

# Maritime Usage Licence (MUL) Application: Sustainable hand-harvesting of *Ascophyllum nodosum* in Kenmare Bay

## Supporting Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment (SISAA)



Version : 29<sup>th</sup> of July 2025



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## SUMMARY

Screening steps	Outcome / summary
Project characteristics	Sustainable hand-harvesting of <i>Ascophyllum nodosum</i> in Kenmare Bay
What Natura 2000 sites are potentially affected?	Kenmare River SAC (002158) Mucksna Wood SAC (001371) Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC (002173) Glanmore Bog SAC (001879) Drongawn Lough SAC (002187) Old Domestic Building, Askive Wood SAC (002098)
Is the project directly connected with or Necessary to the management of the site?	The current project is not directly connected to or necessary for the management of any Natura 2000 site.
Is there a possibility of significant direct, indirect and cumulative or are these effects uncertain?	The project is located within Kenmare River SAC and is capable of having a number of direct, indirect, and cumulative effects on the Qualifying Interests of this site. The other sites are 'screened in' due to some uncertainty in relation to effects and on a precautionary basis due to their proximity to the application area.
Summary of the Screening for Appropriate Assessment outcome.	AA/NIS is required.
Who carried out this screening?	[REDACTED] PhD, MSc, BSc, CBiol, CEnv, FRSB, MCIEEM
Date of completion of report	3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2025 (Report Version 2.4)

### Signed:-

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**Date: 29<sup>th</sup> of July 2025**



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Ecofact Environmental Consultants Ltd. have been commissioned by BioAtlantis Ltd. to prepare a 'Supporting Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment' (SISAA) report for proposed hand-harvesting of the seaweed *Ascophyllum nodosum* within the Kenmare Bay area.

A description of the proposed hand harvesting has been provided by BioAtlantis in the following reports:-

- BioAtlantis (2025a) License Application for sustainable hand-harvesting of *Ascophyllum nodosum* in Kenmare Bay. Proposal Document.
- BioAtlantis (2025b) Assessment of Impact of the Maritime Usage (AIMU) Report for the sustainable hand-harvesting of *Ascophyllum nodosum* in Kenmare Bay.

These reports are attached to the current NIS document. The application involves the hand harvesting of up to 1,826 wet tonnes of *Ascophyllum nodosum* per annum in Kenmare River SAC, as shown in Figure 1.

The application involves the hand harvesting of up to 1,826 wet tonnes of *Ascophyllum nodosum* per annum in the areas shown in Figure 1.

A Screening for Appropriate Assessment considers whether a proposed development is capable of having a significant effect on any Natura 2000 site, either on its own or in combination with other projects/plans. Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), in instances where a plan or project may give rise to significant effects upon a Natura 2000 site. Appropriate Assessment Screening is an initial examination that determines whether Appropriate Assessment is necessary for a plan or project. Screening is an iterative process that involves the consideration of a plan or project and its likely effects on Natura 2000 sites and the ecological sensitivities of these sites (DoEHLG, 2010).

### 1.1 Legislative context

Ireland's nature conservation laws align with European Union directives to protect wildlife and habitats of international importance. The Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) and the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) form the foundation of these protections, requiring Member States to establish a network of protected sites.

In Irish law, these directives are implemented through Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and Statutory Instrument No. 477 of 2011, which formally transpose their provisions. The Birds Directive, adopted on 30 November 2009, focuses on the conservation of wild birds, while the Habitats Directive, adopted on 21 May 1992, protects natural habitats, wild fauna, and flora.

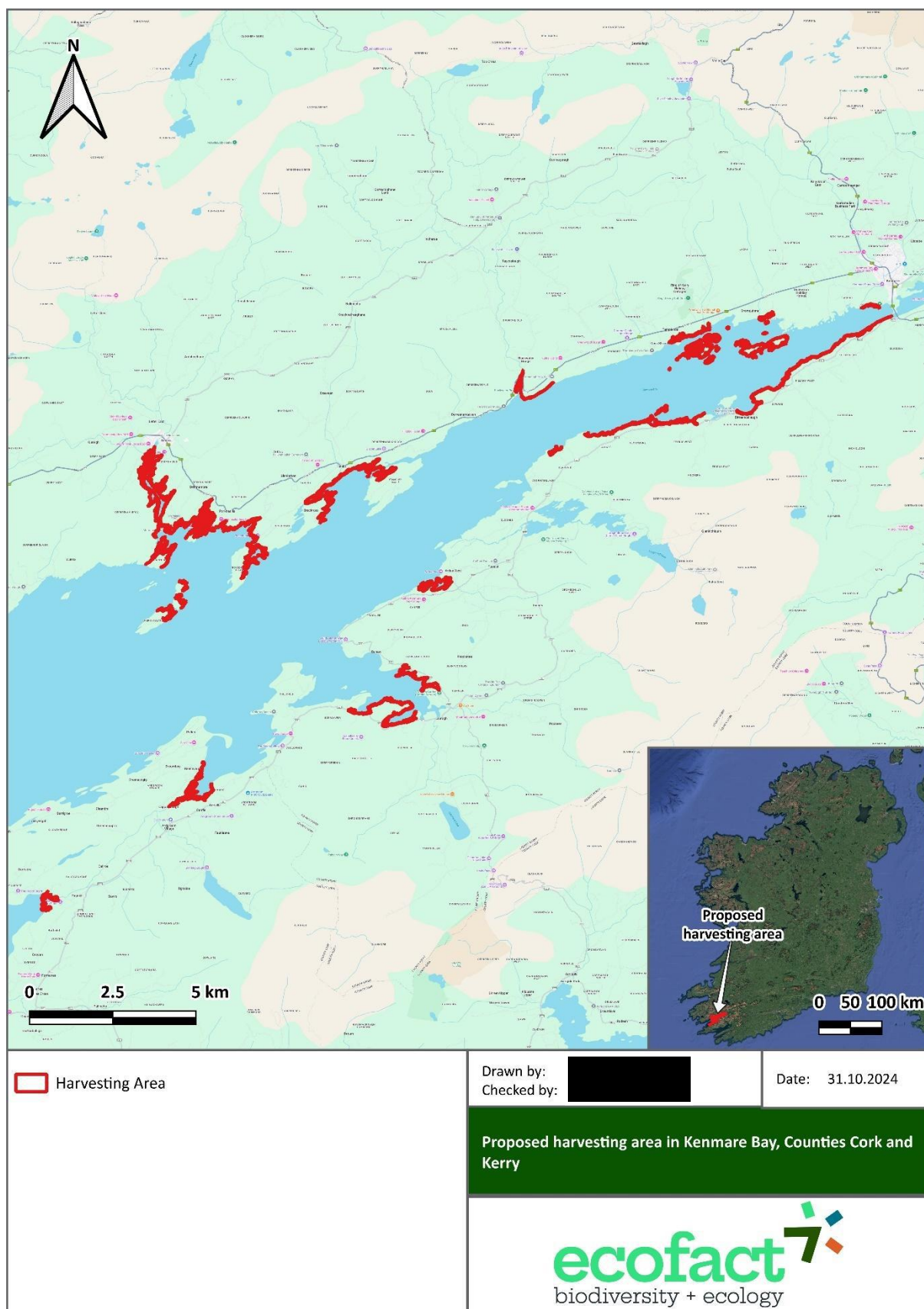
The European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 were first amended in 1998 by S.I. No. 233/1998, incorporating updates from Council Directive 97/62/EC. A further amendment in 2005, S.I. No. 378/2005, consolidated Ireland's key nature conservation legislation, including the Wildlife Act 1976, the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, and previous versions of the Natural Habitats Regulations. The 2005 update also reinforced Ireland's obligations under the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC).

