

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	Uisce Éireann
Company/Organisation (if Applicable)	Uisce Éireann
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	Colvill House
Address line 2	24-26 Talbot Street
Address line 3	
City/Town	Dublin
Eircode	D01 NP86
Applicant Email Address	rkane@water.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.	Not applicable
If the Applicant is a non-profit entity, which is a registered charity, the Registered Charity Number	Not applicable

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	William Madge
Authorised Contact Position	Principal Consultant
Email	will.madge@aecom.com
Telephone	+44 203 692 9900

- 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).

FS006843 - Irish Water Greater Dublin Drainage Outfall.
FS007605 - Uisce Éireann (Irish Water) Benthic Survey.
FS006292 - Irish Water - Greater Dublin Drainage Project.

- 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.

MUL250013 - Uisce Éireann (Irish Water) - site investigation to inform Greater Dublin Drainage Project.
Licence granted.

- 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 proposed works to be covered under this MUL are summarised as follows:

- Deployment of up to fourteen (14) bottom mounted ADCPs. Additionally, four (4) vessel-mounted ADCP will be required for locations VADCP02, VADCP03, VADCP04 and VADCP05 (Attachment 3.5).
- Deployment of nine (9) tide gauges.
- Additional ancillary data will also be collected at the ADCP and tidal gauge locations such as conductivity, temperature and depth (CTD) measurements.
- Bathymetric surveys of the intertidal areas using either single beam & multibeam echosounders, or a combination of these technologies.
- Water quality sampling from the shoreline and from a vessel at multiple locations within each proposed licence area.

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.

Uisce Éireann is applying to MARA for a Maritime Usage License (MUL) to conduct a survey to support a strategic modelling study of water currents along the Irish coast from Carlingford Lough to Kilcoole. The class of usage is Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000.

The proposed surveys are supporting the design and consenting of essential wastewater infrastructure to facilitate growth in communities, including provision of housing. These surveys are serving one agglomeration that was listed in the EPA 2023 Urban Wastewater Report as an "Area Discharging Raw Sewage", and non-compliant with Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. Where there is no wastewater treatment, Ireland is at risk of infringement proceedings from the European Court of Justice for non-compliance with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD) and the European Re-cast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (Directive 2024/3019) implemented in Ireland through the Urban Wastewater (Nutrient-Sensitive Areas) Regulations 2025 (SI 403/2025) (UWR). Additionally, a further seven agglomerations are due for upgrade under the Uisce Éireann RC4 Capital Investment Plan and surveys are required to support these improvements. Accordingly, these proposed surveys are vital to the timely delivery of critical water infrastructure to ensure Ireland's compliance with EU Directives, to protect and enhance our environment and to enable sustainable growth in our communities.

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 requested MUL duration is five (5) years from the licence date.

This is to allow the overall survey programme to be established with regard to specific constraints, including weather, prioritisation of Uisce Éireann projects and to provide Uisce Éireann with a level of resilience to adapt project timelines with unexpected delays. The context of the 5-year licence duration is a 'window of consent' for activities to take place and is not indicative of the frequency or duration of the survey activities. The constraints and challenges could include but not limited to the following:

- Unprecedented weather conditions which could affect the ability to deploy/retrieve instruments particularly on exposed coastlines;
- Constraints with supply chain which could impact Uisce Éireann's ability to deliver concurrent marine surveys;
- Procurement processes potential delays; and
- Potential changes or reprofiling of funding allocations within Uisce Éireann's 5-year revenue Control Period.

Each survey campaign will be 1 – 3 months in duration. Surveys of each licenced area may occur at the same or different times, determined by Uisce Éireann project prioritisation and Contractor availability.

Individual activity durations are determined by the input data requirements for the strategic modelling study. For each activity these are:

ADCPs will be left in place on the seabed for a minimum of 35 days and a maximum of 60 days contained within a trawl resistant housing. This duration ensures coverage of at least one full spring-neap tidal cycle.

