

Maritime Usage Licence Application - Reference MUL240049, MUL250014, MUL250015, MUL250016 and MUL250017

Proposed activity:

Arramara Teoranta has submitted five applications to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) for a Maritime Usage Licence under Section 117 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (the MAP Act) to undertake the harvesting of seaweed, *Ascophyllum Nodosum* and *Fucus vesiculosus*, from the intertidal foreshore in sustainable quantities across five distinct locations in County Galway.

BIM comments:

12.03.26

BIM promote sustainable management of environmental resources and the use of best practice. The proposed hand harvesting seaweed activity would need to demonstrate that it is compatible with existing active licenced aquaculture and inshore fisheries activities within the application area. Any potential overlap would need to consider in-combination and cumulative effects. Although BIM has no remit in the hand harvesting of seaweed some of our clients and their communities have strong hand harvesting traditions/rights. The proposed activity would need to be consistent with other existing seafood activity. Demonstrating compliance with sustainable management and best practice is considered important.

Early and continuous communication should be made with stakeholders in the proposed mapped areas to avoid any conflicts arising with fishermen and aquaculture operators in the areas regarding proposed activities.

Communication can be made by direct contact using the Irish Fleet Register.

https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/09fe3ad4/Register_Report_19122025.xlsx

All licenced aquaculture operators can be viewed on the DAFM aquaculture viewer

<https://dafm-maps.marine.ie/aquaculture-viewer/>.

BIM are happy to assist with further points of contact if required.