These legal frameworks establish Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), collectively known in Ireland as European sites. The Birds Directive ensures the protection of



bird species of special importance through SPAs, while the Habitats Directive safeguards specific habitats and other species groups through SACs.

Each EU Member State, including Ireland, is responsible for designating SPAs and SACs, which together form Natura 2000, a Europe-wide network of protected areas dedicated to biodiversity conservation.



**Figure 1** Location of the subject application area for hand-harvesting of *Ascophyllum nodosum* in Kenmare Bay.



## 2. METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Introduction

Article 6 assessments are required under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), in instances where a plan or project may give rise to significant effects upon a Natura 2000 site. Natura 2000 sites are those identified as sites of European Community importance designated under the Habitats Directive (1992) (SACs) or the Birds Directive (2009) (SPAs).

Appropriate Assessment is a staged process with each stage being dependent on the outcomes of the preceding stage. These stages are: (1) Screening; (2) Appropriate Assessment; (3) Assessment of Alternative Solutions and (4) Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest test, and Compensatory Measures (EC, 2001).

According to DoEHLG (2010), Stage 1 Screening is the process that addresses and records the reasoning and conclusions in relation to the first two tests of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive:

- (1) Whether a plan or project is directly connected to or necessary for the management of the site, and;
- (2) Whether a plan or project, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have significant effects on a Natura 2000 site in view of its conservation objectives.

DoEHLG (2010) outlines that there are 3 potential outcomes of a Screening for Appropriate Assessment, as outlined in Table 1 below.

**Table 1** DoEHLG (2010) potential findings and outcomes for Screening for Appropriate Assessment.

Finding	Outcome
Project is directly connected to or necessary for the management of a designated site	Stage 2 (AA) is not required
No possibility for significant effects	Stage 2 (AA) is not required
Potential for significant effects identified, or potential for impacts is uncertain	Stage 2 (AA) is required, and a Natura Impact Statement will be prepared

The requirements for undertaking Screening for Appropriate Assessment as part of the process for applying for a Maritime Usage Licence (MUL) are described by the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority, MARA (ref: MARA, 2024A and MARA, 2024B), Ireland's state agency and competent authority for the licencing of seaweed harvesting, whose functions are set out in the Maritime Area Planning Acts 2021 and 2022.

Screening is not an "assessment". It is a pre-assessment procedure which considers whether an assessment (i.e., appropriate assessment) is required or not. Appropriate Assessment for a project or plan may only be ruled out at Screening stage if there is no reasonable scientific doubt remaining as to the absence of impacts on the Natura 2000 network.

When doing a screening it is merely necessary to determine that there may be such an effect. *'The threshold at the first stage of Article 6(3) is a very low one. It operates merely as a trigger, in order to determine whether an appropriate assessment must be undertaken on the implications of the plan or project for the conservation objectives of the site.'* (Finlay Geoghegan J. in Kelly -v- An Bord Pleanála





2013/802 JR). Where the potential for a significant impact is identified, or if there is any uncertainty regarding an impact, then an Appropriate Assessment must be completed.

A significant effect is defined as “*any effect that may reasonably be predicted as a consequence of a plan or project that may affect the conservation objectives of the features for which the site was designated but excluding de minimis or inconsequential effects*”. The safeguards set out in Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive are triggered not by certainty but by the possibility of significant effects. If effects are deemed to be significant, potentially significant, or uncertain, or if the screening process becomes overly complicated, then the process must proceed to Stage 2 (AA).

Mitigation measures cannot be taken into account when undertaking a Screening for Appropriate Assessment, as per case C-323/17 *People Over Wind* and *Peter Sweetman v Coillte*. If mitigation measures are required to reduce or avoid a significant adverse effect, then Appropriate Assessment is required.

## 2.2 Guidance

This Screening for Appropriate Assessment follows this guidance as relevant:

- DoEHLG, (2010). 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities'.
- OPR (2021). 'Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management.'
- European Commission, (2001). 'Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.'
- European Commission, (2007). 'Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC: Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interests, compensatory measures, overall coherence and opinion of the Commission.'
- European Commission, (2018). 'Managing Natura 2000 Sites. The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.'

