

Deposit of Dredged Material in the Territorial Sea and Controlled Waters Adjacent to Northern Ireland

Marine Licensing

Important: before completing this form, please read these notes carefully.

The following numbered paragraphs correspond to the questions on the application form and are intended to assist applicants in completing the form. These explanatory notes are specific to this application and so applicants are advised to read these in conjunction with the General Marine Licensing Guidance document. However it may be that these notes do not fully cover all the questions that you may have. If further clarification is needed please telephone us on

02890 569247 or email

MarineLicensingTeam@daera-ni.gov.uk

For fees categories please see Marine Licensing Fees Addendum

For further Guidance please refer to Marine Licensing Guidance for Applicants

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. Project Title

Enter the name of the project.

If proposing a sediment disposal outside a designated disposal sites you must indicate the location of the disposal operation using Latitude and Longitude co-ordinates in degrees and minutes to one decimal point of a minute.

Attachments required.

You must provide a red line diagram of the proposed disposal location on an admiralty chart.

2. Applicant

The person, company or organisation making the application. (The licensee will be the contractor actually carrying out the disposal activity).

3. Agent

Any person, company or organisation involved in the operations. For example, they may be engaged to act under contract or other agreement on behalf of any party listed in the answer to questions 2-4 and having responsibility for the control, management or deposit anywhere below the tidal limit of mean high water springs (MHWS). (e.g. a consultant submitting the application.)

4. Details of Current/Previous Licence

Enter the appropriate details for the current sea disposal licence. If you have previously held a licence in respect of this operation, but no current licence exists, please provide the details for the most recently expired licence. If you have no knowledge of any previous licence, please enter "not applicable" (or "N/A").

5. Duration of Sea Disposal Operation

Details of the proposed commencement and completion dates of the operation should be included. A licence will normally be valid for 12 months.

6. Details of Disposal Vessel(s)

The name, operator and type of vessel being used for the disposal operation should be entered. If vessel details are not available at the time of application, please indicate this on the form as these details will be included within a licence.

7. Method Statement

Please include a full method statement of the disposal operation. This should include details of proposed frequency of disposal trips per day, average estimated time from dredge site to licensed sea disposal site.

8. Description of Material for Sea Disposal

The applicant should indicate the following:

- Amount of material to be disposed of in metric tonnes. A conversion factor of 1.4 tonnes/m³ should be used for maintenance dredge and 1.6 tonnes/m³ for capital dredge material.
- Type of Material: whether the material is considered to be 'capital' or 'maintenance'
 - Capital: material from an area to be dredged down to a level not previously dredged during the preceding 10 years.
 - Maintenance: unconsolidated material which has been removed to maintain existing charted depths for navigational purposes.

- Nature of Material. Please provide a description of where the dredge material has originated, e.g. river bed, sea, harbour, approach channel, estuary.
- Description of where the dredged material has originated (Lat/Long, depth of material removed, date last dredged)

9. Chemical Analysis of Material to be Disposed of at Sea

Please indicate whether material from the localised area has been chemically analysed within the past 3 years, if yes provide details (locations, dates and laboratory that carried out the analysis). Please provide results on separate sheets. Please note that any delay in providing analysis results is liable to extend the time required to consider your application.

If the material has not been chemically analysed within the previous 3 years, contact should be made with DoE Marine Division. Marine Division will provide details of number of samples to be lifted, sample points and depth of samples. Analysis requirements attached as Appendix I.

10. Construction/Land Reclamation Projects

Please indicate in the answer to this question if the deposit of dredgings is associated with any other project involving the placement of material in the sea (e.g. beach nourishment, marine/harbour construction operations, land reclamation, installation of outfalls etc.) If this is the case, please indicate if a separate Marine Construction/Land Reclamation/Beach Replenishment licence application has been made.

11. Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO)

Please give a very brief summary of the conclusions drawn in the BPEO assessment. Please note that sea disposal licence applications will not be considered unless they are accompanied by such an assessment. All options in the BPEO should be explored fully (as per the guidance document), otherwise your application form and BPEO may be returned to you thereby delaying the processing of the application. See Appendix II for BPEO Assessment and guidance.

