



Department of

**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

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**Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs
Marine & Fisheries Division**

**LICENCE ISSUED UNDER THE MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS ACT 2009, PART 4, MARINE
LICENSING**

MARINE CONSTRUCTION LICENCE

**Licence to install temporary pontoon and associated markers and buoys for Skiffie Event at
Delamont Country Park, Strangford Lough**

Licence Number: ML2026025

PART 1 – PARTICULARS

1. Licensee(s) Name & Address:

[REDACTED]
Delamont Country Park
Mullagh
Killyleagh
Co Down
BT30 9TZ

**2. Names, and operators, of the vessels to be employed to undertake or support the deposit,
relocation or removal operations:**

To be confirmed under Condition 6

3. Description of works and nature and quantity of all deposits below Mean High Water Springs:

The modular plastic Aqua Dock units will be assembled onshore and, as sections are completed, floated into position. A small rigid inflatable boat (RIB) will be used by contractors to access the seaward side of the pontoon to facilitate the installation of anchors, chains and associated fixings, including handrail supports where required.

The shoreward end of the pontoon will incorporate two ramp anchor points and appropriate measures to prevent unauthorised access.

The Skiffie Festival racecourse will be laid during the week preceding the event. Mooring blocks will be positioned by boat, and a total of 14 racing lanes will be marked for the event. The start and finish lines will be secured using a total of 24 mooring weights, spaced at 20 m intervals. Each mooring weight will have an approximate footprint of 0.5 m² and will comprise two concrete elements, each approximately 0.2 m in height.

The turning line will consist of buoys at 20 m spacing, secured by similar concrete mooring arrangements. The outer lane will be reduced by approximately 20 m to maintain course alignment. Risers will be maintained in a vertical position by surface floats, extending to below low water (LW) level. Terminal buoys at either end of each line will rest on the seabed at low water (± 2 hours), with weighted risers maintaining alignment.

All course markers and associated infrastructure will be removed shortly after the event concludes.

4. Location of works:

Refer to

Appendix A: Site Location Map

Appendix B: Pontoon Location Map

Start/Finish Line Coordinates				
Buoy No.	OSNI Grid			
	Latitude	Longitude	Easting	Northing
1	54.37657	-5.66901	351514.332	350050.930
2	54.3764	-5.66887	351523.509	350033.166
3	54.37624	-5.66874	351532.679	350015.404
4	54.37608	-5.66861	351541.889	349997.566
5	54.37592	-5.66848	351551.064	349979.795
6	54.37575	-5.66835	351560.215	349962.070
7	54.37559	-5.66821	351569.415	349944.252
8	54.37543	-5.66808	351578.620	349926.424
9	54.37527	-5.66795	351587.778	349908.686
10	54.3751	-5.66782	351596.965	349890.893
11	54.37494	-5.66768	351606.147	349873.111
12	54.37478	-5.66755	351615.347	349855.293

Turn Line Coordinates				
Buoy No.	OSNI Grid			
	Latitude	Longitude	Easting	Northing
1	54.38042	-5.65511	352402.917	350509.684
2	54.38026	-5.65498	352412.089	350491.916
3	54.38009	-5.65484	352421.260	350474.152
4	54.37993	-5.65471	352430.469	350456.312
5	54.37977	-5.65458	352439.661	350438.507
6	54.37961	-5.65445	352448.793	350420.817
7	54.37944	-5.65432	352457.991	350402.999
8	54.37928	-5.65418	352467.196	350385.169
9	54.37912	-5.65405	352476.352	350367.432
10	54.37896	-5.65392	352485.538	350349.639
11	54.37880	-5.65379	352494.719	350331.856
12	54.378630	-5.65366	352503.918	350314.037

5. Valid:

The temporary construction and removal of all structures and buoys associated with the pontoon and Skiffie Festival will be valid:

From: 08/07/2026

Until: 31/08/2026

6. Licence Documentation

Marine Construction Licence Application Form - Updated (8th May 2026)

sHRA (1st May 2026)

Red line boundary for licensable area (1st May 2026)

Method Statement (1st May 2026)

Post Event Survey from 2025 (1st May 2026)

