cable percussive drilling rig.
- Standard Penetration Tests (SPTs) will be taken within the MUL Area below the HWM using a 50mm split spoon sampler and occasional jacking operations to deploy, stabilise, or demobilise the drill barge and associated equipment.

**Environmental SI works**

- Benthic grab sampling (including containment sediment samples);



- Drop-Down Video (if required);
- Water sampling, including Conductivity, Temperature and Depth (CTD) Measurements (if required)

**Archaeological SI works**

- Intertidal walkover surveys within the MUL Area using handheld metal-detectors, photographic survey and drone survey where applicable
- Marine Geophysical survey (this is the same campaign as the Marine Geophysical Surveys described above)
- Sampling (at geotechnical SI locations samples may be taken for archaeological inspection)
- Dive surveys where deemed necessary utilising a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) if applicable.
- Wade survey where water depths and conditions permit up to 75 cm water depth seawards of the low water mark.

Further details on the scope of investigations and surveys to be undertaken under the licence are contained in the Project Description report submitted with this application and are shown on the plans and drawings referred to in **Section 3.5** of this application form. Indicative timings of the SI works are set out in **Section 3.3** of this application form.

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.

Below are the activities in Schedule 7, for which this MUL application is made:

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

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.

LCCC propose a site investigation activities schedule that will be phased over a total of 5 years. The intention is to begin the survey activities as soon as feasible following licence award, with a phased programme of investigations, capitalising on suitable weather windows over this time-period. The total



expected duration of SI works is expected as follows: each geotechnical sampling location will take two days to complete (however, this is dependent on weather conditions and contractor/vessel availability) and the geophysical survey is likely to take approximately one week to complete, while the environmental is likely to take approximately two weeks to complete (dependant on weather conditions). However, a licence duration of 5 years is required to allow for uncertainties around weather, contractors and equipment availability etc.

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.

Total MUL Area = 466 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)'.

Proposed Licence Area Map - Drawing Ref: MCW1078-RPS-05-ZZ-DR-Z-0100.

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 main body of the proposed maritime area is within the upper Shannon Estuary directly adjacent the shoreline (i.e. 0 km).

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)'.

Proposed Geophysical, Geotechnical and Environmental Survey Locations - Drawing Ref: MCW1078-RPS-05-ZZ-DR-Z-0101.

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.

Drawing Ref: MCW1078-RPS-05-ZZ-DR-Z-0104  
Letter of Consent from Clayton Hotel Limerick

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.

N/A



## 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.

N/A

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:

N/A

#### 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  No

### 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   
No – is of a class/equals or exceeds a threshold

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  No

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  No  Not Applicable

### 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.

Ireland has a requirement to meet international and national standards in the management of maritime activities within its waters. As a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and under the national Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2021, Ireland has legal obligations to manage its marine resources in a sustainable manner.



The UNCLOS defines the standards of international maritime law, protecting peaceful use of the oceans and sustainable management of natural resources. Enacted in 1994, the UNCLOS gives jurisdiction to coastal nations within their maritime areas. The UNCLOS has been further expanded upon through addition of the following frameworks:

- the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea – Part XI of the UNCLOS addresses the exploration and exploitation of benthic marine areas beyond the jurisdiction of national maritime boundaries
- the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UN Fish Stocks Agreement) – addresses the long-term sustainable management and protection of fish stocks, particularly those which are highly migratory and/ or are exploited by more than one nation
- the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement). Further information on the BBNJ Agreement is provided below – a legally binding framework for sustainable management of marine biodiversity beyond national maritime boundaries

The proposed site investigation (SI) works will be in accordance with the UNCLOS principles and will comply with legal requirements, including but not limited to:

- Article 194. Measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment
- Article 196. Use of technologies or introduction of alien or new species
- Article 199. Contingency plans against pollution
- Article 206. Assessment of potential effects of activities
- Article 240. General principles for the conduct of marine scientific research
- Article 263. Responsibility and liability

The Maritime Jurisdiction Act (2021) expands upon previous legislation regarding the governance of Ireland’s maritime jurisdiction and gives effect to provisions of the above mentioned UNCLOS. This act consolidates Ireland’s maritime boundaries through regulations including but not limited to the governance of territorial sea, international waters and state sovereignty. It also provides provisions on the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the Continental Shelf, outlining Ireland’s jurisdiction in these areas. The Act provides a legal framework to meet UNCLOS obligations regarding sustainable management and protection of the marine environment and resources during maritime activities.

As the proposed SI works will take place within Irish waters, the Irish state maintains full jurisdiction. The SI works will align with obligations under UNCLOS and the Maritime Jurisdiction Act (2021).

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 in 2021, supports Ireland’s goal to achieve a ‘national climate objective’ (which receives a statutory basis under this Act) through creation of a Net Zero



economy and climate neutrality by 2050. This framework establishes legally binding commitments in order to meet national and international climate objectives. The Act places emphasis on a statutory 'national climate objective' to achieve climate neutral economy that is underpinned by environmentally sustainable practices and rich national biodiversity.