## 2.3 Information sources

This Screening for Appropriate Assessment was informed by a desk study of the information provided by the client, along with a detailed review of the information on designated sites available on the website of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

The desktop study was undertaken to identify the extent and scope of the potentially affected designated Natura 2000 sites within the study area. A full bibliography of information sources reviewed is provided in the reference section. Information sources reviewed include:

- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) site synopses.
- NPWS Conservation Objectives and Natura 2000 Forms.
- Protected species data on NPWS/National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) online databases.
- Environmental Sensitivity Mapping (ESM) Tool.
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mapping tools (including AAGeoTool).
- Online aerial imagery (Bing, Google Satellite).





Mapping of the proposed development was carried out in QGIS, using aerial imagery of the site (Bing & Google) and with reference to the proposed development drawings. Three buffer zones were included (5km, 10km, and 15km) as per the DoEHLG (2010) guidelines and the Natura 2000 sites (SACs & SPAs) within or traversing these buffer zones included for screening.

A desktop study was undertaken to identify the extent and scope of the potentially affected designated Natura 2000 sites within the current study area. The desktop study identified the conservation interests of the designated sites with respect to the qualifying interests (species and habitats) relevant to the designated sites within the area.

The study area was visited during January 2017, July 2017, and July 2024 and an overview assessment was carried out to establish the presence and sensitivity of Annex I habitats and suitable habitat availability for Annex II species, with regard to the Natura 2000 designations within the study area.

### **3. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS**

A description of the proposed hand harvesting has been provided separately by BioAtlantis in the following reports:-

- BioAtlantis (2024) Assessment of Impact of the Maritime Usage (AIMU) Report for the sustainable hand-harvesting of *Ascophyllum nodosum* in Kenmare Bay.
- BioAtlantis Proposal Document (Kenmare Bay), and its associated Appendices.

The application involves the hand harvesting of up to 1,826 wet tonnes of *Ascophyllum nodosum* per annum in Kenmare River SAC. Further details regarding this application are provided in the AIMU report, the application proposal document (and its various appendices) and maps.



## 4. IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT NATURA 2000 SITES

### 4.1 Rationale for Appropriate Assessment Screening

Article 6 assessments are required under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), in instances where a plan or project may give rise to significant effects upon a Natura 2000 site. Natura 2000 sites are those identified as sites of European Community importance designated under the Habitats Directive (Special Areas of Conservation, here after referred to as SACs) or the Birds Directive (Special Protection Areas, here after referred to as SPAs).

Following the guidelines set out by DoEHLG (2010) Screening for Appropriate Assessment is the process that addresses and records the reasoning and conclusions in relation to the first two tests of Article 6(3); i.e. whether a plan or project can be excluded from Appropriate Assessment requirements because it is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site; and the potential effects of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, on a Natura 2000 site in view of its conservation objectives, and considering whether these effects will be significant. According to DoEHLG (2010), screening is the process that addresses and records the reasoning and conclusions in relation to the first two tests of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive:

- (1) Whether a plan or project is directly connected to or necessary for the management of the site, and;
- (2) Whether a plan or project, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have significant effects on a Natura 2000 site in view of its conservation objectives.

The proposed development does not comply with the first screening test. The proposed hand harvesting of *Ascophyllum nodosum* is not directly connected to or necessary for the management of any Natura 2000 site. The current Screening therefore sets out to determine whether the development, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have significant effects on the Natura 2000 sites within the study area.

### 4.2 Natura 2000 sites considered for the proposed activities

The Natura 2000 network is a network of nature protection areas across the European Union, comprising of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's) and Special Protection Areas (SPA's). SACs are sites of international importance because of the presence of habitats or species that are of European importance, listed on the EU Habitats Directive (1992). SPAs are important for birds and these sites are designated based on the presence of internationally significant populations of bird species, listed in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive (2009).

The location of the proposed project in the context of the Natura 2000 network is examined below. The SACs within 15km of the proposed hand-harvesting areas are listed in Table 2 and shown in Figure 2. The SPAs within 15km of the proposed hand-harvesting areas are listed in Table 3 and shown in Figure 3. All these sites are considered in the current Screening for Appropriate Assessment.

The Natura 2000 network is a critical part of European environmental policy, aimed at ensuring the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. Understanding the relationship between these sites and the proposed project is essential for assessing potential environmental impacts.



**Table 2** Designated Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within 15km of the proposed hand-harvesting of *Ascophyllum nodosum* in Kenmare Bay.

Natura 2000 Site	NPWS Site Code	Distance (km)
Kenmare River SAC	002158	0km
Mucksna Wood SAC	001371	0m
Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC	002173	6m upstream
Glanmore Bog SAC	001879	62m upstream
Drongawn Lough SAC	002187	130m
Old Domestic Building, Askive Wood SAC	002098	360m north
Old Domestic Building, Dromore Wood SAC	000353	460m
Cleanderry Wood SAC	001043	1.6km
Caha Mountains SAC	000093	2.3km west / 3.5km upstream
Maulagowna Bog SAC	001881	2.5km south
Cloonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC	001342	2.7km south
Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reek and Caragh River Catchment SAC	000365	3.1km west
Kilgarvan Ice House SAC	000364	8.2km east
Glanlough Woods SAC	002315	9.5km east
Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC	000090	10.5km south
Iveragh Peninsula SPA	004154	10.9km southwest
Derryclogher (Knockboy) Bog SAC	001873	11.6km southeast

**Table 3** Designated Special Protection Areas (SPAs) within 15km of the proposed hand-harvesting of *Ascophyllum nodosum* in Kenmare Bay.

Natura 2000 Site	NPWS Site Code	Distance (km)
Beara Peninsula SPA	004155	4.9km south
Eirk Bog SPA	004108	8.3km north
Killarney National Park SPA	004038	9.6km north
Iveragh Peninsula SPA	004154	10.9km southwest
The Bull and The Cow Rocks SPA	004066	12.3km north east

### 4.3 Other protected areas

There are no other internationally designated sites in Kenmare Bay. The nearest Ramsar sites (internationally important wetlands – Ramsar Convention 1971) are Castlemaine Harbour (Ramsar ID 470) and The Gearagh (Ramsar ID 472) and it is considered that these sites could not be affected due to separation distances, and the absence of any pathways for effects. Sites of national importance (e.g. Natural Heritage Areas and National Parks) do not fall under the provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.