MCL Advertisement (1st May 2026)

Marine Licence Mark Up Map (1st May 2026)

Pontoon Map (1st May 2026)

Course and layout Map (1st May 2026)

2026 Co-ordinates (1st May 2026)

PART 2 – CONDITIONS

The Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (referred to as the licensing authority) authorises **Newry Mourne and Down District Council** to deposit in the sea the substances or articles (except for dredge material) used in the execution of works described in Part 1 of this licence. This licence is subject to the under mentioned condition(s):

Licence Condition(s):

NOTE: FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE LICENCE CONDITIONS BELOW MAY RESULT IN ENFORCEMENT ACTION BEING TAKEN

1. The Licensee(s) must commence works within the dates noted in Part 1 (5) of this licence.
2. All conditions of this licence bind any persons whom, for the time being, owns, occupies or enjoys any use of the works for which this licence has been granted, in relation to those licensed activities authorised under section 66 of the 2009 Act, whether or not the licence has been transferred to that person.
3. The Licensee(s) must receive written authorisation from the licensing authority to assign or transfer the consent. The licensing authority must confirm in writing to both the original Licensee(s) and any proposed new Licensee(s) that the licence has been transferred/assigned before any works may commence under the new Licensee(s).
4. The Licensee(s) must not carry out any licensable activity other than that detailed in the Marine Licence application documents deemed complete by the licensing authority on **20/05/2026**. The Licensee(s) shall contact the Department if it is proposed to vary the materials or methods to be used from those described in the documentation supplied in connection with the Marine Licence application.
5. The Licensee(s) must commence works in line with Condition 1 and complete works within the valid dates of this licence. After that date, the licence will expire in accordance with section 71(4) of the Act.

6. The Licensee(s) must ensure that the Department is informed of any contractor appointed to carry out part or all of the works by email to MLCompliance&Enforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk before the commencement of the licensed activity. The licence holder must ensure that a copy of this licence and any subsequent revisions or amendments has been provided to, read and understood by any agents, contractors or sub-contractors that will carry on any licensed activity authorised by this licence on behalf of the licence holder.

Prior to the commencement of the Licensed Activity

7. A seabed survey with Biotope classification to $\geq$ Level 4, including species lists and habitat condition assessment, must be undertaken prior the event. The survey report should be provided to the Licensing Authority MLCompliance&Enforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk as soon as possible but no later than one week before the start of the licensed works. The report should contain photographic records, including 'close up' photographs of areas of interest.

Reason: To monitor any damage to existing habitats to inform decision making regarding mitigation, and to minimise and prevent further damage.

8. Local mariners and fishermen's organisations must be made fully aware of the activity through a local notification. This must be issued before the commencement of the works. MLCompliance&Enforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk must be sent a copy of the notification within 24 hours of issue.
9. Zone33@hmcg.gov.uk must be notified prior to commencement of activities. MLCompliance&Enforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk must be sent a copy within **5 days** of the issue of this notification.
10. The Licensee(s) must notify The Source Data Receipt team, UK Hydrographic Office, Taunton. Somerset, TA1 2DN (Email: sdr@ukho.gov.uk; Tel: 01823 337900) before commencement of the works, to allow for any necessary amendments to nautical charts. The UK Hydrographic Office must also be notified upon completion of the works. MLCompliance&Enforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk must be copied into all notifications.

Reason - Conditions 8 to 10: To adhere to Maritime Safety Legislation and to protect human health and marine users

11. The licensee must provide a biosecurity plan detailing the measures in place for all stages of the proposal (construction, use and decommissioning), to marine.wildlife@daera-ni.gov.uk before commencement of work. MLCompliance&Enforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk must also be sent a copy.

Reason: To prevent the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species as required under the Wildlife (NI) Order 1985 (as amended)

During the Licensed Activity

12. In the event of a discovery of an archaeological object and/or remains during the works the licensee(s) must: (1) record the position and details of the site; (2) cease work and (3) report your discovery to and contact MLCompliance&Enforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk immediately so further advice may be sought.

Reason: To ensure that historic monuments and archaeological objects are protected.

