

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.	☐
2. Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of scientific discovery or research.	☐
3. Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000.	☒
4. The installation or placement of navigational markers or aids to navigation, or both, not undertaken or authorised by the Commissioners of Irish Lights.	☐
5. The installation of non-permanent platforms, pontoons or slipways.	☐
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.	☐
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.	☒
8. The use of explosives not related to development authorised under the Act of 2000 and not requiring authorisation under any other enactment.	☐
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.	☐
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.	☐
11. The deposit, construction or removal of any mooring not requiring authorisation under any other enactment.	☐
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.	☒
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.	☐
14. A maritime usage specified, for the purposes of this paragraph, in regulations made under section 113(2)."	☐



Select activity type from the list below:

Dredging/Deposits	☐
Energy Infrastructure	☐
ORE Development	☐
Ports	☐
Research	☐
Seaweed	☐
State Infrastructure (Water/Sewage)	☐
State Infrastructure (Other)	☒
Telecoms	☐
Tourism & Recreation	☐

- 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	☒
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	☐
Section 130 application for an existing unauthorised maritime usage	☐

- 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



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	Wexford County Council
Company/Organisation (if Applicable)	Wexford County Council
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	Wexford County Council
Address line 2	County Hall,
Address line 3	Carricklawn,
City/Town	Wexford
Eircode	Y35 WY93
Applicant Email Address	sinead.casey@wexfordcoco.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.	N/A
If the Applicant is a non-profit entity, which is a registered charity, the Registered Charity Number	N/A

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	Caroline Lew
Authorised Contact Position	Senior Associate Environmental Scientist
Email	Caroline.Lew@mottmac.com
Telephone	021 2336963

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).

Not applicable

- 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.

Wexford County Council submitted a MUL application (MUL260005) to MARA on 19/02/2026 to undertake environmental surveys and ground investigation works within the River Slaney adjacent to the Irish National Heritage Park, Ferrycarrig, Wexford. For the same survey area, Wexford County Council also submitted a MAC application (MAC260007) to MARA on 25/02/2026 for construction, operation and maintenance of three jetties in the River Slaney including a proposed new longboat experience and an artificial beach area as part of the proposed new Viking Village. Both the MUL and MAC applications are currently with MARA.

The area for both these applications coincides with the proposed Maritime Usage area which is the subject of this application.

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.

The MUL is being sought solely to facilitate site investigation surveys associated with the proposed N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour Scheme.

The N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour Scheme ('the proposed scheme') forms part of the European Designated E01 Route and provides a direct link to both mainland Europe and the United Kingdom via Rosslare Europort. The N11 and N25 connect Rosslare Europort with Dublin and Belfast to the north and Cork and Waterford to the west and forms part of the TEN-T European Transport Network. The EU TEN-T Regulation requires member states to develop the network to a high-quality standard. The section of N11 and N25 from north of Oilgate to Rosslare Europort is the only section of the TEN-T Corridor connecting Belfast, Dublin and Rosslare Europort not to have been completed to a high-quality standard.

This is a strategically important part of the national transport network, and the project aims to ensure that the sections of the network in question have the capacity and resilience to safely meet the future transport needs on a national, regional and local level. The proposed scheme is a critical state infrastructure of national and European priority.

Wexford County Council are proposing the following surveys within the marine environment:

- A hydrographic survey (bathymetry and current measurements) of the River Slaney is required for a section that flows through Wexford
- An archaeological wade and metal detector survey of the nearshore at low tide under licence from National Monument Survey (NMS), in order to assess its archaeological potential.
- Subtidal and intertidal benthic survey to provide a comprehensive and up-to-date description of the species and habitats found within and in the vicinity of the proposed development.

Further details are provided in Attachment 3.1.

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.

These marine environmental surveys are required to inform the design of the N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour Road scheme, which is approximately 31km in length and will utilise a mix of both the existing road corridor, which will be upgraded, and a new corridor that will bypass significant constraints and deficiencies on sections of the existing corridor. Specifically, these surveys will inform the works in/near the crossing of the River Slaney.

The knowledge gained from the proposed surveys will be used to minimise uncertainty and reduce risk in relation environmental constraints. The results of the proposed surveys will also be used to provide a baseline against which to monitor effects of construction and operation of the proposed development.



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.

