

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. Please complete form to a high level, i.e. give comprehensive answers to questions, answers which only reference supporting documentation are not sufficient.

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)	University College Dublin
Company/Organisation (if applicable)	University College Dublin
Address/Company Address	UCD School of Earth Sciences, Room L0.11, CSCB Building, O'Brien Centre for Science (East), University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland.
Eircode/Postcode	D04 N2E5
Contact Name within Company/Organisation	Mark Coughlan
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	
Address	
Eircode/Postcode	
Contact Name	
Contact Phone No.	
Contact Email Address	

1.3 Agent Representing Applicant (if applicable)	
Person/Agency acting on behalf of Applicant	
Address	
Eircode/Postcode	
Contact Name (if applicable)	
Contact Phone No.	
Contact Email address	

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

<u>Part 2: Proposal Details (Attach additional documents as required)</u>	
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.
	N/A
2.2	Description of proposed Maritime Usage.
	<p>Under the auspicious of the Marine Institute funded 'QUEST' Project, University College Dublin, in collaboration with Dublin City University, wish to deploy the Marine Institute's R.V. Tom Crean to undertake a geophysical and sediment sampling survey off the south coast of Ireland to inform environmental and geological studies in relation to Blue Carbon potential of marine sediments.</p> <p>Multibeam echosounder and sub-bottom profiler data will be gathered to characterise the seabed to a depth of 10 m. Sediment samples will be collected for laboratory geochemical and geological analysis. Marine and seafloor monitoring equipment will be deployed to measure environmental conditions. Data acquired will feed into on-going PhD and Post Doctoral research under the QUEST Project at UCD and DCU. This research is also feeding into policy informing with regards to providing advice and data to the National Marine Planning Framework and Marine Protect Area processes.</p>
2.3	Describe the nature and scale of any structure to be erected in the maritime area.
	No structure will be erected as part of this survey work
2.4	Proposed licence duration
	Survey is proposed to take place between November 2024 and December 2025, with provisional dates of 26/11/2024 - 04/12/2024 and 10/12/2024 -15/12/2024.
2.5	Indicative timing of the works/activity: (i) Start date (ii) Duration (iii) Any other information relevant to timing.
	26/11/2024 - 04/12/2024 and 10/12/2024 -15/12/2024
2.6	Do the proposed maritime usages provide for public use, commercial use or private use? Provide details.
	Ultimately public use as it is part of a taxpayer-funded research project administered through the Marine Institute
2.7	Could the proposed works restrict public use/enjoyment of the nearshore e.g. fishing, sailing, surfing, swimming, walking or other activities? Provide details.
	No. The survey vessel in the area will, at times, have restricted manoeuvrability. If a fishing or sailing vessel moves into the vicinity of the survey vessel, contact will be made and a plan for avoidance of that vessel will be made.

2.8	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.
N/A	
2.9	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>We have engaged with the Marine Institute as the time onboard the R.V. Tom Crean is funded through their Ship time Programme</p> <p>We have had a pre-application consultation with MARA</p>	
2.10	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.
N/A	
2.11	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.
N/A	
2.12	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)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assessment of Impacts of the Maritime Usage Report 2. Supporting Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report 3. Annex IV Risk Assessment 4. Natura Impact Statement 	

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

3.1 Location of proposed Maritime Usage

The proposed Maritime Usage Licence area encompasses an area from approximately 6 km outside of Cork Harbour, and 26 km east to Dungarvan, out to the 90 m contour at the border of the EEZ with the UK (Figure 1).

