

## 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](mailto: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  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Menapia House,  
Drinagh Business Park,  
Drinagh,  
Wexford,  
Y35RF29

[www.maritimeregulator.ie](http://www.maritimeregulator.ie)

Part 1: Applicant Information	
<b>1.1 Applicant Details</b>	
Name of Applicant (the name that will appear on the licence)	Bremore Port / Bremore Ireland Port Designated Activity Company (BIPDAC)
Company/Organisation (if applicable)	Bremore Port / Bremore Ireland Port Designated Activity Company (BIPDAC)
Address/Company Address	Harbourville, Mornington Road, Co. Meath., Meath
Eircode/Postcode	A92 Y207
Contact Name within Company/Organisation	Joseph Hiney
Contact Phone No.	[REDACTED]
Contact Email Address	[REDACTED]
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)	[REDACTED]
Contact Phone No.	[REDACTED]
Contact Email address	[REDACTED]

<b>1.4 Applicant's Legal Advisor (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Name/Company Name</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Eircode/Postcode</b>	
<b>Contact Name (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Contact Phone No.</b>	
<b>Contact Email address</b>	

## 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.**

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 summarised in the table below.

Survey	Methods	Purpose	Sampling Effort
Hydrographical and Geophysical	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 or similar. For these surveys the equipment will operate at a typical central frequency of 200 - 400kHz (700kHz optional) with sound pressure levels in the range of 200-228dB re1µPa @1m.	MBES may be undertaken across the Foreshore Licence Application Area to a suitable percentage coverage.
	Side Scan Sonar (SSS)	SSS surveys are used to determine sediment characteristics and seabed features. The EdgeTech 4200 may be taken as an indicative example of an SSS device and for these surveys will have a potential operating frequency range of approximately 230/540kHz in the offshore area and 540/850kHz in the shallower nearshore area with sound pressure levels of 228dB re1µPa @1m.	SSS may be undertaken across the Foreshore Licence Application 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).	Magnetometer survey may be undertaken across the Foreshore Licence Application Area to a suitable percentage coverage.
	Sub-bottom Profiling (SBP)	SBP is used to develop an image of the subsurface, identifying different strata encountered in the shallow sediments. The Innomar SES-2000 Medium 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 247 dB (typically operated at <200dB) re1µPa @ 1m, which would be used in both nearshore and offshore areas. The Applied Acoustics AA301 is an indicative example of a boomer, with sound pressure levels in the range of 208-215dB re1µPa @ 1m which would be used in the nearshore shallower area. The applied Acoustics Duraspark 400 is an indicative example of a sparker system used in sub-bottom profiling, with sound pressures in the range of 204-216dB re1µPa @1m.	SBP may be undertaken across the Foreshore Licence Application Area to a suitable percentage coverage.
Geotechnical	Boreholes	Boreholes will typically be a maximum of 40 m deep. All drilling equipment used will follow the ISO and API technical specifications for drilling equipment.	Up to 60 no. boreholes will be required within the Nested Area within the Foreshore Licence Application 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.	Up to 60 no. CPTs will be required covering both the preliminary and interim campaign within the Nested

			Area within the Foreshore Licence Application Area.  The spacing interval will be determined by the variability and level of understanding of the shallow geology.
	Vibrocore / Gravity Corer	Vibrocore and Gravity Corer are methods of collecting unconsolidated seabed samples.	Up to 60 no. sample locations will be required for either vibrocore or gravity sampling with a target depth of 6m BSF within the Nested Area within the Foreshore Licence Application Area.
<b>Metocean &amp; geomorphology</b>	Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP)	This equipment is installed on the seabed and anchored with a suitable mooring structure. It is generally a short-term deployment used to gather seasonal data (e.g. winter storm data) however may be deployed for longer.	Up to 5 ADCPs may be used to examine wave and current conditions in the Foreshore Licence Application Area.
	Wave Buoy	Wave rider buoys may be deployed to measure wave heights and direction to feed into the detailed design of the project within the Foreshore Licence Application area. They will be moored to the seabed by a suitably sized mooring structure.	Up to 2 Waverider buoys may be deployed within the Foreshore Licence Application area.
	Sediment traps	Sediment traps are containers that are used to collect particles falling toward the sea floor. Particle size and accumulation rates will be used to inform sediment transport modelling.	Up to 10 nr. sediment traps may be placed in in the Foreshore Licence Application area for an approximate duration of 60 days.
<b>Ecology</b>	Bird and Marine Mammal Survey	Identify bird and marine mammal species distribution and behaviour within the Licence Application Area.	Bird and marine mammal surveys may be undertaken across the Licence Application Area
	Fisheries Survey	Identify fish species distribution within the Foreshore Licence Application 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 surveys may be undertaken across the Foreshore Licence Application Area
	Benthic Ecology (subtidal benthic survey, intertidal habitat walkover survey)	This survey is designed to identify the expected benthic communities and habitats at the site.  In the intertidal area features of conservation importance will be identified by means of intertidal habitat mapping with core/quadrat sampling and hard substrate quadrat sampling where appropriate. This may consist of the intertidal Phase I walkover survey of the area with identification of the main habitats present (in the form of biotope mapping).  Subtidal sample locations may be subject to drop down video in advance of grab sampling.  Samples of water may be taken at the same time for analysis.	There will be up to 200 no. subtidal grab sampling locations within the Foreshore Licence Application Area. Multiple samples/replicates 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 4 permanent sites will be selected, or the 4 sites will be relocated every 3 months during battery change. The

