

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)	[REDACTED]
Company/Organisation (if applicable)	University College Dublin
Address/Company Address	UCD O'Brien Centre for Science School of Biology and Environmental Science, Belfield, Dublin 4
Eircode/Postcode	D04 V1W8
Contact Name within Company/Organisation	[REDACTED]
Contact Phone No.	[REDACTED]
Contact Email Address	[REDACTED]@ucd.ie
Is the company registered in Ireland for tax purposes?	Yes, University College Dublin (UCD), is registered in Ireland for tax purposes.

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	N/A
Address	
Eircode/Postcode	
Contact Name (if applicable)	
Contact Phone No.	
Contact Email address	

1.4 Applicant's Legal Advisor (if applicable)	
Name/Company Name	University College Dublin - Corporate Legal Affairs Office
Address	Roebuck Castle University College Dublin Belfield, Dublin 4. Ireland
Eircode/Postcode	
Contact Name (if applicable)	
Contact Phone No.	
Contact Email address	

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.

n/a

2.2 Description of proposed Maritime Usage.

Introduction of native oysters (*Ostrea edulis*) into nearshore sites along with eco-engineered habitat units and appropriate substrate as part of a 4-year PhD research project funded by the Irish Research Council at University College Dublin (See Attached Project Proposal)

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

At each site, oysters will be deployed on beds of cultch (oyster shell) in 12 replicated 5 m² areas, lobster pots seeded with live native oysters and shell on a bed of cultch, and oyster castles made of a low pH cement and builders sand mix also on a bed of cultch. None of these structures will exceed the dimensions of a 0.6 m³ volume (see fig 2.5 in Dublin Bay Oyster Restoration Project AIMU document)

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

Start date: January 2025 and will be an ongoing research project for 4 years.

2.5 Do the proposed maritime usages provide for public use, commercial use or private use? Provide details.

N/A works to be utilized for research purposes only by UCD research staff and students. Publications where possible will be made publicly available as and when disseminated as part of the PhD candidacy process.

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.

This research will have minimal disturbance with regards to the marine environment and coastal erosion. All structures put into the water in association with this project will be clearly marked with warning signs/ navigation buoys to avoid disturbance to any fishing or recreational activities.

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.

Small fishing vessels may potentially be impacted alongside recreational boaters and kayakers. Effects planned to be mitigated with proper signage and warning navigation buoys at the locations of the subtidal structures. Permissions from all marina managers, harbor masters and coastal stakeholders have been/will be obtained prior to initiation of the project.

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.

All relevant local authorities have been consulted alongside the Marine Institute and Fish Health Unit to ensure proper shellfish movement permissions and biosecurity protocols are in place.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) were consulted in relation to species and sites of conservation interest. The National Biological Data Centre (NBDC) (Appendix II) and Irish Whale and Dolphin Group (IWDG) records were consulted for species of conservation significance. (AIMU Section 7.1.2, p.14)

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.

n/a



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 license relate to or impact any part of the maritime area the subject of this license application? If so, please provide details of the foreshore license application.

n/a

**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)**

**Assessments of Impacts of the Marine Usage Report (AIMUR)
Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species
Natura Impact Statement – Information for a Stage 2 (Natura Impact Statement) AA
Supporting Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment 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).

Total area of 200 hectares across all sites will be assessed for plot locations. Sites chosen will be narrowed down within the study area based on environmental data collected, to ~ 42 hectares (~ 6 hectares per site). Within these areas at each of the project sites, twelve 5m² plots of cultch and artificial reef method with oysters will be deployed at ~ 1m below low water levels; each of these plots will contain three structures (i.e. Oyster castles). It is initially planned to deploy oyster reef plots in Rogerstown Estuary, Malahide Estuary, off Ireland's Eye, Sutton, east of Dublin Port (Tolka), Dun Laoghaire, and Dalkey Island (Killiney).

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

This projects will span multiple sites the closest point to shore at any of the sites is 0.15km (Rogerstown Estuary), with the closest point of the furthest sites being 1.6km (off Ireland's eye)

Sutton: 0.15km
Malahide: 0.2km
Dun Laoghaire: 0.4km
Dalkey Island: 0.6km
Tolka: 0.3km
Rogerstown: 0.15km
Ireland's Eye: 1.6km

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).

The maritime area within all the proposed sites is in state ownership

3.4 Any other site details considered relevant:

Specific sites have been selected within the proposed study area to deploy the oyster castle structures based on substrate type and other environmental factors (e.g. depth, flow velocity).

<p>Part 4: Maps and Drawings. Please refer to Technical Guidance on map and drawing requirements.</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>4.2 Please list any Admiralty Charts, Maps and/or other Drawings submitted with this application.</p>
<p>4.1 License Map attached with other relevant documents as part of application</p> <p>4.2 Relevant Admiralty Charts and maps are included in attached Assessments of Impacts of the Marine Usage Report (AIMUR)</p>

<p>Part 5: Fishing/Aquaculture Considerations:</p>
<p>5.1 Is the proposal located in proximity to any of the following: • aquaculture operation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • designated Shellfish Growing Waters • fish spawning ground • other sensitive fisheries location <p>Please Illustrate on appropriate chart including distance in Km.</p>
<p>The project will occur in proximity with several fishery spawning grounds and nurseries. However these areas span over large areas along and off the east, northeast and Southeast coasts of Ireland, and so any disturbances to spawning activities due to the proposed artificial oyster reef plots during installation, operation and removal would not be significant. See attached documentation for full list of species and risk assessments (AIMUR Section 8, p. 63) (AIMUR fig 8.1-8.16, p. 66-81)</p>

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

n/a

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

“The proposed artificial oyster reef plots and associated activities should not result in the direct mortality of any fish species due to the small scale and mainly sedentary nature of the reef plots. The risk of insignificant short-term disturbance to known fish spawning areas through which the proposed plots are located is highest from February through June. Therefore, the time frames for which activities associated with the proposed project would least impact known fish spawning activities are July through January. Additionally, engagement with fisheries representatives and fleets should be sought to mitigate overlap with fishing activities to prevent any potential risk to either the proposed reefs or fishing vessels. No significant impacts on fish nursery areas are predicted.”

(AIMUR Section 8.4, p. 64)

Declaration and Consent:

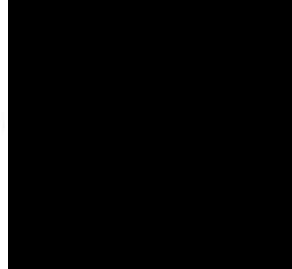
The details provided here are correct to the best of my knowledge.

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.

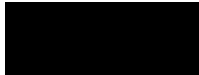
By submitting this application form, the applicant agrees that the details provided (with personal contact details redacted) are to be published on MARA's website and also that the full information provided including contact details are to be processed and retained by MARA and shared with all relevant 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):



Position Held: Assistant Professor/Lecturer

Date: 18/11/2024

Applicant Checklist	
Document	Included
Application Form (Parts 2 to 5 inclusive)	X
Supporting Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment (SISAA) Report	X
Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species Report	X
Natura Impact Statement (NIS), if initially included	X
Assessment of Impact of the Maritime Usage (AIMU) Report	X
Licence Mapping	X
Other (Please list below)	GIS files: LIC230032.cpg, LIC230032.dbf, LIC230032.prj, LIC230032.sbn, LIC230032.shp, LIC230032.shp, LIC230032.shx