



Licence Ref: MUL250017

(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 for the harvesting of seaweed, *Ascophyllum Nodosum* and *Fucus vesiculosus*, from the intertidal foreshore in sustainable quantities at Bertraghboy Bay, County Galway.

A chara

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

Following review of the Supporting Information for Screening for Appropriate Assessment submitted in support of the proposed seaweed harvesting in Bertraghboy Bay, it is the view of the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage that further information is required to enable the competent authority to complete the Appropriate Assessment screening.

Additional detail is required on the exact spatial extent of the proposed harvesting areas, including clear maps and GIS data showing sector boundaries, access points, landing locations and areas excluded from harvesting. These maps should also illustrate the relationship between the proposed harvesting areas and nearby European sites, including



the Connemara Bog Complex Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (Site Code: 002034) and the Slyne Head to Ardmore Point Islands Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004159), as well as any sensitive habitats present within or adjacent to the proposed activity area.

Further information is also required on the biomass assessments and proposed harvest volumes, including the methodology used to estimate available biomass, the survey methods and sampling design, and how sustainable harvest levels were determined for each sector. Clarification is required regarding the baseline ecological conditions within the harvesting areas, including the distribution of intertidal habitats and associated communities, and confirmation of whether any sensitive habitats occur within the proposed harvesting footprint.

Finally, additional information should be provided on the potential disturbance to birds and marine mammals and the assessment of in-combination effects with other marine activities in the area including aquaculture and seaweed harvesting. Details of the proposed monitoring and management measures should also be provided to demonstrate how potential ecological effects will be monitored and managed.

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)
Government Offices
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy Thornton', is written over a horizontal line.

Amy Thornton
Development Applications Unit
Administration