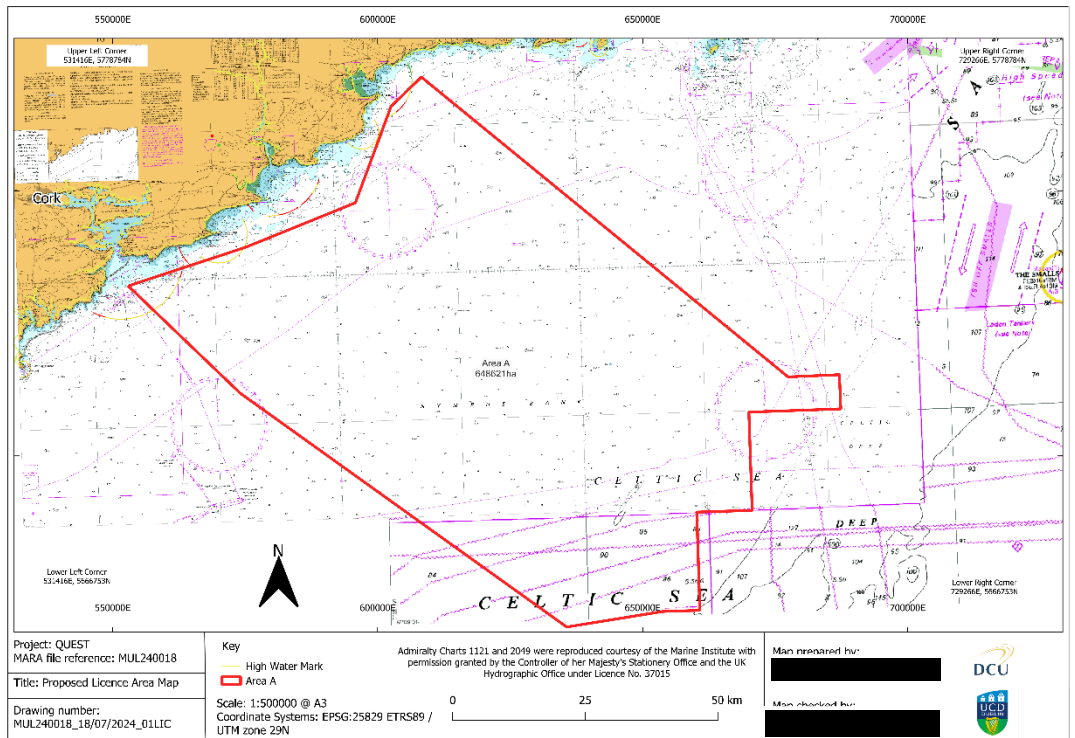


Figure 1 Survey location

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

6486.21 km²

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

The proposed license area is approximately 1.2 km from shore at the closest point

3.4 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

3.5 Any other site details considered relevant:

N/A

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 submit GIS Shapefiles, in accordance with the Applicant Technical Guidance Note and submit same with this application.
4.3	Please list any Admiralty Charts, Maps, GIS Shapefiles and/or other Drawings submitted with this application.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposed License Area Map 2. Shapefile of the proposed license area submitted with this application are overlaid on Admiralty chart no 1123 2049 and 2424 	

