

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)	██████████ (on behalf of University College Cork)
Company/Organisation (if applicable)	University College Cork
Address/Company Address	UCC Department of Geography, College Rd, University College, Cork, Ireland
Eircode/Postcode	T12 HY8E
Contact Name within Company/Organisation	██████████
Contact Phone No.	██████████
Contact Email Address	██████████@ucc.ie
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 ‘Systematic environmental mapping of Irish wrecks and reefs’ (SEMI-WARE), the University College Cork, wishes to deploy the Marine Institute’s R.V. <i>Celtic Explorer</i> to conduct systematic, non-invasive seabed monitoring surveys at the Moira Mounds area and additional geophysical and sediment sampling surveys at the localities of three shipwreck sites (namely, SS Miami, HMS Alyssum, and U-58). The data collected as part of the SEMI-WARE survey campaign, will form the basis of the I-PoiNt and Moira Mounds Monitoring projects, which are funded by the Marine Institute and Irish Research Council, respectively, and will facilitate additional scientific research to be conducted by students of all levels. The SEMI-WARE project requires a Marine Usage Licence (MUL) from MARA to conduct systematic, non-invasive seabed monitoring surveys at the Moira Mounds where the production of Multibeam echosounder (MBES), Side-Scan-Sonar (SSS), Magnetometer (MAG) and ROV video-photography data seek to build on a considerable body of background research and data focussed, the aim being to shed new insights into their preservation state since being last surveyed by the applicant and his team back in 2020. The geophysical surveys and sediment samples (day grabs) carried out at the localities of the selected shipwreck sites, will provide information on the seafloor geology, broader seafloor conditions and state of shipwrecks sites, with the data produced pertaining to additional insights around the character, preservation state and the potential pollution effect that these shipwrecks have to the adjacent marine environment.</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
The proposed marine survey activities of SEMI-WARE will take place at some point between April 2025 and May 2025, depending on the R.V. <i>Celtic Explorer</i> availability and schedule.	
2,5	Indicative timing of the works/activity: (i) Start date (ii) Duration (iii) Any other information relevant to timing.
The SEMI-WARE survey activities are estimated to last for 10 days in total, including 1 days of mobilization and 1 day demobilization, out of which 8 days will be spent offshore carrying out the proposed work-scope activities. Details of the proposed survey activities are provided in the Schedule of Work report.	
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	<p>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>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 accordingly.</p>	
2.8	<p>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>N/A</p>	
2.9	<p>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>We have engaged with the Marine Institute as the time onboard the R.V. <i>Celtic Explorer</i> is funded through their Ship-time Programme.</p> <p>We have had a pre-application consultation with MARA.</p> <p>We have also applied for permitting at the National Monuments Service of Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage since part of the proposed work-scope activities involves geophysical surveys and sediment sampling at the localities of three shipwreck sites.</p> <p>We are also in the process of applying for a licence to conduct marine scientific research in a Deep Water SAC. This licence will be obtained from NPWS via Dr David Lyons.</p>	
2.10	<p>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.</p>
<p>N/A</p>	
2.11	<p>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.</p>
<p>N/A</p>	
2.12	<p>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)</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supporting Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report 2. Assessment of Impacts of the Maritime Usage Report which includes an assessment of conformity under the WFD and MSFD and an assessment of consistency with the NMPF 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 survey activities will be carried out at four different localities, with Figures 1 and 2 providing insights in regard to the areas subject to surveying and pending approval by the competent authority.

For the three shipwreck sites —namely, SS Miami, HMS Alyssum, and U-58— a survey coverage of 100 m x 100 m is to be conducted at each site, surveying the sites in their entirety and their adjacent immediate vicinity, at water depths ranging between 72 m to 81 m (Figure 2), accounting for a total of 10,000 m² at each site and a grand total of 30,000 m² for all selected shipwreck sites.

