

**An Bord Achomhairc Um Cheadúnais Dobharshaothraithe
Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board**



FAO: Mr Micheal Gilhooly
Marine Institute
Rinville
Oranmore
Galway
H91 R673

Email: [REDACTED]

20 December 2023

Our Ref: AP2/1-2/2023
Site Ref: T09/093

Re: Appeals against the decision of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to grant an Aquaculture Licence to The Marine Institute to cultivate various species of finfish, shellfish and seaweeds for research purposes on the foreshore on site T09/093 at Lehannah Pool, Bertraghboy Bay, Co. Galway

Dear Mr. Gilhooly,

We refer to the above Appeals received by the Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board (“the Board”) on dates between 26 January 2023 and 07 February 2023.

Details of the nature and extent of the proposed aquaculture activity the subject of the Appeal can be found in the “DAFM file” section at:

<https://alab.ie/activeappeals/appealsyearsreceived/appealsreceivedin2023/ap21-22023/#d.en.186712>

The Board has reviewed the information submitted to it to date and requests a copy of the following where available:

1. Any relevant information held by the Marine Institute relating to environmental and ecological surveys of Site T09/093 Lehannah Pool for the last ten years, including but not limited to benthic surveys, records of disease outbreaks, sea lice levels; wave and current models or records for wave height and rate of current flow at the site itself.
2. Information relating to species stocked on site and their related stocking densities for the past ten years.
3. Reports of the Marine Engineering Division’s Annual survey of the site for the last ten years.
4. A corrected modelled output image showing the risk of spread of infectious diseases for Site T09/093, as the image submitted as part of the Marine Institute’s original licence application shows the predicted disease spread for the nearby “Sealax” site (T09/155-1), not Site T09/093 as stated in the Marine Institute’s submission.
5. A copy of the Integrated Pest Management Plan for the site, as referred to at “Part 5: Application Documentation” of the Marine Institute’s Aquaculture and Foreshore Licence

Cúirt Choill Mhinsí, Bóthar Bhaile Átha Cliath, Port Laoise, Contae Laoise, R32 DTW5
Kilminchy Court, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, County Laois, R32 DTW5

Application Form to Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division (AFMD) dated 26 March 2019.

6. A copy of the Natura Impact Statement for the site, as referred to at "*Part 5: Application Documentation*" of the Marine Institute's Aquaculture and Foreshore Licence Application Form to AFMD dated 26 March 2019.

The Board is of the opinion that, in the particular circumstances of this Appeal, it is appropriate in the interests of justice to request the Marine Institute to make submissions or observations in relation to the matters referred to in points 1 to 6 of this letter.

Therefore, in accordance with the provisions of section 46(1) of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 and Regulation 4 of the Aquaculture Appeals (EIA) Regulations 2012 (as amended), ALAB HEREBY REQUESTS the Marine Institute to make any submissions or observations it has in relation to the matters referred to in this letter.

Such submissions or observations must be received by ALAB not later than **15 February 2024**.

If the submissions or observations are not received before the expiration of the period specified above ALAB will, without further reference to the Marine Institute's, determine the appeal.

Finally, please note that hard copies of the relevant Appeal file are available on request by contacting the undersigned by letter, email, or phone - The Secretary, Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board, Kilminchy Court, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co Laois. R32 DTW5, Email: info@alab.ie telephone number: 057 8631912.

Yours sincerely



Margaret Carton
Secretary to the Board