

Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (Part 4 Marine Licensing)

Application for Marine Construction Works/Land Reclamation/Beach Replenishment in the Territorial Sea and UK Controlled Waters Adjacent to Northern Ireland

(Construction schemes including coast defences, beneficial uses of dredged materials, jetties, land reclamation, outfall pipes etc.)

It is the responsibility of the applicant to obtain any other consents or authorisations that may be required

Under Part 4 (Chapter 5) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, information contained within or provided in support of this application will be placed on the public register unless DOE (as the licensing authority) approves the applicant's reasons for withholding all or part thereof.

Public Register

Is there any information contained within or provided in support of this application that you consider should not be included on the Public Register on the grounds that its disclosure:

a) would be contrary to the interests of national security YES NO

b) would prejudice to an unreasonable degree your or some other person's commercial interests or those of a third party? YES NO

If **YES**, to either (a) or (b), please provide full justification as to why all or part of the information you have provided should be withheld.

1. Project Title

Please give a brief identifiable description, including the location of the works.

This project is to continue the farming of kelp at the Church Bay kelp farm, continuing with the same farm size and growing native species, laminaria digitata, Saccharina Latissima and Alaria Esculanta. The farm will be a set of farmed lines, which will be seeded with strings at the Rathlin Kelp nursery, using local sorus. The application refers to the replacement of the at sea infrastructure as and when needed. It does not include any expansion.

Growing kelp requires the nurturing of baby kelp plants from spores in tanks under very controlled conditions. It takes 30 days from release of spores in the tanks to they are baby kelp plants are ready to plant out. The tanks contain plastic pipes around which string is wound. The spores attach to the string. The water needs to be kept completely pure and at a constant temperature of around 9-10° C (the optimum temperature for kelp growing). When the baby kelp plants are about 5 mm long, the string is wound around ropes which are weighted to lie about 2.5 metres below the surface of the sea. They mature in about 4 months and are harvested. The ropes are taken in, left to 'clean' in the sun and prepared for planting the following year.

2. Applicant Details

Title Initials Surname

Address:

, Church Bay, Rathlin Island, Ballycastle, Co Antrim.

Name of contact:
(if different from above)

Telephone number:
(inc. code)

Email address:

3. Agent Details (if appropriate)

Title Initials Surname

Trading Title
(If different from above)

Business Address:

Name of contact:
(if different from above)

Position within company
(if appropriate)

Telephone number:
(inc. code)

Email address:

Company Registration No.

4. Duration of Project

Expected Start Date

1st July 2023

Expected Completion Date

n/a

5. Description and Cost of the Proposed Project

(a) Estimated gross cost of the works proposed seawards of the tidal limit of the High Water Mean Spring Tide Mark

Rope purchase – 20 coils 14 ml rope at £90 £1800

Anchors – 240 @ £10 each £2400

Buoys 60@ £25 each £1500

Labour and boat costs £2000

Total £7,700

(b) Give a detailed description of the proposed schedule of work

- I. The kelp will be grown on 500 metre lengths of ropes
- II. Ropes will be 15 mm polypropylene and nylon mix
- III. The rows of ropes will be 5 metres apart
- IV. There will be up to 10 rows
- V. The ropes are submerged 2.5 metres under the water (optimum growing depth) (allows for small vessels to drive over the top of them).
- VI. The anchors are basalt boulders
- VII. There are weights every 50 metres to keep the rope at the 2.5 metres depth.

If necessary please continue on a separate sheet and tick this box
Types of Work Proposed

note -*mariculture*

Coastal/Flood defences:

- beach replenishment
- shoreline reinforcement
- flood defence
- sea defence

Slipways:

- slipway
- causeway
- launching ramp

Miscellaneous:

- habitat creation/replacement
- aquaculture (unless exempted)
- sea wall
- berms/wave screens
- artificial reef
- sea-lock

Harbour works:

- dock wall/quay/wharf

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Navigation works: | lock gates moorings (unless exempted) buoy/navigation mark (unless exempted) training wall/breakwater |
| Land reclamation: | bunded/piled area dock infill |
| Intakes/outfall pipes: | intake/outfall |
| Cables: | cable/subsea cable |
| Pipeline maintenance: | pipe/pipeline maintenance |
| Piers etc.: | bridge supports/bridge foundation pier jetty |
| Bank stabilisation: | |
| Scour protection: | gabion mattressing |
| Barrages & island etc. | tidal barrier barrage sculpture, statues, fountains etc. ground investigation works impoundment |
| Sediment manipulation | groynes |

- ***NB The list doesn't really include an exact item which matches our activities. We have described them as mariculture***

6. Location of Works

This should include either 6 figure Irish Grid Reference (IGR) or Latitude and Longitude co-ordinates (WGS84 to 1 decimal minute) defining the extent of the project.

| |
|----------------------------------|
| SE Corner 55 17.544N 06 13.287W |
| NE Corner 55 17.703 06 13.318W |
| NW Corner 55. 17.686N 06 13.870W |
| SW Corner 55 17.528N 06 14.126W |

If necessary, please continue on a separate sheet and tick this box

7. Method Statement

| |
|--|
| <p>The lengths of rope are anchored between two buoys, with large anchors at each end. There are smaller anchors at each 100mtre point. The ropes may not be continuous for 500 metres, but in 100 metre lengths..</p> <p>Small weights (bored stones) keep the ropes at 2.5 metres until the kelp gets heavy enough to keep the ropes below that depth.</p> <p>The farm is reset each September and the ropes are set and seeded between the 1st September and 31st December.</p> <p>Most of the ropes are lifted in August through October and cleaned. They are reused once for the farm site and then reused for other activities.</p> |
|--|