For the surveys conducted at the Moira Mounds an area of 10 km x 15 km is proposed to be subject to survey coverage at a water depth ranging from 800 m to 1200 m (Figure 1), pertaining to a total survey coverage of 54,540 m².

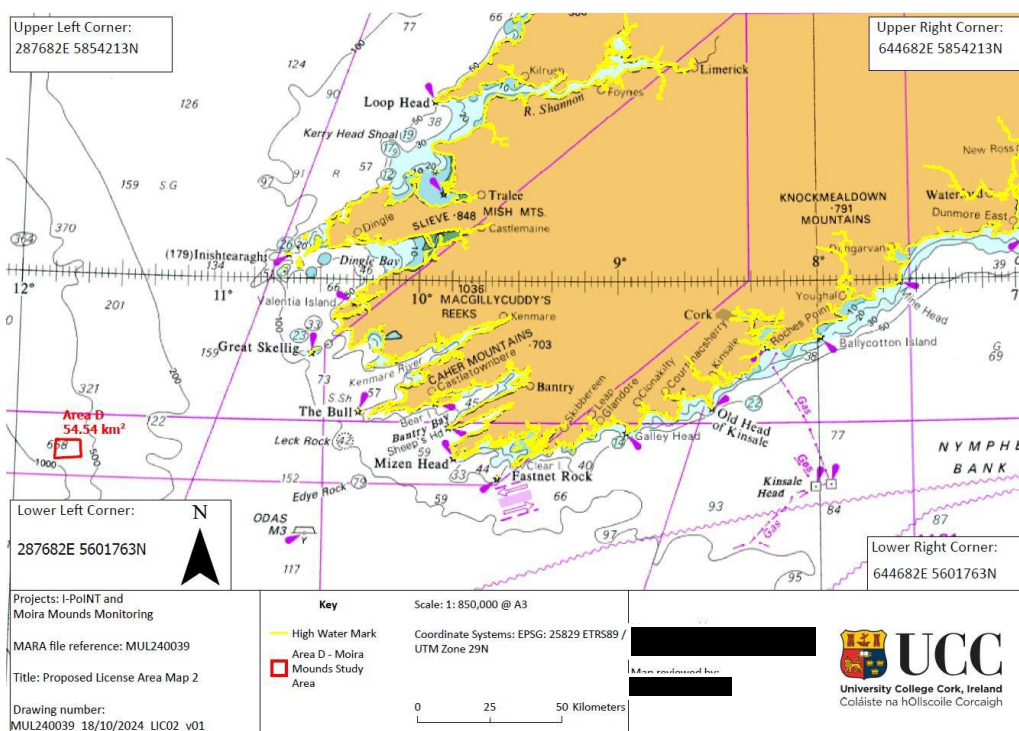


Figure 1: Overview of proposed area of survey of Moira Mounds

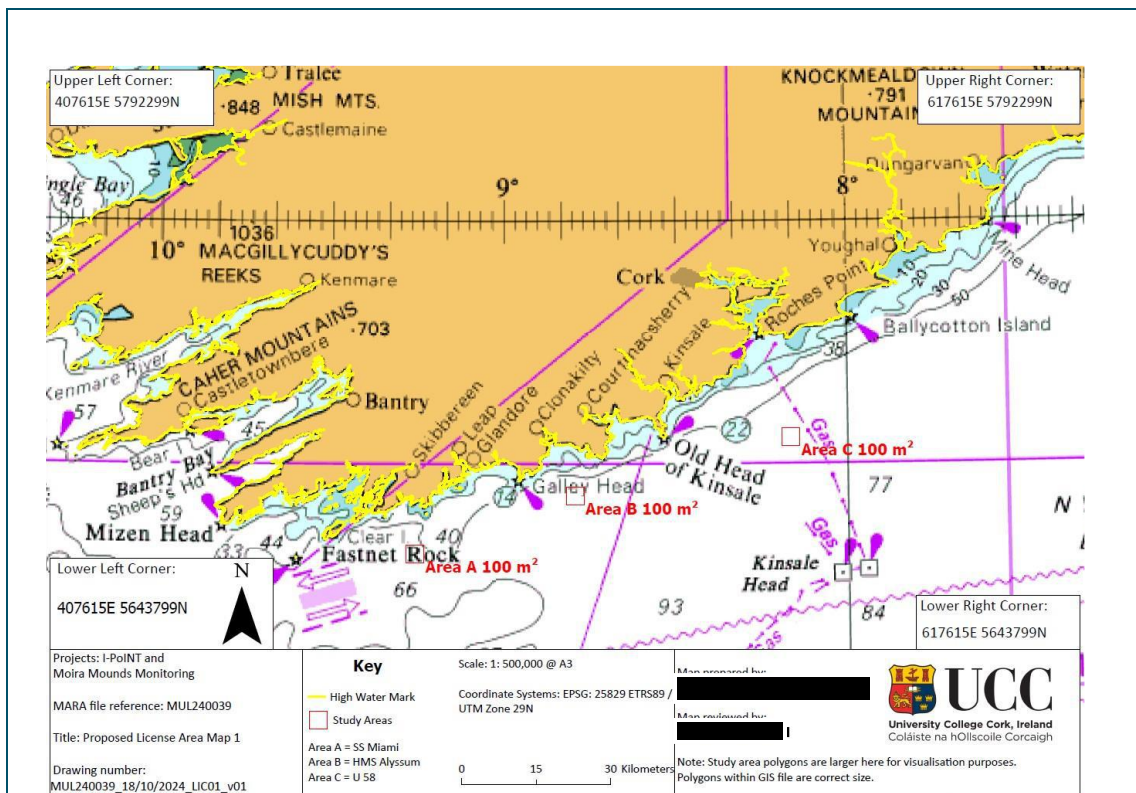


Figure 2: Overview of proposed shipwreck sites subject to survey

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

84,540 m²

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 areas in proximity to shore are as follow:

1. Shipwreck site of SS Miami is 9,42 km
2. Shipwreck site of HMS Alyssum is 10,37 km
3. Shipwreck site of U-58 is 17.38 km
4. Moira Mounds is 99,65 km

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"> Proposed License Area Maps (Figure 3 and 4) Shapefile of the proposed license areas submitted with this application are overlaid on Admiralty chart no. 0002-0_W. 	

