

Application for a Maritime Usage Licence under the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021

Important Information

Before completing this form please read the declaration and consent at the end of the application form

It is important to note that a change in applicant name will require a new application.

This application and supporting documentation should be submitted by email to licence@mara.gov.ie

Please complete the form electronically. Type details in the boxes provided, space will expand as you type.

Maritime Usage Licence:

Part 5 (sections 110 to 133) of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (MAPA) provides for the granting of maritime usage licences.

Section 112 of the Act states that the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) is the competent authority for the purposes of Part 5 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) regulations 2011 ([S.I.No. 477 of 2011](#)) and appropriate assessments to which that Part applies.

Section 114 of the Act states that the Minister may by regulations provide for class of Schedule 7 usage to be exempted usage for the purposes of this Part.

[Schedule 7](#) of the Act lists the Maritime Usages that may be undertaken in the maritime area pursuant to licence.

[Schedule 8](#) of the Act lists the types of conditions that MARA may attach to a licence.

Privacy Policy:

MARA may require you to provide certain personal data in order to carry out our legislative and administrative functions. MARA will treat all personal data that you provide as confidential and will process your details in accordance with its 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 you provide, how that information will be used and what rights you may exercise in relation to your personal data, is available in this link: [Privacy Statement](#).

Freedom of Information (FOI)/ Access to Information on the Environment (AIE)

Applicants should be aware that under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007 to 2018, information provided by them to MARA may be liable to be disclosed.

Applicants are asked to consider if any of the information supplied by them in their application should not be disclosed and clearly identify the specific sections of their application containing such information, specifying the reasons for its confidentiality/sensitivity. MARA will consult with applicants about this information before making a decision on any Freedom of Information/Access to Information on the Environment request received.

MARA
2nd Floor, Menapia House,
Drinagh Business Park,
Drinagh,
Wexford,
Y35RF29

www.maritimeregulator.ie

Part 1: Applicant Information	
1.1 Applicant Details	
Name of Applicant (the name that will appear on the licence)	North Irish Sea Array Windfarm Limited
Company/Organisation (if applicable)	North Irish Sea Array Windfarm Limited – a joint venture company owned by Statkraft Ireland Limited and CI IV Irish Sea HoldCo I Limited (part of Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners P/S).
Address/Company Address	Building 3400, Cork Airport Business Park, Co. Cork
Eircode/Postcode	T12AE76
Contact Name within Company/Organisation	██████████
Contact Phone No.	+353 21 242 7786
Contact Email Address	████████████████████
Is the company registered in Ireland for tax purposes?	Yes

1.2 Contact Details (if different from above)	
Full Name	As Above.
Address	As Above.
Eircode/Postcode	As Above.
Contact Name	As Above.
Contact Phone No.	As Above.
Contact Email Address	As Above.

1.3 Agent Representing Applicant (if applicable)	
Person/Agency acting on behalf of Applicant	Gavin and Doherty Geosolutions Limited
Address	Unit A2, Nutgrove Office Park, Rathfarnham, Dublin
Eircode/Postcode	D14 X627
Contact Name (if applicable)	██████████
Contact Phone No.	(01) 207 1000
Contact Email address	████████████████████

1.4 Applicant's Legal Advisor (if applicable)	
Name/Company Name	McCann FitzGerald LLP
Address	Riverside One, Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin Docklands, Dublin 2,
Eircode/Postcode	D02 X576,
Contact Name (if applicable)	[REDACTED]
Contact Phone No.	+353 1 829 0000
Contact Email address	[REDACTED]

Part 2: Proposal Details (Attach additional documents as required)

2.1 In relation to this application, have you previously applied for a declaration as to whether or not a licence was required for this usage? If so, please provide the reference number associated with that application.

The applicant has not previously applied for a declaration as to whether or not a licence is required for this usage.

2.2 Description of proposed Maritime Usage.

The proposed Maritime Usage can be described as Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000.

Details on the scope of surveys to be undertaken under the licence are contained in the Assessment of Impact on the Maritime Usage Report submitted with this application and described below.