Mandatory carbon budgeting processes and targets for each sector are brought into law under this Act, and it further strengthens the role of Climate Change Advisory Council in proposing these targets. In the short term, this Climate Change Advisory Council is responsible for achieving a 51% reduction in emissions by 2030 through the drafting of the first two carbon budgets. Local authorities are obliged to create a local Climate Action Plan for their respective areas, to which Local Development Plans must also align.

The proposed SI works are consistent with the national climate objective as they enable the fulfilment of the following action:

- AD/25/7 Develop Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Flood Risk Management sector – The proposed SI works will inform detailed construction and engineering design of the Limerick City and Environs Flood Relief Scheme (hereafter referred to as the Limerick FRS) and provide baseline data for any subsequent environmental assessments. Information collected by the SI works will support the overall Limerick FRS project in its aim to alleviate coastal and fluvial flooding in Limerick City and surrounding areas. Therefore, this MUL represents a critical step towards supporting future climate resilience within the community of Limerick.

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.

Developed with the support of an interdisciplinary Biodiversity Working Group and the Biodiversity Forum, Ireland's 4<sup>th</sup> National Biodiversity Action Plan (2023-2030) aims to address the biodiversity crisis in Ireland through a 'whole government and whole society' approach. Building upon previous iterations of the Plan and emerging data and trends relating to the biodiversity emergency, the current plan sets out five Objectives:

1. Adopt a Whole-of-Government, Whole-of-Society Approach to Biodiversity
2. Meet Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs
3. Secure Nature's Contribution to People
4. Enhance the Evidence Base for Action on Biodiversity
5. Strengthen Ireland's Contribution to International Biodiversity Initiatives

Objective 2:

The proposed SI works will align with action 2D5 'By 2027, optimised benefits in flood risk management planning and drainage schemes are in place' as the Limerick FRS and Appropriate Assessment have been undertaken in a way that 'minimises loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services through policies to promote more catchment-wide and non-structural flood risk management measures'.

The proposed SI work will align with action 2H8 'By 2030, invasive alien species are controlled, managed, and where possible, eradicated within Protected Areas and effectively controlled in urban, peri urban areas, the wider countryside and marine and coastal areas'. SI works will comply with the International Convention for Control and Management of Ships Ballast Water and Sediments (ratified in 2024) ensuring that the spread of invasive



alien species will be prevented, managed and/ or eradicated during SI works under the MULA.

Objective 4:

The proposed SI works will align with the NBAP objective 4 as all plans and reports have thoroughly assessed the impacts to potential receptors within the Zone of Influence (ZoI). SI works have been subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening required under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, through which all potential impacts on relevant Qualifying Interests (both habitats and species) have been identified (Report ref: MCW1078-RPS-05-ZZ-RP-Z-0101). An Annex IV Risk Assessment has also been submitted with this MUL (Report ref: MCW1078-RPS-05-ZZ-RP-Z-0102) in which potential impacts to all relevant Annex IV species were identified. Both reports were informed by thorough desk-based research, aligning with the objective to 'enhance the evidence base for action on biodiversity' under the NBAP.

The SI works themselves align with objective 4 through the generation of high-quality baseline data on bathymetry, biodiversity, geology, sediment composition and more. These results will inform detailed design and construction of the Limerick FRS, ensuring it is undertaken in the least ecologically impactful manner.

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.

Regional plans

Under the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (SCFRAM) programme, the Flood Risk Management Plan for the Shannon Upper and Lower River Basin was prepared by the Office of Public Works (OPW) in consultation with local authorities. The plan aims to identify, map and sustainably manage areas at risk of and future flooding through the development of regional Flood Relief Schemes (FRS), including Limerick FRS.

The proposed SI works directly support the Limerick FRS by providing the geophysical, geotechnical and environmental data required to inform its design. In doing so, the SI works contribute to attaining the plans core objectives:

- Social – enhancing public safety, employment and minimising risk to infrastructure and amenity
- Economic – minimising risk to transport and utility infrastructure
- Environmental – avoiding loss or damage to Natura 2000 sites and associated QIs via flooding
- Technical – ensuring design of FRS is well informed and resilient to future climate change through robust data collection

National plans

The National Development Plan (NDP) (2021-2030) sets out how Irelands infrastructure will be developed and supports Project Ireland 2040. It focuses housing, climate, transport, water infrastructure and more in order to create a sustainable, resilient and regionally balanced Ireland.

The SI works align with the NDPs aims as follows:

- Commitment to investment in FRS – SI works are a mandatory stage of OPW FRS as they ensure robust baseline data.



- Transition to a Climate -Neutral and Climate-Resilient Society (NSO 8) – through assessment of current and future flood risk and the integration of future climate change scenarios into FRS design.
- Sustainable Management of Water and Environmental Resources (NSO 9) – identifying and protecting environmentally sensitive areas through baseline study and complying with environmental legislation.
- Supporting the delivery of CFRAM-based flood risk projects funded under the NDP.

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:

Position held:

SENIOR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - Limerick City & County Council.

Date:

12/05/26.

Signed for and on behalf of the applicant:

### 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>4.1</b>	Attachment 4.1 – Compliance with Objectives of NMPPF	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 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)