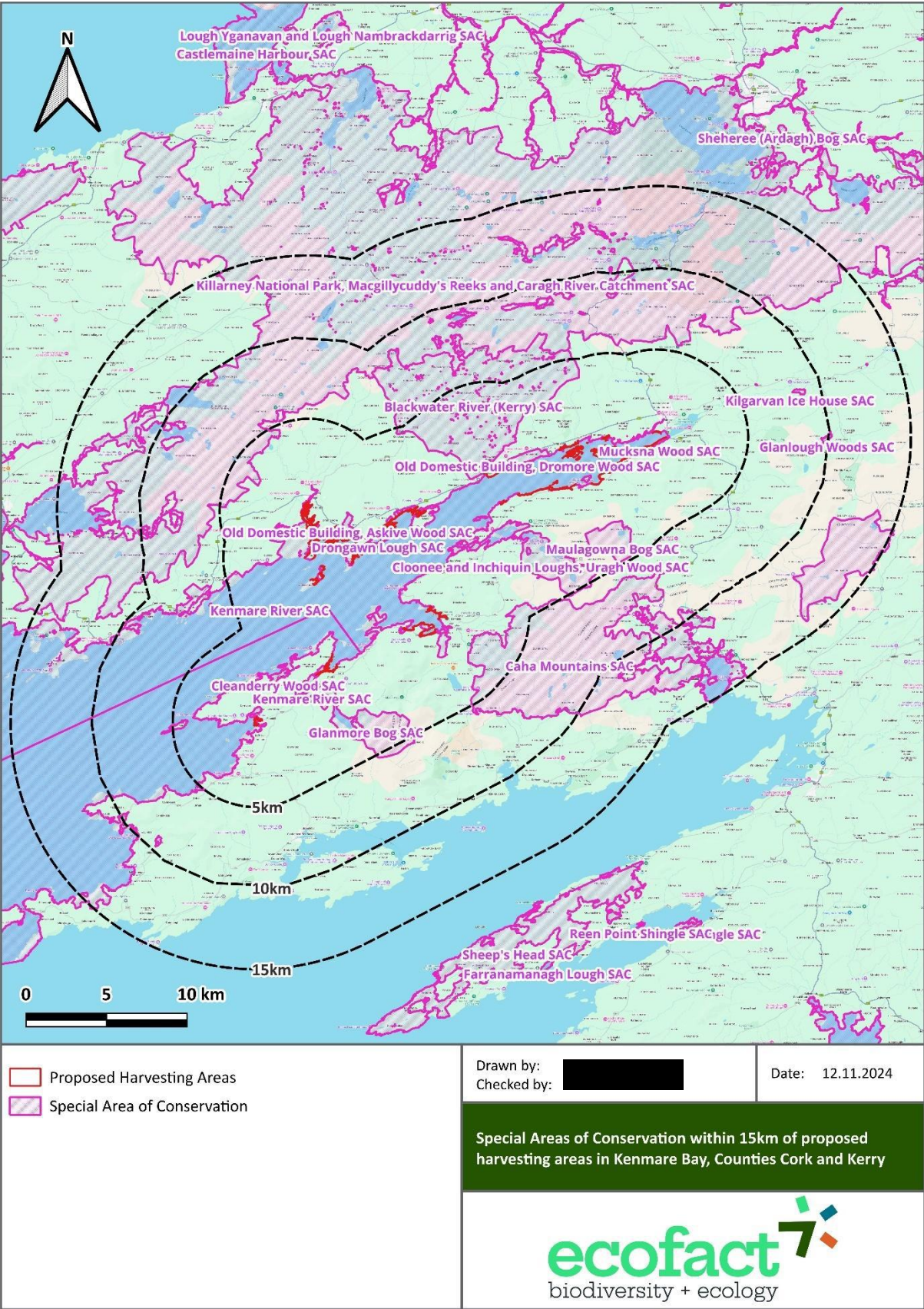
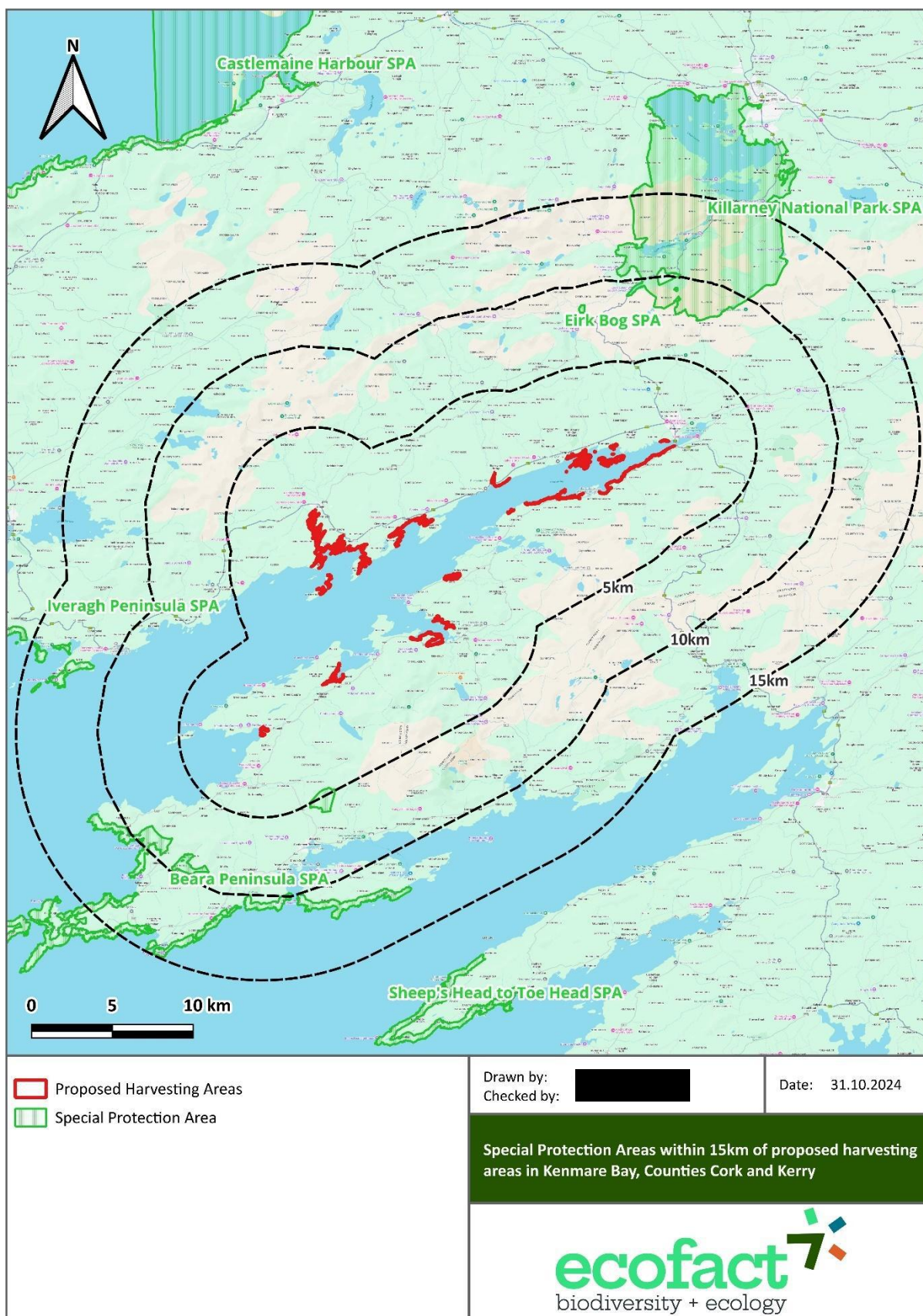