I necessary, please continue on a separate sheet and tick this box

8. Permanent Deposits

(a) quantity of permanent materials to be deposited below HMWS tidemark:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Timber (m ² or tonnes) | none |
| Iron/Steel (tonnes) | none |

Plastic/Synthetic (m²)**20 coils 15 ml rope**

Silt (m³)**none.....**

Sand (m³)**none**

Concrete (m³)**none...**

Concrete bags/mattresses
(Confirm number, dimensions
& total volume m³)**none**

Stone/Rock/Gravel
(size range and volume m³)**none**

If 'other' please describe below

This installation is the same as about 5 strings of 40 lobster pots or some gill nets

If necessary, please continue on a separate sheet and tick this box

(b) for work involving salt marsh feeding, beach replenishment or land reclamation please provide the following information relating to the material to be deposited:

Quantity (tonnes)**N/A.....**

Nature of Material
(e.g. sand, silt, gravel etc.)**N/A.....**

Source:
(if sea dredged please state
location of origin)**N/A.....**

Particle Size**N/A.....**

Has the material been chemically analysed? Yes No

If Yes, please include the analysis data with your application.

9. Temporary Deposits

Will there be a need to make any temporary deposits of material below HMWS tidemark during the works

Yes No

(a) quantity of temporary materials to be deposited below HMWS tidemark:

- Timber (m² or tonnes)
- Iron/Steel (tonnes)
- Plastic/Synthetic (m²)
- Silt (m³)
- Sand (m³)
- Concrete (m³)
- Concrete bags/mattresses
(Confirm number, dimensions
& total volume m³)
- Stone/Rock/Gravel
(size range and volume m³)

If 'other' please describe below

If necessary, please continue on a separate sheet and tick this box

10. Dredging

Do you intend to apply for a licence to dredge as part of the works?

Yes No

If Yes, please indicate the location
of the dredging and nature of material

11. Disposal of Material at Sea

Do you intend to apply for a licence to dispose at sea material dredged as part of the works?

Yes No

If Yes, please indicate:
Nature and quantity of material
(sand, gravel, silt, clay, rock etc.)

12. Planning

Is this project subject to a planning application?

Yes No

If Yes, attach a copy of environmental statement (if appropriate) and indicate what stage the application for planning permission is at (i.e. approved, awaiting notification, rejected)

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13. Statutory Consenting Powers

Do you, or (if appropriate) your client, have statutory powers to consent any aspect of this project?

Yes No

14. Consultation

(a) Have the public been invited to submit comments? **YES** **NO**
If **YES**, how and where?

Through DoE and the Rathlin Community and Development Association
Advertised in the Coleraine Chronicle

(b) Have any consultation meetings been held?
(with the public or other bodies)

YES

NO

- The islanders have discussed it. It has been discussed with Council officials, local fishing industry, AFBI, Portrush Yacht Club.
- No visual impact from kelp growing, nothing can be seen on the surface.
- The preferred /suggested location is a naturally abundant kelp growing area and there is virtually no activity on the water in this area (no boats/angling etc.)
- The location is well clear of the suggested 'no activity' Marine Protected Area in O'Byrne Bay
- The [REDACTED] are well known for their commitment to the environment and responsible harvest practice. They will carry these same principles to the kelp growing activities.
- Experience in farming this site since 2015 has had no harmful effects, the Black Guillimot population is unaffected, no cetacean sightings or incidents. Reportedly more fish presence.
- This project is making an important contribution to the Rathlin Island economy, employing 5 people and producing high quality organic food for.
- There is an opportunity to use the kelp growing activity for research and educational purposes. Ocean Veg Ireland intend to contact both Northern Ireland Universities to see if there would be such an interest. It may also have a research value for the Environment and Heritage Agency.

If necessary please continue on a separate sheet and tick this box

15. Consultation with Conservation Bodies

Please provide details of any consultation that has taken place with NIEA Natural Heritage and, if appropriate, include copies of any correspondence with your application.

RSPB, and the Environment and Heritage Service.

If necessary please continue on a separate sheet and tick this box

16. Designated Conservation Areas

Are any parts of the proposed work located within the boundaries of a designated conservation area? **YES** **NO**

If **No**, please indicate approximate distance of the disposal operation from the nearest designated conservation area. kms

17. Environmental Assessment

Has an environmental assessment been undertaken to support any application in respect of the works, your own statutory powers (if applicable) or any other reason? **YES** **NO**

If **YES**, is a copy of the assessment included with this application? **YES** **NO**

If the assessment has been undertaken but has not been included with the application, please provide an explanation below.

n/a

Is the environmental assessment available for public inspection?

YES

NO

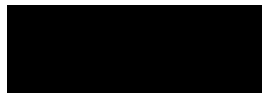
If YES at what locations:

n/a

I declare that the information given in this form and related papers is to the best of my knowledge and belief true.

WARNING
It is an offence under the Act under which this application is made to fail to disclose information or to provide false or misleading information.

Signature of applicant:
(or agent acting on behalf of applicant)



Date:

28th May 2023

Name (Block Letters):

[Redacted Name]

Position within company:
(if applicable)

Managing Director

PLEASE CHECK CAREFULLY THE INFORMATION YOU HAVE GIVEN AND THAT ALL ENCLOSURES (INCLUDING COPIES) HAVE BEEN INCLUDED

Application Checklist

- **Completed application form**
- **Project drawings**
- **Method statement**
- **Maps/charts**
- **Additional environmental information e.g. photographs, environmental impact assessment etc.**
- **Payment**