			CPOD locations are subject to archaeological survey results.
<b>Archaeological</b>	Underwater Archaeology	Identification and assessment of metallic and other targets recorded during the marine geophysical surveys.	Underwater Archaeology survey may be undertaken across the Foreshore Licence Application 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 as soon as possible in 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><b>2.5 Do the proposed maritime usages provide for public use, commercial use or private use? Provide details.</b></p>
<p>The proposed maritime usage is to undertake marine environmental and ecological surveys and technical site investigations in support of an application under Part XXI of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.</p> <p>Site investigations are being undertaken to inform the design of the Bremore Port and to provide data to feed into the development of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report to support the planning application.</p>
<p><b>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.</b></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 Potential Development Area.</p> <p>Those site investigation works which are proposed to take place in the Potential Development Area, 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><b>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.</b></p>
<p>The Bremore Ireland Port project was officially launched in October 2023 and a project website has been set up to share information on the project with the public and to solicit feedback from interested parties (<a href="https://bremoreirelandport.ie/">https://bremoreirelandport.ie/</a>). Specific engagement with groups or individual users of the maritime area on the surveys and site investigations proposed under this application is yet to commence. This is planned to commence following submission of the application once the project has clarity on timelines and survey scopes.</p>
<p><b>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 &amp; Wildlife Service, National Monuments Service of Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</b></p>
<p>Bremore Ireland Port has not undertaken engagement specifically in relation to the site investigations to date however, Bremore Ireland Port is undertaking engagement with the relevant local authorities (Louth, Meath and Fingal) in relation to the future proposed development. Bremore Ireland Port has also undertaken engagement with a number of other public bodies including Department of Transport with respect to the proposed port development and engaged with the National Parks and Wildlife Service to understand the designation of the candidate SPA (North Irish Sea SPA) and its impact on the future proposed development.</p> <p>Drogheda Ireland Port is also fully aware of the proposed site investigations and future proposed development as it is a 51% shareholder and the controlling interest in the project.</p>
<p><b>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.</b></p>
<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>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.</b></p>
<p>Bremore Ireland Port Designated Activity Company (BIPDAC) has no current application for a Foreshore Licence ongoing.</p>

**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)**

Bremore Ireland Port Designated Activity Company (BIPDAC) 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 m<sup>2</sup>, ha<sup>2</sup> or km<sup>2</sup>, as appropriate).**

The total Licence Application Area is 159.59 km<sup>2</sup>.

**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 proposed maritime area adjoins the high-water mark at its closest point to 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:**