Figure 2 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within 15km of the proposed harvesting areas.





**Figure 3** Special Protection Areas (SPAs) within 15km of the proposed harvesting areas.



## 5. SCREENING FOR EFFECTS

### 5.1 Screening matrix

Table 4 below outlines the Natura 2000 Sites within 15km of the proposed hand-harvesting of *Ascophyllum nodosum* in Kenmare Bay Screening for Appropriate Assessment, and provides a screening for potential impacts.

*The safeguards set out in Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive are triggered not by certainty but by the possibility of significant effects, as per case 2013/802 JR Kelly -v- An Bord Pleanála. “There is no need to establish such an effect; it is [ ] merely necessary to determine that there may be such an effect” (C-258/11). Any project capable of having a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site must undergo an assessment of its implications on the Natura 2000 site network. A significant effect is any effect on the Qualifying Interests of a Natura 2000 site, excluding inconsequential effects. A precautionary approach is fundamental and, in cases of uncertainty, it must be assumed the effects could be significant. Mitigation – and even “standard practice” cannot be provided at the screening stage, as per case C-323/17 People Over Wind and Peter Sweetman v Coillte.*

**Table 4** Designated Natura 2000 sites located within a 15km radius of the proposed *A. nodosum* license area for BioAtlantis in south Co. Kerry and west Co. Cork. The qualifying interests and the potential for impacts affecting these individual features are identified.

Natura site	Distance	Qualifying Interests	Potential for impacts identified	Assessment required
Kenmare River SAC (002158)	0km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large Shallow Inlets and Bays [1160]</li> <li>Reefs [1170]</li> <li>Perennial Vegetation of Stony Banks [1220]</li> <li>Vegetated Sea Cliffs [1230]</li> <li>Atlantic Salt Meadows [1330]</li> <li>Mediterranean Salt Meadows [1410]</li> <li>Marram Dunes (White Dunes) [2120]</li> <li>Fixed Dunes (Grey Dunes) [2130] Dry Heath [4030]</li> <li>Juniper Scrub [5130]</li> </ul>	<p>Activities are required within habitats that interact with the intertidal zone and within the bay itself; therefore pathways exist for impacts on Large Shallow Inlets and Bays and Reefs and potentially other qualifying interest.</p> <p>Otter and Common seal have been recorded from within the project area and SAC populations and are known to be mobile, therefore there is the potential for impacts to these species.</p> <p>There will probably be no interactions or pathways for impacts arising from the proposal</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> Assessment is required to determine the significance of potential impacts affecting Large Shallow Inlets and Bays, Reefs, and the SAC populations of Common (Harbour) Seal and Otter, with regard to disturbance and habitat displacement.</p> <p>Further consideration is also required with regard to the upper shore Annex I habitats of this site. The potential for significant impacts affecting Annex I intertidal / marine habitats requires assessment.</p>



Natura site	Distance	Qualifying Interests	Potential for impacts identified	Assessment required
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Calaminarian Grassland [6130]</li> <li>Sea Caves [8330]</li> <li>Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>) [1014]</li> <li>Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) [1303]</li> <li>Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355]</li> <li>Common (Harbour) Seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) [1365]</li> </ul>	which may affect the terrestrial / upper shore habitats of this designated site. However, this will also require further examination.	
Mucksna Wood SAC (001371)	0m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]</li> </ul>	This is a terrestrial habitat and is considered unlikely to be affected. However, because of the proximity of this site it is concluded that mitigation is required on a precautionary basis.	Yes. Mitigation for this SAC is required on a precautionary basis. In particular in relation to avoidance and the provision of biosecurity mitigation.
Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC (002173)	6m upstream	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oligotrophic Waters containing very few minerals [3110]</li> <li>Floating River Vegetation [3260]</li> <li>Wet Heath [4010]</li> <li>Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> Grassland [6230]</li> <li>Blanket Bogs (Active) [7130]</li> <li>Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029]</li> <li>Killarney Fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>) [1421]</li> </ul>	<p>This SAC is upstream from the proposed harvestable area. A bridge over the River Blackwater (N70 road) separates this SAC from the harvest areas and Kenmare River SAC. Potential impacts on Salmon or Otter would concern the Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC populations.</p> <p>Taking account of the location of this SAC and the character of these qualifying features there will probably be no interactions or pathways for impacts arising from the proposed activities which may affect the habitats and species for which this site is designated. However, because of the proximity</p>	Yes. Mitigation for this SAC is required on a precautionary basis. In particular in relation to avoidance and the provision of biosecurity mitigation.