Survey	Methods	Purpose	Sampling Effort
Hydrographical and Geophysical 2.0	Single Beam Echosounder (SBES)	The Single Beam Echosounder is a system designed to provide highly precise depth measurements along with seafloor profiling data. Typical equipment includes the Kongsberg 200 9G Single Beam Echosounder, with a maximum ping rate of up to 30 pings per second. Operating frequencies are approximately 200 kHz with sound pressure levels of 221.6dB re1µPa @1m.	SBES may be undertaken across the Licence Area to a suitable percentage coverage.
	Multibeam Echosounder (MBES)	MBES is a system for collecting detailed topographical data of the seabed. Typical equipment includes the Kongsberg EM3002D multi-beam system with mounting system including AML SV Smart Probe, Kongsberg EM 2040 MKII or similar. For these surveys the equipment will operate at a typical central frequency of 400 kHz with sound pressure levels in the range of 198dB re1µPa @1m.	MBES may be undertaken across the Licence Area to a suitable percentage coverage.
	Side Scan Sonar (SSS)	SSS surveys are used to determine sediment characteristics and seabed features. The EdgeTech 4205 may be taken as an indicate example of an SSS device and for these surveys will have a potential operating frequency range of approximately 300/600kHz in the offshore area and 600/900kHz in the shallower nearshore area with sound pressure levels of 220-230dB re1µPa @1m.	SSS may be undertaken across the Licence Area to a suitable percentage coverage.
	Magnetometer	A magnetometer is used to identify magnetic anomalies and hazard mapping for metal obstructions, shipwrecks and unexploded ordnance on the surface and in the shallow sub-surface. The Geometrics G-882 can be taken as an indicative equipment example. It is a passive device (i.e. it does not emit any sound waves into the marine environment) the sensor responds to local variability in magnetic field.	Magnetometer survey may be undertaken across the Licence Area to a suitable percentage coverage.
	Sub-bottom Profiling (SBP) – Parametric Sub Bottom Profiler	SBP is used to develop an image of the subsurface, identifying different strata encountered in the shallow sediments. The Innomar “standard” Sub-Bottom Profiler is an indicative example of a parametric system with a primary and secondary frequency range of 85-115kHz and 2-22kHz, respectively, and sound pressure levels of up to 232 dB (typically operated at <200dB) re1µPa @ 1m, which would be used in both nearshore and offshore areas.	SBP Parametric Sub Bottom Profiler may be undertaken across the Licence Area to a suitable percentage coverage.

	Sub-bottom Profiling (SBP) – Boomer	The Applied Acoustics AA301 is an indicative example of a boomer, the instrument consists of a piezo electric plate transducer mounted on a surface tow catamaran frame. Reflected sound signals are recorded using a separate hydrophone such as the Applied acoustics HYD-360/08 (50m). The Boomer SBP operates in a frequency range of 0.5 kHz to 5 kHz, with sound pressure levels in the range of 205-211dB re1μPa @ 1m which would be used in the nearshore shallower area.	SBP Boomer may be undertaken across the Licence Area to a suitable percentage coverage.
	Sub-bottom Profiling (SBP) – Sparker	The applied Acoustics Dual 400 Tip is an indicative example of a sparker system used in sub-bottom profiling. Reflected sound signals are recorded using a separate hydrophone such as the Applied acoustics HYD-360/08 (50m) or a multi-channel hydrophone such as the Geometrics GeoEel LH-16™ Digital Streamer. The sparker source has a frequency range of between 0.4-5kHz and a recorded sound pressure of 203dB re1μPa @1m.	SBP Sparker may be undertaken across the Licence Area to a suitable percentage coverage.
	Acoustic Corer	The Acoustic Corer™ (Pangeo subsea/Kraken Robotics) creates a high-resolution 12m wide acoustic core penetrating the sub-seabed to depths greater than 40m. The Acoustic Corer provides a 3D image of stratigraphy layers and anomalies across the entire foundation footprint. The acoustic corer has a low frequency 1.5 to 6 kHz and high frequency 4.5 to 12 kHz chirp and Peak SL 195dB & 190dB re 1uPa @1m respectively.	Acoustic corer may be deployed at each turbine location, with additional uses to enable micro-siting of turbine locations where needed. A maximum of 70 deployments are anticipated.
	Sub-Bottom Imager (SBI)	The Sub-Bottom Imager uses advanced acoustic technology to image beneath the seabed The SBI has an operating frequency of 4.5 to 12.5 kHz and emits a sound level of 190dB re 1uPa @1m.	SBI may be undertaken across the Licence Area to a suitable percentage coverage.
	Ultrashort Baseline (USBL) – Acoustic Positioning System	The Applied Acoustics EasyTrak Nexus Model EZT-2691 is an example of an ultrashort baseline acoustic positioning system. The system consists of a transceiver unit and a set of transponders. The transceiver unit emits acoustic signals, which are picked up by the transponders. The signals are used to determine the position and orientation of the transponders relative to the transceiver, with high accuracy and precision. The frequency emitted ranges between 18-32kHz and a recorded sound pressure of 192dB re1μPa @1m.	The USBL may be used across the Licence Area to track the position of subsea deployed or towed equipment.
	Refraction Seismic (Beach and Intertidal)	Land based refraction seismic refraction survey relies on the refraction of compressional seismic waves which occurs when a subsurface interface exists with higher seismic velocity than the overlying deposits. For shallow investigations the interface between the superficial deposits and rock provides such a contrast. Refraction seismic profiles would be undertaken using onshore survey equipment at low tide within the intertidal area. A sledgehammer and metal plate sound source would be used to create compressional wave energy. Refracted sound signals will be received on a geophone array and recorded on a digital seismograph. Positions and levels of the geophones would be recorded using RTK GPS techniques.	Refraction seismic methods will be undertaken in transects across the intertidal and beach area.
Geotechnical 2.0	Boreholes – Rotary Drilling	Boreholes may be up to 80 m deep within the Licence Area. All drilling equipment used will follow the ISO and API technical specifications for drilling equipment. Marine rotary drilling is a technique used to bore holes into the seabed. The drilling process involves rotating a drill bit attached to a drill string and applying downward pressure to cut through the rock formations. Geotechnical sampling tools, including push and piston samples, can then be deployed into the ground to recover intact material. The typical frequencies emitted from rotary drilling are between 0.001-0.120kHz and a recorded sound pressure of approximately 145dB re1μPa @1m.	A maximum of 94 no. boreholes will be required within the Licence Area.

