Marine Licensing Application Fees

Explanatory Notes for Applicants

Application Fee Rates Applicable from 1st January 2025

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

***Sustainability** at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*

General

The following notes are for guidance only. They cannot be regarded as definitive, and anyone requiring the exact legal position is advised to consult the Marine Licensing (Application Fees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011, (as amended).
Note: The Marine Licensing (Application Fees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) were amended in accordance with regulation 3 and came into operation on 1st January 2025.

1.1 DAERA is the appropriate licensing authority for the Northern Ireland inshore region (0 – 12 nautical miles) as set out under Section 113(6)(b) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

1.2 This function is discharged by the Marine Licensing Branch, which sits within the Marine and Fisheries Division, a part of the DAERA Environment, Marine and Fisheries Group.

1.3 Fees payable for any application for a marine licence in relation to Northern Ireland or the Northern Ireland inshore region, for which DAERA is the appropriate licensing authority, are required under Section 67(1)(b) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and are determined in accordance with the Marine Licensing (Application Fees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 (as amended).

1.4 Fees for marine licensing applications are set on 1st April each year in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Marine Licensing (Application Fees) Regulations (NI) 2011 as amended and are determined by application of the Gross Domestic Product Deflator (GDP)Index.

1.5 The fees that are chargeable for the 2024/2025 financial year are available from the DAERA website Marine Licensing (Northern Ireland) Application Fees 2024/25 | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

1.6 Licensable marine activities are listed under Part 4 of The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, Chapter 1, Section 66.

1.7 Under the Fee Regulations, fees are charged for the following applications:

a. Marine Construction Licence;
b. Dredging Licences (Capital and Maintenance);
c. Dredge Disposal Licences;
d. Deposit of Tracer Dyes, Biocides and other such materials;
e. Marine Minerals Extraction Licence;
f. Marine Renewable Energy.

1.8 Fees are not charged for the following applications:

a. Determining if an activity is exempt under the Marine Licensing (Exempted Activities) Order (NI) 2011 (as amended)
b. Processing variations to licences post consent
c. Monitoring the discharge of conditions on post consent licences
d. EIA Screening and Scoping opinions

1.9 Schedule *'Tables of fees to be paid for licensable marine activities'*, Part 1 and Part 2 of the Marine Licensing (Application Fees) Regulations (NI) 2011, as amended are attached at Appendix 1.

Payment Methods

2.1 A fixed fee (one time charge) payment should be submitted to the department at the same time an application is submitted. The licence application will not be progressed without the appropriate fee. If you are unsure about the appropriate fee for your application, you are strongly advised to contact the marine licensing branch in advance of submitting your application to seek clarification. An underpayment will delay the processing of your application until the outstanding balance is paid, or your application could be made invalid and returned to you.

2.2 All payments can be made by one of the methods below:

Paying by electronic transfer BACS reference

2.3 If you choose to pay by electronic transfer you will need to use the following information to make your payment.

Account Name: DAERA GENERAL ACCOUNT
Bank Details: Danske Bank
PO BOX 183 Donegall Square West
Belfast
BT1 6JS

Sort Code: 95-01-21
Account Number: 61253506

Payment Reference: Customer Name / ML reference number

You should email your payment details and a reference number to **daera.emfg-rff@daera-ni.gov.uk**

Making payments from outside the UK

2.4 If you are making your payment from outside the United Kingdom (which must be received in sterling), our IBAN number is GB67 DABA 9501 2161 2535 06 and our BIC/ SWIFT number is DABAGB2B.

If you do not quote your reference number, there may be a delay in processing your payment and application.

Invoices

2.5 If you require an invoice in order to proceed with a fee payment, you will need to raise a Purchase Order (PO) and be set up on the DAERA payment system as a supplier. Please contact **daera.emfg-rff@daera-ni.gov.uk** for further information.

Pre Application Services

General Enquiries

3.2 These may include:

- Guidance on the marine licensing process
- Direction on completing application forms, fees and guidance

General advice does not include meetings or seeking specific advice from technical experts. Upon reply to your enquiry, no further information will be provided. If you require further information, you should complete and submit a Pre Application Discussion (PAD) form.

