

To:	Dr Alison McCarthy, Senior Marine Advisor, MULPA	From:	Dr Ciar O'Toole, Senior Marine Advisor, MULPA
		Date:	28/09/2026
Please see below for AA screening and determination report from external consultant Aoife Edgely of Tetra Tech, prepared using MARA procedures and templates with my supervision. I have reviewed the report below.			

Appropriate Assessment Screening and Determination Report

To:	MULPA Directorate, MARA	Prepared by (on behalf of MARA):	Aoife Edgely (Associate Marine Scientist, Tetra Tech)
		Reviewed by:	Dr Ciar O'Toole, MARA
Date:	24/09/2026	Maritime Usage Licence Application No:	MUL260034
Applicant:	Wexford County Council Carricklawn, Wexford Y35 WY93		
Type(s) of maritime usage activity in accordance with Schedule 7 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021:	<i>3. Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000.</i>		
Location of proposed maritime usage:	Within two areas adjacent to the townlands of Burrow and Hopeland (Area A), and adjacent to the townlands of Warren Lower, Warren Middle, Doogans Warren, Rosehill and Hill of Sea (Area B), in the vicinity of Rosslare.		
Licence application received:	12/05/2026		

1. Background

Wexford County Council (WCC) (the applicant) has applied to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) for a Maritime Usage Licence (MUL) to undertake marine site investigation (SI) works and environmental surveys within two areas in the vicinity of Rosslare. The proposed maritime usage is required to support the Rosslare Coastal Erosion and Flood Relief Scheme (CEFRS). These investigations are required to provide high-quality baseline data that can contribute to project design and development, and the environmental impact assessment.

2. Description of maritime usage(s) and local site characteristics

2.1 Brief description of the maritime usage

The proposed maritime usage in this application is requested to conduct marine SI works and environmental surveys within two areas adjacent to the townlands of Burrow and Hopeland (area A), and adjacent to the townlands of Warren Lower, Warren Middle, Doogans Warren, Rosehill and Hill of Sea (area B), in the vicinity of Rosslare, Ireland (**Figure 1** **Error! Reference source not found.**). The MUL area covers a total area of 16.47 km² and is split into two separate areas of 0.74 km² (Area A) and 15.73 km² (Area B).