	Cone Penetration Tests (CPT)	CPTs are a method for testing in situ soil parameters. CPTs can be performed as either Seabed CPTs or downhole in boreholes.	A maximum of 224 no. CPTs will be required within the Licence Area. The spacing interval will be determined by the variability and level of understanding of the shallow geology.
	Seismic CPT	A seismic CPT provides the same data as a standard CPT test, above, with the addition of geophones (receivers) located behind the shoulder of the cone. A seismic source, typically consisting of two to three pneumatic or hydraulic trigger hammers, is positioned on the seabed, triggered to create a sound wave, which then propagates through the ground, and is recorded by the cone. The arrival times of the soundwave to the cone is measured, and provides an indication of the material. The typical frequencies emitted from CPT and seismic CPT are between 0.001-0.28kHz and a recorded sound pressure of approximately 145dB re1μPa @1m	To be performed within the borehole and CPT locations.
	P-S wireline logging	A P-S wireline logging probe is a method similar to Seismic CPTs, however the source is located within the probe, with geophones spaced either side of the source. The data is used to determine rock and soil properties, and the test is conducted after a borehole has been completed within the annulus created by the drilling. The typical frequencies emitted from P-S wireline logging are between 0.001-0.24kHz and a recorded sound pressure of approximately 70dB re1μPa @1m.	To be performed within the borehole and downhole CPT locations.
	Vibrocore / Gravity Corer	Vibrocore and Gravity Corer are methods of collecting un-consolidated seabed samples.	A maximum of 110 no. sample locations will be required for either vibrocore or gravity sampling with a target depth of 6m BSF within the Licence Area.
	Trial pits (intertidal)	Trial pits are used to recover large bulk samples of soil and/or where thorough visual examination of strata is required.	A maximum of 30 no. sample locations will be required for trial pit sampling within the Licence Area.
Metocean	Floating LiDAR	Floating LiDAR buoys will be deployed to measure the wind resource within the OWF Area. Deployment of this buoy will include anchor points on the seafloor. LiDAR may be deployed for a period of between 12 to 24 months.	A maximum of 5 floating LiDAR buoys may be deployed
	Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP)	ADCPs may be used to examine wave and current conditions in the Licence Area. This equipment is installed on the seabed and anchored with a suitable mooring structure.	A maximum of 5 ADCPs may be used to examine wave and current conditions in the Licence Area.
	Wave Buoy	Waverider buoys may be deployed to measure wave heights and direction to feed into the detailed design of the project within the OWF area. They will be moored to the seabed by a suitably sized mooring structure	A maximum of 5 Waverider buoys may be deployed to measure wave heights and direction to feed into the detailed design of the project within the array investigation area.
Ecology	Fisheries Survey	Identify fish species distribution within the Licence Area. Exact details of monitoring required will be determined through engagement with the relevant authorities such as SFPA, the Marine Institute and through local knowledge where appropriate.	Fisheries survey may be undertaken across the Licence Area

	Benthic Ecology (including subtidal and intertidal habitat surveys)	Identify benthic communities and habitats at the site. Subtidal sample locations may be subject to drop down video in advance of sampling, intertidal sample locations may be subject to walkover/drone survey in advance of sampling.	There will be up to 300 no. benthic ecology sampling locations within the Licence Area and multiple samples may be taken at each location.
	Marine Mammal Acoustic Monitoring (CPODs)	Marine mammal acoustic monitoring using CPODs deployed on the seabed. SoundTrap hydrophones may be deployed alongside the CPODs for periods throughout the monitoring campaign. Either 5 permanent sites will be selected, or the 5 sites will be relocated every 3 months during battery change. The CPOD locations are subject to consultation with an experienced marine mammal ecologist.	There will be a maximum of 5 no. CPOD sampling locations within the Licence Area.
Archaeological	Intertidal & underwater Archaeology sampling	Identification and assessment of metallic and other targets recorded during the intertidal and subtidal geophysical surveys.	Underwater Archaeology survey may be undertaken across the Licence Area
Water Quality Monitoring	Sample collection with rosette of water bottles and in situ sampling (i.e. with CTD probe)	Collection of a dataset which can inform assessment of water quality for Licence Area	There will a maximum of 75 no. water quality sampling locations within the Licence Area.

2.3 Describe the nature and scale of any structure to be erected in the maritime area.

No structures will be erected in the maritime area under this licence.

2.4 Indicative timing of the works/activity: (i) Start date (ii) Duration (iii) Any other information relevant to timing.

Works are proposed to start from Q1 2024, subject to the issuing of the licence, the procurement of survey contractors, weather windows and vessel availability.

Survey durations will also be dependent on the exact type and extent of each campaign, weather and workability. Approximate durations for each proposed survey type are included in the Assessment of Impact on the Maritime Usage Report submitted with this application.

Multiple campaigns will be undertaken under this licence, on a phased basis, over the duration of the licence.

A licence duration of up to 7 years is being sought to ensure the licence can enable site investigation works up to construction of the project.