Natura site	Distance	Qualifying Interests	Potential for impacts identified	Assessment required
			of this site it is concluded that mitigation is required on a precautionary basis.	
Glanmore Bog SAC (001879)	62m upstream	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oigotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110]</li> <li>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]</li> <li>Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010]</li> <li>Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]</li> <li>Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]</li> <li><i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]</li> <li><i>Vandenboschia speciosa</i> (Killarney Fern) [6985]</li> </ul>	Because of the proximity of this site it is concluded that mitigation is required on a precautionary basis.	Yes. Mitigation for this SAC is required on a precautionary basis. In particular in relation to avoidance and the provision of biosecurity mitigation.
Drongawn Lough SAC (002187)	130m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coastal lagoons [1150]</li> </ul>	There will be no harvesting in this area. However, due to the proximity it is concluded that mitigation for this SAC is required on a precautionary basis.	Yes. Mitigation for this SAC is required on a precautionary basis. In particular in relation to avoidance and the provision of biosecurity mitigation.
Old Domestic Building, Askive	360m north	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]</li> </ul>	There will be no harvesting in this area. However, due to the proximity it is concluded that mitigation for this	Yes. Mitigation for this SAC is required on a precautionary basis. In particular in relation to avoidance.



Natura site	Distance	Qualifying Interests	Potential for impacts identified	Assessment required
Wood SAC (002098)			SAC is required on a precautionary basis.	
Old Domestic Building, Dromore Wood SAC (000353)	460m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]</li> </ul>	There will be no harvesting in this area. However, due to the proximity it concluded that mitigation for this SAC is required on a precautionary basis.	Yes. Mitigation for this SAC is required on a precautionary basis. In particular in relation to avoidance.
Cleanderry Wood SAC (001043)	1.6km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]</li> <li><i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421]</li> </ul>	Taking account the distance and the character of these qualifying features there will be no interactions or pathways for impacts arising from the proposed activities which may affect the habitat for which this site is designated.	No further consideration is required with regard to the Annex I habitats of this site. There is no potential for significant impacts affecting the conservation interests, with regard to the conservation objectives of this site.
Caha Mountains SAC (000093)	2.3km west / 3.5km upstream	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oligotrophic Waters containing very few minerals [3110]</li> <li>Dystrophic Lakes [3160]</li> <li>Wet Heath [4010]</li> <li>Dry Heath [4030]</li> <li>Alpine and Subalpine Heaths [4060]</li> <li>Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> Grassland [6230]</li> <li>Blanket Bogs (Active) [7130]</li> <li>Siliceous Scree [8110]</li> <li>Calcareous Rocky Slopes [8210]</li> <li>Siliceous Rocky Slopes [8220]</li> <li>Kerry Slug (<i>Geomalacus maculosus</i>) [1024]</li> </ul>	Taking account of the character of these qualifying features there will be no interactions or pathways for impacts arising from the proposed activities which may affect the habitats or species for which this site is designated.	No further consideration is required with regard to the Annex I habitats and Annex II species of this site. There is no potential for significant impacts affecting the conservation interests, with regard to the conservation objectives of this site.



Natura site	Distance	Qualifying Interests	Potential for impacts identified	Assessment required
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Killarney Fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>) [1421]</li> </ul>		
Maulagowna Bog SAC (001881)	2.5km south	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blanket Bogs (Active) [7130]</li> </ul>	Taking account of the character of these qualifying features there will be no interactions or pathways for impacts arising from the proposed activities which may affect the habitats for which this site is designated.	No further consideration is required with regard to the Annex I habitats and Annex II species of this site. There is no potential for significant impacts affecting the conservation interests, with regard to the conservation objectives of this site.
Cloonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC (001342)	2.7km south	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oligotrophic Waters containing very few minerals [3110]</li> <li>Wet Heath [4010]</li> <li>Dry Heath [4030]</li> <li>Siliceous Rocky Slopes [8220]</li> <li>Old Oak Woodlands [91A0]</li> <li>Kerry Slug (<i>Geomalacus maculosus</i>) [1024]</li> <li>Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) [1303]</li> <li>Killarney Fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>) [1421]</li> <li>Slender Naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) [1833]</li> </ul>	Taking account of the character of these qualifying features there will be no interactions or pathways for impacts arising from the proposed activities which may affect the habitats and species for which this site is designated.	No further consideration is required with regard to the Annex I habitats and Annex II species of this site. There is no potential for significant impacts affecting the conservation interests, with regard to the conservation objectives of this site.
Beara Peninsula SPA(004155)	4.9km south	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009]</li> <li>Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]</li> </ul>	Taking account of the character of these qualifying features there will be no interactions or pathways for impacts arising from the proposed activities which may affect the species for which this site is designated.	No further consideration is required with regard to the Annex II species of this site. There is no potential for significant impacts affecting the conservation interests, with regard to the conservation objectives of this site.



Natura site	Distance	Qualifying Interests	Potential for impacts identified	Assessment required
Caha Mountains SAC (000093)	2.3km west / 3.5km upstream	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oligotrophic Waters containing very few minerals [3110]</li> <li>Dystrophic Lakes [3160]</li> <li>Wet Heath [4010]</li> <li>Dry Heath [4030]</li> <li>Alpine and Subalpine Heaths [4060]</li> <li>Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> Grassland [6230]</li> <li>Blanket Bogs (Active) [7130]</li> <li>Siliceous Scree [8110]</li> <li>Calcareous Rocky Slopes [8210]</li> <li>Siliceous Rocky Slopes [8220]</li> <li>Kerry Slug (<i>Geomalacus maculosus</i>) [1024]</li> <li>Killarney Fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>) [1421]</li> </ul>	Taking account of the character of these qualifying features there will be no interactions or pathways for impacts arising from the proposed activities which may affect the habitats or species for which this site is designated.	No further consideration is required with regard to the Annex I habitats and Annex II species of this site. There is no potential for significant impacts affecting the conservation interests, with regard to the conservation objectives of this site.
Maulagowna Bog SAC (001881)	2.5km south	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blanket Bogs (Active) [7130]</li> </ul>	Taking account of the character of these qualifying features there will be no interactions or pathways for impacts arising from the proposed activities which may affect the habitats for which this site is designated.	No further consideration is required with regard to the Annex I habitats and Annex II species of this site. There is no potential for significant impacts affecting the conservation interests, with regard to the conservation objectives of this site.
Derryclogher (Knockboy) Bog SAC (001873)	11.6km southeast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blanket Bogs (Active) [7130]</li> </ul>	Taking account of the character of this qualifying feature there will be no interactions or pathways for impacts arising from the proposed activities which may affect the habitat for which this site is designated.	No further consideration is required with regard to the Annex I habitats of this site. There is no potential for significant impacts affecting the conservation interest, with regard to the conservation objectives of this site.



