



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

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

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

MARINE SEA DISPOSAL LICENCE

**Licence for the disposal at sea of capital dredge seabed material removed for the creation
of a berthing pocket at as part of the construction of a multipurpose facility at D3, Belfast
Harbour for berthing cruise ships and for lay-by and transient storage of project cargo,
break bulk and dry bulk during cruise ship off season**

Licence Number: ML2025055

PART 1 – PARTICULARS

1. Licensee(s) Name & Address:

Belfast Harbour Commissioners
Harbour Office
Corporation Street
Belfast
BT1 3AL

2. Name and Address of Producer of Dredged Material

Belfast Harbour Commissioners
Harbour Office
Corporation Street
Belfast
BT1 3AL

**3. Names, and operators, of the vessels to be employed to undertake or support the deposit
operation:**

To be confirmed as per Condition 2

4. Description of works and method of disposal:

This licence is for the sea disposal of up to 372,000m³ of capital dredge material removed from the harbour
seabed to create a berthing pocket in relation to the construction of a new multipurpose facility at D3 for

berthing cruise ships in addition to lay by and transient storage of project cargo, break bulk and dry bulk during cruise ship off season.

Details of dredge and disposal methods will be agreed with the licensing authority and specified in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

TBT contaminated material will be removed with an environmental bucket and moved for containment within the Musgrave bunded site. Sea Disposal is at the North Channel Disposal Ground

Working methods involve a pontoon mounted backhoe dredger will be used for the dredging of all material within the proposed berthing pocket then transported to disposal site and disposed by Split Bottom Doors barges.

5. Nature and quantity of all material to be deposited below Mean High Water Springs:

The dredge operation is expected to remove 372,000m³

This quantity for sea disposal will be reduced by any material identified as TBT contaminated which will be relocated to the Musgrave containment bund. This will be defined fully in the environmental management plan (EMP), as per Condition 16 of the associated Capital Dredge licence ML2025054.

6. Location of disposal site:

Sea disposal is at the North Channel Disposal Ground (Belfast Dredging C). Within a 0.5 nautical mile radius of the following coordinates

Disposal site name	Degrees & Decimal Mins		Decimal degrees		Shape
	Latitude	Longitude	Latitude	Longitude	
Belfast Dredging C (Live)	54 45.300 N	05 29.600 W	54.755	-5.4933	CIRCLE

See:

Appendix A - Location map of D3 site and sea disposal site

Appendix B - Location map of Musgrave containment bund

7. Valid:

From: 07 July 2026

Until: 31 August 2028

Notwithstanding the validity period of this licence, your attention is drawn to Conditions 5 & 6.

Condition 5 states: The Licensee(s) must ensure that valid sediment analysis data is supplied to MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk and approved by the Department prior to any sea disposal. To ensure the validity of this licence the licensee(s) must:

- Submit updated surface sediment analysis data **at least 6 weeks** prior to any dredge or sea disposal takes place
- Ensure no sea disposal of dredged material takes place after 5 January 2027 without valid at depth samples being taken and submitted to the department for agreement

Reason: To ensure dredged material meets national assessment criteria and to protect the water environment and ecological features

Condition 6 states: No sea disposal of dredged material shall take place **after 5 January 2027** without valid at depth samples being taken and submitted to the department for agreement in writing **at least 6 weeks** prior to any dredge or sea disposal activity.

Reason: To ensure dredged material meets national assessment criteria and to protect the water environment and ecological features.

8. Licence Documentation

1. Marine Disposal Licence Application Form (dated 17/10/2025)
2. Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment (sHRA) (dated October 2025)
3. Site Location Map (dated February 2016)
4. Drawings dated February 2016
5. Water Framework Directive (WFD) Assessment (dated 17/10/2025)
6. Non- Technical Summary (dated October 2025)
7. Consolidated Environmental Statement (ES) (dated 2025), to include:
 - a. 20 nr Chapters
 - b. 33 nr Appendices
 - c. 13 nr Figures

PART 2 - CONDITIONS

The Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (referred to as the licensing authority) authorise **Belfast Harbour Commissioners** to carry out the loading for disposal from Northern Ireland ports and sea disposal of the material described in Part One of this licence in accordance with the following conditions:

