MUL Application Supporting Attachment 4.1 Compliance with Objectives of NMPF

Client	University College Cork
Document Ref.	Attachment 4.1 NMPF Compliance
Project Title	FLOWT-EOB MUL Application
Date	06/11/2026

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1 MARINE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

1.1 NMPF OBJECTIVES

The NMPF "is a national plan for Ireland's seas, setting out, over a 20-year horizon, how Ireland will use, protect, and enjoy its seas. The NMPF sits at the top of the hierarchy of plans and sectoral policies for the marine area."

The NMPF establishes a vision for the future development of the marine planning system towards 2040. It will play an important role in supporting both the short-term recovery and the longer-term planning for Ireland's maritime area, to have a lasting effect on Ireland's most significant natural resource.

The NMPF is Ireland's first comprehensive marine spatial planning framework, as required under Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of July 23rd, 2014, establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning, known as the Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) Directive. Member States establishing and implementing MSP must consider economic, social and environmental aspects to support the sustainable development and growth of the maritime sector.

The NMPF is also a parallel document to the National Planning Framework (NPF), which guides strategic terrestrial planning and development, and it is important that each is consistent with the other, as well as regional and local plans.

Some of the high-level objectives laid out in the NMPF in relation to ORE include:

- To support the development of ORE in Ireland.
- To make Ireland a leader in climate action through reaching ORE targets.
- To increase the sustainable ORE use of our extensive marine resource.
- To support Ireland's decarbonisation journey through increased use of ORE.
- To provide enhanced security of supply.

This application relates to a licence to carry out SI works to inform the detailed design for the deployment of a demonstrator FLOWT. The main aim of this project is to inform, research and facilitate the extensive future deployment of floating wind. This infrastructure will advance Ireland's capabilities in ORE. The application is consistent with the high level aims of the NMPF listed above.

The application is also consistent with ORE Policy 1, ORE Policy 2 and ORE Policy 11 from the NMPF, as discussed in Table 4-1.

We believe that the above, together with Table 4-1, demonstrate that this application is consistent with both the high-level objectives of the NMPF, and those ORE Policies that are considered relevant to the proposed activities under this licence application.

For the avoidance of doubt, the other ORE Policies from the NMPF not listed in the table below have been deemed to be not relevant to the application. No policies have been identified which the application is in conflict with.

Table 4-1: NMPF ORE Policies Discussion

Policy	Description	Discussion	Conclusion
ORE Policy 1	*Proposals that assist the State in meeting the Government's ORE targets, including the target of achieving 5 GW of capacity in offshore wind by 2030 and proposals that maximise the long-term shift from use of fossil fuels to renewable electricity energy, in line with decarbonisation targets, should be supported.* *All proposals will be rigorously assessed to ensure compliance with environmental standards and seek to minimise impacts on the marine environment, marine ecology and other maritime users.*	UCC is looking to undertake SI works to inform the detailed design of a floating offshore wind turbine, as part of a project which will explore avenues for hydrogen production. The proposed SI works are a necessary step for the development of a project which can help towards the Government target of achieving 5GW of offshore wind by 2030. In addition, the project can provide learnings which will support longer-term floating offshore wind targets in Ireland, supporting the long-term shift from fossil fuels. As part of this permitting process, the proposed SI work will be assessed to ensure compliance with environmental standards.	The proposed Maritime Usage is consistent and compliant with ORE Policy 1, which indicates the application should be supported.
ORE Policy 2	*Proposals must be consistent with national policy, including the OREDP and its successor. Relevant Projects designated pursuant to the Transition Protocol and those projects that can objectively enable delivery on the Government's 2030 targets will be prioritised for assessment under the new consenting regime.* *Into the future, areas designated for offshore energy development, under the Designated Marine Area Plan process set out in the Maritime Area Planning Bill, will underpin a plan-led approach to consenting.*	UCC is looking to undertake SI works to inform the detailed design a floating offshore wind turbine. The SI works will support a project which is targeting deployment pre-2030, and can objectively contribute to the Government's 2030 targets. While it is small in scale, the main aim of this project is to inform, research and facilitate the extensive future deployment of floating wind technologies, which will be key to the future development of ORE in Ireland. The location proposed for SI is also the SC DMAP.	The proposed Maritime Usage is consistent and compliant with ORE Policy 2, which indicates the application should be supported.
ORE Policy 11	*Where appropriate, proposals that enable the provision of emerging renewable energy technologies and associated supply chains will be supported.*	The proposed SI works are a necessary step for the development of a floating wind project, so can enable the provision of an emerging renewable energy technology (floating wind), as well as the associated supply chain impacts.	The proposed Maritime Usage is consistent and compliant with ORE Policy 11, indicating the application should be supported.



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