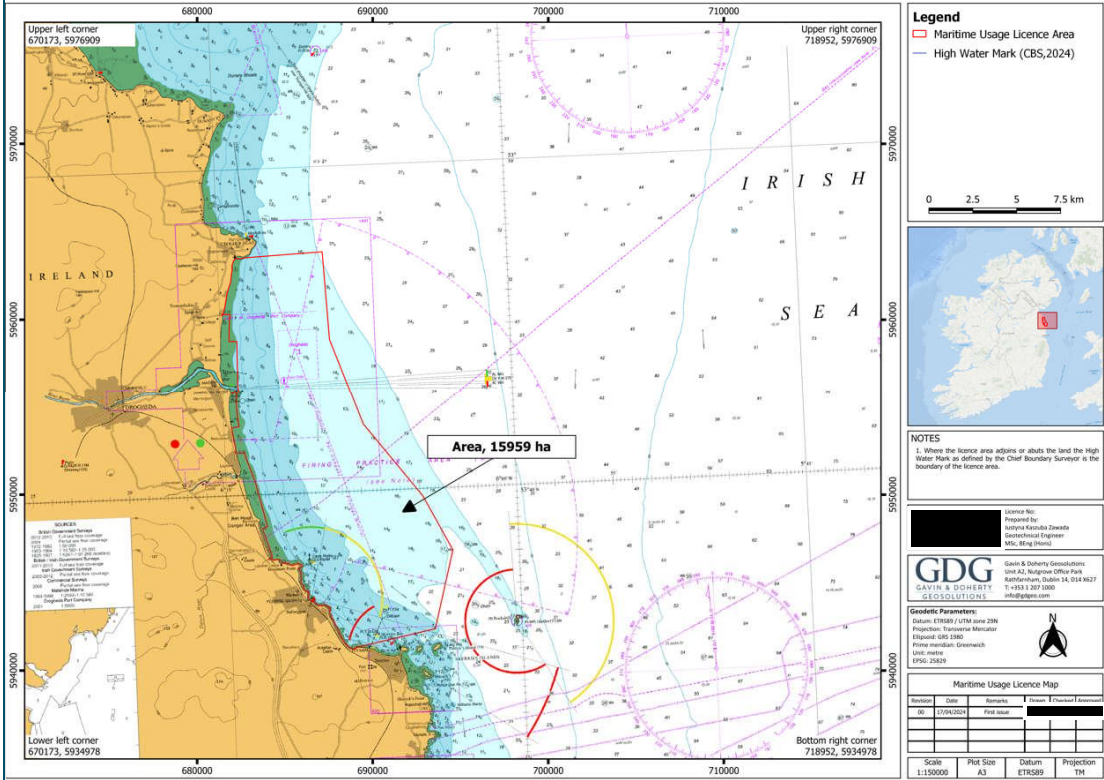
Most of the proposed site investigations will take place in and around Bremore Head (the future proposed development area). This includes geophysical surveys, geotechnical site investigations and benthic grab sampling. The wider licence area will be used to deploy metocean devices to measure wave heights, current flows and establish sediment transport patterns and to undertake ecological surveys (e.g. bird and marine mammal surveys, water quality sampling and benthic control sampling). CPODs and Soundtraps may also be deployed in this area.

**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.

Not applicable.



## 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 25 km from the licence area in Carlingford Lough, Co. Louth, for Pacific Oyster.

There is partial overlap between the Licence Application Area and the Shellfish Waters Directive (SWD). These areas include the Balbriggan/Skerries zones. There is an overlap of approximately 70.00 km<sup>2</sup> with the proposed MUL area and 3.44km<sup>2</sup> with the potential development area.

There is partial overlap between the Licence Application Area and the designated Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) Inshore Shellfish Production Areas (ISPAs) shown in Figure 6 17. These areas include Meath at Gormanstown and Dublin Skerries zones. There is an overlap of approximately 66.79 km<sup>2</sup> between the Licence area the Gormanstown HABs ISPA and full overlap with the potential development area. There is an overlap of 34.94 km<sup>2</sup> between the Skerries HABs ISPA and the proposed Licence area, and 0.14km<sup>2</sup> of an overlap with the potential development area.

These areas are shown below.