Pre-Application Discussions (PAD)

There are currently no fees applied for a pre application discussion

3.3 If you require detailed advice on a proposal prior to application submission, a pre application discussion (PAD) form should be completed.

A PAD form is encouraged, particularly for complex and/ or large scale developments that could have significant environmental impacts. The benefits of utilising this service include:

- Identifies issues upfront
- Aid understanding of requirements of the marine licensing process
- Facilitation of meetings with technical experts in advance of a formal application
- Discussion on potential monitoring and data requirements

Formal Applications

4.1 Fees must be received before a marine licence can be validated and processed. Fees are payable in accordance with Regulation 4 of the Schedule of fees

4.2 Current fees for marine licence applications can be found here

4.3 Marine licence applications fall under 6 different application categories.

4.4 All applicants must ensure the application form is complete and submitted alongside all required supporting documents, the current fee and sent to marinelicensingteam@daera-ni.gov.uk

Exemptions

There are currently no fees applied to exemption applications

4.5 Exempted activities are set out in the Marine Licensing (Exempted Activities) Order (Northern Ireland) 2011 (as amended) and section Part 4, Chapter 2 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. Exemptions may require no action by an individual, require notification to DAERA or require the approval of DAERA. If you intend to rely on an exemption, you must meet the relevant qualifying criteria and conditions. If these criteria and conditions cannot be met, you may need to apply for a marine licence for the activity. Guidance on exempted activities is available from https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-guidance-exemptions-marine-licensing-under-part-4-marine-and-coastal-access-act

Example: Exemption application to carry out acoustic monitoring projects in different locations and for varying durations.

Action: This may fall under Article 17A Scientific Instruments of the Exempted Activities Order, however if the conditions of this Article cannot be met then a marine construction licence application form will be required for the proposal.

Variations

There are currently no fees applied to variation requests.

4.6 Post consent variations to a licence may be made by DAERA under Section 72 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

Discharge of Conditions

There are currently no fees applied to applications to discharge conditions on post consent licences.

4.7 Licensees are required to complete a discharge of condition application form to discharge specific conditions from their respective marine licence.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Services

Fixed fees for marine environmental impact assessment (EIA) services, to include Screening and Scoping Opinions, are applicable from 1st November 2026.

4.8 DAERA is the Appropriate Authority under the Marine Works (Environmental Impact

Assessment) Regulations 2007, as amended, and as such DAERA is required to reach a conclusion about the likely significant effects of certain projects on the environment.

4.9 This is done by way of an Environmental Consent Decision, which is made before DAERA can determine a marine licensing application under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

4.10 The types of projects for which an **EIA is required** are set out in **Schedule A1** of the Regulations, and an **EIA may be required** for projects which are set out at **Schedule A2** of the Regulations.

4.11 As Appropriate Authority, DAERA may determine that an EIA is required if it concludes that the project in question is likely, because of its size, nature or location, to have significant effects on the environment. The determination is known as a **Screening Opinion** and is provided at the request of the developer.

4.12 Developers may also request **Scoping Opinions** as to the information to be provided in an environmental statement for an application for a marine licence.

4.13 Introduced fixed fees for screening and scoping opinions as set out in the consultation document - ***'Synopsis of Responses to DAERA Consultation – Proposals to Introduce Fixed Fees for Marine Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Services'*** will be published on the DAERA website - Marine Licensing (Northern Ireland) Application Fees 2026 | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and will become effective on 1 November 2026.

Marine Licensing Fees

5.1 DAERA Marine Licensing will be charging the following fees to deliver the marine licensing service in Northern Ireland. Fees are payable for different types of project based on the time and effort expended by DAERA Marine licensing staff to process the application.

Marine Construction Licences

5.2 Activities under the construction application are categorised into 12 bands which reflect the size and scale of the project, in monetary terms.