Licence Condition(s):

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

Prior to the commencement of the Licensed Activity

1. 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.
2. The Licensee(s) must ensure that the Department is informed of any contractor appointed to carry out part or all of the works and a copy of this licence is given to each contractor no less than 24 hours 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.
3. The Licensee(s) must commence works with **12 months** of the start date of this licence.
4. 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).
5. The Licensee(s) must ensure that valid sediment analysis data is supplied to MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk and approved by the Department prior to any sea disposal. To ensure the validity of this licence the licensee(s) must:
 - Submit updated surface sediment analysis data **at least 6 weeks** before any dredge or sea

disposal takes place

- Ensure no sea disposal of dredged material takes place after 5 January 2027 without valid at depth samples being taken and submitted to the department for agreement

Reason: To ensure dredged material meets national assessment criteria and to protect the water environment and ecological features

6. No sea disposal of dredged material shall take place **after 5 January 2027** without valid at depth samples being taken and submitted to the department for agreement in writing 6 weeks prior to any dredge or sea disposal activity.

Reason: To ensure dredged material meets national assessment criteria and to protect the water environment and ecological features.

7. The Licensee(s) shall not deposit any sediments from areas identified as contaminated, through the Licensing Authorities consideration of sediment analysis results submitted in accordance with conditions 5 & 6. Sediment analysis must be obtained within 3 years of the dredge and disposal unless otherwise authorised by the licensing authority.

Reason: To ensure dredged material meets national assessment criteria and to protect the water environment and ecological features.

8. The Licensee(s) must, no less than 24 hours prior to disposal commencing, confirm in writing to the licensing authority that the disposal vessel(s) shall have position fixing capability within a +/- 20m range.
9. Recordable position fixing equipment must be used at all times on the disposal vessel to ensure disposal within a 0.50 nautical mile radius of the stated disposal site.
10. The Licensee(s) must submit a **Disposal Monitoring Plan**, to the licensing authority for agreement prior to disposal. Monitoring of the disposal ground and a suitable control site shall occur pre and post disposal. The licensee(s) shall survey the seabed of the disposal site before disposal operations in addition to a reference site. The Licensee(s) shall agree the survey location and design with the licensing authority prior to its initiation. The survey must include photography/video of the benthos and grab sample. This survey information should be provided in a report format (including still images) to MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk within **8 weeks** upon completion of each sea disposal campaign (as per Condition 23).

Reason – Conditions 8 to 10 - To ensure material is deposited within the appropriate disposal area

11. The Licensee(s) must ensure they meet all the requirements of Merchant Shipping Regulations.
12. 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) at least 4 weeks 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._
MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk **must be copied into all notifications.**
13. The Licensee(s) must ensure that details of each campaign are sent to maritime users through Notice(s) to Mariners and/or radio navigational warnings and publication in appropriate bulletins. This should take place prior to the commencement of disposal operations, as stated within the Notice(s) to Mariners guidance notes, which is usually ten days._
MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk **must be copied into all notifications.**

Reason – Conditions 11, 12 & 13: To adhere to Maritime Safety Legislation and to protect human health and marine users

During the Licensed Activity

14. The dredging operators must have operational and active AIS vessel tracking during all operations.
15. If AIS or vessel positioning systems are faulty, dredge and/or disposal activities must not continue until all systems are repaired/replaced and fully operational. This must be reported immediately to MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk
16. A timed and dated track plot of position for each disposal run from the dredge site to disposal site shall be provided to the licensing authority one week after the end of each month of dredged material disposal
17. The Licensee(s) must ensure that vessel log details (attached as an Annex to this licence) should be completed **within one week** after the end of each month of dredging and disposal operation.
 - a. The Licensee(s) may decide to use their own vessel log template with prior written agreement of the licensing authority.
 - b. The vessel log should be accompanied by timed and dated tracked plots indicating the route taken, to and from, each disposal event in addition to the position and time for each disposal.
 - c. If Licensee(s) cannot provide track plots they must reach agreement with the licensing authority on a suitable method of recording and reporting the position and time for each disposal prior to disposal commencing.
18. The Licensee(s) must ensure that a log of all the disposal operations is kept and be made available on request by the Department.