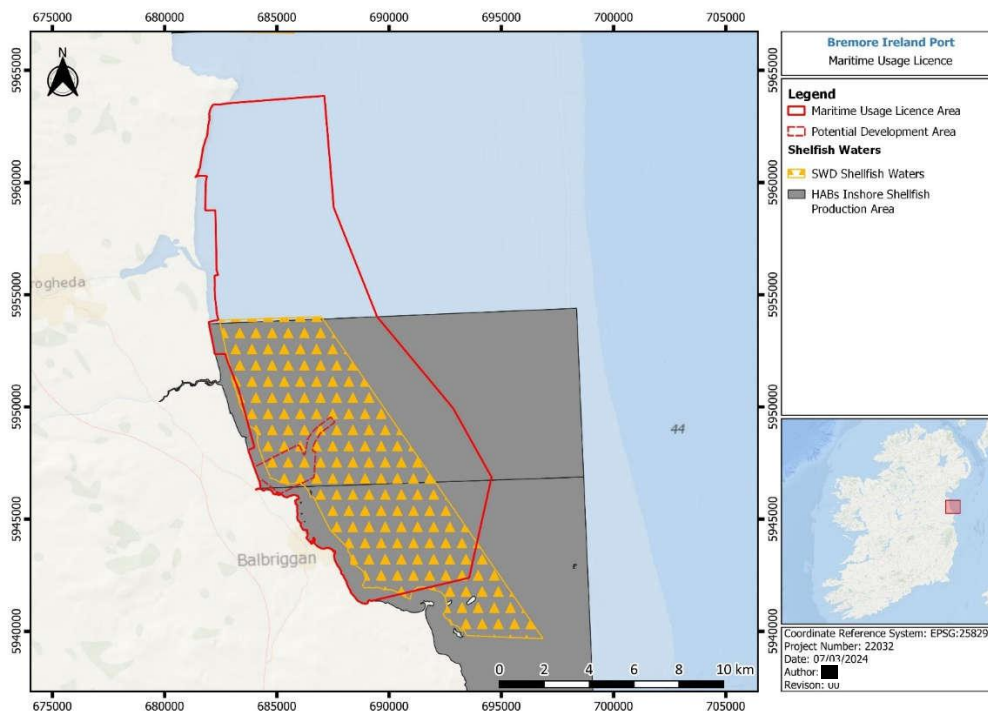


Figure 1: Shellfish Waters Directive (SWD) Areas and Harmful Algal Blooms Inshore Shellfish Production Areas (Ireland's Marine Atlas, 2021), as included in application Assessment of Impact on the Maritime Usage report.

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
Whiting	✓	✓
Mackerel	✓	X
Horse Mackerel	✓	X

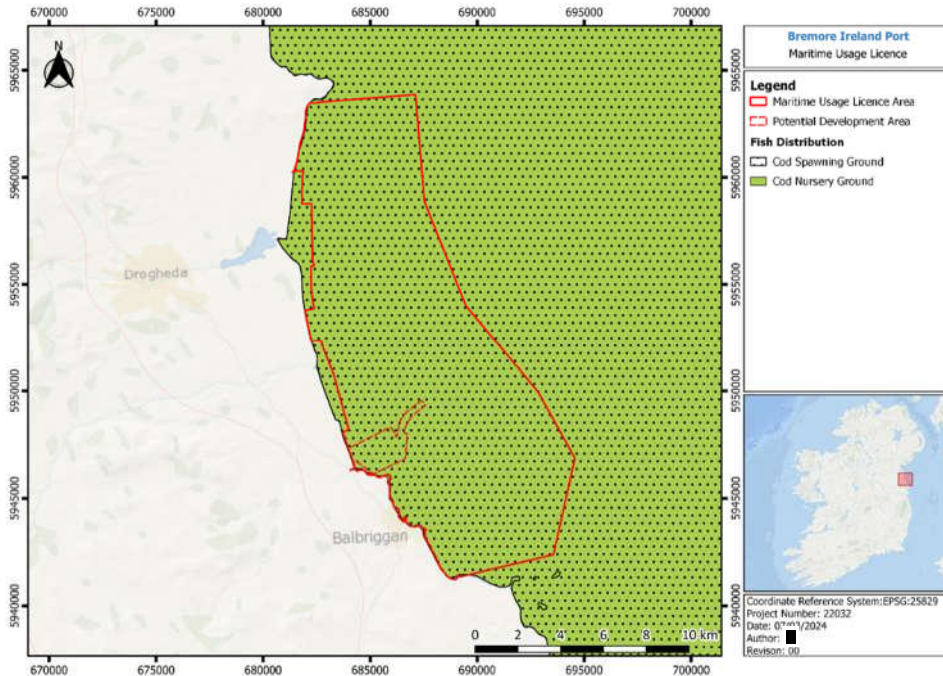


Figure 2: Cod Spawning and Nursery Grounds (Ireland's Marine Atlas, 2021)

