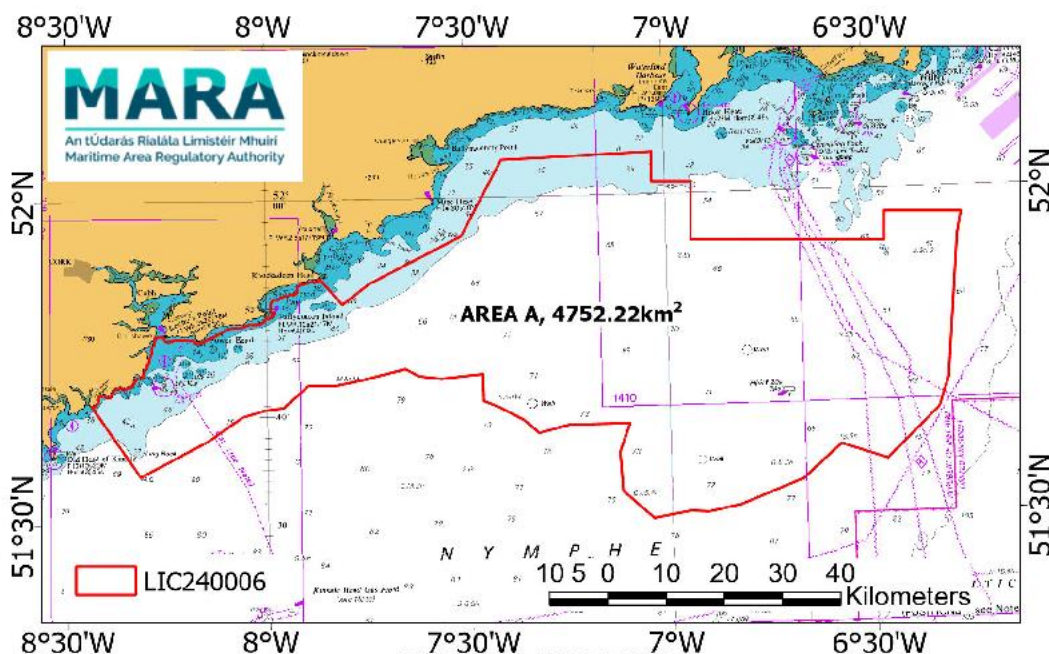


PUBLIC NOTICE

The Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011

The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) has applied to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (“MARA”) for a maritime usage licence under section 117 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 to undertake marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation in the proposed south coast DMAP located off the coast of Counties Cork and Waterford, to inform future offshore renewable energy development. The proposed geophysical surveys include multibeam echosounder, sub bottom profiler, sparkers, mini-air-gun and hydrophones. The surface towed sparkler system will be the primary sound source used, with the mini-air-gun utilized when inadequate sub surface penetration is achieved due to local geological conditions. The licence application is for a period of 12 months.



PUBLIC NOTICE PROPOSED MARITIME USAGE LICENCE LIC240006

Screening for appropriate assessment determination

On 21 March 2024 following screening by MARA under regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011), a determination was made that the proposed maritime usage referred to above requires an appropriate assessment. The determination was made on the basis of objective scientific information which indicated that it cannot be excluded that the proposed maritime usage individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site. A copy of the determination is available at [LIC240006-MARA-The Maritime Regulator](#)

In considering this matter MARA had regard to the following:

- The screening for appropriate assessment report prepared by MARA
- The environmental report prepared by MARA
- The application documents submitted by DECC which informed the screening for appropriate assessment.

Public Consultation

A Public Consultation will open in due course, at which time there will be an opportunity to make a submission(s) to MARA on the application. All information regarding the Public Consultation will be available on MARA's website at the following link: [LIC240006-MARA-The Maritime Regulator](#)

Judicial review of the screening for appropriate assessment determination

The validity of the screening for appropriate assessment determination may be questioned by judicial review under order 84 of the Superior Courts Rules (S.I. No 15 of 1986) in accordance with chapter 8, part 5 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021, any application for leave to apply for judicial review must be made promptly and in any event within eight weeks of the date of this notice. Practical information on judicial review can be obtained from the Citizens Information Board, Ground Floor, George's Quay House, 43 Townsend Street, Dublin 2 (www.citizensinformation.ie) or from the Courts website (www.courts.ie).

Dated this 22 day of March 2024

The Maritime Area Regulatory Authority