Tide gauges will be left in place for a minimum of 35 concurrent days. The duration of tide gauges is required to run concurrently with ADCP's to correlate water level and current data.

Water sampling will either be undertaken from vessel or from shore by hand-held devices. No fixed duration is set for water sampling because it is event driven and not continuous.

CTD monitors will either be physically attached to ADCP or tide gauges, or lowered and raised manually / using a mechanical winch from a vessel or bridge over a channel. The duration of the CTD monitors will be in line with the ADCP/tide gauges to provide a full spring-neap cycle.

Bathymetric survey of intertidal areas may require a combination of vessel-mounted methods for a period of up to 28 days. The duration of the bathymetric surveys will ensure multiple windows of tidal access are available and allows for extra time due to weather unpredictability.



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.

1094.92 km²

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)'.

- MUL260049 -001: Proposed MUL Map (OSI background)
- MUL260049 -002: Proposed MUL Map (Admiralty chart background)
- MUL260049 -101: Proposed MUL Map A
- MUL260049 -102: Proposed MUL Map B
- MUL260049 -103: Proposed MUL Map C
- MUL260049 -104: Proposed MUL Map D
- MUL260049.shp: Maritime Usage Licence Area polygon

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.

0km – at the shoreline.

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)'.

- MUL260049 -201: Site Layout Map A
- MUL260049 -202: Site Layout Map B
- MUL260049 -203: Site Layout Map C
- MUL260049 -204: Site Layout Map D
- MUL260049 -301: Fishing/Aquaculture Proximity Map A
- MUL260049 -302: Fishing/Aquaculture Proximity Map B
- MUL260049 -303: Fishing/Aquaculture Proximity Map C
- MUL260049 -304: Fishing/Aquaculture Proximity Map D

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.

Not applicable

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.

Not applicable



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.

Not applicable

- 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. Do species listed in Annex IV of the Habitats Directive occur in the zone of influence of 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. 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 ☐

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:

- Is not of a class listed, where no quantity, area or other limit is specified in that Part, or
- 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 ratified by Ireland in 1996 and it sets out the rights and duties of coastal states in maritime zones. The Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2021 is an update to UNCLOS and also consolidates national law on maritime zones to align UNCLOS. The Act involves the following:

- Defines Ireland's internal waters, territorial sea, contiguous zone, EEZ, and continental shelf.
- Confirms State sovereignty and jurisdiction in these zones for civil, criminal, and resource management purposes.
- Provides enforcement powers for environmental protection, safety, and compliance with international law.



The activities within this MUL occur within Irish internal waters and territorial sea, where Ireland has full sovereignty under UNCLOS and the Maritime Jurisdiction Act. The activities also involve non-invasive marine surveys, which are consistent with UNCLOS provisions on marine scientific research and do not infringe on navigation rights or resource exploitation. The assumption that activities will involve MARPOL-compliant vessels has also been used within this conclusion, therefore there will be a minimal pollution risk and support Ireland's obligations to protect the marine environment.

The project is fully consistent with Ireland's international obligations under UNCLOS and the Maritime Jurisdiction Act. It supports sustainable marine management and environmental protection principles embedded in these instruments.

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 of 2015 aim to provide a transition to a climate-resilient, biodiversity-rich environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy by approving plans that follow the principles of the Act no later than 2050. The Act requires relevant activities which includes maritime usage to support this transition.

The activities proposed within this MUL are limited to non-intrusive marine survey work and data collection. It has been concluded that the vessels used may release some emissions however due to the short time period in which the vessel will be operational, the surveys will not result in significant greenhouse gas emissions beyond negligible levels associated with vessel operation. The conclusion is also based on the assumption that the vessel proposed for the surveys will be MARPOL compliant and unlikely to cause significant greenhouse gas emissions or environmental harm. Additionally, accidental spills and collisions are considered unlikely; the volumes of fuel expected to be used during the project are low, and any spillages that may occur (accidental or resulting from collision) are expected to be minor. Therefore, no other project-related activity has been identified that could compromise Ireland's progress toward its climate objectives.