<p>2.5 Do the proposed maritime usages provide for public use, commercial use or private use? Provide details.</p>
<p>The proposed maritime usage is to undertake marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000.</p> <p>Site investigations are being undertaken to inform the design of the NISA offshore wind farm, a commercial venture.</p>
<p>2.6 Could the proposed works restrict public use/enjoyment of the nearshore e.g. fishing, sailing, surfing, swimming, walking or other activities? Provide details.</p>
<p>Impacts due to the proposed site investigation works will be temporary and short in duration.</p> <p>A significant portion of the proposed work will take place in the array area, which is approximately 12km from shore, and will have very limited impacts on the nearshore area.</p> <p>Those site investigation works which are proposed to take place in the proposed export cable corridor, will involve work in the nearshore area. This does have the potential to restrict public use/enjoyment of the nearshore e.g. fishing, sailing, surfing, swimming, walking or other activities but only for a temporary, short term duration.</p> <p>Works will be planned to minimise their duration and impact on other users of the marine. Engagement will be undertaken with key stakeholders and users of the marine in the area prior to and during survey periods. All required notices such as Marine Notices will also be published in advance of works.</p>
<p>2.7 Please outline any engagements that have taken place with marine users or other stakeholders in the proposed area that may be affected by the proposal and attach supporting documentation where relevant.</p>
<p>Other Marine users or stakeholders that may be affected by the proposed surveys include fisheries, commercial vessels, local ports, aquaculture, leisure craft, divers, and swimmers.</p> <p>NISA has undertaken similar activities to those proposed under this licence under previous Foreshore Licence authorisations and thus is aware of measures required to be implemented to minimise disturbance to other marine users and stakeholders.</p> <p>NISA has carried out a significant level of engagement with local stakeholders to date and will continue to do so as the project is progressed. A Community Liaison Officer (CLO) and a Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) have been employed for the project.</p> <p>The fishing community has been a key stakeholder in the development of the NISA project from the outset.</p> <p>Engagement with the fishing community commenced in 2019, and has been ongoing through industry groups, in person meetings and port visits. Furthermore, an update booklet was circulated in Q2 2021 and another in Q2 2022.</p> <p>During the offshore survey campaigns completed in 2022 (under the previous Foreshore Licences), fisheries stakeholder engagement was undertaken prior to and during each survey activity. An onboard or dedicated Offshore Fisheries Liaison officer supplemented the responsibilities of the Main FLO</p> <p>As the project progresses, NISA will be working to provide information as it becomes available.</p> <p>Virtual Consultation Rooms were hosted on the project website in 2021 and 2023. Furthermore the project held six public consultation events in June & July 2023 across counties Louth, Meath and Dublin. A further five events are proposed for Q4 2023.</p> <p>Details of future Virtual Consultation Rooms and Public Consultation events will be posted on the project website.</p>
<p>2.8 Describe briefly any consultations undertaken with other relevant authorities (e.g. Local Authority, Port/Harbour authority etc.) or State Agencies. e.g. National Parks & Wildlife Service, National Monuments Service of Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</p>
<p>With respect to Site investigations, The NISA project has engaged with the National Monuments Service (NMS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage as required to update the NMS on the site investigation in general, as well as discuss licensing requirements and areas of archaeological interest.</p> <p>The requisite reports have also been prepared for and submitted to the NMS in advance of site surveys, as well as the required archaeological licenses to undertake surveys secured. The project will continue to engage with and update the NMS as the project progresses.</p> <p>Relevant Port/Harbour authorities are contacted in advance of undertaking site investigations works offshore. In addition, the NPWS, Inland Fisheries Ireland, the Department of Transport, the Commissioner of Irish Lights and the Irish Coast Guard have all been engaged as required by survey activities proposed.</p>

The project team have conducted extensive stakeholder consultation throughout the wider project development process to include Fingal, Dublin City, Meath and Louth County Councils, relevant statutory bodies (including An Bord Pleanála NPWS, EPA, DECC and DHIGH) fisheries organisations and other interested coastal and marine bodies, utility and service providers, landowners as well as residents and business within proximity to the proposed development and/or survey area.

2.9 Please provide the reference number and title of any existing Foreshore licence you may hold within the footprint, or otherwise in the vicinity of the proposed Maritime Usage area.

NISA Ltd. holds two current Foreshore Licences:

1. FS007031 Statkraft North Irish Sea Array (NISA) Site Investigations (relates to the project array area);
2. FS007358 Statkraft North Irish Sea Array (NISA) Site Investigations for Export Cable Route (relates to the project export cable corridor).

The licences were granted in 2021 and 2022, respectively.

The Maritime Usage Licence application area is contained within the two Foreshore Licence areas.

2.10 Please provide the reference number of any current application for a Foreshore Licence to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Does this application for a foreshore licence relate to or impact any part of the maritime area the subject of this licence application? If so, please provide details of the foreshore licence application.

NISA Ltd has no current application for a Foreshore Licence ongoing.