12. Consultation with Conservation Bodies

Consenting authorities have a duty to ensure that any operations will not have a significant adverse environmental impact, particularly upon designated conservation areas (e.g. Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs)/Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA)/RAMSAR sites etc) listed under The

Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007.

If the applicant (particularly if they have statutory powers for consenting aspects of these works) has already been in consultation with the appropriate nature conservation body – NIEA, Natural Environment Division, please supply any response that they may have given.

13. Designated Conservation Areas

Indicate whether the proposed works are located within or close to the boundaries of a conservation area such as an ASSI, MCZ, SAC, SPA or Ramsar Site.

14. Statutory Consenting Powers

Please describe in the answer to this question what (if any) statutory responsibilities you (or your client) have to consent any aspect of the sea disposal operations. This is particularly likely to apply to harbour or local authorities.

15. Environmental Assessment

Please indicate whether any environmental assessment has been carried out in respect of the proposed sea disposal operations, either under your own powers or as required by another authority. If such an assessment has been undertaken, please indicate if a copy has been provided with your application. If the statement/assessment has been completed but is not available, please provide an explanation in the box provided.

Additionally please also give detail regarding if and where a copy has been made/is being made available for public inspection.

16. Sea Disposal Site

The details of the licensed sea disposal site to be used will be communicated to the licensee by Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Marine and Fisheries Division in the sea disposal licence.

Should you wish to establish a new site, please provide details in a covering letter with your application and DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division will contact you to discuss your proposal before your application is determined. It must be noted that an application to open a new sea disposal site will not be considered unless sufficient need and reasoning are established for such. It will be preferable on all occasions that an open existing site is used. The cost of any environmental investigations from baseline surveys to identify any new disposal site will normally be the responsibility of the applicant.

Other Considerations

Please ensure that you have:

- Completed **all** appropriate sections of the application form
- Signed and dated the declaration
- Provided the relevant documentation, charts and continuation sheets and Enclosed the correct payment (refer to fees addendum) or paid by means of BACS (if appropriate)

Otherwise your application will be delayed or returned to you.

Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (Part 4 Marine Licensing)

Application to deposit Dredged Material in the Territorial Sea and UK Controlled Waters Adjacent to Northern Ireland (e.g. from dredging operations.)

It is the responsibility of the applicant to obtain any other consents or authorisations that may be required

Under Part 4 (Chapter 5) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, information contained within or provided in support of this application will be placed on the public register unless DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division (as the licensing authority) approves the applicant's reasons for withholding all or part thereof.

Public Register

Is there any information contained within or provided in support of this application that you consider should not be included on the Public Register on the grounds that its disclosure:

- | | | | | |
|---|------------|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| 2. would be contrary to the interests of national security | Yes | ☐ | No | ☒ |
| 3. would prejudice to an unreasonable degree your or some other person's commercial interests or those of a third party? Yes | | ☐ | No | ☒ |

If **Yes**, to either (a) or (b), please provide full justification as to why all or part of the information you have provided should be withheld.

N/A

1. Project Title

Please give a brief identifiable description, including the location of the works.

Construction of a new multi-purpose facility at D3 for berthing of cruise ships and for lay-by and transient storage of project cargo, break bulk & dry bulk during cruise ship off-season. Development comprises the construction of 340m long solid quay with mooring dolphins, dredging of the berthing pocket & infilling behind the new quay wall using imported clean fill materials, construction of a 25m wide piled relieving slab along the quay length, with heavy duty paving surfacing on the quay/slab hinterland, access road, security gates, access barrier & kiosk at Airport Road West, modular terminal building, shore side facilities, lighting, fencing and landscaping. The works are located at D3, within Belfast Harbour Estate, opposite Victoria Terminal 4. Disposal at sea is at the North Channel Disposal Ground.