Reason – Conditions 14 to 18: To ensure material is deposited within the appropriate disposal area in the interests of the protection of the marine environment.

19. The licensee(s) shall confirm to the licensing authority by way of a report and map the specifics of each dredged area which produced the disposal material within **8 weeks** of the dredge completion. This report is to be submitted to MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk This report will be held by the licensing authority and details considered 'Commercial in confidence' should be marked on the report by the Licensee(s).

Reason: To ensure this work will have no adverse impact of the marine environment, that appropriate equipment is used, and that best practice is followed, and mitigations are in place.

20. 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)

Reason: To ensure the works have no adverse impacts on the marine environment, that appropriate equipment is used, and that best practice is being followed, and mitigations are in place

Upon Completion of the Licensed Activity

21. The Licensee(s) must survey the seabed of the disposal site after disposal operations in addition to a reference site. The survey must include photography/video of the benthos and grab sample. This survey information should be provided in a report format (including still images) to MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk within **8 weeks** upon completion of each sea disposal campaign.

Reason: To ensure material is deposited within the appropriate disposal area in the interests of the protection of the marine environment.

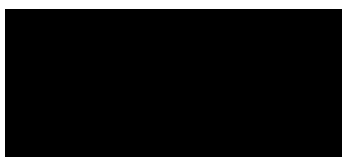
22. Certified returns to be submitted to MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk by end of January of each year for disposal during the period of January to December of the preceding year. Please note, a NIL return must be submitted, where applicable.

Reason: To allow annual disposal returns to be made to CEFAS for disposal returns in the preceding calendar year, to meet International Maritime Organization and OSPAR reporting requirements.

23. The Licensee(s) must inform MLComplianceandEnforcement@daera-ni.gov.uk of the finishing date of the work within **28 days** of completion.

Reason: In the interests of accurate monitoring of the marine environment

Signed on behalf of the Department:



Dated: 07 July 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 Licensee(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>
- Bunding and/or storage facilities must be installed to contain and prevent the release of fuel, oils, and chemicals associated with plant, refuelling and construction equipment, into the marine environment.
- The site is within port limits and the applicant should gain the approval/agreement of the responsible local navigation authority or the Harbour Authority/Commissioners/Council. They may wish to issue local warnings to alert those navigating in the vicinity to the presence of the works, as deemed necessary.

DAERA advice on preventing water pollution

- Strict adherence to DAERA's Standing Advice on Pollution Prevention Guidance, Discharges to the Water Environment, and Abstractions and Impoundments, which are 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: http://www.netregs.org.uk/library_of_topics/pollution_prevention_guides/all_ppgs.aspx
- 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.

Northern Ireland Environment Agency – Water Catchment Unit

- Water Catchment Unit is content, subject to any contaminated material being transported by a licensed waste carrier, all relevant waste authorisations being obtained for the treatment and disposal of any contaminated

material, and the applicant referring and adhering to DAERA Standing Advice on Pollution Prevention Guidance and Discharges to the Water Environment which are available at: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/standing-advice-development-may-have-effect-water-environment-including-groundwater-and-fisheries>

- Water Catchment Unit notes the operational processes involved are likely to cause the release of suspended solids and would advise the operational methods utilised should be completed at a pace whereby the level of suspended solids is minimised.
- Water Catchment Unit would also emphasise the importance of ensuring equipment / plant is in good working order to minimise the risk of pollution from hydrocarbons and / or hydraulic fluids.
- Any power washing of equipment between sites should occur away from any environmentally sensitive areas, taking care to first manually remove any spills or large accumulations of oil / sediment.

DAERA MFD – Marine Strategy – Bathing Waters & Shellfish Team

- We would make the applicant aware of the Shellfish Water Protected Area in Belfast Lough, located less than 1 mile north of the D3 site. The Department asks that any developments or subsequent work, in and around identified shellfish waters, should not cause any negative impacts on the water quality. The applicant must consider the risk of this proposal to impact Shellfish Water Protected Areas which are designated under The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017. These designated sites contain commercial shellfish harvesting areas which must meet stringent bacteriological and chemical standards as outlined in the Water Framework Directive (Classification, Priority Substances and Shellfish Waters) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.
- Shellfish Water Protected Areas are particularly vulnerable to pollution and therefore the applicant should ensure adherence to the DAERA Standing Advice for any work that may impact the water environment

