



Marine Notice No. 10 of 2023

*Notice to all Shipowners, Fishing Vessel Owners, Agents, Shipmasters, Skippers, Fishers,
Yachtsmen and Seafarers*

Site Investigation surveys at Atlantic Marine Energy Test Site County Mayo

1. Notice of Activity

The Department of Transport has been advised that MERC Environmental Consultants Ltd. and the Marine Institute will undertake site investigation survey works at the Atlantic Marine Energy Test Site, Co. Mayo. The surveys are expected to be completed over a three-day period, at the next available weather window, from **2 March 2023**, subject to weather and operational constraints. The site investigation survey works include the following activities:

- **Benthic Survey**

MERC Environmental Consultants Ltd will undertake a benthic survey at the Atlantic Marine Energy Test Site, Co. Mayo. The initial survey work will consist of taking 40 number subtidal 'Day Grab' samples to identify macrofauna particle size and organic content. It is proposed that twenty-five (25) random stations from the test area (A and B and the cable route) and fifteen (15) random stations from appropriate control locations for each test area and the cable route will be required.

- **Geotechnical and Geophysical surveys**

Geophys and geotech survey site investigation works will be carried out offshore at Test Site A and Test Site B and along the proposed cable corridor. The geophysical survey work will consist of running sidescan sonar, multibeam swath bathymetry, sub-bottom profiling and cone penetrating testing work.

2. Location of Activity

The survey campaign will be undertaken within the proposed Atlantic Marine Energy Test Site, consisting of two separate areas. Test site A is 16 km from Belderra Strand, and Test site B is 6 km from Belderra Strand on the Erris Peninsula. A map detailing the test site locations can be found in Appendix 1. Tables providing the coordinates for the survey locations at Test Site A and B and along the proposed cable corridor route are provided below.

Co-ordinates for Test Site 'A' Location

Co-ordinates for Test Site 'A' Location Points	Latitude	Longitude
1	54° 17' 25"N	010° 18' 16"W
2	54° 17' 23"N	010° 16' 31"W
3	54° 16' 37"N	010° 16' 13"W
4	54° 16' 02"N	010° 15' 31"W
5	54° 15' 39"N	010° 15' 30"W
6	54° 15' 59"N	010° 18' 15"W

Co-ordinates for Test Site 'B' Location

Co-ordinates for Test Site 'B' Location Points	Latitude	Longitude
7	54° 13' 17"N	010° 09' 21"W
8	54° 13' 17"N	010° 08' 15"W
9	54° 13' 58"N	010° 08' 15"W
10	54° 16' 02"N	010° 09' 11"W

Cable Corridor Survey

Cable Corridor Survey Points	Latitude	Longitude
A	54° 16' 09"N	010° 15' 39"W
B	54° 15' 29"N	010° 14' 29"W
C	54° 15' 02"N	010° 12' 58"W
D	54° 14' 30"N	010° 11' 30"W
E	54° 14' 30"N	010° 09' 45"W
F	54° 13' 44"N	010° 09' 21"W
G	54° 13' 39"N	010° 08' 15"W
H	54° 13' 40"N	010° 07' 41"W
I	54° 13' 30"N	010° 05' 31"W
J	54° 13' 09"N	010° 04' 18"W
K	54° 12' 37"N	010° 03' 47"W
L	54° 12' 34"N	010° 03' 47"W
M	54° 12' 34"N	010° 03' 47"W
N	54° 13' 24"N	010° 04' 26"W
O	54° 13' 33"N	010° 07' 42"W
P	54° 13' 33"N	010° 08' 15"W
Q	54° 13' 36"N	010° 09' 21"W
R	54° 13' 40"N	010° 10' 09"W
S	54° 13' 57"N	010° 10' 36"W
T	54° 14' 41"N	010° 12' 19"W
U	54° 15' 02"N	010° 13' 21"W
V	54° 15' 22"N	010° 14' 39"W
W	54° 15' 02"N	010° 13' 21"W

3. Details of the Survey Vessels

The benthic survey work will be conducted by the **Dúlra na Mara** (Call sign: **EIFS6**) a shallow draft survey vessel.

The survey vessel **RV Celtic Explorer** (Call sign: **EIGB**) will carry out geophysical and geotechnical site investigation works offshore at Test Site 'A' and Test Site 'B' and along the proposed cable corridor.

During operations the vessels will be restricted in their ability to manoeuvre. Vessels are requested to leave a wide berth during the deployment operations. The survey operations will be conducted during daylight hours only. Mariners are advised to keep continuous watch on **VHF radio channel 16** when navigating the survey area at the Atlantic Marine Energy Test Site.

4. Safety Precautions

At the Atlantic Marine Energy Test Site, Test Site A is identified by a Commissioners of Irish Lights 'Special Mark' yellow coloured buoy called "AMETS A", Fl.Y.5s and Test Site B is identified by a Commissioners of Irish Lights 'Special Mark' yellow coloured buoy called "AMETS B", Fl.Y.3s. Both buoys are visible on AIS. The 'cable corridor' survey area runs directly between the two 'Special Marks', A and B.

5. Contact Details

Enquiries regarding the contents of this Marine Notice, or any other relevant matters, should be directed to:

Name	Position	Email Address	Mobile Number
Anthony Irwin	Captain of survey Vessel 'Dúlra na Mara'	N/A	Marine Mobile Service Identifier Number MMSI 250001527
Eamon Howlin	SEAI Representative	Eamon.Howlin@seai.ie	086 8071394
Louise Scally	Benthic survey Representative, MMO	Louise@mercenvironmental.ie	087 2750784
Conall O'Malley	Marine Institute Geophys & Geotech Survey representative MMO	Conall.O'Malley@Marine.ie	087 2809956
John Breslin	Commercial Fishers Liaison Officer	John.Breslin@bluewisemarine.ie	086 0253845

All mariners are reminded of their responsibilities under the **International Collision Regulations** and of [Marine Notice No. 17 of 2007](#), which gives general advice in relation to the activities of vessels engaged in survey work for hydrographic, seismic, fishing research and underwater operations.

The International Regulations for Prevention of Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) are implemented in Irish law by the *Merchant Shipping (Collision Regulations) (Ships and Water Craft on the Water) Order 2012* [S.I. No. 507 of 2012] and the *Signals of Distress (Ships) Rules 2012* [S.I. No.170 of 2012]. [See Marine Notice No. 06 of 2013](#). These Statutory Instruments may be purchased by mail order from Government Publications, Office of Public Works, 52 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2. Tel: (01) 6476834/1890-213434. They are also available online at: www.irishstatutebook.ie

Note: Marine Notices are issued purely for maritime safety and navigation reasons and should not be construed as conferring rights or granting permissions.

Irish Maritime Administration,
Department of Transport,
Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 TR60, Ireland.

08/02/2023

Encl: Appendix 1 Map of Survey Area

For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice, please contact:
The Marine Survey Office, email: MSO@transport.gov.ie
For general enquiries, please contact the Maritime Safety Policy Division, email:
MaritimeSafetyPolicyDivision@transport.gov.ie
Written enquiries concerning Marine Notices should be addressed to:
Dept. of Transport, Maritime Safety Policy Division, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 TR60, Ireland.
email: MarineNotices@transport.gov.ie or visit us at: www.gov.ie/transport

Appendix 1 Map of Survey Area

