

From: [MARA Consultation](#)
To: [Licensing Staff](#)
Subject: RE: Reg No S0005-03, Dumping at Sea Permit Application by Department of Defence - Haulbowline Naval Base
Date: Tuesday 23 September 2025 16:20:52
Attachments: [image006.png](#)
[MARA Submission EPA DAS S0005 03.pdf](#)

Good Afternoon,

I refer to the above and attach herewith submission on behalf of The Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA).

I would be obliged if you would acknowledge receipt of same.

Kind Regards,

Jennifer.

Jennifer O' Connor
Analyst
Assessment, Research and Data

☎ 053 – 910 5756 ✉ jennifer.oconnor@mara.gov.ie

An tÚdarás Rialála Limistéir Mhuirí (MARA)
Maritime Area Regulatory Authority

**An Dara Urlár, Teach Menapia, Páirc Gnó Dhraighní,
Draighneach, Loch Garman, Y35RF29.**

2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park,
Drinagh, Wexford, Y35RF29.



Environmental Licensing Programme,
Office of Environmental Sustainability,
Environmental Protection Agency,
Johnstown Castle Estate,
Co. Wexford

Email: licensing@epa.ie

Date: 23rd September 2025

Environmental Protection Agency Reference: Case Reference: S0005-03

Re: Dumping at Sea Permit Application from Department of Defence for Haulbowline Naval Base

Dear Sir/Madam,

I refer to the above and acknowledge receipt of the notice in relation to an Application for a Dumping at Sea Permit at Haulbowline Naval Base from Department of Defence.

The Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the Dumping at Sea permit application. MARA's functions extend to the entire maritime area, from high water of ordinary tides to the outer limit of the continental shelf, encompassing the State's territorial seas and Exclusive Economic Zone. Our comments relate only to activity within the maritime area. Our comments should not be interpreted as inferring any aspect of assessment of the permit application.

Maritime Usage Licences (MUL)

MARA is responsible for licensing maritime usage activities under Schedule 7 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (MAP Act) including navigational and maintenance dredging and depositing of any substance or object in the sea or on or under the seabed. Where the activity requires an Environmental Impact Assessment to be undertaken, the activity is regulated through the planning system.

Of relevance is the current application for a MUL **Reference No: MUL 230029** - Department of Defence - Haulbowline Naval Base – application made 14/05/2024. The proposed maritime usage is for maintenance dredging of the entrance channel and the southern part of the Graving Dock. Maintenance dredging of the basin and entrance channel takes place approximately every 5 to 6 years to ensure the safe navigation of the naval fleet in the Haulbowline Naval Base, with the last Maintenance dredging campaign performed in 2017. Please find the relevant application particulars linked here [MUL230029 - MARA - The Maritime Regulator](#).

Maritime Area Consent

MARA is not responsible for granting development permission (this function falls to An Bord Pleanála and the coastal planning authorities). It facilitates a streamlined consenting process for developers, and a route for developers to the planning system, by assessing applications for Maritime Area Consents (MACs) under the Maritime Area Planning (MAP) Act, 2021, as amended. In the case of the project the applicant may be required under Section 75 of the MAP Act to make an application to MARA for a MAC before submitting a planning permission for the project, should the relevant planning authority determine the project is not exempt from planning having regard to Section 4(1A)(d) of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended), by reason of Section 4(1B) and (1C), and a requirement for an environmental impact assessment and/or appropriate assessment of the development.

To assist in the assessment of the proposed, the following links to Maritime Area Consents, Maritime Usage Licences and Foreshore Act Consents may be of relevance for your consideration.

MAC Applications:

[Applications Received - MARA - The Maritime Regulator](#)

[Applications Determined - MARA - The Maritime Regulator](#)

Maritime Usage Licences:

[Applications - MARA - The Maritime Regulator](#)

[Applications Determined - MARA - The Maritime Regulator](#)

Foreshore:

[Foreshore Applications - MARA - The Maritime Regulator](#)

Foreshore:

[gov - Foreshore Notices \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie/ForeshoreNotices)

The GIS Data Download section of the MARA website has been updated with a Web Feature Service (WFS) for newly 'Determined' applications in ESRI Shapefile format: <https://www.maritimeregulator.ie/knowledge-centre/data-downloads/>.

Having regard to the nature of the application the Environmental Protection Agency is the appropriate body under the legislation to assess the wider environmental issues associated with this application, MARA has no further observations to make in this regard.

The making of submissions or observations by the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority shall not prejudice the performance by it or any of its other functions.

address:

An tÚdarás Rialála Limistéir Mhuirí / Maritime Area Regulatory Authority
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email:

info@mara.gov.ie

website:

www.maritimeregulator.ie

If you have any queries or require further information in relation to this matter, please contact the undersigned in the Assessment, Research and Data Unit of MARA directly. I would be grateful if receipt of this correspondence, could be formally acknowledged by email to the following consultation@mara.gov.ie .

Yours sincerely,



Niamh Lennon
Senior Marine Planning Advisor
Assessment, Research and Data Unit

address:

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