Table 1

Marine Construction Licence

Column 1 Banded values in monetary terms	Column 2 Licence Fee
Band A Up to £2,499	£67
Band B £2,500 - £4,999	£210
Band C £5,000 - £19,999	£1,771
Band D £20,000 - £49,999	£2,447
Band E £50,000 - £199,999	£4,671
Band F £200,000 - £499,999	£6,720
Band G £500,000 - £999,999	£7,796
Band H £1,000,000 - £2,999,999	£14,596
Band I £3,000,000 - £4,999,999	£17,991
Band J £5,000,000 - £19,999,999	£21,391
Band K £20,000,000 - £49,999,999	£34,988
Band L £50,000,000 and above	£57,378

Example: A proposal which requires a marine construction licence application for large scale project (Bands F onwards) – may need to be screened for EIA under Schedule A1 under MWR prior to licence consultation under MCAA.

Action: Advise a PAD form is submitted to the marine licensing team early in the process in order to determine how best to proceed with the proposal – under MWR or MCAA.

Dredge and Dredge Disposal Licences

5.3 Dredging and disposal of dredged materials to sea are licensable activities under Part 4 the MCAA 2009 and under Chapter 2, Section 75 of the Act in regard to exemptions for certain dredge activities

Maintenance dredge is the removal or relocation of unconsolidated material that builds up on the seafloor of existing shipping channels in order to maintain existing charted depths for navigational purposes.

Table 2

Maintenance Dredging Licence

Column 1 Banded values in terms of mass of material dredged (t = tonne)	Column 2 Licence fee
Band 1 Up to 9,999t	£791
Band 2 10,000t – 24,999t	£958
Band 3 25,000t – 49,999t	£1,118
Band 4 50,000t – 99,999t	£1,801
Band 5 100,000t – 499,999t	£4,040
Band 6 500,000t – 999,999t	£5,732
Band 7 1,000,000 and above	£9,668

Example: A maintenance dredge within harbour limits, and disposal of sediments to sea.

Action: If the dredging is within the Harbour Authority jurisdiction, a dredge licence is not required. However, a sea disposal licence and associated fee will be required for the sea disposal of dredged material at a predetermined disposal site.

Capital dredge is the removal of material from an area to be dredged down to a level/depth that has not previously been dredged during the preceding 10 years, in order to increase water depths. The purpose of a capital dredge is to create new or expand existing navigational channels, berthing pockets and turning basins to establish new dredge design levels. A capital dredge may require an EIA.

Table 3

Capital Dredging Licence

Column 1 Banded values in terms of mass of material dredged (t = tonne)	Column 2 Licence fee
Band 1 Up to 9,999t	£2,908
Band 2 10,000t – 24,999t	£4,046
Band 3 25,000t – 49,999t	£5,533
Band 4 50,000t – 99,999t	£7,781
Band 5 100,000t – 499,999t	£10,868
Band 6 500,000t – 999,999t	£15,421
Band 7 1,000,000t and above	£25,986

Example: Proposal to dredge an area of seabed to deepen or create a new vessel berthing area / dock.

Action: Two separate licences will be required for this proposal and therefore two separate licence application fees.
A capital dredge licence application and associated fee alongside a separate construction licence and associated fee should be submitted for the whole project.

NB – A capital dredge may also require an EIA, or where there have been no dredging campaigns in the preceding 10 years. Where works fall under a Harbour Authority, a maintenance dredge activity would not require a marine licence application, however a capital dredge campaign would need a dredge licence .

Table 4

Maintenance Dredge Disposal Licence

Column 1 Banded values in terms of mass of material disposed (t = tonne)	Column 2 Licence fee
Band 1 Up to 9,999t	£6,521
Band 2 10,000t – 24,999t	£8,903
Band 3 25,000t – 49,999t	£12,465
Band 4 50,000t – 99,999t	£17,582
Band 5 100,000t – 499,999t	£24,790
Band 6 500,000t – 999,999t	£34,988
Band 7 1,000,000t and above	£58,773

Table 5

Capital Dredge Disposal Licence

Column 1 Banded values in terms of mass of material disposed (t = tonne)	Column 2 Licence fee
Band 1 Up to 9,999t	£8,770
Band 2 10,000t – 24,999t	£12,031
Band 3 25,000t – 49,999t	£16,075
Band 4 50,000t – 99,999t	£23,866
Band 5 100,000t – 499,999t	£33,591
Band 6 500,000t – 999,999t	£47,557
Band 7 1,000,000t and above	£80,150