2. Applicant Details

Title (e.g. Mr/Mrs Miss/Dr)		Initials		Surname	Belfast Harbour Commissioners
Trading title (if appropriate)	Belfast Harbour Commissioners				
Address: (Inc Postcode)	Harbour Office, Corporation Street, Belfast, BT1 3AL				
Name of contact: (if different from above)	Eugene McBride				
Telephone number: (inc. code)					
Email address:	@belfast-harbour.co.uk				

Company Registration number

N/A - BHC is a Port Authority

3. Agent Details (if appropriate)

Title (e.g. Mr/Mrs
Miss/Dr)

Initials

Surname

RPS Tetra Tech

Trading Title
(If different from above)

Business Address:

Elmwood House, 74 Boucher Road, Belfast BT12
6RZ

Name of contact:
(if different from above)

Erin Donaldson

Position within company
(if appropriate)

Associate

Telephone number:
(inc. code)

Email address:

@rps.tetrattech.com

Company Registration No.

NI20604

4. Details of Current/Previous Licence

Licence Reference Number

ML150_16
(MLVAR2025027)

Expiry Date

30th November 2025

Quantity (metric tonnes) deposited
under current licence as at (date)

8,641mT as at 17.10.25 (deposited in July 2023)

5. Duration of Sea Disposal Operation

When is the sea disposal operation proposed to commence?

October 2026 (Refer
to Chapter 1 of ES)

When is the sea disposal operation proposed to be completed?

December 2026
(Refer to Chapter 1
of ES)

6. Details of Disposal Vessel(s)

Name of Vessel and Operator (if known)

Disposal vessel for July 2023 dredging was
Tristao Da Cunha operated by Jan De Nul

Proposed disposal vessel for remainder of
dredging TBC, operator will be Van Oord

Type of Vessel

(e.g. Bottom Doors/Split Hopper)

2023 dredging was by means of suction hopper
dredging

Remainer of dredging will be disposed by means
of split-hopper barge

7. Method Statement for disposal operation

Please refer to ES Chapter 1 – Introduction and Project Description (Section 1.11.6.1 to 1.11.6.2)

If necessary, please continue on a separate sheet and tick this box

☐

8. Description of Material for Sea Disposal

Type of Material (delete as appropriate)

Capital

Amount of Material to be deposited (metric tonnes)571,900T

Nature of Material i.e. River Bed,

Sea Harbour, Approach Channel, EstuaryHarbour Seabed.....

Description of area from where dredge material has originated

Co-ordinates (Lat/Long)

337195, 378300 (Easting and Northing to IGR)

(Co-ords at centre point of proposed dredge pocket)

Depth of Material Removed (m) **-9.8mCD**

Date Last Dredged

July 2023 under Marine Licence ML149_16

9. Chemical Analysis of Material

Has the material to be disposed of at sea been chemically analysed in the previous 3 years? (delete as appropriate)

Yes/No**

** If Yes please provide the details below.

Location of sampling for analysis **Details as per chapter 1 of the accompanying Consolidated ES**

Date analysis carried out **Vibrocore sample analysis 20 December 2023
Borehole sample analysis 14 March 2024**

Laboratory **SOCOTEC UK Ltd.....**

***Please attach results to this application*

10. Construction/Land Reclamation Projects

Do you intend to apply for, or have applied for a marine construction licence as part of the works? (e.g. harbour works, land reclamation, installation of outfalls etc.)

Yes

☒

No

☐

If Yes, please indicate the location of the proposed works and a give a brief description below.

The proposed works comprise the following elements, full details of which are included on the approved planning application drawings (LA04/2016/0421/F) and outlined within Chapter 1 of the accompanying Consolidated ES;

- Construction of a new 340m long quay wall with associated infilling and land reclamation, totalling circa 4.81 acres;
- Construction of 4nr mooring dolphins to accommodate vessels up to 350m long;
- Dredging of berthing pocket to -9.8mCD;
- Construction of a 25m wide piled relieving slab along the quay length;
- Heavy duty pavement surfacing to quay hinterland area;
- Provision of mooring bollards, fenders and quay infrastructure for vessels ranging 70-350m long;
- Access road connecting quay hinterland area and Airport Road West, with controlled access barrier at the access road entrance and security fencing;
- Provision of associated drainage, kerbing and International Ship and Port facility Security code (ISPS) fencing to quay area;
- Shore side facilities for vessels;
- Shore side facilities for vehicles/staff, including:
 - 8m high street lighting for access road, coach parking areas and periphery of D3 hinterland
 - 25m high lattice tower lighting on quay hinterland area

- provision of Portacabin security accommodation at access road entrance
- Power, fresh water supply and telecoms services connections from Airport Road West;
- Provision of a modular building for cruise usage; and
- Controlled removal of Kinnegar Jetty (completed Q2 2025).

11. Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO)

BPEO Assessment Summary

An extensive land and marine-based site investigation was undertaken to inform the design and to determine the properties of the material to be dredged, facilitating an assessment for its beneficial re-use.

The results of the site investigation showed that the material to be dredged is predominantly soft alluvium clays and silts. Material of this nature is not suitable for re-use as infill material without extensive geotechnical treatment. It is therefore considered impractical to improve the engineering properties of the material to a level that it is suitable for beneficial re-use.

Another option considered was to bring the dredged material ashore and store for a potential future use within the harbour. This would necessitate double or potentially triple handling which is considered impractical. In addition to this, to store the 372,000m³ of dredge material on the D3 footprint, would necessitate stockpiling circa 2m high. Again, this is not considered feasible.

Historically, sea disposal has been deemed to be the Best Practicable Environmental Option for the dredging of the inner harbour bed sediments.

On the basis of the above, we consider that sea disposal is the BPEO for the material generated by the dredging of the D3 berthing pocket.

12. Consultation with Conservation Bodies

Please provide details of any consultation that has taken place with Natural Environment Division (NED) of NIEA, and if appropriate include copies of any correspondence with your application.

Refer to Chapter 3 of Consolidated ES – Project Scoping

13. Designated Conservation Areas

Are any parts of the sea disposal operations located within the boundaries of a designated conservation area?

Yes

☒

No

☐

If **No**, and the boundary of the nearest such site is within 5kilometres, please indicate approximate distance of the disposal operation from this boundary.

kms

14. Statutory Consenting Powers

Do you, or (if appropriate) your client, have statutory powers to consent any aspect of this project?

Yes

☐

No

☒

If **Yes**, please give details

15. Environmental Assessment

Has an environmental assessment been undertaken to support any application in respect of the works, your own statutory powers (if applicable) or any other reason?

Yes

☒

No

☐

If **Yes**, is a copy of the assessment included with this application?

Yes

☒

No

☐

If the assessment has been undertaken but has not been included with the application, please provide an explanation below.

Is the environmental assessment available for public inspection? **Yes** X **No**

If **Yes** at what locations:

The Consolidated ES will be available for viewing and purchase at the Belfast Harbour Commissioners Office, Belfast Harbour, Corporation Street, Belfast, BT1 3AL

It will also be available for viewing and inspection at DAERA Headquarters, Clare House, 303 Airport Road West, Belfast, BT3 9ED

Electronic copies and hard copies can also be requested directly by contacting the agent (██████████ RPS TT) at ██████████ [@rps.tetrattech.com](mailto:██████████@rps.tetrattech.com), by calling ██████████ or in writing to ██████████, RPS Tetra Tech, Elmwood House, 74 Boucher Road, BT12 6RZ

16. Sea Disposal Site

If you wish to establish a new sea disposal site please indicate here, and Marine Licence will contact you. Otherwise you will be informed of which site should be used and its coordinates.

I wish to establish a new sea disposal site **Yes** ☐ **No** ☒

Declaration

I declare that the information given in this form and related papers is to the best of my knowledge and belief true.

WARNING

It is an offence under the Act under which this application is made to fail to disclose information or to provide false or misleading information.

Signature of applicant:
(or agent acting on behalf of applicant)


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Date:

17 October 2025

Name (Block Letters):

Erin Donaldson

Position within company:
(if applicable)

Associate Planner

PLEASE CHECK CAREFULLY THE INFORMATION YOU HAVE GIVEN AND THAT ALL ENCLOSURES (INCLUDING COPIES) HAVE BEEN INCLUDED

The Department takes data protection, freedom of information and environmental information issues seriously. It takes care to ensure that any personal information received from you is dealt with in a way which complies with the requirements of the UK General Data Protection Regulation. This means that any personal information you supply will be processed principally for the purpose for which it has been provided. However, the Department is under a duty to protect the public funds it administers, and to this end may use the information you have provided for this purpose.

A full copy of the DAERA Privacy Statement can be found here:- <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/daera-privacy-statement>