

Wexford County Council,
County Hall,
Carricklawn,
Wexford

By email only rclarke@nodwyer.com & Enda.Brennan@wexfordcoco.ie

Date 07/08/2026

Request for Additional Information: Section 117(3) of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021

Maritime Usage Licence Application Reference: MUL260034

Dear Applicant,

I refer to the above referenced maritime usage licence application received by the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA).

MARA considers that it requires additional information as set out below in order to determine the licence application.

1. Confirmation of grab sampling numbers

Table 2.1 in Attachment 4.3a SISAA states that for “*Benthic ecology samples (including subtidal and intertidal habitats surveys)*”, a maximum of 80 benthic ecology grab samples will be taken within the MUL Area (20 locations x 4 replicate samples). The same table goes on to list “*up to 12 no. dedicated intertidal coring/grab locations if shoreline conditions allow for sediment sampling.*” It is not clear whether these 12 coring/grab locations are included in the 80 benthic ecology samples above or are additional. Similarly, in the Geotechnical section of the same table, “*A maximum of 32 no. grab samples of surface area 0.1 m² will be collected within both areas of the MUL.*” Again, it is not clear whether these 32 grab samples are included in the 80 benthic ecology grab samples mentioned previously.

Can you please clarify the maximum number of intrusive grab samples, and how these will be split across subtidal, intertidal and geotechnical, as appropriate.

2. Confirmation of water sampling numbers

The Overview of the Project Description in the SISAA and NIS include “surface water samples”, however number of samples and sampling equipment and methodology are not included in the documentation.

Can you please outline the proposed sampling equipment and methodology for same, and a maximum number of samples, if appropriate.

3. Access for intertidal working

For intertidal / low tide working, it is not clear how the applicant intends to access the survey area. The MUL Areas are within and adjacent to SACs/SPAs and therefore assessment of access for personnel and equipment must be considered.

Can the applicant please outline the proposed access routes to the proposed intertidal sampling area.

4. Compliance with Water Framework Directive Assessment

Attachment 4.5 – Compliance with the Water Framework Directive (WFD) does not adequately comply with MARA’s MUL Guidance (Section 5.5.8) as it does not:

- Identify the transitional and coastal waterbodies within the Zone of Influence (area over which the proposed usage will have a water quality impact) of the proposed Maritime Usage and provide information on the current hydromorphological, ecological and chemical status of each.
- Identify any protected areas within the Zone of Influence of the proposed Maritime Usage (though it does refer out to the SISAA)
- Provide details on the effect, if any, of the proposed Maritime Usage on the prospect of the waterbody achieving good ecological and chemical status.
- Provide details on the effect, if any, of the proposed Maritime Usage the effect on any relevant protected area (though it does refer out to the SISAA)

Please provide an updated WFD Compliance report which adequately complies with MARA’s guidance.

address:

An tÚdarás Rialála Limistéir Mhuiri / Maritime Area Regulatory Authority
2^ú hUrlár, Teach Menapia, Páirc Ghnó Dhraighní Draighneach Loch Garman, Y35RF29.
2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park, Drinagh, Wexford, Y35RF29.

email:

licence@mara.gov.ie

website:

www.maritimeregulator.ie

5. GIS

The Proposed MUL Area does not align with the High-Water Mark as defined by the Chief Boundary Surveyor and transverses onto terrestrial land (MARA Projection: Irish Transverse Mercator)

Can you ensure that the proposed MUL Area that you seek aligns exactly with the High Water Mark by the Chief Boundary Surveyor. This digital dataset is available for download as High Water Mark - National Water Marks - Ungeneralised – 2026 from <https://arcg.is/1zSran1>. Please adhere to the [MARA Technical Mapping Guidance Notes](#)

The requested information should be submitted to MARA (by email to licence@mara.gov.ie) within 14 days of the date of this notice, (by **21/08/2026**) in order for MARA to assess the licence application. Should you require an extension to this date (for good and sufficient reason), please contact us at your earliest possible opportunity.

Please refer to MARA's [Guidance Note for Applicants applying for a Maritime Usage Licence \(MUL\)](#) when providing the information requested.

If you have any queries in relation to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the Maritime Usage Licensing Team at licence@mara.gov.ie.

Yours faithfully,

Leeanne Doyle
Maritime Usage Licensing Team
MARA