Deposit of Tracer Dyes, Biocides and Other Such Materials Licence

7.1 The deposit of tracer dyes, biocides and other such materials

Table 6

Deposit of Tracer Dyes, Biocides and Other Such Materials Licence

Licence fee
£1,341

Extraction of Marine Minerals

8.1 The extraction of minerals from the seabed

Table 7

Marine Minerals Extraction Licence

Licence fee
£95,140

Renewable Energy Installations

9.1 The Energy Act 2004, Part 2, Chapter 2 Subsection 3 defines renewable energy projects as the following:

(3) In this Chapter “renewable energy installation” means—

(a) an offshore installation used for purposes connected with the production of energy from water or winds;

(b) an installation in the course of construction at a place where it is to be used as an offshore installation within paragraph (a);

(c) an installation that has ceased to be an installation within paragraph (a) while remaining an offshore installation (whether or not at the same place);

(d) an installation that is being decommissioned at a place where it has been an installation within paragraph (a) or (c);

(e) an installation in transit to or from a place where it is to be, or has been, used for purposes that would make it, or made it, an installation within paragraph (a);

(f) an installation in transit to or from a place where it is to be, or was, an installation within paragraph (c).

Table 8

Marine Renewable Energy Licence

Column 1 Banded values in terms of the project’s power output (MW = Megawatt, GW = Gigawatt)	Column 2 Licence fee
Band R1 Up to 0.99MW	£12,987
Band R2 1.00MW – 9.99MW	£40,610
Band R3	£171,204
10.00MW – 999.99MW	
Band R4 1.00GW and above	£171,204 plus £31,613 for each additional 500MW above 1.00GW

Note: The current fee for marine renewable energy licences may not include necessary pre application surveys which will be required to supplement the EIA application. A separate marine construction licence may also be required for pre survey and site investigation works. Please refer to the current Marine Construction Licence fee table.

For example: A renewable application is submitted for an offshore wind farm proposal. A separate marine construction licence application will also be required for any survey work (e.g. Marine mammals, ornithological features, seabed surveys)

Marine Environmental Impact Assessment services

10.1 DAERA has developed fixed fees for Screening and Scoping Opinions, provided under Schedule A1 and Schedule A2 of the Marine Works (EIA) Regulations 2007 (as amended)

EIA Service	Project type	Fee
Screening Opinion	All	£600
Scoping Opinion	Renewable Energy projects	£35,259
	All other EIA projects	£16,472

SCHEDULE

Tables of fees to be paid for licensable marine activities 2026/27

PART 1

DESCRIPTION OF FEE TABLES (USAGE)

1. Table 1 (Marine Construction Licence) is categorised into 12 bands which reflect the size and scale of the project, in monetary terms. The applicant will be required to pay the licence fee (Column 2) on submission of an application.

2. Tables 2 (Maintenance Dredging Licence), 3 (Capital Dredging Licence), 4 (Maintenance Dredge Disposal Licence) and 5 (Capital Dredge Disposal Licence) are all categorised into bands which reflect the metric tonnages of material to be dredged or disposed of. In each case, the applicant will be required to pay the Licence Fee (Column 2) on submission of an application.

3. Tables 6 (Deposit of Tracer Dyes, Biocides and Other Such Materials Licence) and 7 (Marine Minerals Extraction Licence) each have a single band. The fee to be paid by the applicant on submission of an application is as indicated.

4. Table 8 (Marine Renewable Energy Licence) is categorised into 4 bands which reflect the size and scale of the project, in terms of its output in Megawatts. The applicant will be required to pay the Licence Fee (Column 2) on submission of an application.

PART 2

FEES PAYABLE

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Band R3	£171,204

Table 9

Marine Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Services

EIA Service	Project Type	Fee
Screening Opinion	All	£600
Scoping Opinion	Renewable Energy projects	£35,259
	All other EIA projects	£16,472

10.00MW – 999.99MW	
Band R4 1.00GW and above	£171,204 plus £31,613 for each additional 500MW above 1.00GW

For further information:

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