2.11 What environmental reports, if any, have you submitted with this application? (Supporting information for screening for Appropriate Assessment/ Natura Impact Statement/ Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species/ Assessment of Impact on the Maritime Usage Report)

NISA Ltd has submitted the below environmental reports with this application:

- Supporting information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment
- Natura Impact Statement
- Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species
- Assessment of Impact on the Maritime Usage Report

Part 3: Location and Spatial Extent of Proposed Maritime Area
(Attach additional documents as required)

3.1 Total size of the proposed Maritime Area (in m², ha² or km², as appropriate).

The total Licence Application Area is 124.99 km².

3.2 Please provide the distance of the main body of the proposed maritime area from the shore at its closest point in km.

The main body of the proposed maritime area is approximately 12km from the shore at its closest point (SW corner). The majority of the array area is approximately 16km or more from shore.

3.3 Is any of the maritime area in the proposed site in private ownership? If yes please provide documentary evidence of same (e.g. folio).

No.

3.4 Any other site details considered relevant:

The extent of the NISA site area has been significantly refined from the previous Foreshore Licence extent following the 2022 survey effort and engagement with local stakeholders and users of the maritime area, including fishers, to minimise impacts.

The Project was granted a Maritime Area Consent (MAC) for a wider site area in 2022 - (2022 MAC 005 NISA Windfarm Limited). The extent of the licence area under this licence is entirely within the MAC extents.

Part 4: Maps and Drawings.

Please refer to [Technical Guidance](#) on map and drawing requirements.

4.1 Please draft a map, titled “Licence Map”, outlining the proposed Maritime Area in accordance with the Technical Guidance for Maritime Area Licence Applications and submit same with this application.

4.2 Please list any Admiralty Charts, Maps and/or other Drawings submitted with this application.

- LIC230001-002-00 Indicative SI Locations Map - Metocean and CPODs
- LIC230001-003-00 Indicative SI Locations Map - Geotech
- LIC230001-004-00 Indicative SI Locations Map - Benthic Sampling

Part 5: Fishing/Aquaculture Considerations:

5.1 Is the proposal located in proximity to any of the following:

- aquaculture operation
- designated Shellfish Growing Waters
- fish spawning ground
- other sensitive fisheries location

Please Illustrate on appropriate chart including distance in Km.

Further information on this can be found in the Assessment of Impact on the Maritime Usage report submitted with this application.

There is no overlap between the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) aquaculture sites and the Licence Application area. There are no licenced aquaculture sites within or adjacent to, or in the vicinity of the Licence Application Area. The closest aquaculture facility is located approximately 30 km from the licence area in Carlingford Lough, Co. Louth, for Pacific Oyster.

There is partial overlap between the Licence Application Area and Shellfish Waters Directive Areas (SWDA). These areas include the Balbriggan/Skerries zones. There is an overlap of approximately 5.96 km² with the proposed Offshore Export Cable Corridor area.

There is also partial overlap between the Licence Application Area and the designated Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) Inshore Shellfish Production Areas (ISPAs). These areas include Meath at Gormanstown and Dublin Skerries zones. There is an overlap of approximately 22.19 km² between the Gormanstown HABs ISPA and the Licence cable corridor area, and 2.16 km² between the Skerries HABs ISPA and the proposed Licence Cable Corridor area.

These areas are shown below.

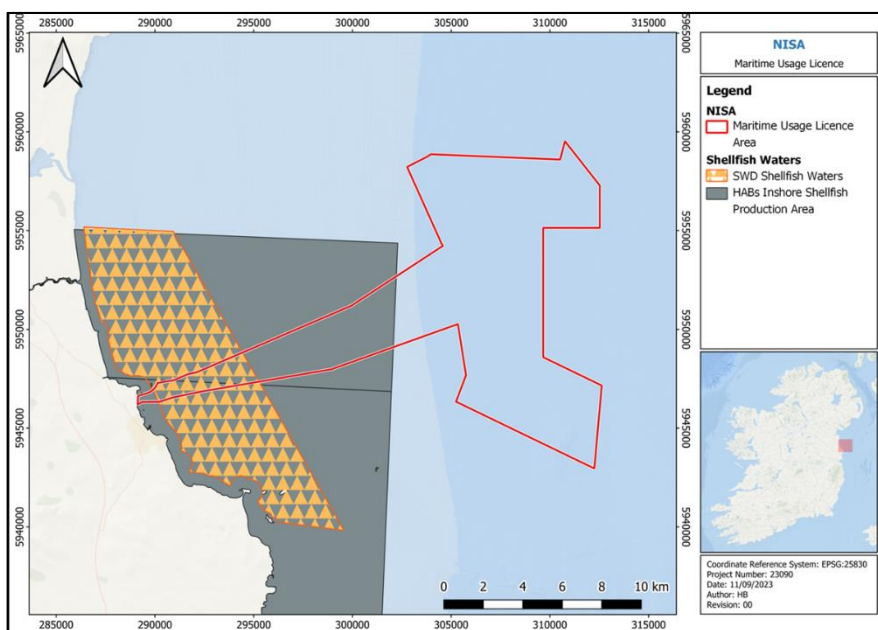


Figure 1: Shellfish Waters Directive (SWD) Areas and Harmful Algal Blooms Inshore Shellfish Production Areas (Ireland's Marine Atlas, 2021), as included in application Assessment of Impact on the Maritime Usage report.

The Licence Area overlaps with the spawning and/or nursery grounds of several commercially important species of fish (Ireland Marine Atlas, 2021).

