

## 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. 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  
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)	MARUM – Center for Marine Environmental Sciences
Company/Organisation (if applicable)	University of Bremen
Address/Company Address	MARUM - Centre for Marine Environmental Sciences University of Bremen Leobener Str. 8 28359 Bremen (Germany)
Eircode/Postcode	
Contact Name within Company/Organisation	██████████
Contact Phone No.	██████████
Contact Email Address	██████████
Is the company registered in Ireland for tax purposes?	No, in Germany.

1.2 Contact Details (if different from above)	
Full Name	██████████
Address	Faculty of Geosciences, University of Bremen Klagenfurter Strasse 2-4, 28539, Bremen (Germany)
Eircode/Postcode	28359
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	

<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>	

<b><u>Part 2: Proposal Details (Attach additional documents as required)</u></b>	
<b>2.1</b>	<b>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.</b>
	No.
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Specify the Maritime Usage(s) being applied for with reference to Schedule 7 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 as amended:</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Marine environmental survey for the purpose of scientific discovery or research.</li> <li>- The deposit, construction or removal of any mooring not requiring authorisation under any other enactment.</li> </ul>
<b>2.3</b>	<b>Description of proposed Maritime Usage.</b>
	<p>The research survey (MSM136 – LONTRA – Along- and across-slope transport of organic matter and sediment off western Ireland) organised by members of groups from MARUM at the University of Bremen and Alfred-Wegener-Institute (Germany) in collaboration with the University College Cork (Ireland) will perform multidisciplinary marine investigations to study the dynamics of particles in the water column and to the seafloor from the Irish shelf to the deep part of the Rockall Trough. We will focus on the oceanographic processes that control the transport and resuspension of particles (of natural and anthropogenic origin), on the formation of particles, the transformation of organic matter and carbon export to the deep ocean off western Ireland. We plan to deploy a benthic lander and a mooring on the continental slope to measure the oceanographic processes that control sediment transport and resuspension. Further information on currents and water masses will be obtained from vessel-mounted Acoustic Doppler Profilers (ADCP), temperature and salinity measurements (CTD) and lowered ADCP mounted on the CTD rosette. The water column and the seafloor and sub-seafloor will be imaged using the multibeam echosounder and the sediment echosounder ParaSound in order to identify the main layers of sediment in suspension (i.e., nepheloid layers), as well as the zones of erosion and sediment accumulation. Free-drifting sediment traps will be deployed to study the short-term variability of mass fluxes, turnover and transformation of organic settling aggregates. Pelagic sampling will include in situ pumps, marine snow catchers, in situ camera systems, and vertical plankton net hauls. Sediment samples will be collected using a multi corer and a sediment grab. The results of the proposed cruise will help to improve our understanding on the processes that control carbon export and burial in the open ocean, and it will also provide crucial insights into benthic nutrient turnover and environmental proxy signals.</p>
<b>2.4</b>	<b>Describe the nature and scale of any structure to be erected in the maritime area.</b>
	No structure will be erected as part of this research cruise. Only the weights of the mooring and the lander will remain in the seafloor, which are made of metal and have a very minor impact. They will not be deployed in the Porcupine Shelf Marine Special Area of Conservation.
<b>2.5</b>	<b>Proposed licence duration and reasons for proposed duration</b>
	The proposed duration of the licence is 18 days, which is the length of the research cruise and the transit time.
<b>2.6</b>	<b>Indicative timing of the works/activity: (i) Start date (ii) Duration (iii) Any other information relevant to timing.</b>

<p>The research cruise is now scheduled between the 20th of April 2025 and the 7th of May 2025 on the German research vessel MARIA S. MERIAN.</p>
<p><b>2.7 Do the proposed maritime usages provide for public use, commercial use or private use? Provide details.</b></p>
<p>The data acquired during the research cruise will be all publicly available and will be also directly shared on board with our partners from the University College of Cork and with the Irish governmental agencies.</p>
<p><b>2.8 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>No, the proposed area is located offshore, at least more than 24 km away from the closest shoreline.</p>
<p><b>2.9 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>N/A</p>
<p><b>2.10 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>We have had a pre-application consultation with MARA.</p>
<p><b>2.11 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>None</p>
<p><b>2.12 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>None</p>
<p><b>2.13 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)</b></p>
<p>Attached to the application are a Supporting information for screening for Appropriate Assessment (SISAA) report, a Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species and an Assessment of Impact on the Maritime Usage (AIMU) report.</p>

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

### 3.1 Location of proposed Maritime Usage

The proposed area of Maritime Usage is located in the Irish economic exclusive zone, west of Galway, in a zone that comprises the continental shelf, continental slope and Rockall Trough, north of the Porcupine Bank (Figure 1). Station work comprising water and sediment sampling will be only take place outside of the Porcupine Shelf Marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Only two transits with hydroacoustic systems activated (multibeam echosounder, sub-bottom profiler and acoustic Doppler current profiler) is planned across-slope crossing the narrowest part of the SAC.