Natura site	Distance	Qualifying Interests	Potential for impacts identified	Assessment required
Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reek and Caragh River Catchment SAC (000365)	3.1km west	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oligotrophic Waters containing very few minerals [3110]</li> <li>• Oligotrophic to Mesotrophic Standing Waters [3103]</li> <li>• Floating River Vegetation [3260]</li> <li>• Wet Heath [4010]</li> <li>• Dry Heath [4030]</li> <li>• Alpine and Subalpine Heaths [4060]</li> <li>• Juniper Scrub [5130]</li> <li>• Calaminarian Grassland [6130]</li> <li>• <i>Molinia</i> Meadows [6410]</li> <li>• Blanket Bogs (Active) [7130]</li> <li>• Rhynchosporion Vegetation [7150]</li> <li>• Old Oak Woodlands [91A0]</li> <li>• Alluvial Forests [91E0]</li> <li>• Yew Woodlands [91J0]</li> <li>• Kerry Slug (<i>Geomalacus maculosus</i>) [1024]</li> <li>• Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029]</li> <li>• Marsh Fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>) [1065]</li> <li>• Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095]</li> </ul>	Taking account of the character of these qualifying features there will be no interactions or pathways for impacts arising from the proposed activities which may affect the habitats and species for which this site is designated.	No further consideration is required with regard to the Annex I habitats and Annex II species of this site. There is no potential for significant impacts affecting the conservation interests, with regard to the conservation objectives of this site.



Natura site	Distance	Qualifying Interests	Potential for impacts identified	Assessment required
Cloonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC (001342)	2.7km south	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oligotrophic Waters containing very few minerals [3110]</li> <li>Wet Heath [4010]</li> <li>Dry Heath [4030]</li> <li>Siliceous Rocky Slopes [8220]</li> <li>Old Oak Woodlands [91A0]</li> <li>Kerry Slug (<i>Geomalacus maculosus</i>) [1024]</li> <li>Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) [1303]</li> <li>Killarney Fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>) [1421]</li> <li>Slender Naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) [1833]</li> </ul>	Taking account of the character of these qualifying features there will be no interactions or pathways for impacts arising from the proposed activities which may affect the habitats and species for which this site is designated.	No further consideration is required with regard to the Annex I habitats and Annex II species of this site. There is no potential for significant impacts affecting the conservation interests, with regard to the conservation objectives of this site.
Beara Peninsula SPA(004155)	4.9km south	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009]</li> <li>Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]</li> </ul>	Taking account of the character of these qualifying features there will be no interactions or pathways for impacts arising from the proposed activities which may affect the species for which this site is designated.	No further consideration is required with regard to the Annex II species of this site. There is no potential for significant impacts affecting the conservation interests, with regard to the conservation objectives of this site.
Kilgarvan Ice House SAC (000364)	8.2km east	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) [1303]</li> </ul>	Taking account of the distance and the character of this qualifying feature there will be no interactions or pathways for impacts arising from the proposed activities which may affect the species for which this site is designated.	No further consideration is required with regard to the Annex II species of this site. There is no potential for significant impacts affecting the conservation interests, with regard to the conservation objectives of this site.
Eirk Bog SPA (004108)	8.3km north	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395]</li> </ul>	Taking account of distance and the character of these qualifying features there will be no interactions or pathways for	No further consideration is required with regard to the Annex II species of this site. There is no potential for significant impacts affecting the



Natura site	Distance	Qualifying Interests	Potential for impacts identified	Assessment required
			impacts arising from the proposed activities which may affect the species for which this site is designated.	conservation interests, with regard to the conservation objectives of this site.
Glanlough Woods SAC (002315)	9.5km east	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) [1303]</li> </ul>	Taking account of the distance and the character of these qualifying features there will be no interactions or pathways for impacts arising from the proposed activities which may affect the species for which this site is designated.	No further consideration is required with regard to the Annex II species of this site. There is no potential for significant impacts affecting the conservation interests, with regard to the conservation objectives of this site.
Killarney National Park SPA (004038)	9.6km north	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098]</li> <li>Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395]</li> </ul>	Taking account of distance and the character of these qualifying features there will be no interactions or pathways for impacts arising from the proposed activities which may affect the species for which this site is designated.	No further consideration is required with regard to the Annex II species of this site. There is no potential for significant impacts affecting the conservation interests, with regard to the conservation objectives of this site.
Eirk Bog SPA (004108)	8.3km north	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395]</li> </ul>	Taking account of distance and the character of these qualifying features there will be no interactions or pathways for impacts arising from the proposed activities which may affect the species for which this site is designated.	No further consideration is required with regard to the Annex II species of this site. There is no potential for significant impacts affecting the conservation interests, with regard to the conservation objectives of this site.
Killarney National Park SPA (004038)	9.6km north	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098]</li> <li>Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395]</li> </ul>	Taking account of distance and the character of these qualifying features there will be no interactions or pathways for impacts arising from the proposed activities which may affect the species for which this site is designated.	No further consideration is required with regard to the Annex II species of this site. There is no potential for significant impacts affecting the conservation interests, with regard to the conservation objectives of this site.





