



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

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Depairtment o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

DAERA NI Marine Licensing NEW ONLINE APPLICATION SYSTEM

NOW LIVE

13 October 2026

Public Information Update

Introducing the New Marine Licensing Application System

The Marine Licensing Branch is pleased to announce the introduction of a new digital online Application System. This system has been designed to make the application process more accessible, efficient and transparent for all users.

What the New System Will Offer

The new System allows applicants to:

- **Submit applications** for:
 - Pre-Application Discussion (PAD)
 - Screening Opinions
 - Scoping Opinions
 - Exemptions (as provided for under the Marine Licensing (Exempted Activities) Order (Northern Ireland) 2011) [legislation.gov.uk]
 - Marine Licences (as required under Part 4 of the *Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009*) [daera-ni.gov.uk]
- **Upload digital documents**, plans and supporting evidence directly to their application.
- **Navigate the application process intuitively**, with step-by-step guidance throughout.
- **Create and manage an individual or organisational account**, allowing secure access to new and existing applications. It is recommended that an NI Direct account is used or created for registration to the System.
- **Act either as an Agent or as an individual applicant**, depending on the needs of the project.



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It will also allow you to:

- **Create and submit interactive maps** for the project location and activity details.
- **Receive automatically generated licence fee calculations**, with direct links to the payment process for the majority of applications.
- **Receive submission confirmations and status updates**, including notifications where further action is required.
- **Access Public Notice advertisement templates** and upload proof of completed public notifications, helping applicants meet statutory public consultation duties.
- **Access a new online Public Register**, where all relevant application data will be uploaded to meet statutory requirements under section 101 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and to ensure full transparency across all applications.



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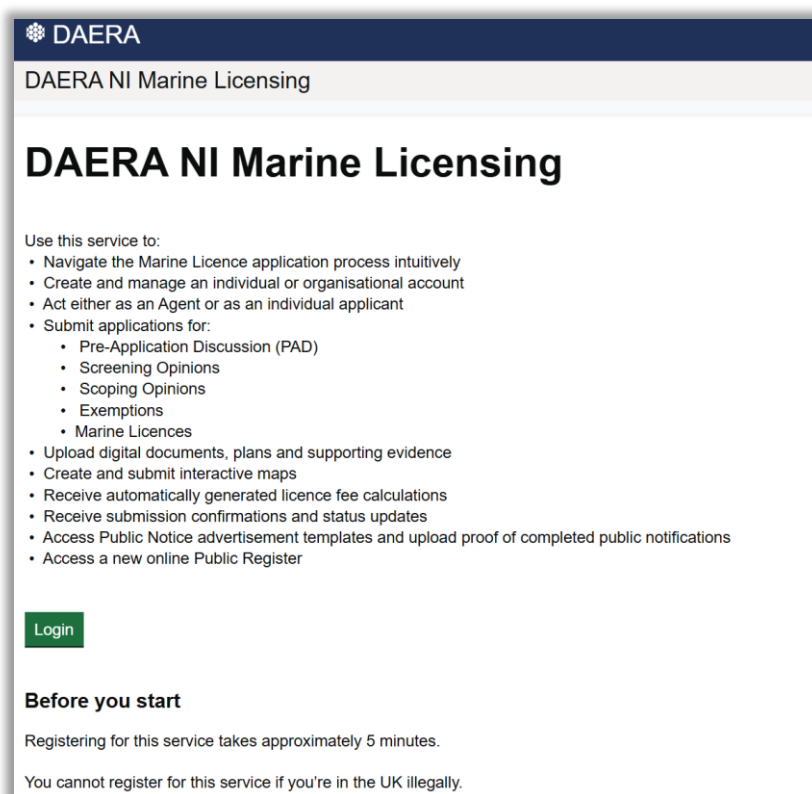
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Go-Live Date

The new System is now Live.

This can be accessed through the [Marine Licensing web page](#) or directly here:

- [DAERA NI Marine Licensing](#)



The Marine Licensing Team will process applications submitted through the new application system and will also continue to accept hard copy applications and those made by email until **31 December 2026**. From **1 January 2027**, all applications must be submitted through the new application system, as applications received by email will no longer be processed.



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Commitment to Continuous Improvement

The System will continue to be developed to:

- Improve user experience through intuitive design and clear guidance
- Support efficient and robust environmental decision-making
- Help deliver consistent regulatory outcomes
- Support growth and development within Northern Ireland's marine area while ensuring:

- **Protection of public health**
- **Protection of the environment**
- **Prevention of interference with other legitimate users of the sea**

(In accordance with the core statutory considerations under the *Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009*, Part 4) [daera-ni.gov.uk]

The new System will deliver a more streamlined, transparent, and user-focused service. This modernised approach supports the statutory marine licensing framework established under the *Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009*, *The Marine Works (EIA) Regulations 2007* and the *Marine Licensing (Exempted Activities) Order (Northern Ireland) 2011*, ensuring that all marine activities are regulated in a fair, proportionate, and environmentally responsible manner.

For further information:

Marine Licensing Branch

Clare House
303 Airport Road West
Sydenham Intake
Belfast, BT3 9ED

Tel: 028 9056 9247

Email: MarineLicensingTeam@daera-ni.gov.uk

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