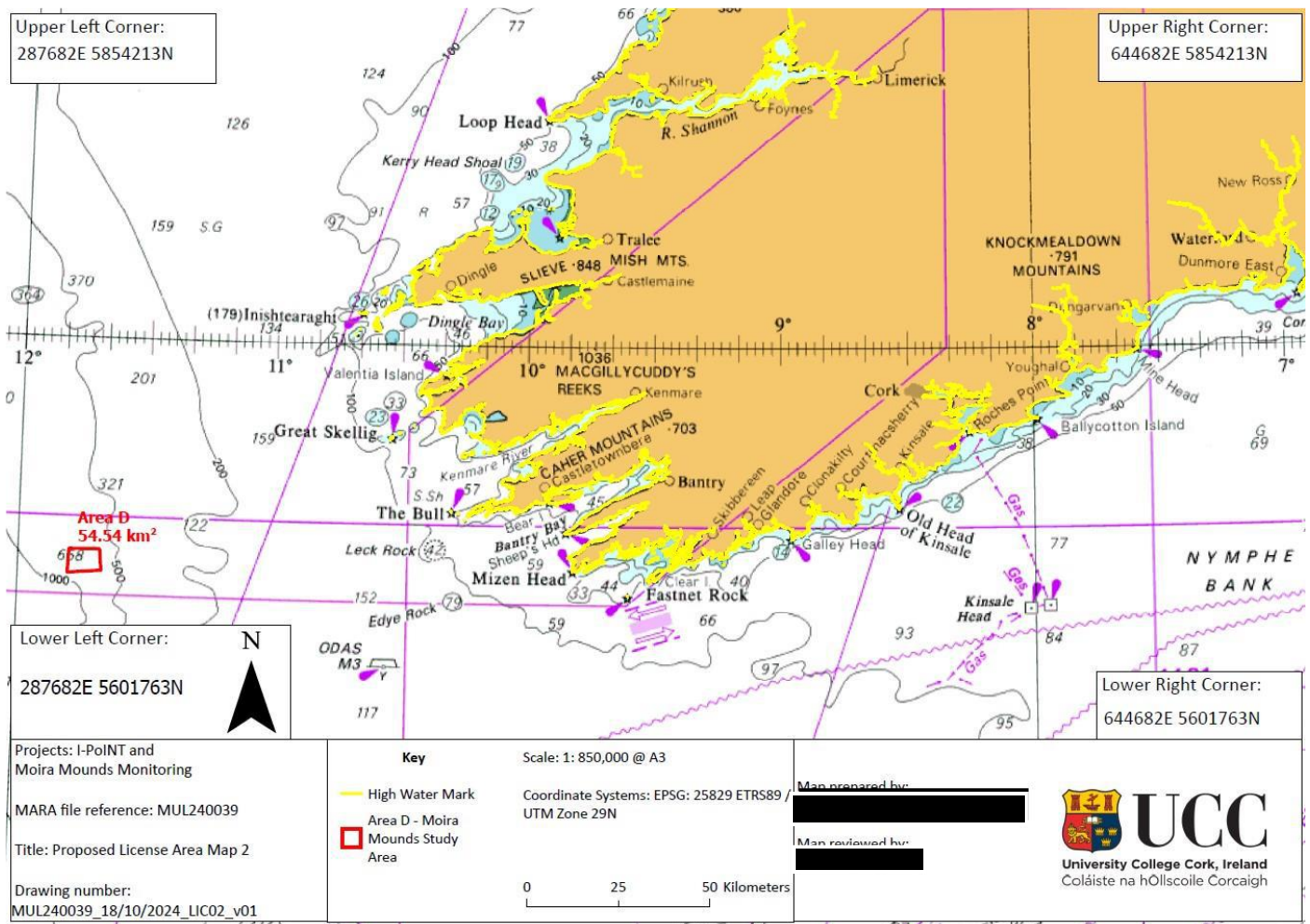


Figure 3 Proposed Licence Areas for Moira Mounds survey

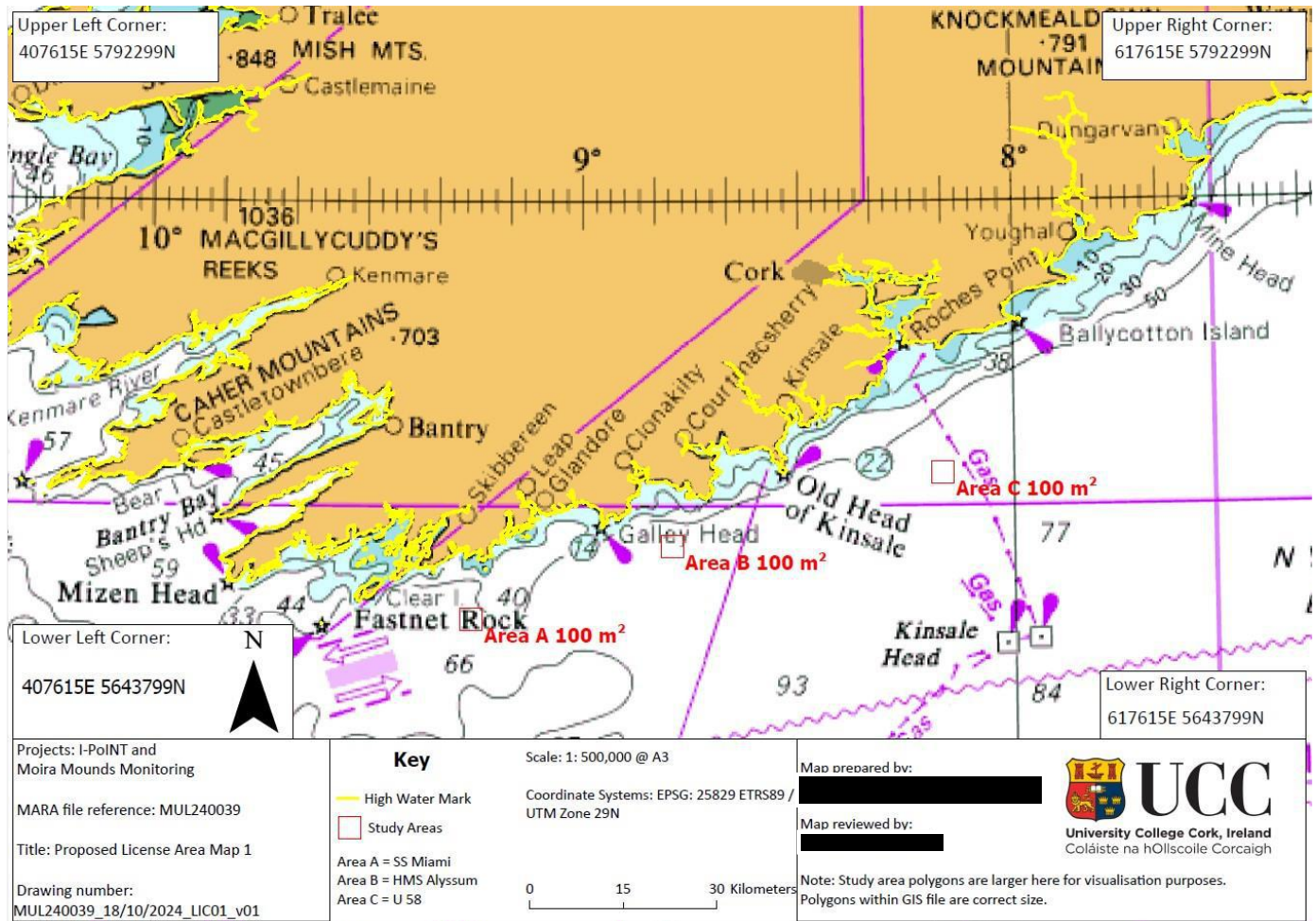


Figure 4 Proposed Licence Areas for shipwreck sites

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.

There is no overlap among licensed aquaculture sites or designated Shellfish Growing Waters and the proposed study sites. All sites are inshore, >20 km from the shipwreck sites.

The scope of the survey and its timing (April/May) 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 designated spawning season.

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

The main focus of the proposed surveys is to retrieve sediments samples and collect geophysical and ROV video-photography data at the localities of three shipwreck sites; and conduct geophysical and ROV video-photography surveys at the Moira Mounds. For this reason:

1. High frequency acoustic and geophysical techniques such as multibeam echosounder (MBES), Acoustic Doppler Current Profile (ADCP), Side-Scan-Sonar (SSS) and Ultra-Short-Baseline (USBL) will be utilised;
2. As well as shallow (<0.25 m) sediment samples will be collected via day grabs.

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 (< 0.25m) 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:

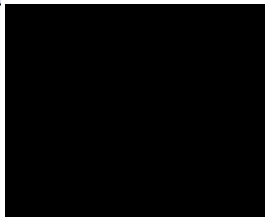
The details provided here are correct to the best of my knowledge.