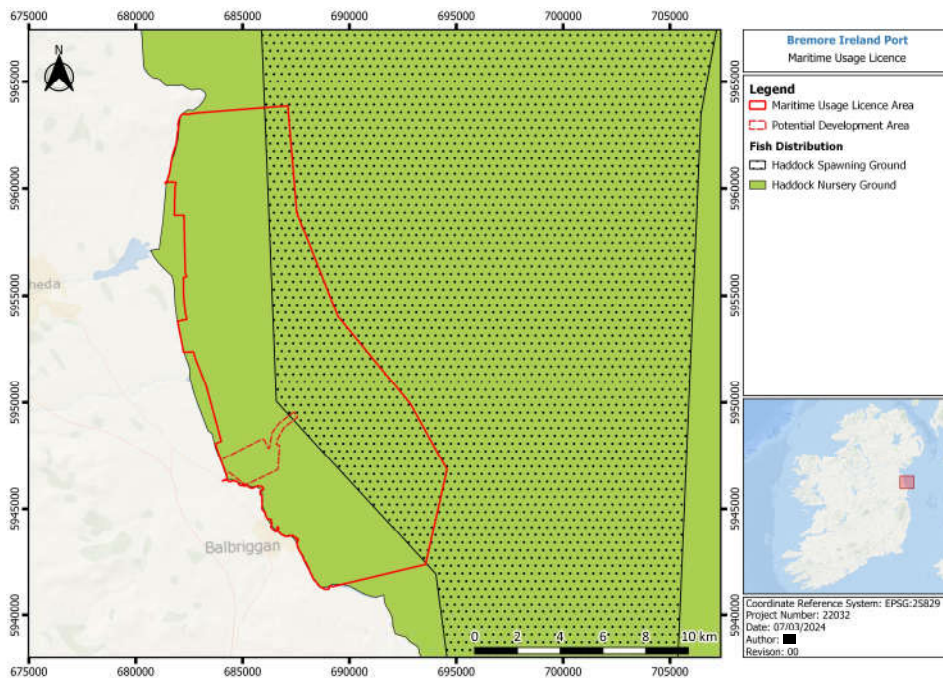


Figure 3: Haddock Spawning and Nursery Grounds (Ireland's Marine Atlas, 2021)

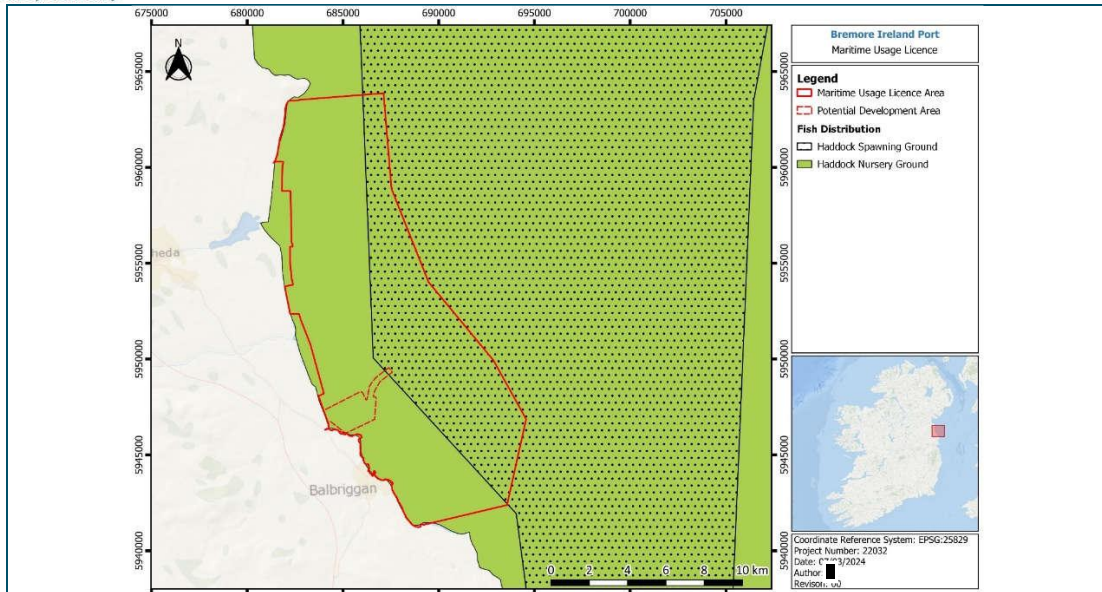


Figure 4: Herring Nursery and Spawning Grounds (Ireland's Marine Atlas, 2021)

