

Waterways Ireland
Scariff Harbour
Dock Road
Drewsborough
Scariff
Co. Clare

By email only corporate@waterwaysireland.org & William.murphy@mwp.ie

Date 20/08/2026

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

Maritime Usage Licence Application Reference: MUL260004

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.

- Attachment 4.4 comprises a Marine Mammal Risk Assessment rather than a dedicated Annex IV Species Risk Assessment. While the assessment considers cetaceans and otter, and additional project-specific information on otter is provided elsewhere in the AA/NIS documentation, it does not explicitly assess the proposed maritime usage against the relevant Annex IV strict-protection requirements. Please provide an Annex IV Species Risk Assessment of sufficient detail as requested in the application for a MUL, ensuring all relevant species have been included (including bats).
- With reference to the strict protection of species listed under Annex IV of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), confirm if you are required to apply for a derogation under Regulation 54 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended. If yes, provide details of the application submitted, including the NPWS Derogation Number or application reference number.

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

- It is noted that throughout the Natura Impact Statement (NIS), sediment parameters and guidance level values are incorrectly referred to as Waste Acceptance Criteria. The results of sediment sampling and testing should be assessed with reference to the national ‘Guidelines for the Assessment of Dredge Material for Disposal in Irish Waters’ (Marine Institute, 2006) and associated 2009 Addendum. Any revisions to the NIS should reflect this.
- The NIS also notes that the Marine Institute will be consulted with regard to the suitability of contaminated material for disposal at sea but no details of such consultation has been provided. This consultation must be carried out before the MUL application can be assessed. Please consult with the Marine Institute and then provide details on the outcome of the consultation with regard to the suitability of the material proposed to be dredged for disposal at sea.
- Please also consult with the Marine Institute in regard to the requirement to resample the proposed dredged area, given the previous sampling was undertaken > 3 years ago, in 2022 and is now out of date for the required assessment.
- As the current NIS relies on avoidance of this material as mitigation, the NIS should be revised and updated to include suitable mitigation, pending the outcome of sediment resampling, that will demonstrate how sediment exceeding the threshold will be identified and avoided.
- Clarify whether the application is being made under Schedule 7(6) of the Maritime Planning Act 2021 as amended, for the deposit of dredged material as well as Schedule 7(1) dredging.
- Submit a single definitive project description, programme and drawing schedule covering the complete ten-year licence period. This shall specify the maximum volume to be dredged and deposited (if the application also includes this scheduled maritime usage) during each campaign and over the full licence period, the fine and coarse fractions, maximum dredging depth/design level, number and duration of campaigns, dredging footprint, plant set-up locations, deposit areas and coordinates, pumping rate and solids concentration, pipe and anchoring arrangements, tidal and river-flow operating criteria, and the handling and disposal route for coarse or unsuitable material. Reconcile the

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conflicting quantities, durations, dredging areas and deposit areas contained in the submitted documents and identify which information is superseded.

- Provide the full Appendices as listed in both the Screening for Appropriate Assessment and the NIS.
- Please confirm that the proposed MUL Area that you seek is intended to align exactly with the High Water Mark by the Chief Boundary Surveyor, available for download as High Water Mark - National Water Marks - Ungeneralised – 2026 from <https://arcg.is/1zSran1>.

The requested information should be submitted to MARA (by email to licence@mara.gov.ie) within 8 weeks of the date of this notice, (by **15/10/2026**) 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

address:

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