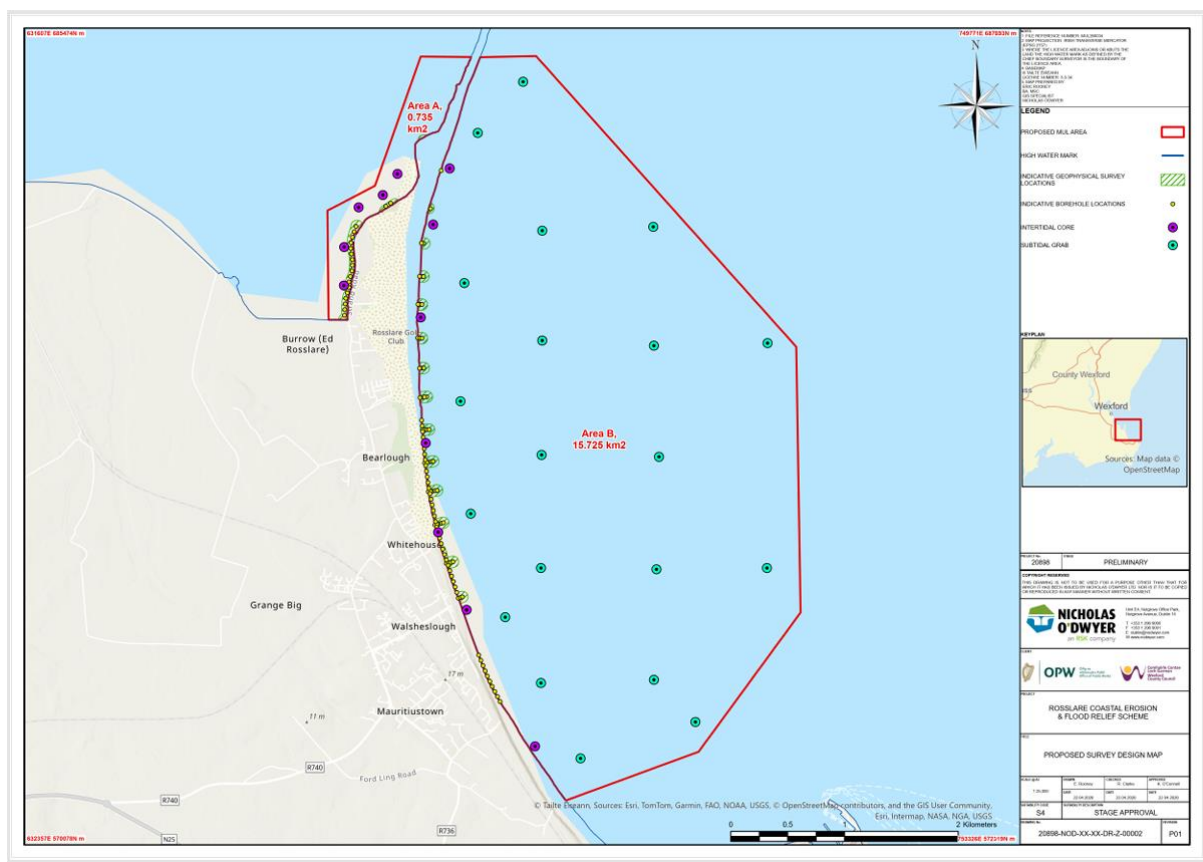


Figure 1: proposed MUL areas (areas A and B) with indicative sampling locations

The applicant has requested a three-year licence period; however, the proposed duration of the SI works (geophysical and geotechnical) is approximately 4 months, while metocean buoys are anticipated to be deployed for a maximum duration of 6 months. Marine environmental/ecological will take up to up to 5 days, and seismic and electrical resistivity tomography (ERT) will take up to 16 days. An overview of the proposed maritime usage is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Proposed SI works

Equipment	Estimated equipment details
Geophysical surveys (duration up to 16 weeks- across area A and B of the proposed MUL area)	
Side scan sonar (SSS)	- Frequency range of 100 to 1000 kHz 20 m main line spacing and 100 m cross line spacing (25% overlap onto neighbouring lines) - Anticipated to occur during daylight hours over a period of up to 10 days
Magnetometer	- Geometrics G-882 or similar 20 m main line spacing and 100 m cross line spacing (25% overlap onto neighbouring lines) - Likely to occur during daylight hours over a period of up to 10 days
Sub-bottom profiler (SBP) – parametric	- Knudsen Chirp system or similar - Frequency range of 2-10 kHz 20 m main line spacing and 100 m cross line spacing (25% overlap onto neighbouring lines) - Anticipated to occur during daylight hours over a period of up to 10 days
Boomer	- Applied Acoustics AA301 or similar - Frequency range of 85-115 kHz and 2-22 kHz, respectively - Sound pressure levels up to 232 dB (typically operated at <200 dB re1μPa @ 1 m) used in the nearshore shallower area 20 m main line spacing and 100 m cross line spacing - Anticipated to occur during daylight hours over a period of up to 10 days
Sparker	- Applied Acoustics Dual 400 Tip or similar - Frequency range of 0.5-5 kHz - Sound pressure levels in range 205-211 dB re1μPa @ 1m 20 m main line spacing and 100 m cross line spacing - Anticipated to occur during daylight hours over a period of up to 10 days
Multibeam echosounder (MBES)	- Frequency range of 300-700 kHz (peak operating frequency of approximately 400 kHz) - Line spacing between 5 and 20 m, depending on depth - Exposure time is approx. 0.05 ms per 1 ms for multibeam operating with 200-400 kHz, or 0.05 per 0.3 ms for higher frequencies (>400 kHz)