Cod use the area as a spawning and nursery ground, as do Haddock and Whiting. Mackerel and Herring use the area as a nursery ground. The extent of the overlap with the mapped spawning and nursery grounds is shown in the figures below and summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Application area overlap with commercial fish species distribution areas

Species	Nursery Area	Spawning Area
Cod	✓	✓
Haddock	✓	✓
Herring	✓	X
Mackerel	✓	X
Whiting	✓	✓

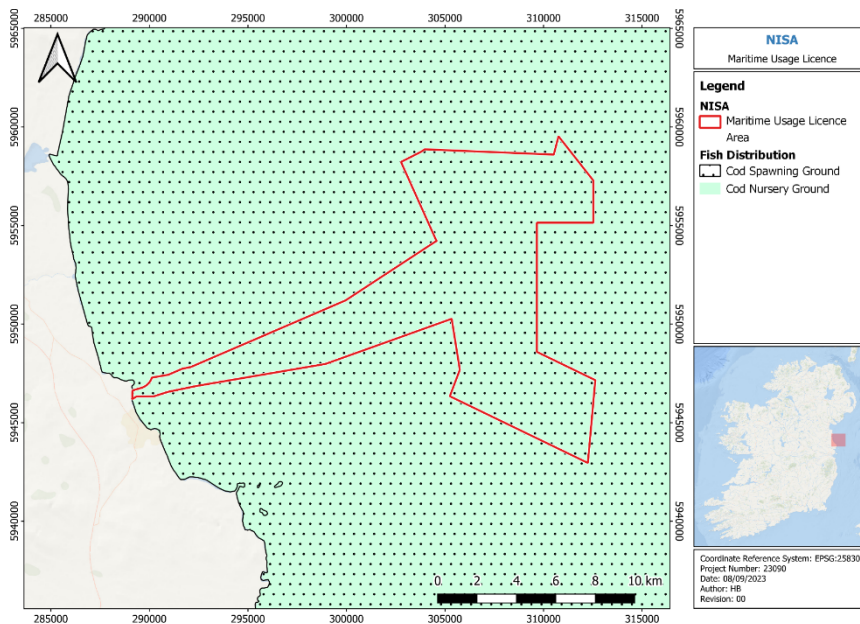


Figure 2: Cod Spawning and Nursery Grounds (Ireland's Marine Atlas, 2021)

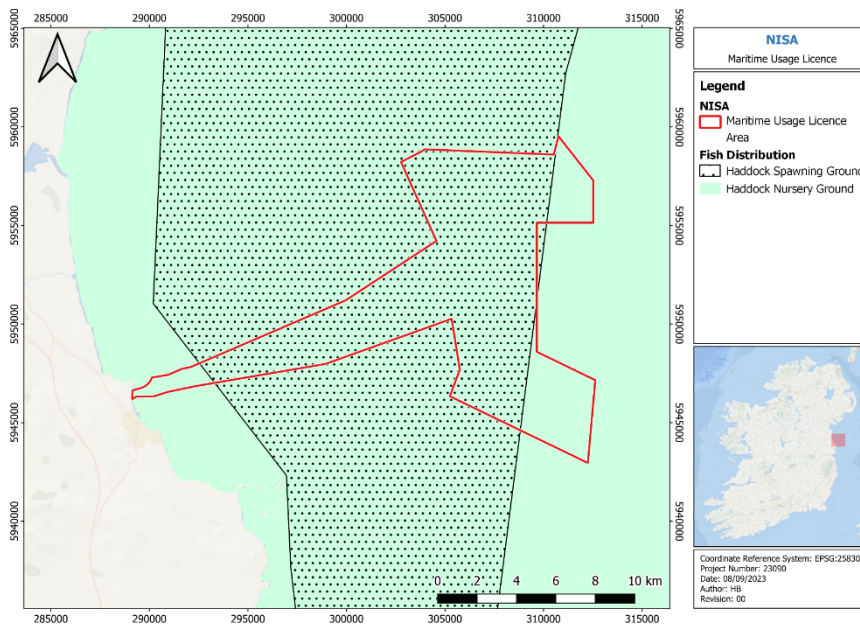


Figure 3: Haddock Spawning and Nursery Grounds (Ireland's Marine Atlas, 2021)