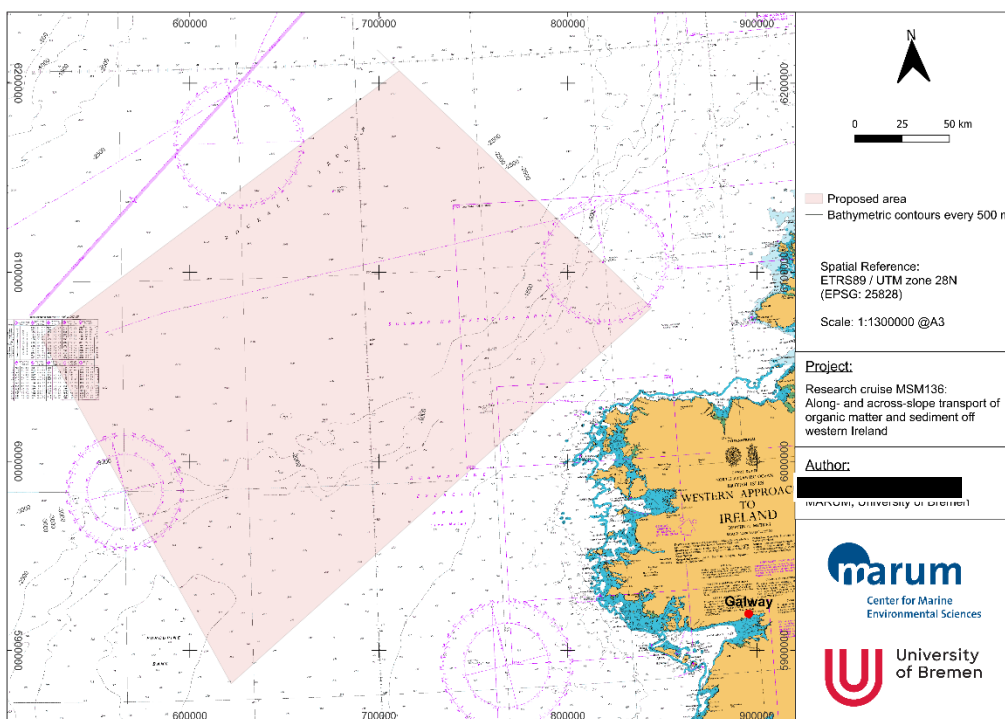


Figure 1. Location of the proposed area.

### 3.2 Total size of the proposed Maritime Area (in m<sup>2</sup>, ha or km<sup>2</sup>, as appropriate).

51696 km<sup>2</sup>

### 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 closes point is 24 km away from the shore, from the Eagle Island.

### 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:

Part of the proposed area is in the Porcupine Shelf Marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC). However, no sampling stations will be carried out within the SAC.

**Part 4: Maps and Drawings.**

Please refer to [Technical Guidance](#) on map and drawing requirements.

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| 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.  |

**1. Proposed Licence Area Map**

**2. The shapefile of the proposed licence area submitted with this application is overlaid on chart numbers 1125 and 1126.**

## 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.**

- Our proposed area is located offshore and thus not affect any aquaculture operation.
- Our proposed maritime area overlaps following spawning and nursery groups: megrim spawning and nursery grounds (shelf), Atlantic mackerel nursery grounds (shelf) and spawning ground (shelf and slope), horse mackerel spawning and nursery grounds (shelf and upper slope), white belly angler monk nursery ground (shelf and upper slope), blue whiting nursery and spawning grounds (from shelf to Rockall Trough) (Figure 2). Since our planned activities are very local (surface sediment sampling using multi cores and Van Veen grabs) and will last only some hours so maximum 7 days (in the case of the mooring and lander), we do not expect any impact on the fisheries.



Figure 2. Map showing the location of the proposed maritime area (red box) and the areas of nursery and spawning grounds for different species that overlap with the proposed area.

- Our proposed area overlaps a zone of pot fishing. We will pay attention to any deployed fishing gear, we will try to avoid the areas used for fishing and will move our stations if it is necessary to avoid any perturbation of the fishing activities.

The SISAA demonstrated that proposed project did not have the potential for impact on any Annex II fish species. More information is provided in the AIMU and SISAA reports.

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

- The hydroacoustic systems (multibeam echosounder, sub-bottom profiler and acoustic Doppler current profiler) use high frequencies, and thus are not expected to pose any potential hazards to fish or shellfish.
- The sediment sampling equipment has a small footprint (<0.5 m in diameter and <0.5 m in depth). Therefore, the impact on benthic communities would be minimal. This sampling methods could create some sediment plumes, but we expect them to be small due to the small size of the sampling devices.
- The mooring and the lander have also a relatively small footprint (<2 m) and thus a minimal impact on the seafloor.



- The methods that we will use for sampling in the water column (Niskin bottle, plankton haul, drifting trap and in situ pump) are used for small water samples and small particles in the water column, and do not affect fish.

No impacts projected – see AIMU and SISAA reports.

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

As stated above, we will adapt our survey to avoid any potential disturbance of fishing activities.

## 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):

	
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### Position Held:

Professor
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### Date:

04/11/2024
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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 type="checkbox"/>
Assessment of Impact of the Maritime Usage (AIMU) Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schedule of Works	<input type="checkbox"/>
Licence Mapping (including GIS Shapefiles)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please list below)	

<b>Other</b>