Equipment	Estimated equipment details
	- Sound pressure levels in range 215-220 dB re 1μPa @ 1m - Anticipated to occur during daylight hours over a period of up to 10 days
Marine Refraction Seismic (air guns)	20 m line spacing - Peak frequencies 5-90 kHz - Source pressure levels in range 186-220 dB re 1μPa @1m - Anticipated to occur during daylight hours over a period of up to 8 days
Marine Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT)	- Maximum 20 ERT lines of length 315 m, diameter 20 mm; - Anticipated to occur during daylight hours over a period of up to 8 days.
Environmental/Ecological surveys (duration up to 5 days)	
Subtidal benthic ecology grab samples	20 sampling locations, with 4 replicate samples per location 0.1 m² surface area per sample
Intertidal ecology cores/grab samples	- Intertidal sample locations may be subject to walkover/drone survey in advance of sampling. - Maximum 12 No. sample locations for sediment sampling, where shoreline conditions allow. 0.01 m² hand core to a depth of 20 cm for benthic faunal analysis
Seabed imagery (Remotely Operated Vehicles [ROV] surveys)	Subtidal sample locations may be subject to drop down video in advance of sampling.
Walkover survey (intertidal)	Additional surveys of intertidal hard strata may also be carried out by conducting walk over surveys of the relevant hard strata to record biotopes and species present.
Archaeological surveys (duration up to 5 days- across Area A and B of the proposed MUL area)	
Walkover	- Efforts to be confirmed, pending the results of the geophysical surveys - Undertaken at low tide - Use of a metal detector along the foreshore - May require further archaeological surveys (i.e. underwater video, dive surveys), including the groyne locations
Geotechnical surveys (duration up to 16 weeks- across area A and B of the proposed MUL area)	
Drop-down video (DDV)	Up to 30 transects of up to 30 m each using a drop-down camera and video surveillance
Boreholes	- Maximum 107 no. boreholes of diameter 300 mm within both areas of the MUL (including approximately 41 no. for the revetment and 46 no. for the groynes on the east side; and a maximum of 20 no. for the embankment and pumping stations on the west side) - Up to 10 m below bed level, but may be terminated if sufficient bedrock is encountered - Typical frequency range: 0.001-0.120 kHz

Equipment	Estimated equipment details
	• Approximate sound pressure level 145 dB re1μPa @1m • Boreholes will be drilled from a jack-up barge
Cone penetration testing (CPT)	• 180 no. CPTs of a diameter of 44 mm • Typical cross-sectional area of 10 or 15 cm² • Up to depth of 10m but will be terminated if bedrock is encountered.
Geotechnical grab samples	• Maximum 32 no. collected at the locations of selected boreholes, as necessary
Metocean monitoring buoys	• Maximum two buoys • Two anchors per buoy, secured by 2 x 20 kg weights or housed within a trawl resistant frame approximately 2 m x 2 m x 1 m • ADCPs 600 kHz or 1 MHz, sampling rate of 1-minute average every 10 minutes • Pings typical echo intensity profile 80 dB (+/- 1.5 dB)).

2.2 Brief description of the site characteristics

The site consists of intertidal and nearshore waters with mean depths of between 0m and 10m across the entire proposed MUL area. The location is a busy recreational area with Rosslare and Point beach to the west of MUL Area B. There are also several aquaculture sites within Wexford Bay to the west of Raven Point. Rosslare Europort is located approx. 7 km of the site and is an international ferry and cargo port with multiple daily sailing. An application has also been made to An Coimisiún Pleanála regarding expansion of the port to facilitate ORE development in the region.

MUL Area A has not been mapped for benthic broad habitat type in Irelands Marine Atlas (2026), however, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) has mapped MUL Area A as estuarine mud dominated by polychaetes and crustaceans community complex and sand dominated by polychaetes community complex (NPWS, 2011). The area is designated as Qualifying Interest (QI) habitats mudflats and sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide [1140] within the Slaney River Valley SAC.