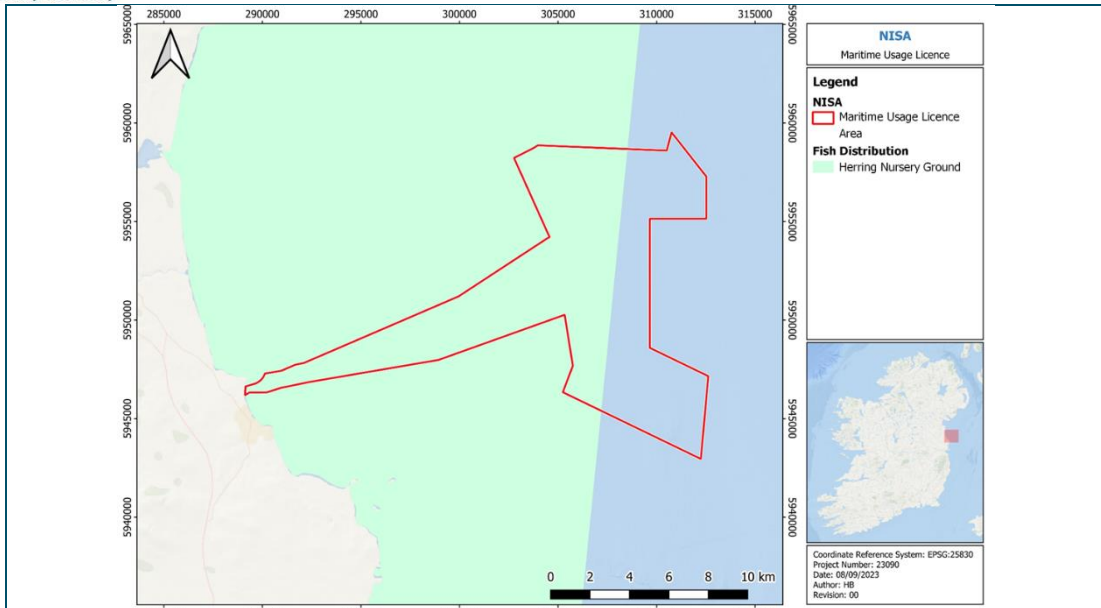


Figure 4: Herring Nursery and Spawning Grounds (Ireland's Marine Atlas, 2021)

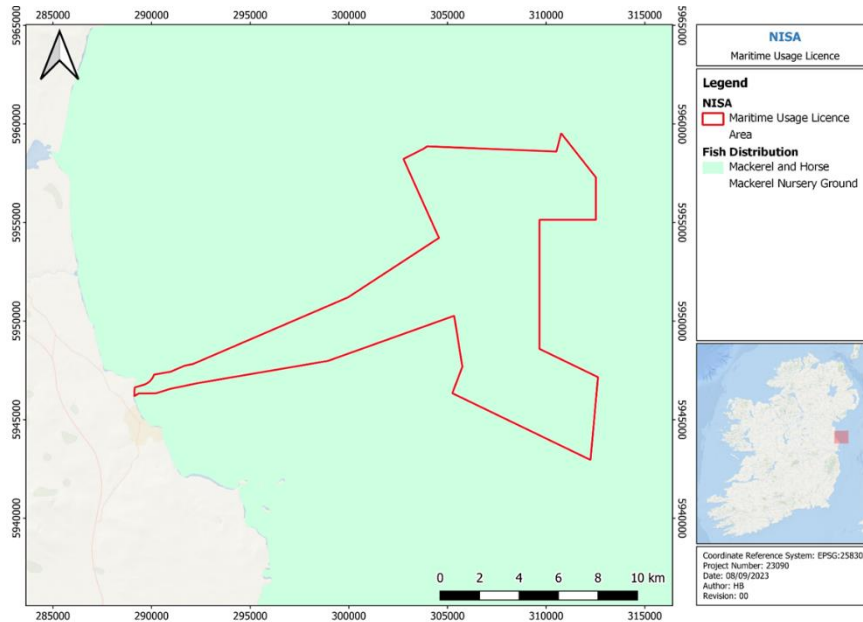


Figure 5: Mackerel and Horse Mackerel Nursery Grounds (Ireland's Marine Atlas, 2021)

The licence area overlaps with the Western Irish Sea *Nephrops norvegicus* Functional Unit (FU15). FU15 is amongst the most productive of all the *Nephrops* stocks currently fished, yielding landings of 5,000-10,000 tonnes annually from a relatively small geographic area (ICES, 2012a)

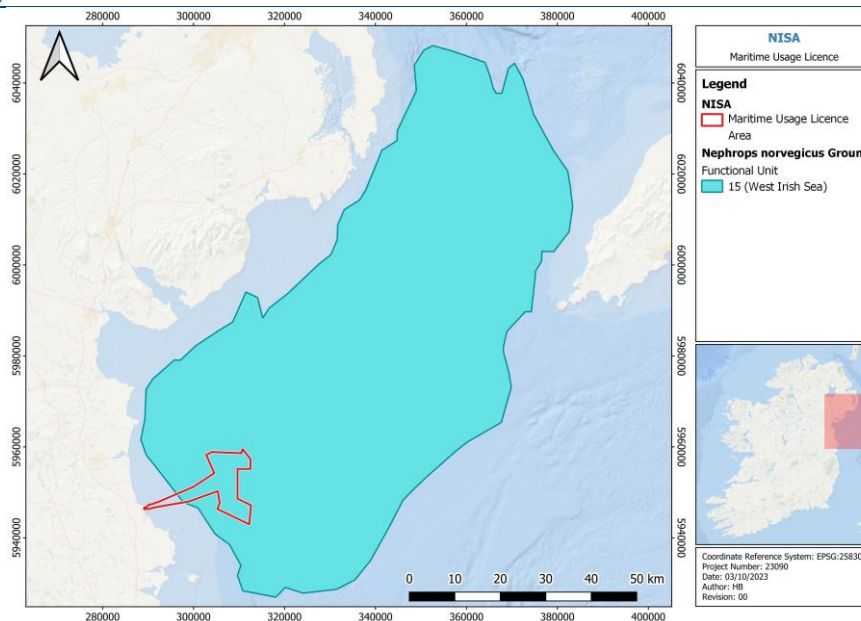


Figure 6: Western Irish Sea *Nephrops norvegicus* Functional Unit (FU15) (ICES, 2012a)

5.2 Are there other potential impacts of the proposal on fishing/aquaculture in the area? If yes, please describe.

Works proposed under this licence will also impact some fishing activities in the area.