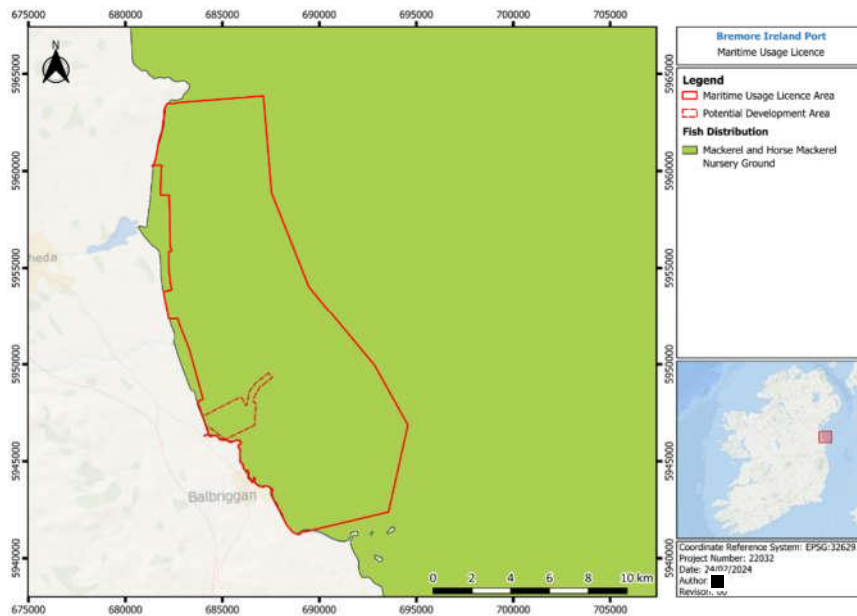


Figure 5: Mackerel and Horse Mackerel Nursery Grounds (Ireland's Marine Atlas, 2021)

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)

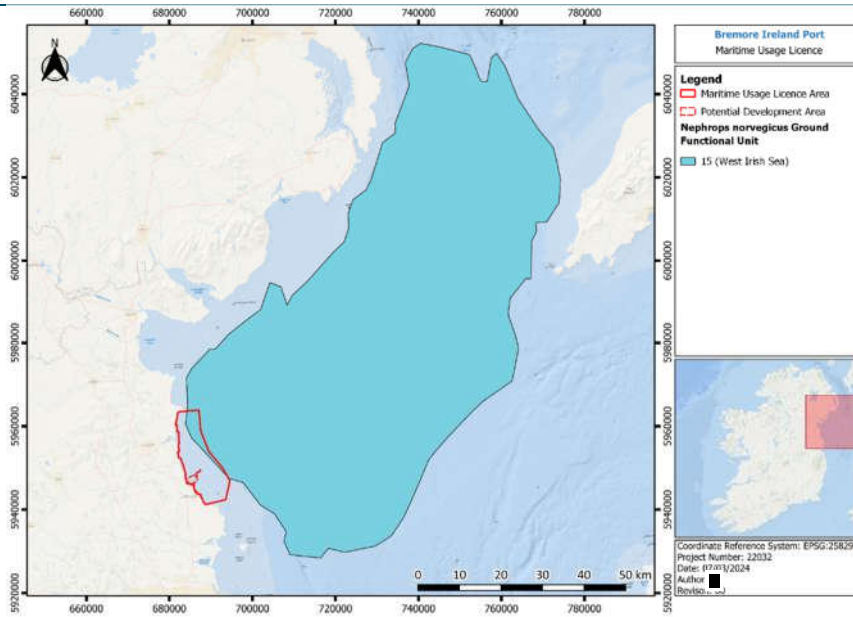


Figure 6: Western Irish Sea *Nephrops norvegicus* Functional Unit (FU15) (ICES, 2012a)

**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 may 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.

BIPDAC and an appointed 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
<b>Fish Ecology</b>	<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, BIPDAC will engage with those projects to ensure that activities are sufficiently distanced to ensure that adverse effects on such species are mitigated for.</p>
<b>Commercial Fisheries</b>	<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>BIPDAC will appoint 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>	
<b>Aquaculture and Shellfish Ecology</b>	<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:**

[Redacted signature]

**Name of Signatory (block letters):**

JOSEPH HINEY

**Position Held:**

DIRECTOR

**Date: 2024**

23/07/2023



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

**Other**

GIS Shapefiles also included.