MUL Area B does not overlap with any SACs or corresponding QI habitats. However, according to mapped broad habitat types in Irelands Marine Atlas (2026), the eastern and southern sections of MUL area B the sediment are characterised by infralittoral sand (EUNIS A5.23 or A5.24) closer to shore and infralittoral mud (EUNIS A5.33) further from the coastline. A small portion (approximately 1.4 km²) to the west of MUL area B remains unclassified.

3. Identification of relevant European sites

The MUL application is subject to screening for appropriate assessment in accordance with Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended, to determine if it alone, or in-combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on a European site(s), in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the site(s).

The applicant submitted a Supporting Information for Screening of Appropriate Assessment (SISAA) report in support of the application which was referred to during this assessment.

The proposed maritime usage is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site(s). The European sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs)) listed in Table 2 have been considered for appropriate assessment, given the nature, scale and Zone of Influence of the maritime usage, the conservation objectives of the European sites and using the Source-Pathway-Receptor model.

Table 2: Identification and assessment of relevant European sites, their qualifying interests (QIs) and site-specific conservation objectives (SCIs). Those QIs marked in bold have been screened in for Stage 2 appropriate assessment.

European site & site code	Distance from proposed MUL area (km)	List of Qualifying Interests	Connections (Source-pathway-receptor)	European Site Screened in	Site-specific conservation objectives
Slaney River Valley SAC [000781]	0 (MUL Area A) 0.07 (MUL Area B)	Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095] River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099] Twaite shad (<i>Alosa fallax fallax</i>) [1103] Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106]	Yes. Potential for impacts due to: - Underwater noise - Habitat loss, alteration and/ or fragmentation (including suspended sediment/water quality impacts.	Yes	NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: Slaney River Valley SAC 000781. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
		Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Estuaries [1130]	Yes. Potential for impacts due to: Habitat loss, alteration and/ or fragmentation (including suspended sediment/water quality impacts.		
		Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355]	Yes. Potential for impacts due to: - Underwater noise - Above water noise, vibration and lighting - Habitat loss, alteration and/ or fragmentation (including suspended sediment/water quality impacts.		

		Harbour seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) [1365]	Yes. Potential for impacts due to: • Underwater noise • Above water noise, vibration and lighting • Habitat loss, alteration and/or fragmentation (including suspended sediment/water quality impacts. • Collision risk		
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		Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029] Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096]	No SPR connection due to lack of meaningful hydrological pathway.		
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Raven Point Nature Reserve SAC (000710)	3 (MUL Area A and B)	Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) [2170] Humid dune slacks [2190] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	No SPR connection due to lack of meaningful hydrological pathway.	No	NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: Raven Point Nature Reserve SAC 000710. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Carnsore Point SAC (002269)	8 (MUL Area A) 3 (MUL Area B)	Harbour porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>) [1351]	Yes. Potential for impacts due to: - Underwater noise - Habitat loss, alteration and/ or fragmentation (including suspended sediment/water quality impacts. - Collision risk	Yes	NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: Carnsore Point SAC 002269. Version 2.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
		Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Reefs [1170]	No SPR connection due to lack of meaningful hydrological pathway.		
Long Bank SAC (002161)	6 (MUL Area A)	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110]	No SPR connection due to lack of meaningful hydrological pathway.	No	NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Long Bank SAC 002161.

	2 (MUL Area B)				Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Blackwater Bank SAC (002953)	9 (MUL Area A) 6 (MUL Area B)	Harbour porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>) [1351]	Yes. Potential for impacts due to: - Underwater noise; - Habitat loss, alteration and/ or fragmentation (including suspended sediment/water quality impacts. - Collision risk.	Yes	NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: Blackwater Bank SAC 002953. Version 3.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
		Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110]	No SPR connection due to lack of meaningful hydrological pathway.		
Saltee Islands SAC (00707)	14 (MUL Area A) 12 (MUL Area B)	Grey seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>) [1364]	Yes. Potential for impacts due to: - Underwater noise; - Above water noise, vibration and lighting; - Habitat loss, alteration and/ or fragmentation (including suspended sediment/water quality impacts. - Collision risk.	Yes	NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: Saltee Islands SAC 000707. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

		Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330]	No SPR connection due to lack of meaningful hydrological pathway.		
Hook Head SAC (000764)	29 (MUL Area A and B)	Common bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>) [1349] Harbour porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>) [1351]	Yes. Potential for impacts due to: - Underwater noise - Habitat loss, alteration and/ or fragmentation (including suspended sediment/water quality impacts - Collision risk.	Yes	NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives: Hook Head SAC 000764. Version 2.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
		Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	No SPR connection due to lack of meaningful hydrological pathway.		
River Barrow and River Nore SAC (002162)	36 (MUL Area A) 37 (MUL Area B)	Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095] River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099] Twaite shad (<i>Alosa fallax fallax</i>) [1103] Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106]	Yes. Potential for impacts due to: - Underwater noise. - Habitat loss, alteration and/ or fragmentation (including suspended sediment/water quality impacts.	Yes	NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives: River Barrow and River Nore SAC 002162. Version 2.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department

					of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
		Killarney fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>) [1421] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] European dry heaths [4030] Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]	No SPR connection due to lack of meaningful hydrological pathway.		

		Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096] Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355] Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029] Desmoulin's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) [1016] White-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1092] Nore pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera durrovensis</i>) [1990]			
Seas off Wexford cSPA (004237)	0 (MUL Area A and B)	Red-throated diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001] Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Manx shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>) [A013] Gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>) [A016] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018] Common scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065] Mediterranean gull (<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>) [A176] Black-headed gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Lesser black-backed gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] Herring gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Sandwich tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) [A191] Roseate tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]	Yes. Potential for impacts due to: • Above water noise, vibration and lighting; • Underwater noise; and/or • Habitat loss, alteration and/ or fragmentation (including suspended sediment/water quality impacts)	Yes	NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: Seas off Wexford cSPA 004237. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

		Little tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) [A195] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200] Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204]			
The Raven SPA (004019)	0 (MUL Area A and B)	Red-throated diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Common scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065] Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Greenland white-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395] Wetlands [A999]	Yes. Potential for impacts due to: • Above water noise, vibration and lighting • Underwater noise • Habitat loss, alteration and/ or fragmentation (including suspended sediment/water quality impacts)	Yes	NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: The Raven SPA 004019. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
Wexford Harbour and Slob SPA (004076)	0 (MUL Area A and B)	Little grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004] Great crested grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Grey heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) [A028] Bewick's swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>) [A037] Whooper swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] Light-bellied Brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062]	Yes. Potential for impacts due to: • Above water noise, vibration and lighting • Underwater noise • Habitat loss, alteration and/ or fragmentation (including suspended sediment/water quality impacts)	Yes	NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Wexford Harbour and Slob SPA 004076. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

		Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067] Red-breasted merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] Hen harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082] Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Black-headed gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Lesser black-backed gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] Little tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) [A195] Greenland white-fronted goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395] Wetlands [A999]			
Lady's Island Lake SPA (004009)	9 (MUL Area A) 5 (MUL Area B)	Black-headed gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Sandwich tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) [A191] Roseate tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]	Yes. Potential for impacts due to: • Above water noise, vibration and lighting • Underwater noise • Habitat loss, alteration and/ or fragmentation (including	Yes	NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives: Lady's Island Lake SPA 004009. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service,

			suspended sediment/water quality impacts		Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
		Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>) [A051] Wetlands [A999]	No SPR connection as MUL Area outside foraging range of gadwall.		
Tacumshin Lake SPA (004092)	11 (MUL Area A) 9 (MUL Area B)	Whooper swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] Bewick's swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>) [A037]	Yes. Potential for impacts due to: - Above water noise, vibration and lighting - Habitat loss, alteration and/ or fragmentation (including suspended sediment/water quality impacts)	Yes	NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives: Tacumshin Lake SPA 004092. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
		Little grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004] Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>) [A051] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Tufted duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061] Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125] Golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Wetlands [A999]	No SPR connection as MUL Area outside foraging range of species.		