Therefore, the project is fully consistent with Ireland's objectives under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Act of 2015.

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.

The Irish National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 sets out the national agenda for protecting and valuing biodiversity and nature. The key objectives of the plan are:

- Adopting a whole of government, whole of society approach to biodiversity
- Meet urgent conservation and restoration needs
- Secure nature's contribution to people
- Enhance the evidence base for action on biodiversity
- Strengthen Ireland's contribution to international biodiversity initiative

The proposed Marine Surveys align with the objectives of the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023–2030, which focuses on protecting biodiversity, improving the evidence base for decision-making, meeting urgent conservation needs and supporting national and international commitments. The Marine Surveys use temporary, non-intrusive methods such as ADCP deployment, tide gauges, bathymetry and water-quality sampling. These activities do not involve permanent works or seabed alteration and are designed to avoid disturbance to sensitive species and habitats.

The Annex IV Risk Assessment (Attachment 4.4) found no potential for effects on Annex IV species, noting that sound from passive water-quality equipment is negligible and that any additional vessel noise or collision risk is insignificant. The Appropriate Assessment Screening report (Attachment 4.3) also identified no likely effects on SACs or SPAs, either alone or in combination with other projects. A summary of compliance with the relevant NBAP objectives is provided in Table below.

4th NBAP Objective	Potential Interaction	Potential Effects	Compliance Check
Adopting a whole of government, whole of society approach to biodiversity	Temporary survey activities	The Marine Surveys are non-extractive, short-term, and do not involve permanent works or seabed alteration.	Compliant
Meet urgent conservation and restoration needs	Temporary survey activities	The Marine Surveys are non-extractive, short-term, and do not involve permanent works or seabed alteration.	Compliant
Secure nature's contribution to people	Temporary survey activities	The Marine Surveys are non-extractive, short-term, and do not involve permanent works or seabed alteration.	Compliant
Enhance the evidence base for action on biodiversity	Temporary survey activities	The Marine Surveys are non-extractive, short-term, and do not involve permanent works or seabed alteration.	Compliant
Strengthen Ireland's contribution to international biodiversity initiative	Temporary survey activities	The Marine Surveys are non-extractive, short-term, and do not involve permanent works or seabed alteration.	Compliant

The Marine Surveys are intended to contribute positively to wider biodiversity goals by providing essential data to support wastewater upgrades in areas currently discharging untreated or non-compliant effluent. These improvements reduce long-term pressures on marine ecosystems and strengthen environmental protection.

The Marine Surveys are therefore considered to be fully compliant and consistent with the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030.

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.

The overall purpose of the MARA for a Maritime Usage License (MUL) is to conduct a survey to support a strategic modelling study of water currents along the Irish coast from Carlingford Lough to Kilcoole. The class of usage is marine environmental surveys for the purposes of scientific discovery or research. The proposed surveys are not only essential for the design and consenting of wastewater infrastructure to facilitate community growth and housing provision, but they also deliver critical data to support sustainable marine planning, biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and compliance with international obligations.

The activities set out in this MUL align with several key national and European frameworks and objectives including the National Marine Planning Framework and Maritime Area Planning Act 2021. Additionally, the Marine Surveys also support Ireland's Draft Strategy for Marine Research, Knowledge & innovation, 2025-2030 which has an objective to ensure marine research, knowledge and innovation delivers maximum impact and value to users and stakeholders. The project also supports relevant national housing and infrastructure policies, such as Housing for All – A New Housing Plan for Ireland (2021-2030) and the Project Ireland 2040 – National Planning Framework (NPF), which both aim to ensure that citizens have access to good-quality homes and sustainable infrastructure development which includes the objective of ensuring water and wastewater systems can accommodate planned housing and population growth in a sustainable manner.

The project is therefore considered to be fully compliant and consistent with National or European Strategic or Policy Objectives.

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:

WILLIAM MADGE

Position held:

PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT

Date:

19/08/2026

Signed for and on behalf of the applicant:



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	☒
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	Yes (if applicable)	☐



Compliance Details			
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