13. In the event of a discovery of wreck material during the works, the Licensee must report it to the 'Receiver of Wreck' (Maritime and Coastguard Agency) **within 28 days**. The licensee(s) must: (1) record the position and details of the site; (2) cease work and (3) report your discovery to and contact MLCompliance&Enforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk immediately so further advice may be sought.

Reason: To ensure that recovered wreck material is declared and dealt with appropriately.

Upon Completion of the Licensed Activity

14. The Licensee(s) must inform the licensing authority of the finishing date of the licensed work within **28 days** of completion.
15. The Licensee(s) must, within **eight weeks** after the completion of the licensed works, make a written report to the licensing authority stating the quantity and description of all articles and substances deposited under the authority of this licence. This report is to be submitted to MLCompliance&Enforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk
16. The Licensee must ensure that all components of the pontoon and race marking are removed, and the seabed returned to its original profile before the expiration date outline in Part 1 (5) of this licence, 31/08/2026.

Reason: To minimise damage to the marine environment

17. A post-event seabed survey with Biotope classification to $\geq$ Level 4, including species lists and habitat condition assessment, must be undertaken **after** the event. The survey report should be provided to the Licensing Authority MLCompliance&Enforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk as **soon as possible but no later than eight weeks** after the completion of the licensed works. The report should contain photographic records, including 'close up' photographs of areas of interest.

Reason: To monitor any damage to existing habitats to inform decision making regarding mitigation, and to minimise and prevent further damage.

Signed on behalf of the Department:



Dated: 08/07/2026

NOTE:

(1) The licensing authority would advise that this licence does not negate the licensees' responsibility to gain any other environmental or access permissions that may be required to progress the works.

(2) Under Part 4, Chapter 1, paragraph 72 of the **Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009**, the licensing authority may revoke, vary or suspend this licence if it appears to the authority that the holder is in breach of a condition included in it, or if it appears to the authority that the licence ought to be varied, suspended or revoked because of a change of circumstances relating to the marine environment or human health, including a change in scientific knowledge. A revocation, variation or suspension may also be enforced in the interests of safety of navigation.

(3) A person who deposits material in contravention of the terms of a licence is guilty of an offence under Section 85 of the Act. It is a defence under paragraph 86 (1) for a person charged with such an offence to prove 'force majeure'. However they are also required to prove that they took steps within a reasonable time to inform the licensing authority

of all details pertaining to the incident contained in paragraph 86 (2). The licensing authority shall be obliged to report force majeure cases immediately to the OSPAR Commission.

(4) Attention is drawn to the necessity of complying where appropriate with the **Radioactive Substances Act 1960**, the **Prevention of Oil Pollution Act 1971** and to the **Merchant Shipping (Dangerous Goods) (Amendment) Rules 1968**.

(5) If within 28 days of the issue of a licence the person to whom it was issued requests the licensing authority to give him notice in writing of the reasons for the inclusion of any provision in it, the Authority shall comply with his request within 28 days of receiving it.

(6) Anyone who fails to comply with a condition on a Marine Licence commits an offence under Section 85 of the **Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009** and may be subject to enforcement action. Possible enforcement actions are compliance notices, remediation notices, fixed monetary penalties and variable monetary penalties. In the worst cases, a person found guilty of an offence on summary conviction may be subject to a fine not exceeding £50,000. In addition, a person found guilty of an offence on conviction on indictment, to a fine or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to both. Further details can be found at our guidance note

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/doe/marine-licensing-guidance-enforcement-under-part-4-marine-and-coastal-access-act%2C-2009-may-2016.pdf>

INFORMATIVES:

Maritime & Coastguard Agency advice on Navigational Safety

- The Licencee(s) should consider adopting the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC), which sets out a national standard for every aspect of port marine safety. The Code is not mandatory, however it is endorsed by the UK Government, devolved administrations and representatives from across the marine industry sector. It is applicable to both Statutory Harbour Authorities (SHA) and non-SHAs including marinas, terminals, marine berths and jetties. The Department for Transport also publishes the PMSC Guide to Good Practice which provides useful information and detailed guidance on the safe management of these facilities, and is intended to supplement the Code. This can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-guide-to-good-practice-on-port-marine-operations>