DAERA MFD – Sea Fisheries Inspectorate

- The applicant should be made aware that Belfast Lough supports commercial fisheries and aquaculture interests. Pollution, resulting from construction operations, in the marine environment has the potential to cause adverse impact to these interests. The applicant must ensure adequate and appropriate pollution mitigation is in place prior to commencing operations and would recommend its inclusion into a Construction Environment Management Plan
- The applicant is reminded of Section 47 of the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966, which covers the applicant's responsibilities relating to penalties for pollution and the consequences of causing or permitting the release of any deleterious material into any waters.
- Sea Fisheries would direct the applicant toward DAERA standing advice and the Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPPs), particularly works and maintenance in or near water (GPP5) [DAERA Pollution Standing Advice](#)

DAERA MFD – Aquaculture

- Active bottom growing mussel sites in Belfast Lough are 2 km away from the proposed D3 site works. Consideration should be given to the possibility of high levels of suspended solids settling on these beds, as this will have an impact causing mortality in the stock. Also, the potential impact on water quality.

DAERA MFD – Inland Fisheries

- We would like to draw the applicant's attention to Section 47 of the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966, which covers the applicant's responsibilities relating to Penalties for Pollution and the consequences of causing or permitting the release of any Deleterious materials into any waters.

- The Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean (North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization – NASCO): This international treaty obliges signatory states, including the UK, to conserve, restore, and rationally manage Atlantic salmon populations and their habitats. Parties must implement programmes of work, provide scientific data, and apply precautionary measures where information is lacking. NASCO monitors compliance and facilitates international cooperation to protect salmon stocks throughout their migratory range.
- Belfast Lough and the River Lagan support significant fisheries interests and sustains populations of resident and migratory salmonids (salmon, trout/sea trout) and eels, with the potential presence of lamprey. Inland Fisheries, in cooperation with the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, has invested considerable time and resources in a programme to reintroduce a self-sustaining population of Atlantic salmon to the Lagan catchment, alongside long-term monitoring of these populations at various life stages. Additional investment has been made in habitat enhancement initiatives within the catchment.
- As outlined in the Approved Environmental Statement (Chapter 6), Belfast Lough serves as a critical migratory corridor for several diadromous and catadromous fish species moving between marine and freshwater habitats with the channel at Victoria Dock (D3) being a 'pinch point' through which all such migrations must navigate. Populations of European eel and Atlantic salmon have experienced severe declines over the past two decades. Atlantic salmon are listed as an Annex II species under the Habitats Directive, while European eel is classified as *critically endangered* on the IUCN Red List.
- Salmon and sea trout populations within the Lagan catchment remain under significant pressure from multiple stressors, resulting in low numbers of fish successfully migrating to sea and returning to spawn. Protecting these migrations is essential to prevent the potential extirpation of these species from the catchment.
- Inland Fisheries' primary concerns relate to the potential impacts from activities within the Victoria Channel on the migrations of salmon, sea trout, eels, and lamprey.
- Although only some of the proposed construction activities overlap with the main migratory periods for salmon, there is potential for these timings to change. The primary migration period for adult salmon in this area is likely to occur during July and August, while juvenile salmon (smolt) typically migrate in April and May.
- Inland Fisheries also note the requirement for significant dredging activities within the main channel and the migratory route for salmon, seatrout, eels and lamprey to the Lagan. The release of sediments and associated anoxic plumes to the water column and the reduction of oxygen levels can create a barrier to salmon migration.
- As fish are mobile, they are likely to vacate the area during this process. Whilst these activities are expected to have minimal impact on individual fish health, they are likely to disrupt migratory patterns. Given the low salmon population within the catchment, any such disruption could have significant consequences.
- Although only some of the proposed construction activities overlap with the main migratory periods for salmon, there is potential for these timings to change. Any licence issued should again protect the migration periods of both adult and juvenile salmon

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 MED – Marine Conservation & Reporting – Marine Wildlife

Invasives

- Biosecurity plans should be in place for all stages of the project and all vehicles and equipment used to prevent spread or intro of INNS following [Northern Ireland Biosecurity guidelines](#), and [DAERA Marine Non-Native Invasive Non-Native Species standing advice](#) guidance.