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):

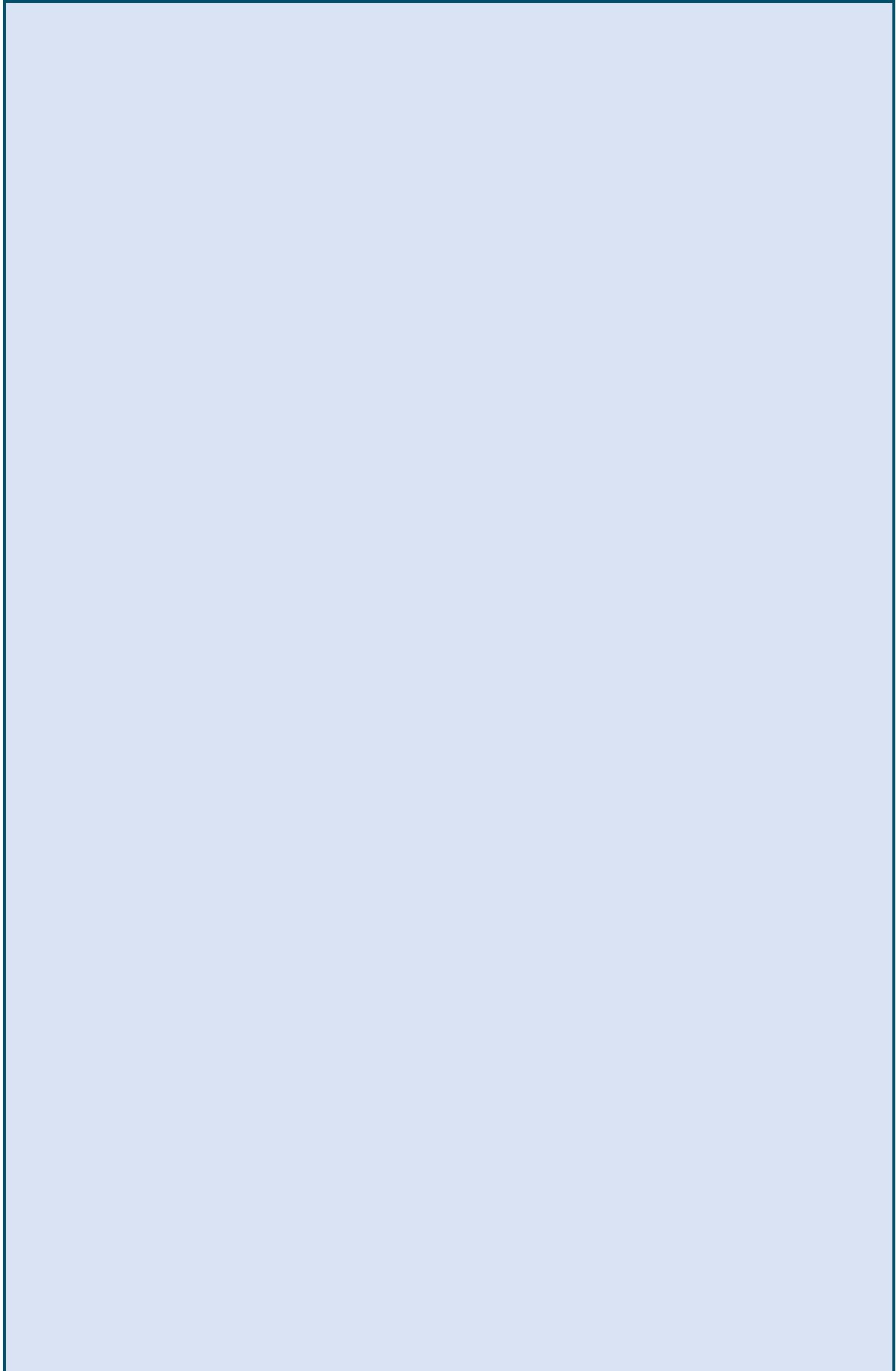


Position Held:

Lecturer

Date:

18.11.2024



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

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