DAERA advice on preventing water pollution

- The Licensee(s) should comply with all the relevant NIEA Standing Advice documents and Guidance for Pollution Prevention (PPG/GPPs) available at: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/standing-advice-development-may-have-effect-water-environment-including-groundwater-and-fisheries>
- The Licensee(s) shall ensure that measures are in place to prevent pollution of surface or ground water as a result of the activities on site, both during construction and thereafter. Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPPs) documents can be obtained at: <https://www.netregs.org.uk/environmental-topics/guidance-for-pollution-prevention-gpp-documents/>
- The contractor / person carrying out the works is responsible for ensuring that any and all required mitigation measures are in place and ultimately under the Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 is liable for any discharge or deposit, whether knowingly or otherwise, of any poisonous, noxious or polluting matter so that it enters a waterway or water in any underground strata.
- The Licensee(s) should be aware that it is an offence under the Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 to discharge or deposit, whether knowingly or otherwise, any poisonous, noxious or polluting matter so that it enters a waterway or water in any underground strata. Conviction of such an offence may incur a fine of up to £20,000 and / or three years imprisonment.
- We emphasize the importance of ensuring equipment/plant/vessels are in good working order to minimize the risk of pollution from hydrocarbons and/or hydraulic fluids.
- The following Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPP) documents also provide guidance on good working practices:
GPP 1: Understanding your environmental responsibilities - good environmental practices
GPP 5: Works and maintenance in or near water

GPP 21: Pollution incident response planning

GPP 22: Incident response - dealing with spills

A full list of these GPP guidance documents can be found at the NetRegs site:

<https://www.netregs.org.uk/environmental-topics/guidance-for-pollution-prevention-gpp-documents/>

- All works must comply with the Control Of Pollution (Oil Storage) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010. A key requirement of the Regulations is that oil storage containers (including temporary storage) must have a secondary containment system (a bund, which is an outer wall or enclosure designed to contain the contents of an inner tank, or a drip tray) to ensure that any leaking oil is contained and does not enter the aquatic environment. To report a pollution incident in Northern Ireland, contact the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) immediately via their 24/7 incident hotline: 0800 80 70 60. For non-urgent concerns, you can email emergency-pollution@daera-ni.gov.uk

DAERA advice on protection of archaeological objects

- The Licensee(s) attention is drawn to Article 42 of the **Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995** that requires finders of archaeological objects to report within 14 days to a relevant authority.

DAERA advice on recovery of wreck material

- The Licensee(s) must report any recovered wreck material to the Receiver of Wreck (Maritime and Coastguard Agency) in accordance with the **Merchant Shipping Act 1995**.

DAERA advice on marine litter

- Any marine litter collected during the proposed works must be appropriately disposed of, to prevent litter entering the marine environment and adversely impacting Marine Protected Areas.

DAERA event recommendations

- Mooring floats are recommended to limit the damage caused to the seafloor habitats and species from chains and ropes.
- Rotation of locations for future events.
- Continue annual monitoring surveys
- Submit survey data to DAERA / CEDaR / NBN Atlas.

DAERA Standing Advice

The applicant's attention is drawn to the following links which provide standing advice to be considered:

