



Licence Ref: MUL240049

(Please quote in all related correspondence)

26 March 2026

Maritime Area Regulatory Authority
2nd Floor
Menapia House
Drinagh Business Park
Drinagh
Wexford
Y35RF29

Via: licence@mara.gov.ie

Re: Maritime usage licence application to harvest *Ascophyllum Nodosum* and *Fucus Vesiculosus* from the intertidal foreshore at the intertidal zone of Greatmans Bay, Co. Galway

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I refer to correspondence on 28 January 2026 received in connection with the above.

Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations co-ordinated by the Development Applications Unit under the stated headings.

Nature Conservation

The National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has reviewed the Supporting Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment submitted in support of the proposed seaweed harvesting operation in Greatmans Bay, County Galway. While the report provides an overview of the proposed harvesting methods and management framework, the National Parks and Wildlife Service considers that the information currently provided is insufficient to allow a robust screening determination to be made in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.



In particular, further information is required to clarify the scale, spatial distribution and intensity of the proposed harvesting activity within Greatmans Bay, including the specific sectors proposed for harvesting, the frequency of harvesting within each sector and how rotational harvesting will be implemented over time. Additional information should also be provided to demonstrate how the proposed removal of *Ascophyllum nodosum* and *Fucus* biomass will not adversely affect the structure and ecological functioning of intertidal habitats within the Kilkieran Bay and Islands Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (Site Code: 002111), including potential indirect effects on associated species and communities.

Further clarification is also required regarding the potential disturbance to qualifying interests and associated species, including marine mammals and birds that may utilise the area or forage within the wider zone of influence. The applicant should provide additional evidence to demonstrate that harvesting activities, vessel use and associated human presence will not result in disturbance effects that could impact the conservation objectives of relevant Natura 2000 sites.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service also recommends that additional information be submitted on the assessment of in-combination effects, including a clearer description of other relevant maritime activities within the area (e.g. aquaculture or other seaweed harvesting) and how these have been considered in combination with the proposed harvesting activity.

In the absence of the above information, the National Parks and Wildlife Service considers that it cannot be concluded that the proposed activity will not result in likely significant effects on European sites. The National Parks and Wildlife Service would request further information to enable the competent authority to complete the Appropriate Assessment screening process.

You are requested to send any further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) fem.dau@npws.gov.ie, or to the following address:

The Manager
Development Applications Unit (DAU)
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Amy Thornton
Development Applications Unit
Administration