The Applicant is requesting the MUL for **five years from the date of issue**. The exact dates for the surveys will be determined pending grant of this MUL, appointment of survey contractors, and suitable weather conditions. The hydrographic (bathymetric) surveys will be undertaken over a period of approximately four weeks in 2026 / 2027. The archaeological wade and metal detector surveys will be completed in one day the timing of which will be dependent on the granting of the MUL. The subtidal and intertidal surveys would take approximately one day each in 2026 / 2027. Further details are provided in Attachment 3.1.

- 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.

2.49km²

- 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)'.

The Proposed MUL Map is provided in Attachment 3.4. GIS shapefiles are also provided.
229100548-MMD-00-GIS-DR-N204-0005 (Proposed MUL Map, MUL Ref: MUL240027)

- 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 western extent of the MUL area is approximately 4.8km west of the existing Ferrycarrig bridge (along the river), near the townlands of Carigmannon and Newtown Lower. The eastern extent of the MUL area is approximately 3km east of the Ferrycarrig bridge (along the river), near the townlands of Park and Crosstown. The proposed MUL area abuts the land at some locations at the high water mark (HWM), therefore the distance from the shore is 0km at its closest point.

- 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)'.

The proposed Maritime Usage Area map is provided in Attachment 3.5.
229100548-MMD-00-GIS-DR-N204-0006 (Location of Proposed Maritime Usage, MUL Ref: MUL240027)

- 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.

The MUL area coincides with privately owned lands at the location of two folios: WX22091F and WX13568N.
Folio WX22091F is owned by Wexford County Council (the Applicant) and is shown in Drawing 229100548-MMD-00-GIS-DR-N204-0008-1 (MUL Area within Private Ownership) in Attachment 3.6.
Folio WX13568N is owned by a private landowner as shown in Drawing 229100548-MMD-00-GIS-DR-



N204-0008-2 (MUL Area within Private Ownership) in Attachment 3.6. A letter of consent from the landowner is provided in Attachment 3.6.

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.

The proposed works subject to this maritime usage licence do not require planning permission. However, the works are required to support the proposed N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour Road Scheme, which will require planning permission. The proposed development will be the subject of a future Maritime Area Consent (MAC) application which will be lodged with MARA and subject to approval prior to submitting an application to An Coimisiún Pleanála for planning permission. A pre-application meeting was held with MARA in relation to the proposed MAC application (ref: MAC240034).

It is also noted that proposed wade/metal detector surveys will be undertaken under a licence issued by the National Monument Service. The application for obtaining such licence will be progressed on foot of the grant of a MUL, and a reference number is therefore currently not available.



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.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) was adopted in Jamaica, in 1982. The Convention deals comprehensively with all issues relating to the use of the world's seas and oceans. UNCLOS sets out the rights and duties of states in different maritime zones, regulates marine scientific research and exploitation of living and non-living natural resources, and makes extensive provision for



protection of the marine environment. Ireland ratified the Convention on 21 June 1996. The provisions of UNCLOS have been implemented through national legislation, most recently the Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2021 (hereafter the Act). The Act consolidates Irish law on maritime zones (internal waters, territorial sea, contiguous zone, EEZ, continental shelf) and jurisdiction in line with UNCLOS. The Act affirms State's sovereign rights with regards to exploration, exploitation, conservation and management of the natural resources, and affirms jurisdiction with regards to marine scientific research and protection and preservation of the marine environment. UNCLOS requires States to avoid harm to the marine environment.

The proposed surveys are consistent with these obligations as all surveys/ survey activities are proposed entirely within Ireland's sovereign waters, fall under the regulatory scope of national law and UNCLOS and will be undertaken under licence from MARA (fulfilling the requirement for State consent).

UNCLOS requires States to avoid harm to the marine environment. The proposed surveys are consistent with this because they will use small-scale, non extractive methods, avoid seabed disturbance (except minimal contact for ecological sampling), no contaminants are released and waste is managed onshore as required by best practice and they are supported by a Natura Impact Statement and ecological risk assessments, demonstrating structured environmental safeguards. Mitigation measures and operational controls are provided in this application to ensure protection of the marine environment in line with Ireland's responsibilities under national and international law.

The proposed surveys will not impede the right of innocent passage for any UN member state as provided in UNCLOS.

In line with provisions of UNCLOS, the member states are required to balance their rights with the freedom of navigation. The proposed surveys include deployment of vessels for a short period of time and will not interfere with the movement of other ships and vessels, thus upholding these provisions under UNCLOS. All vessels will adhere to safe navigation requirements ensuring no interference with fishing, shipping, or submarine cables.

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.

Attachment 4.9 included.

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.

Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) sets the national biodiversity agenda for the period 2023-2030 and aims to deliver the transformative changes required to the ways in which we value and protect nature. Any site investigation surveys proposed in the marine environment are required to be consistent with the five objectives set out in the NBAP.

These objectives and consistency of proposed maritime usage is presented below.

- **Objective 1 - Adopt a Whole of Government, Whole of Society Approach to Biodiversity**

This objective focuses on inclusion of biodiversity across all sectors and all levels of decision making. The proposed surveys have been planned with consideration of ecological constraints and sensitivities along the survey area, recognising the protected areas, sensitive species and habitats in vicinity of proposed surveys. The proposed surveys have been subject to a Report for Screening of Appropriate Assessment and Natura Impact Statement (Attachment 4.3) and a Report for Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species (Attachment 4.4). Where risks are identified, appropriate mitigation measures are listed and will be adhered to during the proposed surveys. This approach ensures that biodiversity considerations are at the forefront of planning and conducting the proposed surveys, and this will be reflected in the method statements for the proposed survey works.

- **Objective 2 - Meet Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs**

This objective focuses on biodiversity conservation and restoration. The proposed surveys will not result in permanent habitat loss or degradation. The footprint of grab samples, and size and number of samples, is very small and will not alter riverbed habitats. Following mitigation as listed in Attachment 4.3 (AA/NIS) and Attachment 4.6 (Compliance with MSFD), any temporary and localised disturbance during surveys will not adversely affect habitat condition. This objective also focuses on management of invasive species - Check-Clean-Dry and control of movement align with NBAP's Outcome 2G, which targets preventing and managing invasive alien species. Following mitigation measures provided in Attachment 4.3 (AA/NIS) and Attachment 4.6 (Compliance with MSFD), the proposed surveys will not provide a pathway for introduction of invasive species to the estuarine environment. The NIS confirms no adverse effects on European sites with mitigation applied.

- **Objective 3 - Secure Nature's Contribution to People**

This objective aims to secure the benefits and services that nature provides to people. The proposed surveys at River Slaney are short-term and localised. The archaeological wade and metal-detector surveys support protection of underwater cultural heritage - an integral part of Ireland's natural and cultural capital. Hydrographic and ecological assessments contribute to sustaining ecosystem services such as water quality regulation, flood mitigation, habitat connectivity.

As discussed in Attachment 4.3 (AA/NIS), Attachment 4.5 (Compliance with WFD) and Attachment 4.6 (Compliance with MSFD), the proposed surveys will not adversely affect species, water quality, habitat condition and therefore, will not affect the ecosystem services and natural benefits provided to the local area.

- **Objective 4 - Enhance the Evidence Base for Action on Biodiversity**

This objective aims to identify research gaps and grow the evidence base for biodiversity actions and decisions. The proposed surveys support this objective by collecting high quality baseline data on bathymetry, riverbed profile, riverbed sediment characteristics, water quality, underwater archaeological features, benthic communities and marine habitats. The results of the proposed surveys will inform the N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour Road Scheme, specifically works along the River Slaney. Beyond this project, the proposed survey results will contribute to wider baseline data for River Slaney, therefore providing a foundation for biodiversity actions and decisions.

- **Objective 5 - Strengthen Ireland's Contribution to International Biodiversity Initiatives**

This objective aims to strengthen Ireland's contribution to global biodiversity initiatives. The proposed surveys will provide data to support Ireland's international reporting and monitoring commitments. This will support the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 targets and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), both of which underpin the NBAP. The surveys' methodology is fully



compliant with environmentally responsible practices expected in international marine research.

In conclusion, the proposed surveys will be consistent with Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan. The relevant mitigation measures are listed in Attachment 4.3 (AA/NIS), Attachment 4.5 (Compliance with WFD) and Attachment 4.6 (Compliance with MSFD).

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.

Attachment 4.11 included.

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:**

Sinéad Casey

Position held:

Head of Roads & Transportation/Senior Engineer

Date:

24/06/26

Signed for and on behalf of the applicant:

Sinéad Casey



Application Checklist

Complete the below application checklist

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



4.8	Attachment 4.8 – UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Maritime Jurisdiction Act Compliance Details	Yes (if applicable)	☐
4.9	Attachment 4.9 – National Climate Objective Compliance Details	Yes (if applicable)	☒
4.10	Attachment 4.10 – National Biodiversity Action Plan Compliance Details	Yes (if applicable)	☐
4.11	Attachment 4.11 – National or European strategic or policy objectives Compliance Details	Yes (if applicable)	☒
0.0	Confirmation of Payment of Fee	Yes	☒

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