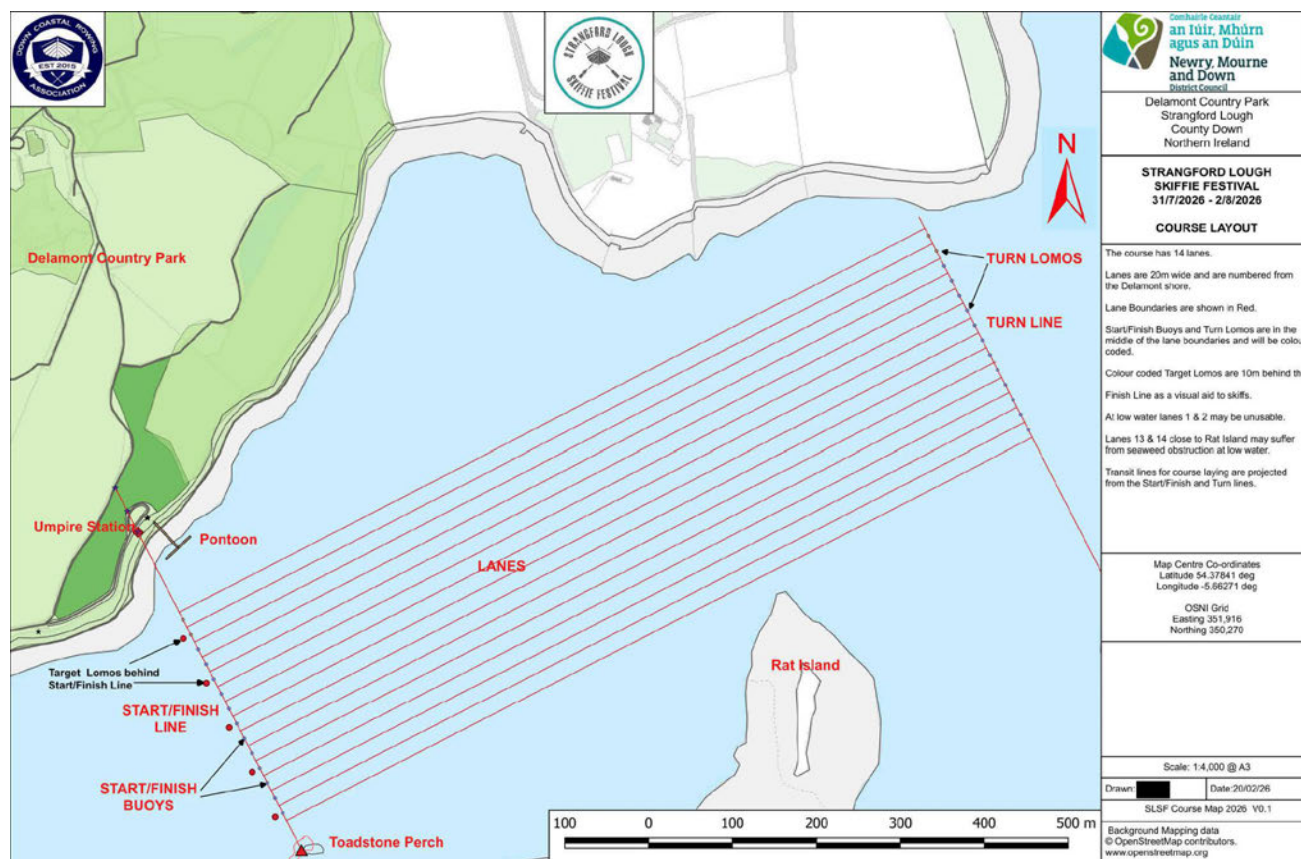
- [Planning in the Coastal Area](#)
- [DAERA Standing Advice - WTR - Pollution Prevention Guidance - Sept 2022 Final.pdf \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](#)
- [DAERA Standing Advice - Marine Litter.pdf \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](#)
- <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/marine-invasive-non-native-species-guidance>
- [Marine Wildlife Disturbance](#)
- [Marine Map Viewer](#)
- [Decisions affected by marine policy - authorisation decisions](#)
- <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1985/171/part/II/crossheading/protection-of-other-animals>

Marine Licensing Advice

- The licensee(s) shall ensure that a copy of this licence is given to each contractor appointed to carry out part or all of the works. The extent of the works for which the licence has been given and the conditions that are attached to the licence should be made clear to the contractors.

- We advise that the minimum number of moorings/chains/lines are used to minimise disturbance and physical damage to the seabed and marine habitats and communities.
- Any person authorised by the licensing authority will be permitted to inspect the licensed activity at any reasonable time.
- The Licensee(s) must ensure that copies of the licence are available for inspection by any authorised Enforcement Officer at:
 - a. The premises of the Licensee(s)
 - b. The premises of the operating facility
 - c. The site of the works (including on board vessels)

Appendix A – Site Location Map & Map of competition course



Appendix B – Pontoon Location Map