These are described in further detail in the Assessment of Impact on the Maritime Usage report submitted with this application.

NISA Ltd and its FLO will work closely with fishers in the area to minimise disruption and potential impacts, as described below.

5.3 Are there any measures proposed to mitigate potential impacts on fisheries or aquaculture? If yes, please describe.

Proposed mitigation measures per section are set out below in Table 2.

Table 2: Proposed Mitigation Measures

Proposed Mitigation Measures	
Section	Mitigation
Fish Ecology	<p>The soft-start/ramp-up procedure described in the 'Guidance to Manage the Risk to Marine Mammals from Man-made Sound Sources in Irish Waters' protocol (DAHG, 2014) will be followed to ensure that any adverse effect to fish species due to disturbance caused by underwater noise will be mitigated for.</p> <p>If a temporal overlap is likely between the proposed site investigation activities and projects identified as having the potential to cause in-combination effects to noise pressure sensitive fish species, NISA Ltd will engage with those projects to ensure that activities are sufficiently distanced to ensure that adverse effects on such species are mitigated for.</p>
Commercial Fisheries	<p>During the proposed site investigation activities, other vessels will be requested to maintain a safe distance from the survey vessels due to their restricted manoeuvrability. Fishermen will also be requested to avoid the static survey equipment once it is deployed, which will have a very small footprint.</p> <p>For the duration of the geophysical survey fishermen with static gear such as whelk/lobster/crab pots within the survey will be engaged by the fishery liaison officer and potential moves of static fishing gear will be discussed. It will be the projects position to mitigate for potential impacts upon the commercial fishing sector and endeavour to minimise disturbance due to the presence of the survey. The proposed site investigation activities will be temporary and have a short duration.</p> <p>NISA Ltd has appointed an FLO to engage with the local fishing community in order to determine the full extent of fishing effort in the Licence Area, and to minimise disruption to the activity.</p> <p>In addition to the project FLO, it is the intention of the project to have in place an offshore fisheries liaison officer during survey activity as required that will further mitigate for interactions between the survey vessels and fishermen including the various commercial offshore activities within the area.</p>

	<p>As a further mitigation measure, Afloat scouting surveys will continue to be undertaken across the project area at regular intervals to ensure the trend for fisheries in the area is understood ahead of the surveys being undertaken.</p> <p>The project fisheries liaisons office will visit the ports in the area ahead of any surveys being undertaken and as previously done, discuss in detail the forthcoming survey campaign with fishing industry.</p>
Aquaculture and Shellfish Ecology	<p>As no likely significant effects are expected for aquaculture operations or shellfish in result of the proposed site investigation activities, no mitigation measures are proposed.</p>

Declaration and Consent:

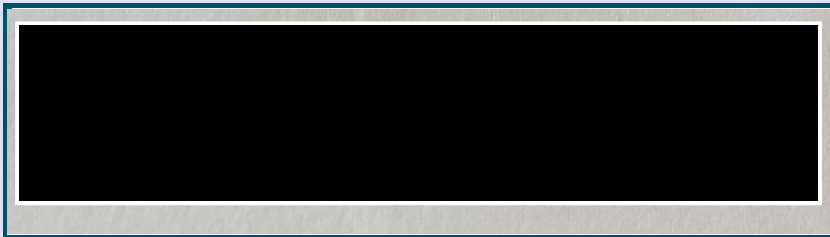
The details provided here are correct to the best of my knowledge.

I understand that no works will be commenced, by the applicant or the applicant's agents on the proposed site, without a valid licence from MARA. The granting of any Maritime Usage Licence will not give rise on the part of the applicant to any expectation whatsoever for, right or entitlement to a grant of any future licence in respect of all or any part of any area of the Maritime Area.

By submitting this application form, the applicant agrees that the details provided (with personal contact details redacted) are to be published on MARA's website and also that the full information provided including contact details are to be processed and retained by MARA and shared with all relevant public authorities in furtherance of consideration for a Maritime Usage Licence under the MAPA.

I give consent to MARA and its agents to copy this application and to make (a redacted) copy available for inspection and copying by the public. This consent relates to this application, to any further information, or submission provided by the applicant or on the applicant's behalf and to the publication of the licence document.

Signed for and on behalf of the applicant:



Name of Signatory (block letters):

[Redacted name]

Position Held:

NISA CONSENTS LEAD

Date: October 19th 2023

Applicant Checklist	
Document	Included
Application Form (Parts 2 to 5 inclusive)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Supporting Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment (SISAA) Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Natura Impact Statement (NIS), if initially included	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assessment of Impact of the Maritime Usage (AIMU) Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Licence Mapping	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please list below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Other

GIS Shapefiles also included.