Saltee Islands SPA (004002)	20 (MUL Area A) 19 (MUL Area B)	Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] Gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>) [A016] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200] Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204]	Yes. Potential for impacts due to: - Above water noise, vibration and lighting - Underwater noise - Habitat loss, alteration and/ or fragmentation (including suspended sediment/water quality impacts)	Yes	NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: Saltee Islands SPA 004002. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
		Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018]	No SPR connection as MUL Area outside foraging range of shag.		
Ballyteigue Burrow SPA (004020)	18 (MUL Area A) 17 (MUL Area B)	Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]	Yes. Potential for impacts due to: - Above water noise, vibration and lighting - Habitat loss, alteration and/ or fragmentation (including suspended sediment/water quality impacts)	Yes	NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives: Ballyteigue Burrow SPA 004020. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
		Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]	No SPR connection as MUL Area outside foraging range of species.		

4. Assessment of likely significant effects

Table 3: Identification of potential direct and indirect impacts that may have an effect on the conservation objectives of European sites, taking into account the nature and scale of the proposed maritime usage.

Potential Impacts	Possible significance of Potential impacts (duration, etc.)
Above water noise, vibration and lighting (seals, otter, birds).	Possible temporary impacts on marine mammals, birds and otters leading to displacement from the area. Potential for significant impacts at all sites overlapping with the proposed maritime usage. Consideration of mobile species (ex situ effects) is based on their known foraging or commuting distances. <u>Ex situ effects - Birds</u> Foraging distances for seabirds are based on mean maximum distances published by Woodward et al (2019). Ex situ effects to wintering waders and wildfowl were ruled out as these species tend to be fairly sedentary once they arrive in their over-wintering areas; often only moving short distances between roosting and feeding areas. Ringed plover, dunlin and sanderling typically forage within 5 km of their roost sites (Goodship and Furness, 2022, Dias et al., 2006, Field et al., 1998). Gadwall typically move up to 2.5 km to forage (McDuie, 2019), while teal, pintail and shoveler typically forage between 1-10 km from roost sites (Johnston et al 2014). Golden plover have core range of 3 km (SNH, 2016), grey plover typically within 5-10 km of roosts (Clausen & Bregnballe, 2022). Lapwings typically forage within 200 m of their nest sites during the breeding season (Cevenini et al., 2025). Turnstone exhibit high site fidelity and have been recorded as being reliant on the supporting habitats of the SPA (NPWS, 2014). Species of goose and swam have a core range of up to 20 km from the roost site (SNH, 2016), and therefore sites within this range were taken forward. Hen harrier, typically forage within 5 km of their nest sites utilising open bog and moorland, including hill farmland and conifer plantations (NPWS, 2015). Hen harriers are however unlikely to forage at sea within the MUL Area. <u>Ex situ effects – otters</u> Potential for likely significant effects to otter considered only for SACs within otter foraging range (20 km applied as a precautionary buffer). <u>Ex situ effects – seals</u> Potential for likely significant effects to seals considered for SACs within typical seal foraging range (100 km applied as a precautionary buffer).
Habitat loss, alteration and/ or fragmentation (including suspended	Potential for direct loss of and/or damage to habitats and potential to indirectly affect mobile species (marine mammals, otter, migratory fish and birds) that rely on those habitats for feeding and/or breeding.

Potential Impacts	Possible significance of Potential impacts (duration, etc.)
sediment/water quality impacts).	Potential for sediments disturbed by intrusive sampling activities to smother sensitive habitats and to indirectly affect mobile species (marine mammals, otter, migratory fish and birds) that rely on those habitats for feeding and/or breeding. All habitats beyond the immediate MUL Areas, as mapped by the NPWS, have been ruled out as any sediment disturbed by intrusive sampling will settle out close to the sampling location. Beyond this distance there is no meaningful hydrological pathway to effects. Rationale for ex situ effects as outlined above.
Underwater noise impacts (marine mammals, otter, migratory fish, birds).	Potential for direct effects (including injury, disturbance and/or displacement) on mobile species with hearing abilities (marine mammals, otter, migratory fish, birds). Rationale for ex situ effects as outlined above. Underwater noise impacts only considered for diving bird species.
Risk of collision	Potential for direct injury to marine mammals from vessels. Rationale for ex situ effects as outlined above.