Natura site	Distance	Qualifying Interests	Potential for impacts identified	Assessment required
Iveragh Peninsula SPA (004154)	10.9km southwest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009]</li> <li>Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103]</li> <li>Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188]</li> <li>Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199]</li> <li>Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]</li> </ul>	Taking account of the character of these qualifying features there will be no interactions or pathways for impacts arising from the proposed activities which may affect the species for which this site is designated.	No further consideration is required with regard to the Annex II species of this site. There is no potential for significant impacts affecting the conservation interests, with regard to the conservation objectives of this site.
The Bull and The Cow Rocks SPA (004066)	12.3km north east	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Storm Petrel (<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>) [A014]</li> <li>Gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>) [A016]</li> <li>Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204]</li> </ul>	Taking account of distance and the character of these qualifying features there will be no interactions or pathways for impacts arising from the proposed activities which may affect the species for which this site is designated.	No further consideration is required with regard to the Annex II species of this site. There is no potential for significant impacts affecting the conservation interests, with regard to the conservation objectives of this site.
Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC (000090)	10.5km south	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Old Oak Woodlands [91A0]; Alluvial Forests [91E0]</li> <li>Kerry Slug (<i>Geomalacus maculosus</i>) [1024]</li> <li>Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) [1303]</li> <li>Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355]</li> <li>Common (Harbour) Seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) [1365]</li> </ul>	There will be no interactions or pathways for impacts arising from the proposal which may affect the terrestrial habitats of this designated site. Potential impacts on otters and seals will be assessed in relation to the Kenmare River SAC (002158) which is "screened in".	No further consideration is required with regard to the Annex I habitats and Annex II species of this site. There is no potential for significant impacts affecting the conservation interests, with regard to the conservation objectives of this site. Potential impacts on otters and seals will be assessed in relation to the Kenmare River SAC (002158) which is "screened in".
Iveragh Peninsula SPA (004154)	10.9km southwest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009]</li> <li>Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103]</li> <li>Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188]</li> </ul>	Taking account of the character of these qualifying features there will be no interactions or pathways for impacts arising from the proposed activities which may affect the species for which this site is designated.	No further consideration is required with regard to the Annex II species of this site. There is no potential for significant impacts affecting the conservation interests, with regard to the conservation objectives of this site.



Natura site	Distance	Qualifying Interests	Potential for impacts identified	Assessment required
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199]</li> <li>Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]</li> </ul>		
Derryclogher (Knockboy) Bog SAC (001873)	11.6km southeast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blanket Bogs (Active) [7130]</li> </ul>	Taking account of the character of this qualifying feature there will be no interactions or pathways for impacts arising from the proposed activities which may affect the habitat for which this site is designated.	No further consideration is required with regard to the Annex I habitats of this site. There is no potential for significant impacts affecting the conservation interest, with regard to the conservation objectives of this site.
The Bull and The Cow Rocks SPA (004066)	12.3km north east	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Storm Petrel (<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>) [A014]</li> <li>Gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>) [A016]</li> <li>Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204]</li> </ul>	Taking account of distance and the character of these qualifying features there will be no interactions or pathways for impacts arising from the proposed activities which may affect the species for which this site is designated.	No further consideration is required with regard to the Annex II species of this site. There is no potential for significant impacts affecting the conservation interests, with regard to the conservation objectives of this site.



## 6. SCREENING STATEMENT WITH CONCLUSIONS

Screening for Appropriate Assessment can identify that an Appropriate Assessment is not required where a project / proposal is directly related to the management of the site. The current project is not directly connected to or necessary for the management of any Natura 2000 site.

Appropriate Assessment is also not required, where there is no potential for significant effects affecting the Natura 2000 network. This cannot be concluded in the current case.

The current screening has identified that the proposed hand-harvesting of *Ascophyllum nodosum* within the intertidal habitats of the Kenmare River SAC (002158) is capable of causing direct, indirect and cumulative impacts which may be significant with regard to the qualifying interests of this Natura 2000 site. Based on the information provided, the current Screening Assessment has therefore determined that a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for the proposed project is required for Kenmare River SAC. All the Qualifying Interests of Kenmare River SAC are being brought forward to Stage 2 on a precautionary basis.

The following sites have also been 'screened in' on a precautionary basis due to their proximity to the proposed harvesting areas.

- Mucksna Wood SAC (001371)
- Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC (002173)
- Glanmore Bog SAC (001879)
- Drongawn Lough SAC (002187)
- Old Domestic Building, Askive Wood SAC (002098)

The areas in red on the map provided by BioAtlantis and shown in Figure 3 are also just the 'harvestable areas', which were identified from the literature, maps and ariel photographs of the area, etc. However, the licence area itself includes other marine and intertidal areas, within or near the SAC, that will be accessed and/or utilized by boats, harvesters and other personnel during transport and during pick-up activities. Collection points are defined in the map associated with the application. Therefore, these sites will be brought forward on precautionary basis so that specific avoidance mitigation can be provided for these areas.

The conclusion of the current screening report is that the proposed project is capable of having significant adverse effects on Kenmare River SAC (Site Code 002158). In addition, assessment is required for Mucksna Wood SAC (001371), Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC (002173), Glanmore Bog SAC (001879), Drongawn Lough SAC (002187), Old Domestic Building, and Askive Wood SAC (002098) on a precautionary basis.

**Table 5** DoEHLG (2010) potential findings, outcomes and conclusion for Screening for Appropriate Assessment for the proposed project.

Finding	Potential Outcome	Conclusion
Project is directly connected to or necessary for the management of a designated site	Stage 2 (AA) is not required	
No potential for significant effects	Stage 2 (AA) is not required	
Potential for significant effects identified, or potential for impacts is uncertain	Stage 2 (AA) is required and a Natura Impact Statement will be prepared	✓

## PLATES



**Plate 1** *Ascophyllum nodosum* on the shoreline of Kenmare Bay.



**Plate 2** Kenmare River SAC is designated for a variety of Annex I habitats and Annex II species.



**Plate 3** Common (harbour) Seal *Phoca vitulina* at Kenmare Bay, a species designated within the Kenmare River SAC.



## REFERENCE

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