- Check Clean Dry Procedures should be applied before and after the sediment removal and deposition at a non-hydrologically linked location.
- We advise that a contingency plan should be put in place outlining procedures to be followed if an INNS is found on site or on any equipment. Furthermore, we advise that staff should be provided with the following marine [Invasive species identification guides](#). Staff must report any INNS to DAERA MFD/CEDaR. No INNS should be released back into the marine environment, instead, they should be disposed of in landfill or incinerated.

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

Marine Litter

- Any marine litter encountered or generated during the work carried out must be appropriately disposed of at the end of each day following [DAERA Marine Litter standing advice](#).

Reason: To prevent litter entering the marine environment and adversely impacting Marine Protected Areas, Habitats and Species, as required under The Environment Order (Northern Ireland) 2002, Draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland 2018 and the UK Marine Policy Statement.

Marine Pollution

- Ensure [DAERA Pollution Standing Advice](#) and [DAERA Standing advice for development that may have an effect on the water environment \(including groundwater and fisheries\)](#) is adhered to.
- No fuel/oil should be stored close to the water to reduce the likelihood of accidental spills into the marine environment. Any fuelling required will only occur at a non-hydrologically linked location using a buffer of at least 10m.

Reason: To prevent adverse impacts to Marine Protected Areas, Habitats and Species, as required under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended), The Environment Order (Northern Ireland) 2002 and the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

Sediments

- Sediment being removed should ideally be comparable in grain size to the area where it is being deposited and must not be contaminated with pollutants from the harbour.
- Adherence to previous license condition of ongoing sediment monitoring and analysis (before and after disposal) at existing sampling stations, including
 - Infaunal invertebrate samples collected through grab sampling
 - Drop-down video of epifaunal communities.
 - Sediment particle size analysis.
 - Chemical analysis of sediments.
- Assessment of the volume of material retained on the licenced disposal area should be calculated from the pre/post disposal bathymetric surveys. This assessment should include an analysis of the volume of material deposited under the licence, retained on the licenced area, and the volume dispersed to the wider environment.

Reason: To prevent adverse impacts to Marine Protected Areas, Habitats and Species, as required under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended), The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended), The Environment Order (Northern Ireland) 2002, The Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 and the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

European and National Marine Protected Areas

The proposal is hydrologically connected to Marine Protected Areas. Activities must not harm these sites. Any actions within designated areas but outside the red line boundary or consented scope require approval under [The Conservation \(Natural Habitats, etc.\) \(Amendment\) \(NI\) EU Exit Regulations 2019](#) and [Environment Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2002](#). Contact NIEA, Conservation, Designations and Protection Unit, Clare House, Belfast.

Guidance for Assessments of Marine Protected Area in the NI inshore area, including Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ) assessments can be found [here](#).

Marine National Protected Species – Seals

Under Article 10 of [The Wildlife \(Northern Ireland\) Order 1985](#), it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb, injure, or capture Harbour or Grey seals, or interfere with their shelters. Possession of these animals or their parts is also prohibited. A [licence](#) may be required if impacts cannot be avoided—consult [DAERA Marine Wildlife Team](#).

Invasive Species

Under Article 15 of [The Wildlife \(NI\) Order 1985](#), it is an offence to release or allow escape of non-native species or those listed in Schedule 9.

Marine Nationally Protected Species – Northern Ireland Priority Species

Section 3(3) of the [Wildlife and Natural Environment Act \(NI\) 2011](#) requires public bodies to take reasonable steps to conserve species and habitats listed as priorities for biodiversity.