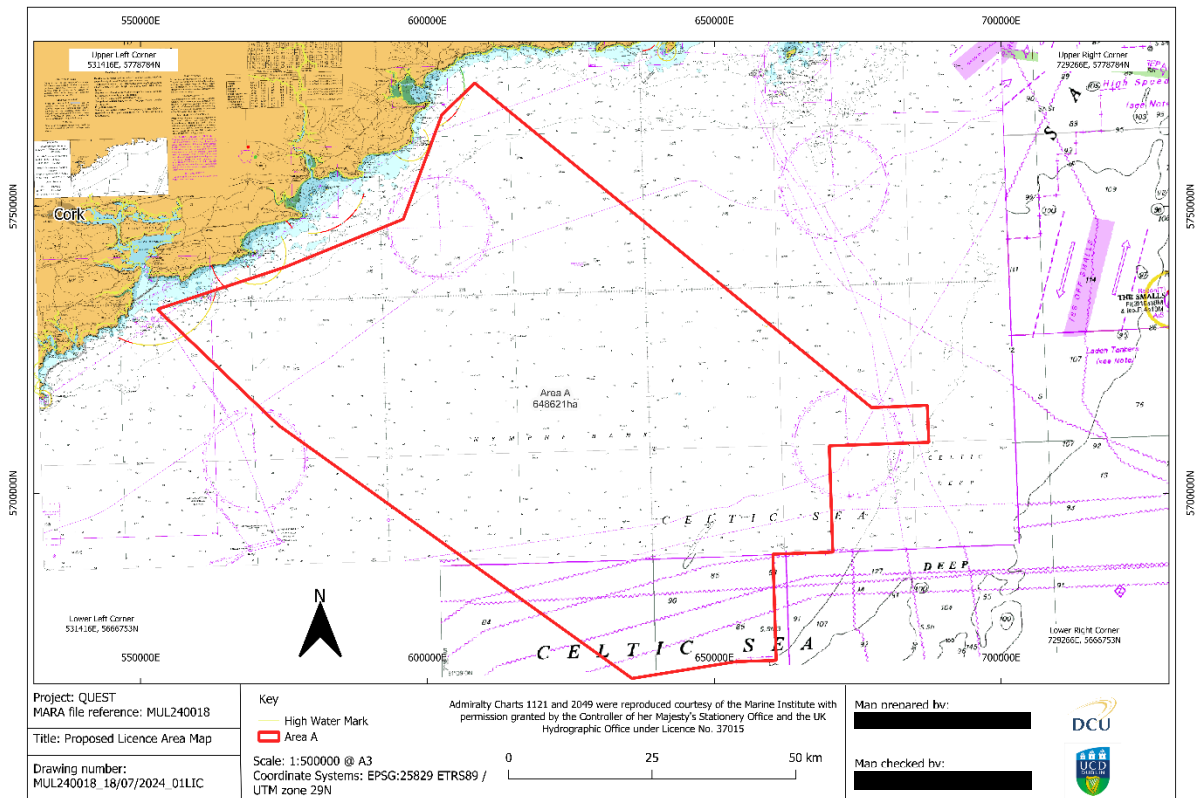


Figure 2 Proposed Licence Area Map

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.

The scope of the survey and its timing (November/December) do not pose any issue with spawning or nursery areas of commercial fish species.

While the License Application Area does overlap spatially with known spawning/nursery grounds for *Nephrops norvegicus*, the survey timing does not coincide with any spawning.

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

The main focus of this proposed survey is to map areas of Blue Carbon potential using:

1. High frequency acoustic and geophysical techniques (i.e. multibeam echosounder, acoustic Doppler current profiler and sub-bottom profiler), and;
2. Shallow (<6m) sediment sampling equipment.

Fish and shellfish species can be sensitive to changes in their environments in terms of noise and sediment plumes.

However, given the high-frequency nature of the equipment to be used in this proposed survey it is highly-unlikely to pose a potential impact. Similarly, the small footprint (< 0.5m) and shallow (<6m) nature of the proposed sampling equipment, coupled with the quick recovery, is highly-unlikely to generate significant sediment plumes.

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

In the absence of clear technical guidelines, none can be suggested. However, the consultation and liaison process with the fishing industry will be important because of its concerns as to potential impacts.

Declaration and Consent:

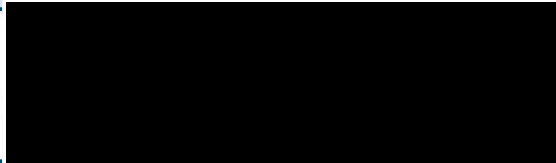
The details provided here are correct to the best of my knowledge.

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:

	
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Name of Signatory (block letters):

MARK COUGHLAN

Position Held:

Assistant Professor

Date:

23rd July 2024

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"/>
Schedule of Works	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Licence Mapping (including GIS Shapefiles)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please list below)	

Other