In-combination effects

The potential impacts of the proposed maritime usage must be considered individually and also in combination with other plans or projects. All types of plans or projects that could, in combination with this application, have a significant effect, have been considered. This in-combination assessment has been undertaken using professional and scientific judgement and is assessed primarily in terms of potential spatial and temporal impacts.

The spatial scope of the in-combination assessment is 5 km from the MUL application area and is based on the maximum distance of underwater noise generated by acoustic survey equipment (boomer) and the effective deterrence range (EDR) for harbour porpoise which is most sensitive to underwater noise as set out by JNCC (2025). The temporal scope of the in-combination assessment is based on the period over which the activities are proposed. The applicant has applied for a 3-year licence and thus the temporal scope is 3 years.

A search of relevant databases, (including MARA, An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP), EPA and local authority planning databases) was undertaken on the 24/09/2026. Table 4 below outlines those activities which are considered to have the potential to act in-combination with the proposed maritime usage.

Table 4: List of projects which were considered to have potential in-combination impacts on European sites.

Application Ref.	Project description	Distance from proposed MUL area (km)	Status
MUL240026	Strategic modelling study of water currents and bathymetry along the Southeast Coast of Ireland	Overlaps MUL Area	Determined
MAC20230005	ORE Operation and Maintenance facility, which includes reclamation of approximately 20 ha for assembly/storage, relocation of small boat harbour, capital dredging, quay walls, road access and rock armour boundary	0.3	Determined
ACP-323952-25	Proposed development of Rosslare Europort Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Hub	0.8	Lodged
T03-090A, T03-072B, T03-035F&G3, T03-035F&G1, T03-035B1, T03-035F&G2, T03-035B2	Wexford Mussels Ltd – blue mussel	Overlaps MUL Area and <3	Licensed
T03-071A, T03-049C, T03-077A, T03-049C1	River Bank Mussels Ltd – blue mussel	<3	Licensed
T03-030F, T03-030E, T03-030C	T.L. Mussels Ltd – blue mussel	<3	Licensed
T03-092	Patrick Cullen - Pacific Oyster	<3	Licensed
T03-080A	Billy & Daniel Gaynor – blue mussel	<3	Licensed

The following plans, related to the development of the maritime environment were also considered:

- National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) 2021;
- The Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2025;

- River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) 2022-2027;
- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Southern Region 2020-2032;
- Wexford County Development Plan 2022–2028; and
- Rosslare Europort Master Plan 2023.

Likely significant in-combination effects between this application and the plans listed above and projects listed in Table 4 on the conservation objectives of the European sites considered in this report cannot be excluded at this stage.

Were mitigation measures considered during the screening process?

No

5. Screening Determination Statement

The assessment of significant effects:

Having considered the legal framework applicable to appropriate assessment, the information on file, and having regard to:

- The nature and scale of the proposed development;
- The distance to the nearest European sites;
- The potential for in-combination effects with other plans and projects;
- Possible impacts from underwater noise;
- Possible disturbance from above water noise, vibration and lighting;
- Possible impacts due to habitat loss, alteration and/ or fragmentation (including suspended sediment/water quality impacts); and
- Possible risk of collision,

it was concluded that the proposed maritime usage by **Wexford County Council, Carricklawn, Wexford, Y35 WY93** to carry out '*marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000*' in the vicinity of Rosslare (MUL260034) will require Stage 2 appropriate assessment. It cannot be excluded on the basis of objective scientific information, that the proposed project, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.

Signature and date of the Tetra Tech staff member who prepared the report on behalf of MARA	 Aoife Edeley	24/09/2026
Signature and Date of Decision Maker	 Dr. Alison McCarthy Senior Marine Advisor Maritime Usage Licensing and Planning Advisory Directorate	02/10/2026

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