Further Information

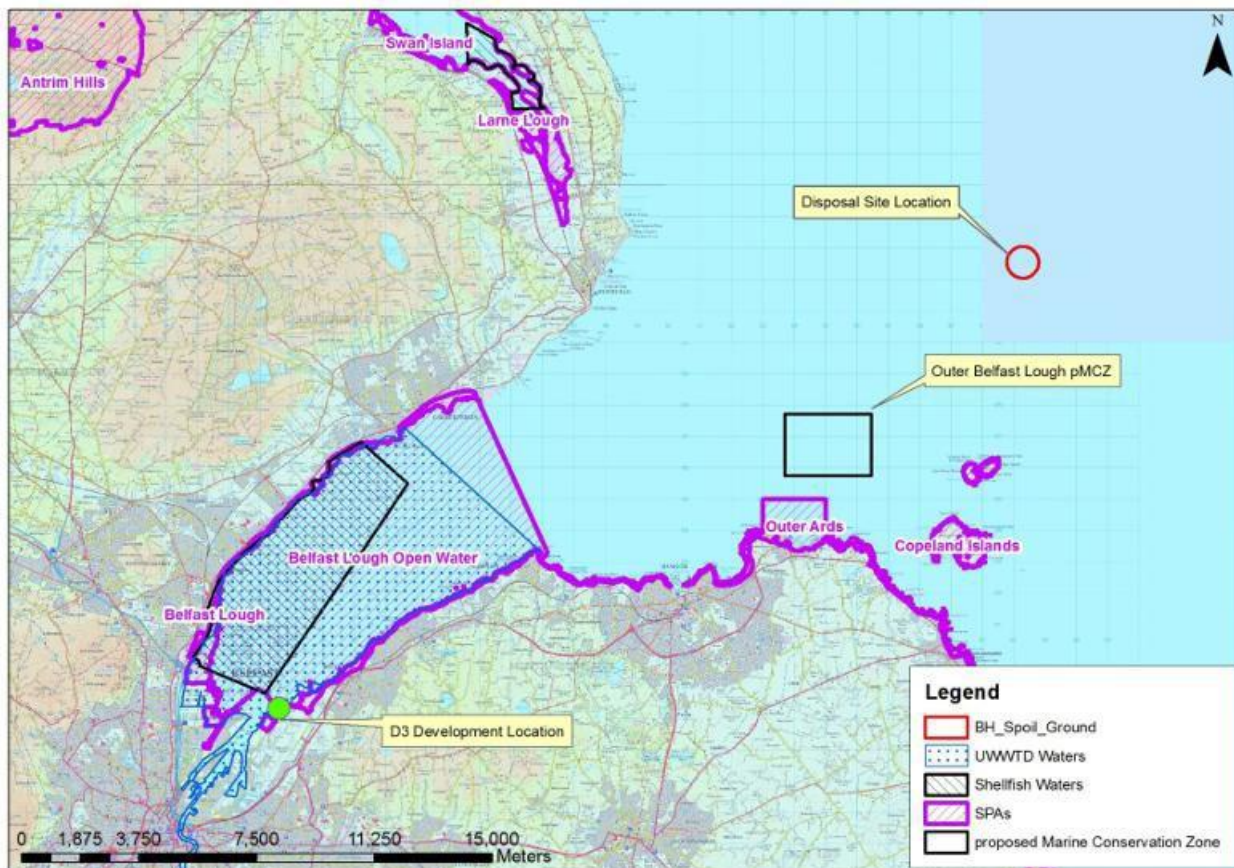
- Refer to [DAERA Marine Map Viewer](#) for details on protected areas, habitats, species, marine mammals, INNS and Regional Seascape Character Areas.
- Check the [DAERA Protected Areas site](#) for details on MPAs.
- Refer to [DAERA Protected Areas Monitoring Results](#) for details on MPA feature condition status.
- Check the [Marine Life Information Network](#) for habitat sensitivities.
- For guidance on how to upload and obtain data from the [JNCC Marine Noise Registry \(MNR\)](#) follow this [link](#).
- [The Wise Scheme](#)
- [Invasive species identification guides Northern Ireland](#)
- [Cetacean Sightings and Strandings around NI coastline](#)

Standing Advice and Guidance

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

- [DAERA Pollution Standing Advice](#)
- [DAERA Marine Litter Standing Advice](#)
- [DAERA Marine Invasive Non-native Species Guidance](#)
- [DAERA Marine Wildlife Disturbance Guidance](#)
- [Check Clean Dry](#)
- [Decisions affected by marine policy - authorisation decisions](#)
- [DAERA Standing advice for development that may have an effect on the water environment \(including groundwater and fisheries\)](#)

Appendix A – Location map of D3 site and North Channel sea disposal site



Appendix B – Location map of Musgrave bunded containment area

